Correspondence Between Roger J. Traynor, Eugene Patterson, and George Chaplin In Preparation for American Society of News Editor (ASNE) Session, 1973 March 20 - 1973 April 11

Roger J. Traynor
The National News Council, Inc.

George Chaplin
Honolulu Advertiser

Eugene C. Patterson
St. Petersburg Times

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April 11, 1973

Justice Roger J. Traynor

Dear Justice Traynor:

It develops that while I will be presiding over the ASNE session on the News Council, Gene Patterson will be introducing you. So I'm taking the liberty of forwarding to Gene the material you kindly sent to me.

I don't know if you are acquainted with the able, youngish dean of the University of Hawaii Law School-to-be, David Hood (who was educated at Harvard, then taught at Wayne State). But you should like him. He, Chief Justice Richardson and I had lunch the other day and Hood said, "Traynor and Learned Hand are probably the two most influential judges of the last 50 years not on the U.S. Supreme Court." He could have added that you both greatly deserved to be on that Court.

I look forward to meeting you in Washington.

Warmest aloha,

George Chaplin
Editor

GC: bh
6 April 1973

Mr. George Chaplin
Editor, Honolulu Advertiser
P.O. Box 3110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96802

Dear Mr. Chaplin:

In sequence of your telephone call the other day requesting bibliographical and biographical data in advance of the May meeting of the ABA, I enclose a bibliography and a sampling of materials covering salient biographical details.

You will probably find that these materials also amply cover your request for names. One could assemble various lists; a typical cross-country sampling might include: Chief Justice Donald Wright of California, State Building, San Francisco 94102; Past President of the California State Bar Association and current President of the San Francisco Bar of Commerce, John A. Sutro, Jr., Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, Standard Oil Building, 225 Bush Street, San Francisco 94104; Past President of the Association of American Law Schools, Samuel Thurman, Dean of the College of Law, University of Utah, Salt Lake City 84112; President Edward H. Levi, University of Chicago, Chicago 60637; Chief Judge of New York, Stanley Fuld, 36 East 44th Street, New York City 10010; Whitney North Seymour, Simpson, Thatcher and Bartlett, One Battery Park Plaza, New York City 10004.

By coincidence, in assembling the foregoing I came across the enclosed ABA Bulletin of 9 August 1967, Honolulu. Perhaps we shall have occasion to recall that pleasant conference in your city when we meet in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Roger J. Traynor
Enclosures

Roger J. Traynor - Bibliography (1947-1973)  
- Summary Biography

ABA Daily Bulletin, Wednesday, August 9, 1967 (Honolulu)  
(re ABA medal)

In Dedication: Roger J. Traynor - Spring 1971 Utah L.Rev. p. l-
Leflar: Roger J. Traynor- Exemplar of the Judicial Process

December 29, 1969  
Association of American Law Schools -/1969 meeting  
Statement on Roger J. Traynor

American Bar Association Journal, May 1970 - 458  
Mullin: The Teacher Returns

10 California Courts Commentary l (1970)  
Editor Comments: Chief Justice Roger J. Traynor

Harvard Journal on Legislation May 1966, 359, 360  
Friendly: Foreword: Assisting the Inevitable

From History of the Supreme Court Justices of California  
v. 2, 1960 (Bancroft-Whitney Company) 207  
Traynor: The Supreme Court’s Watch On The Law

Traynor: Reasoning In A Circle of Law  
56 Virginia L.Rev. 739

Traynor: Blasted Are The Meek, When Bullies Are Blessed  
75 Dickinson L.Rev. 551 (1971)
6 April 1973

Mr. George Chaplin
Editor, Honolulu Advertiser
P.O. Box 3110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96820

Dear Mr. Chaplin:

In sequence of your telephone call the other day requesting bibliographical and biographical data in advance of the May meeting of the ASNR, I enclose a bibliography and a sampling of materials covering salient biographical details.

You will probably find that these materials also amply cover your request for names. One could assemble various lists; a typical cross-country sampling might include: Chief Justice Donald Wright of California, State Building, San Francisco 94102; Past President of the California State Bar Association and current President of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, John J. Sutro, Esq., Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro, Standard Oil Building, 225 Bush Street, San Francisco 94104; Past President of the Association of American Law Schools, Samuel Thurman, Dean of the College of Law, University of Utah, Salt Lake City 84112; President Edward L. Levi, University of Chicago, Chicago 60637; Chief Judge of New York, Stanley Fuld, 36 West 44th Street, New York City 10036; Whitney North Seymour, Simpson, Thatcher and Bartlett, One Battery Park Plaza, New York City 10004.

By coincidence, in assembling the foregoing I came across the enclosed ABA Bulletin of 9 August 1967, Honolulu. Perhaps we shall have occasion to recall that pleasant conference in your city when we met in Washington.

Sincerely yours,

Roger J. Traynor
24 March 1973

Mr. Eugene C. Patterson  
Editor and President, St. Petersburg Times  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33731

Dear Mr. Patterson:

In response to your gracious letter of the 20th of March, requesting biographical data for your introductory remarks at the meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors on Thursday the 3rd of May in Washington, I enclose a shorthand summary together with a brief commentary that overlaps much of it but brings readability to the summary.

I agree with you that the presentation you have asked me to make should be contained within fifteen minutes, from about 2 to 2:15 p.m. per your schedule.

I am glad you are receptive to my view that the panel thereafter that you will be moderating should be composed of editors from your membership. At that time I shall be primarily interested in their views, but will of course be glad to clarify my own, as you suggest, should there be need to do so.

In accord with your letter, I shall rely on the executive secretary of the Society to reserve a room for me at the Shoreham for the nights of 2 May and 3 May, and will send on to you or to him, following whatever your procedure is, a statement of plane fare and incidental expenses.

I look forward to meeting with you and your colleagues on the proposal for a National News Council, particularly because such a meeting can do much both to clarify the concept and to clear away misconceptions.

Sincerely yours,

Roger J. Traynor
March 21, 1973

Mr. Kenneth MacDonald
Editor
Des Moines Register and Tribune
Des Moines, Iowa 50304

Dear Ken:

I am delighted that you will be on our panel of editors arguing the News Council concept before the ASNE convention.

There will be five of us—me moderating, you and John Hughes speaking on the side of giving the News Council idea a chance, and Abe Rosenthal and Tony Day arguing against the whole idea.

We'll lead off the program with a 15 minute speech by Justice Roger Traynor, former Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, and chairman of the News Council. After his speech, the panel will go into action. I'm asking each of you to prepare a talk of about five minutes, stating the outline of your views on the subject. After all four have spoken, I'll give all of you a chance to rebut something another panelist has said, if you wish. Thereafter, we'll open ourselves up to questions from the floor. There should be plenty, and the panelists should be prepared to field them. The program will be billed as "National News Council: Threat or Opportunity?".

Again, many thanks for agreeing to state your case on this one. I can't think of a more interesting and important discussion that the convention could have.

With good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Eugene C. Patterson

cc: Messrs. Rosenthal, Day, Hughes, Derick Daniels, Gene Giancarlo, Ed Murray and Justice Traynor
March 20, 1973

Justice Roger Traynor
Hastings School of the Law
198 McAllister Street
San Francisco, California 94102

Dear Justice Traynor:

I am delighted to learn from Lee Sigal of the Twentieth Century Fund that you can accept the invitation of the American Society of Newspaper Editors to address the ASNE convention in Washington May 3 in your role as Chairman of the National News Council.

The Society, whose membership is limited to directing editors of the larger daily newspapers in the United States, is divided, as it usually is, over the idea of being monitored, even by an independent agency such as yours. Unease and uncertainty are probably the most representative moods, although some editors have already declared themselves for or against. I can think of nothing more constructive at such an unsettled moment than to have the editors meet you and hear you, and for you to get a firsthand look at them.

We would like for you to speak at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 3, at the Shoreham Hotel. We also would like you to be our guest at the Society's luncheon in the Shoreham preceding the program. By copy of this letter I am asking Gene Giancarlo, executive secretary of the Society, to reserve a room for you at the Shoreham for the nights of May 2 and May 3, and to arrange for a luncheon ticket for you. The Society will be happy to reimburse you for your air fare and other expenses.

Following your presentation, which ideally would fit into 15 minutes, I will be the moderator of a panel of editors which will discuss the News Council. I can appreciate your stated wish not to be a member of this panel and participate in its arguments. Following the panel discussion, however, I will invite questions from the floor to the panel, and during this period we would welcome your readiness to accept questions...
that might be directed to you seeking elaboration of your earlier remarks.

Members of the panel will be A. M. Rosenthal, managing editor of The New York Times, and Anthony Day, editorial page editor of The Los Angeles Times, both of whom are publicly declared opponents of the News Council idea, and John Hughes, editor of the Christian Science Monitor, and another editor shortly to be selected, both of whom support the News Council idea as being worth the try.

I will introduce you to the Society and would greatly appreciate it if you would send me a biographical sheet to assure that I will not drop the brick of the year and come to be remembered as the first, in your new experience, to commit offense against accuracy.

Thank you again, on behalf of the Society, for agreeing to join us at the convention. The experience is bound to be lively and mutually rewarding.

With good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Eugene C. Patterson

cc: Ed Murray, Detroit Free Press
    Derick Daniels, Detroit Free Press
    Gene Giancarlo, ASNE, Easton, Pennsylvania
    John Hughes, Christian Science Monitor
    Tony Day, Los Angeles Times
    Abe Rosenthal, New York Times