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William C. Archie
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Inc.

William B. Arthur
The National News Council, Inc.

Roger J. Traynor
The National News Council, Inc.

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January 8, 1974

Justice Roger J. Traynor, Chairman
The National News Council
One Lincoln Plaza
New York, New York 10023

My dear Justice Traynor:

It was particularly generous of you to acknowledge receipt of the Babcock Foundation's modest grant of $10,000 by your note of January 2, especially since Mr. Arthur had already acknowledged receipt of the grant.

Even so, I was delighted to read your letter, and was happy to learn that you feel there are signs of growing interest in the work of the Council on the part of the media as well as the public. That is a very fine indication.

Obviously, I wish all of you well and will look forward to reading your reports.

Sincerely,

Wm. C. Archie
Executive Director

cc: Mr. M. J. Rossant
    Mr. William B. Arthur
December 14, 1973

Justice Roger J. Traynor, Chairman
National News Council, Inc.
1 Lincoln Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10023

My dear Justice Traynor:

It is a genuine pleasure to send you the Foundation's check No. 4909 for $10,000 as payment in full of our grant made in May of this year for general support of the Council.

May we remind you that at an appropriate time after the grant is expended, we must have an evaluative report and a final fiscal accounting which will indicate as precisely as possible how our funds were spent.

I have not seen very much in the press recently about the National News Council but I am sure it has been busy. I trust that you are pleased with the prospect and that from time to time, the National Council will be able to improve circumstances both for those who are writers and those who are written about.

With all good wishes to you and Murray Rossant, I am

Sincerely,

Wm. C. Archie
Executive Director

Enclosure
January 2, 1974

Mr. William C. Archie
Executive Director
Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Inc.
102 Reynolds Village
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27106

Dear Mr. Archie:

It is a pleasure indeed to acknowledge the receipt of check No. 4909 for $10,000 from the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Inc., accompanying your letter of 14 December, representing payment in full of the grant the Foundation made in May 1973 for general support of the National News Council.

By now you have probably received the letter of 19 December that William E. Arthur, Executive Director of the Council, addressed to you not only to insure prompt acknowledgement from the New York office, but also to give you a work-in-process summary of the first months of the Council's existence.

The Council is committed to a policy of close watch over expenditures and plans to make a regular financial accounting to the organizations that have sponsored it. In addition, it is committed by its by-laws to designate an evaluation committee at its third annual meeting that will consist of two representatives of funding organizations, two representatives of the media, and two representatives of the public. No person who has served as a member of the Council shall be eligible to serve on the evaluation committee. Within a year thereafter that committee is to make its report to the Council and the public.

I am heartened by the signs of growing interest in the work of the Council evinced by members of the media as well as the public. That interest signifies not only a long-felt need for such a council, but also good will for its success. At the same time, everyone connected with the Council is well aware that it will be no easy task to achieve its goals. That very awareness is good assurance that the organization and development of the Council's work will bear the stamp of care and quality.
On behalf of the Council members and staff, I convey deep appreciation of the wholehearted support of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Traynor

cc: Mr. M. J. Rossant
    Mr. William B. Arthur
December 19, 1973

Mr. William C. Archie
Executive Director
Mary Reynolds Babcock
Foundation, Inc.
102 Reynolda Village
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27106

Dear Mr. Archie:

This is to acknowledge, with gratefulness, receipt of your letter of December 14, 1973, enclosing a check for $10,000 as payment in full of the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation grant made in May, 1973, for general support of the Council.

I have forwarded your letter to Justice Traynor.

At this point, the Council is just about through with the thousand and one details that go with organization and the initial stages of operations. More than two months ago I wrote an article for the American Society of Newspaper Editors Bulletin, which I am enclosing. This article was up-to-date at that time, but much has happened since then. I refer specifically to two major studies we have undertaken. One has to do with access to the media. The other is an attempt to study and analyze the charges made by President Nixon at his October 26 news conference that certain network television reporting has been "outrageous, vicious and distorted". Press releases announcing these studies are enclosed, together with a sampling of news stories that resulted from these announcements and ensuing events.

As Executive Director of the Council I am convinced, after five months of actual operations, that this is, indeed, the right time for such an undertaking. The road ahead will not be an easy one to traverse, but none of us ever expected that it would be. We are new to the scene, and the pages of achievement are yet to be written.
Most importantly, the challenge is to achieve respect; respect from the public and from the media that serve that public. Your backing will help us to achieve that goal.

Sincerely,

William B. Arthur

Enclosures

cc: Mr. M.J. Rossant
    Justice Roger J. Traynor
    WBA:sh