

1-1973

Correspondence Between Roger J. Traynor and
Joseph D. Tydings Regarding Ernie A. Lotito as a
Candidate for the National News Council
Executive Director, 1973 January 23 - 1973 January
29

Roger J. Traynor
The National News Council, Inc.

Joseph D. Tydings

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January 29, 1973

The Honorable Joseph D. Tydings
Oakington
Havre De Grace, Maryland 21078

Dear Senator Tydings:

I am glad to have your letter about Ernie A. Lotito and am very much impressed by his qualifications for the position of Executive Director of the National News Council that you have outlined. Your enthusiastic endorsement of him will be most helpful and meaningful to us as we set about to select our Executive Director.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

Roger J. Traynor

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JOSEPH D. TYDINGS
OAKINGTON
HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND 21078

January 23, 1973

Justice Roger J. Traynor
2643 Piedmont Avenue
Berkeley, California 94704

Dear Justice Traynor:

I am taking the liberty of contacting you on behalf of Ernie A. Lotito, Senator Fritz Mondale's Press Assistant and my "old" Senate press aide, who is interested in working for you as Executive Director of the Council on Press Responsibility and Press Freedom.

I believe Ernie is highly qualified for the job. I say that based on my own close relationship with him during the years he served as my press secretary and assistant in the United States Senate, and a knowledge of his high performance in the same job for Senator Walter F. Mondale during the last two years.

I recommended him highly to Senator Mondale when I left the Senate, and his performance has justified my endorsements.

Before he came to work for me in 1968, Ernie had been a reporter for nine years -- having worked for the Newark Evening News, the Washington Post, and United Press International in Rome, Italy, where he went as winner of the Seymour Berkson Foreign Assignment Grant. He graduated with honors from both Rutgers University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, attending the latter on a scholarship from the International Fellows Program.

He has a sound knowledge of the Federal Judicial System because of our work in this field -- and I believe he assisted me in the preparation of more than one speech on judicial reform.

Justice Roger J. Traynor
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On Capitol Hill and during three political campaigns, Ernie has demonstrated repeatedly the personal qualities that the job of Executive Director will demand. He performs well under pressure, is a hard worker, has administrative ability and, perhaps, most importantly, he gets along with people very, very well.

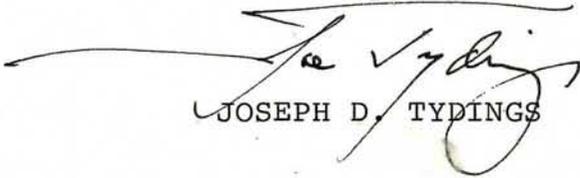
Because he has been on both sides of the fence, so to speak, I feel Ernie would bring a special perspective to the job; a sensitivity to the needs of both the press and the public, a unique awareness of the press' responsibility and its need for freedom. In the last four years, he has had the opportunity to observe first-hand the interaction between the press and public policy.

Although he is interested in the Executive Director's position, Ernie is not job hunting; he has a good position with Senator Mondale. It is a matter of the Council's having captured his imagination. He sees a need for it, feels it can become a constructive force, and would like to be a part of it.

Let me say in closing that I am very disturbed with recent trends in Judicial Fiats restraining freedom of the press in this country. A free press, a courageous judiciary and an educated citizenary are a democracy's bulwark. The present veiled threats and efforts by the "executive" to muzzle press criticism are equally disturbing. I am very pleased and comforted that you have been named the Chairman of the Council. If there is anything I can do to help, please let me know.

I remember and appreciate your past courtesies and kindnesses when you were Chief Justice in California.

Sincerely,



JOSEPH D. TYDINGS