

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 305

January 1, 1949

Sh-h-h — IT'S OFF THE RECORD!

• By NORMAN E. ISAACS
Managing Editor, St. Louis Star-Times

At the recent meeting of the Associated Press Managing Editors in Chicago, I unburdened myself of a pent-up outburst against off-the-record conferences. It took



NORMAN E. ISAACS

Jimmy Pope of the Louisville Courier-Journal to add some depth to what he called my "noble indignation."

It was his point that while there must be a limit, such conferences on the right level do serve a useful purpose in providing newspapermen with necessary background.

I agree. I well understand—and appreciate—those off-the-record meetings between a very few men in which a public official can "take his hair down" and discuss matters with brutal frankness. It is important that we get such material for informational purposes and it is equally important that we protect our sources.

We certainly are guilty when we make no effort to curb this ridiculous practice.

One of the vicious sides to the practice is that often you are bound in such a manner that you cannot go to any other source to get the story which ought to be published.

I side with Alexis McKinney of the Denver Post who believes that every time you bind yourself in one of these absurd confidences, you get scooped. It is so because you cannot hide these stories indefinitely.

I admit frankly that I have gone to the extreme. My instructions to the staff run something like this:

"When they say 'This is off-the-record,' you just say you're sorry but you don't want to hear it. And walk out. You can always find out what it is he's trying to freeze up on. It's your job to go out and crack that story."

Let's remember that these boys are not writing columns or editorials. They are paid to get the news. Let the pundits take over all the off-the-record conferences. Let them use the oblique references. Let our own staffs go back to reporting.

The result is not at all bad. We

simply get back to telling our readers what goes on.

However, it does seem to me that American newspaper editors have let off-the-record discussions get far beyond bounds. Entirely too much public information is being bottled up because newspapermen are permitting petty officials to use the off-the-record device as a defense mechanism.

The system has filtered down from Washington. There, I have often wondered why it is that some fifteenth assistant to an assistant secretary can succeed in bamboozling some of the best news hands in the country.

But, worse, we have rocked along while state and city officials have cabbaged on to this beautiful protective machinery we have placed in their hands.

All they have to say is: "This is off-the-record, boys," and our reporters can then trot in dutifully and tell us that they know the whole story, but that they can't write it because they are bound by the confidence.

We are making a mistake when we let young reporters continue to think that they can strut around, giving their friends the air that they know the "inside story." In a sense we are contributing to the opinion held by a sizeable group in this country that we are frequently guilty of suppressing news.

Let's Limit the Hokum, Not the Membership, Schrader Pleads

• By PAUL A. SCHRADER
Managing Editor, Toledo Blade

As a somewhat junior member, I would like to raise my voice against limiting the membership of ASNE.

The only safe limitation is qualification.

ASNE is a professional organization. In spite of its title it is not a fraternity with social aspects of primary importance.

Its goal should be to enroll every qualified editor so that journalism may be better able to raise its standards and combat its enemies.

Rather than limit its membership I would suggest that ASNE

more closely "police" its formal meetings, and reject sightseers and crackpots. It is disgusting to me, and probably disturbing to a guest speaker who permits questions, to have some zealot arise and say, "I am not a member, but . . ." I imagine the chairman dislikes to order the interloper thrown out, and obviously the speaker doesn't know what to do.

And, while we are at it, let's decide once and for all if the annual banquet is for newspaper editors' edification or is just another typical convention get-together. Being naive people, who believe the former, our newspaper asked for only enough tickets to seat its members

in attendance and the chief of our Washington Bureau.

We were quite fortunate, too; we could see President Truman even though the whites of his eyes weren't visible.

As an individual I do not regard the ASNE meeting as a junket. In my two years of membership I have not asked for more than one banquet ticket, and I am sure I never will ask for four. If I have social or professional debts to pay in Washington, I will do it some other way.

In short, let's limit the hokum and the looseness before placing an arbitrary limit on membership.

Let's remain truly professional.

1949 PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

A session on the relegation of columnists to proper stature, and the emergence of editorial columns from the deep propagandist show cast by these over-bally-hooded pundits would be interesting, amusing—and perhaps useful.

MAT GRAY

New Orleans Times-Picayune

A Panel on Polls

The problem that strikes me as the most pressing and challenging to editors at this time is the low point to which the prestige of newspapers has sunk since the election. Perhaps a panel could discuss this, what to do about it, how much the public opinion polls hurt us, and how much the columnists have contributed to this situation.

The debate over public opinion polls could almost make a panel discussion in itself. So could the question, "What are we letting our columnists get away with?" We hear comment to the effect that columnists contribute to the confusion of thinking and, to some extent, overwhelm and outshout the editorial voice of newspapers.

LEE HILLS,
Miami Herald

Self-Examination

I would like to hear the boys cut loose with an uninhibited debate on this one:

"Do ASNE members subscribe to their own code of ethics?"

TOM HANES

Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch

Better Reporters

How to employ and develop a more able type of reporters and how to utilize experience—the older men on the news staff—to best advantage.

ALFRED G. HILL
Chester Times

Objective Reporting

In last summer's senatorial election here we had a great deal of trouble getting news stories from the court proceedings in which so-called objective reporting gave the entire wrong slant on what was going on. Reporters were gathering the news that showed on the surface, and not going behind it. I complained sharply to the Associated Press about this.

My personal idea of objectivity

is not to accept an official's statement as the unalterable truth, but also to turn over a few chips to search for bugs. I know this allows an opportunity for bias to creep in if the reporter is not intellectually honest.

Is what I consider a failure to carry objective stories due to missing parts of the chain the fault of our not devising a formula for news gathering, or does it fall under the head of human frailty?

It occurs to me that a great number of editors are thinking in the same terms. If I am correct, it might make a good panel discussion.

One other thought: What happened to the U. S. press during the last presidential election?

CHARLES E. GREEN

Austin American and Statesman

More Snap, Please

It occurs to me that the program chairman might want to consider inviting a tough critic of the press to address one convention session. Following the speaker's tirade, the meeting could be thrown open to members to reply. This, it seems to me, would enliven one of the sessions which, in the past, have been a little on the dull side, and too pontifical. I think we need more shop talk.

In the last year or so, some progress has been made toward livelier sessions, and I hope such a movement will be continued and enlarged upon.

STANLEY P. BARNETT
Cleveland Plain Dealer

'Group' Talks Suggested

With a membership of 498, the Society is already no longer homogeneous.

Perhaps one afternoon or one morning's session might be broken up into several different groups for shop talks for which there is "a perennial hope." This would permit of discussions for the various size newspapers, in addition to such shop talks as would be of general interest to all.

A membership card would be to me, as to David Lawrence, absolutely superfluous. I would suggest that if certificates of membership are issued that they indicate the date when the member joined, and perhaps the date of the founding of the Society.

TALBOT PATRICK

Rock Hill Evening Herald

IDEA ADOPTED

From Francis T. Murphy, Worcester Telegram, comes a plea that has been made with increasing frequency as the Society grows. A list of editors attending the convention, he says, would be helpful to members who recall the face but not the name, and in renewing old acquaintance. Such a list will be available this year at the registration desk.

500 Members Enough

I am among those who believe a limit should be placed on ASNE membership and that limit should not be above the 500 mark.

The strength of an organization such as ours does not depend on mere numbers. Character of membership and the degree of personal interest manifested by members form the all-important element. Today we are in grave danger of becoming unwieldy, if we have not reached that unfortunate condition.

Inasmuch as no hotel in Washington is now able to provide us with adequate accommodations for our annual session, it is quite certain that we should not be soliciting any more members.

FREDERICK SULLENS, Editor
Jackson (Miss.) Daily News

Certificate Favored

I think it is a good idea to have a membership card in some form. I agree with David Lawrence that the wallet usually is overstuffed (with cards rather than currency). Personally I would favor a small certificate of membership that would be suitable for framing and hanging in the office.

HAROLD E. CASSILL

Spokane Spokesman Review

No More Cards, Thanks

I agree with David Lawrence that membership cards are a nuisance and make a man's pants sag on the side he carries the wallet. Mostly, I keep mine in a small box on the desk, and just counted 16 cards. The certificate idea sounds more sensible.

MILTON TABOR

Topeka Daily Capital

New Member From Wheeling

Herman E. Gieske, editor of the Wheeling Intelligencer, has been elected to the Society, bringing the new members this year to 26, and the total membership to 498.

When U.S. Marshal Decreed No Picture, Paper Took Action

As evidence of the growing tendency of state and federal governmental bodies to obstruct access to the news of their activities, Robert C. Notson, managing editor of the Oregonian, has made available to the ASNE, through President Canham and the Committee on World Freedom of Information, detailed background on a recent Oregon incident.

"For something over a year," says Mr. Notson, "our reporters, photographers and city desk have been involved in intermittent controversy with the U. S. marshal. This official had insisted that it was his duty to prevent the taking of any photographs of prisoners in his custody and said he was acting on authority of his manual for U. S. marshals which he declined to show because it was 'secret.' Our city editor firmly insisted that we did not recognize secret regulations as abrogating our plain duty and privilege as defined in the constitution; that whatever was in his manual was a guide to his own conduct and not ours.

"We continued to make pictures. Three men accused of bank robbery were brought here to trial and as one of them was to be arraigned, the marshal threatened the photographers of the Oregonian and Oregon Journal with 'contempt of court proceedings' if they attempted to make pictures of the prisoner. The pictures were made as the prisoner was being conducted to court and published in both newspapers."

In the succession of events that followed, it was revealed that the 'secret' provision in the manual for marshals read "Under no circumstances will the U. S. marshals permit reporters, photographers, or other persons to photograph a prisoner."

However, in what was described by certain government officials as an "easing" of the situation, this further order followed: "These instructions are not to be construed as meaning that the U. S. marshals are required to take active steps to prevent the taking of unposed photographs of prisoners on the street or in public places outside the Federal Court House."

Mr. Notson says that the so-

called "easing" has had two practical effects, both unfortunate:

1) Marshals who regarded the original regulation as meaning that they should not 'pose' prisoners, and hence gave tacit cooperation, now regard the modification as enjoining them actively to oppose and prevent taking of photographs in the federal court house. Thus the 'easing' has in many cases been a tightening of regulation and a blocking of access to photographic news.

2) The regulation now appears to permit the taking of photographs of prisoners in public places and on the street. It occurs to us that if there is any legitimate objection to the taking of such photographs this method is most likely to emphasize it. Pictures taken on the run and with the prisoner under escort of an officer are much more likely to emphasize unfavorable or prejudicial aspects than one taken with the knowledge of the officer and frequently with the cooperation of the prisoner.

"Because restrictive rules of this kind tend to grow, as they already have in Maryland," concludes Mr. Notson in his report to Mr. Canham, "it seems well to me that newspapers should act in concert to end such restrictive regulations."

Although not a member of the ASNE, Mr. Notson has made available to the Society's committee a file of the Oregon incident, including copies of official correspondence, his original address on the subject before AP members of Oregon and Washington and the resulting resolution.

ASNE Represented In Baltimore Case

With the authorization of the ASNE Board, President Erwin D. Canham has asked a Baltimore attorney, William L. Marbury, to represent the Society in the case testing the rule of the Baltimore bench which in effect prohibits publication of news about a court case between the arrest of the individual and the moment of trial.

In a memo to the World Freedom of Information Committee, Mr. Canham pointed out that the language of the Baltimore rule is "fantastically broad." Mr. Marbury, he explained, "will file a statement on behalf of the Society indicating our concurrence in the

Canham Names 14 To Serve as Jurors For Pulitzer Prizes

Public Service

Harry S. Ashmore, editor of editorial page, The Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock.

Nelson Poynter, editor, St. Petersburg Times.

Local Reporting

Alfred G. Hill, publisher, The Chester (Pa.) Times.

A. M. Piper, editor, Council Bluffs Nonpareil.

National Affairs

W. H. Grimes, editor, The Wall Street Journal, New York.

Louis B. Seltzer, editor, Cleveland Press.

International Affairs

Burrows Matthews, editor, Buffalo Courier-Express.

Edward Lindsay, editor, Decatur Herald and Review.

Editorial Writing

Herbert Brucker, editor, The Hartford Courant.

William F. Maag, editor and publisher, The Youngstown Vindicator.

Cartoons

Clayton Fritchey, executive editor, New Orleans Item.

James Kerney, Jr., editor, Trenton Times Newspapers.

News Photography

Moses H. Williams, executive editor, Worcester Telegram and Gazette.

John P. Harris, editor, Hutchinson (Kan.) News-Herald.

major case against the rule, which is of a radio station being tried for contempt of court."

The ANPA is being represented by counsel and the Board, at its October meeting, took the stand that editors as well as publishers should indicate their interest in the case.

Patterson in South America

Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade, is traveling again—or still. With Mrs. Patterson he left for South America on December 17, to be back the middle of February, and, as usual, writing his daily column for The Blade while he's gone.

NEW MEMBERS

WALLACE A. BRENNAN is president of the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors.

As editor of the Dunkirk Observer, he inspired the plan by which citizens of that city extended a helping hand to the people of Dunkerque, France, thereby breaking into Collier's and Reader's Digest.



W. A. BRENNAN

In 1916 (he doesn't say where, and it seemed polite not to ask), he broke the Vera Cruz story with headlines that killed 200 Americans and 4,000 Mexicans. The result of this more than mild exaggeration, Mr. Brennan admits ruefully, was that no one entrusted him with the editorship of a daily newspaper for more than 20 years.

Associate editor of the Dunkirk Evening Observer for many years, he was made editor on the retirement of Gerald B. Williams six years ago. "I have had," he reports, "the benefit of his 60 years' experience plus my own apprenticeship. Sometimes I think all that isn't enough for an editor. How do younger men edit bigger papers?"

★ ★ ★

Two days after graduating from college, PHILIP ADLER became editor of The Kewanee (Ill.) Star-Courier, a post he has held for 20 years.

Taking over the job, he ran head-on into a dream story. A local boiler-maker's frame-up of a million dollar inheritance from a Virginia estate was bubbling until the new editor blasted it as a hoax. It was easier to believe a man who talked glibly of a fortune and promised \$100,000 gifts to churches than to accept the warnings of a young editor. He became Public



PHILIP D. ADLER

The number of candidates for membership in cities under 50,000 population always far exceeds the five who can be elected from that group annually. Three of those winning the distinction in 1948 are presented here.

Enemy No. 1 in the community and hundreds of subscribers cancelled in protest. But the expose brought results and today the readers are back, plus several thousand more.

During World War II, Mr. Adler was with the press division of the Office of Censorship. He was also a management member of the War Labor Board newspaper panel in the AP-Guild cases. He collaborated in writing "The Lee Papers: A Saga of Midwestern Journalism." His principal community interests are the Public Hospital, the "Y" community building and housing projects.

★ ★ ★

ROBERT W. LUCAS suspects that most members of ASNE have one thing in common: They don't know where Yakima is.

With all the enthusiasm of an adopted son he describes the central Washington city as a vigorous community grown in 50 years from a bald spot in the sage brush, and now the apple and soft fruit capital of the Pacific Northwest.

Mr. Lucas went to Yakima from the fishing town of Astoria, Ore., "which had more than a normal taste of debt, corruption and disaster," and as such offered a rich experience for a fledgling editor. His boss there was Merle R. Chessman, publisher of the Astorian-Budget, an ASNE member until his death last year. Previously Mr. Lucas had met Mr. Chessman's daughter, Peggy, at the University of Oregon and had married her in 1937 while cubbing on the Portland Journal.

He moved to Yakima to become editor of the editorial pages of The Daily Republic and The Morning Herald, and now editor of those newspapers.

Having shed their webfeet, the Lucases, including two small sons, have grown spurs instead.



ROBERT W. LUCAS

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

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Carlton K. Matson

"I was told the other day that the back injury which has been bothering me involves a malignancy. In plain language, my friends, that means cancer. . . ."

By bringing a hush-hush subject into the open, Carlton K. Matson, widely known among newspapermen as associate editor of the Cleveland Press, attracted national attention. His column, in which he courageously faced the fact that his days were numbered, was reprinted in other newspapers and appeared in the November issue of Reader's Digest. He died on December 13, at age 58, in Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland.

Smiths of Meriden Lose Son

Wayne C. Smith, Jr., 24, died in Hartford Hospital, December 20, from Hodgkin's disease contracted while in the Navy during the Pacific war. For the past year he had worked on the Meriden Record, published by his father; his mother, Mrs. Blanche Hixson Smith, is associate editor.

Son's Body Returned

Joseph Agor, editor of the Shamokin (Pa.) News-Dispatch, and Mrs. Agor have received notice that the body of their only son, Staff Sgt. Richard Agor, will arrive in the U. S. this month. Sgt. Agor, a professional photographer, was shot down in a bomber over Bremen in October, 1943.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 306

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Bulletin Article Inspired Speedy Action In Hartford

When Carl E. Lindstrom, managing editor of The Hartford Times, read a short piece in his paper about the City Manager's intention to hold a secret session of the Council on the budget, he thought of the charge made in last month's Bulletin by Norman E. Isaacs, St. Louis Star-Times, that newspapers have allowed the "off-the-record" device to get out of bounds. Mr. Lindstrom read the Isaacs piece at a staff conference, went into action, and got results.

A three-column, 72 point head appeared on page one: **CLOSED BUDGET SESSION HELD BY CITY COUNCIL.**

The Times and its competitor, The Courant, followed up with editorials saying substantially that the closed door policy was being carried too far.

The City Manager reconsidered immediately, and asked for a consultation with representatives of both papers on City Hall news coverage.

Queried by The Bulletin, Mr. Lindstrom said, "What griped me particularly, was the statement by

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Time now to make your hotel reservation for the ASNE convention, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, April 21, 22 and 23. Address your request to George Lombard, Hotel Statler, Washington 13, D. C., stating date of arrival and type of accommodations wanted. Be sure to mention that you are attending the convention of the American Society of Newspaper Editors as a bloc of rooms has been reserved for members.

the Mayor in justification of the City Manager in which he said that that was the way the President of the United States had handled such matters. How true Mr. Isaacs' words 'The system has filtered down from Washington.'"

Among the benefits accruing from Mr. Lindstrom's action was the release of the city grand list. "We have always paid girls in the assessor's office to do the copying for us," he explains. "The Manager's position had been that this was irregular and he couldn't tolerate it unless the girls were willing to do it on an overtime basis, which they weren't." The Manager since has decided that perhaps it is the obligation of the city to furnish the list, and without charge.

WALTERS PROTESTS DENIAL OF RIGHTS TO COUNTRY NEWSPAPER

As chairman of the ASNE committee on World Freedom of Information, Basil L. Walters of Knight Newspapers is protesting the refusal of Carlton County, Minnesota, authorities to give a country newspaper access to public records.

In November, Mr. Walters wrote the state attorney general, J. A. A. Burnquist, "Apparently Clerk of the Court Joe P. Poirier has refused to allow reporters for the Moose Lake Star-Gazette to examine the public birth, marriage, divorce and death records." James F. Etzell, editor of the paper, had asked the county attorney to re-

quest an opinion from the State House which had not been forthcoming. Mr. Walters added, and asked to be informed on progress toward solution of the incident.

Receiving no reply, Mr. Walters wrote Mr. Burnquist last month: "On the surface it would appear that Mr. Etzell is making a gallant fight to preserve the precious rights of the American people against a growing bureaucracy in government in which officials consider themselves the masters of the people instead of the servants of the people."

Mr. Walters urged Mr. Burnquist to set him straight if he had

Dabney Lines Up Panel Discussions For April Meeting

It takes a long while for the convention program to shape up but Virginus Dabney, chairman, reports that it's shaping.

At present he is concentrating on panel discussions. There will be one dealing with the problems of managing editors and two on the press and its function—with special reference to the record of the press in the last presidential election. These are in direct response to the members' cry for more shop talks.

As for outside speakers, no announcement yet, but Mr. Dabney confides "We are trying to hook some very big fish."

Evening sessions both Thursday and Friday now are definite, in addition to the banquet Saturday. As usual, there will be luncheon sessions each day.

Mr. Dabney and Erwin D. Canham met in Williamsburg, where the ASNE President addressed the Virginia Press Association on Jan. 22. They discussed program details which will be announced next month.

been misinformed or, if his information is correct to help get the seriousness of the matter across to officials involved who, he admitted, may be sincere but unaware of the great public interest at stake.

If he heard nothing further, Mr. Walters wrote, he would go to Moose Lake to investigate and, if it seems advisable, ask his committee to recommend to the ASNE Board that legal assistance be given Mr. Etzell's fight.

At time of going to press, Mr. Walters had heard nothing further.

New Banquet Regulations In Effect For This Year (But Don't Apply Yet)

With the next issue of The Bulletin, members will receive blanks for advance registration for the convention, April 21, 22 and 23, in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C., and for making reservations for the banquet, Saturday evening, April 23.

By vote of the Board, banquet tickets again will be limited to four per member, i. e., member and three guests. This means that, as in past years, the affair will be crowded; and, in an attempt to alleviate a situation for which there is no cure, new regulations are being adopted. The changes are these:

- 1) Abrogation of the first-come, first-served rule.

- 2) No refunds on tickets will be made after the opening day of the convention.

- 3) Tickets ordered but not picked up by noon on Friday, April 22, will be automatically cancelled.

The first-come, first-served rule has gone overboard because it no longer works. Two-thirds of the members planning to attend last year made their reservations almost instantaneously, and many were disappointed because they did not draw up-front seats; a plain case of too many early birds to share the worm.

This year, the seating chart will not be made up until the first week in April, and reservations received any time in March will receive the same consideration. This obviously allows wide latitude for favoritism in allotting tables, and the favorites will be selected as follows:

Members who order only one or two tickets will be given preference over those who order three or four.

Members who make no unreasonable seating demands will fare better than those who do. (Each member, of course, will be seated with his own guests; and modest requests to sit with friends will be honored so far as possible.)

Anyone who sat far in the out-field last year (Table 68) and up will be given a slight edge over other claimants in this year's fray.

The rule barring refunds after the opening day has been laid down by the treasurer, with the sanction of the Board. In 1948, refunds were requested, and made, on one-tenth of all tickets ordered. Some were resold, most were not,

and the Society was stuck for the price of dinners ordered but not eaten. That doesn't make sense.

As always, banquet tickets will be held at the convention registration desk for members' arrival. The rule that tickets not picked up by noon Friday will be automatically cancelled affects only members, who after ordering tickets, decide not to attend but neglect to notify of their change in plans.

When that reservation blank reaches you next month, please keep these factors in mind in deciding whether to order one, two, three or four tickets:

Fewer tickets sold means that more members can be seated in the Presidential (or first) room. This will contribute to everyone's pleasure including your own.

Because you have all of March to send in your reservation, you can get your guests' acceptances first, and then order the number of tickets required, instead of ordering the maximum and cancelling later, a practise prevalent in the past.

ASNE'S STAND IN BALTIMORE CASE

As authorized by the Board, President Canham named a lawyer, William L. Marbury, to appear in behalf of the Society, *amicus curiae*, at the trial of four Baltimore radio stations charged with contempt of court for breach of Rule 904 which, in effect, bans publication of news of a court case between arrest of an individual and time of trial. Although three of the four defendants were found guilty, Mr. Canham has reported to the directors that the effort was worth while in that Mr. Marbury adequately safeguarded our views and made an effective general statement of the important issues concerned.

In his memorandum, Mr. Marbury made a distinction between stations and newspapers. "The laws of physics," he said, "limit the freedom of utterance of those who wish to broadcast since, unless the Government intervenes to limit the number of those who wish to use this medium, no one can be heard at all. By contrast, the licensing of the press would be an intolerable infringement on liberties won only after long struggle against arbitrary power. . . . But

DEAR MR. TOY:

Pending official action by the ASNE Freedom of Information committee on the non-Communist affidavit demands of the Detroit Police Commissioner, Basil Walters, chairman, has addressed Commissioner Toy, in part, as follows:

"A newspaper cannot countenance the right of a public official to select a newspaper's staff or to judge who shall be privileged to keep the eternal spotlight of publicity on him.

"The committee of which I am chairman is set up to resist all moves that affect free speech and free press as a safeguard for the rights of the American people 'to know.' It does not seek any selfish privilege for any one newspaper or newspapers as a whole. Rather it is designed to serve as a watchdog to make certain that precious liberties of the people of this country do not slip away by default.

"You did not intend it I know, but I am firmly convinced that your proposal would prove to be another dangerous step, or at least half step, toward a police state in the United States."

these differences appear to be of doubtful relevance in the present proceedings."

Admitting a delicate conflict between the duty of the courts in making certain that litigants receive impartial hearings and the newspapers' equally sacred duty to protect freedom of expression, Mr. Marbury quoted Mr. Justice Reed's injunction (*Pennekamp v. Florida*) that "freedom of discussion should be given the widest range compatible with the essential requirement of the fair and orderly administration of justice," and his further observation that "In the borderline instances where it is difficult to say upon which side the alleged offense falls, we think the specific freedom of public comment should weigh heavily against a possible tendency to influence pending cases."

Mr. Marbury concluded his plea for dismissal of the citations in the case with the declaration, "We think that the Court should go further and declare Rule 904 of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City to be invalid as a clear invasion of rights guaranteed by both federal and state Constitutions."

NEW LIGHT ON AFGHANISTANISM

On Page One

• By ROGER A. CONNOLLY
Managing Editor
The New Haven Register

I would like to comment in this forum on Afghanistanism in the news columns. Recently I read the discourse we heard Jenkin Lloyd Jones of the Tulsa Tribune deliver last April on this disease as it infects the editorial page and it occurred to me this condition might have become epidemic among our cloistered colleagues only because it has spread from Page One.

Afghanistanism on the editorial page, as I understand it, is the practice of taking a strong stand on a question where there cannot possibly be repercussions and gliding over lightly the problems close to home. On news pages it would be learned projection of foreign affairs with conventional coverage in city, state and nation. It follows that if news columns are not vital, editorial writers must go far afield to find subjects for discussion.

Perhaps my thoughts were advanced a little further by another paper by one of our better managing editors in a professional publication telling how effectively his paper was presenting the international scene by sending members of his staff to remote places to write first hand impressions. In editions carrying 45 to 55 columns of news, he said, it was usual for him to allocate 15 to 25 columns to foreign news. It surely must be a unique readership that is interested to that extent in the problems of Pakistan.

I wonder if news executives, between deliberations on the perplexities of the Associated Press world-wide report and the higher level proceedings of the ASNE, may not be losing a little perspective.

The familiar advertising slogan "All Business Is Local" would seem to apply to news as well. Unless news has local significance or impact, how broad can be its appeal?

The present emphasis on internationalism would appear to be a concession to the tendency to get out a paper for other editors rather than the public.

Eliminating New York, Chicago and The Monitor, the rest of us basically operate local newspapers. Is it sound to minimize our first mission? Why is it that some of the most amazing stories of crime, corruption and incompetence come from areas where newspapers are concentrating their best men and resources on distant fields? Would not our communities and states be better served if editors did a better job at home before they saved the world?

I would have the local paper free of political ties as well as financially and socially independent. An authority on community affairs and issues above any transient officeholder, it would act in the public interest with intelligence and courage.

That viewpoint would be expanded statewide to establish proper understanding, balance and integration between city and commonwealth. There is a vast field of state activities that escape newspaper attention yet they vitally affect every citizen.

And, because the nation is merely localities in union, the identical essentials apply to presentation of national news. Finally, the world is in our lap and many events elsewhere have their echoes here. Of course, we should report and interpret them accurately and wisely but in focus and in proper proportions for that part of the world we serve.

In the Program

MARVIN H. CREAGER
Editorial Advisor
The Milwaukee Journal

That page of program comment in the last Bulletin rang the bell. Through it all ran a thread that indicated a desire to hear about and discuss in shirt sleeves things closer to newspaper work than are some of the formal addresses we have been hearing. Our Mr. Jones of Tulsa brought out the idea beautifully in his spirited protest against "Afghanistanism" editorials last April.

If we may believe the implication of its name the ASNE is concerned primarily with American

newspapers. In these days of complexity we must, of course, be interested in global matters. But I wonder if we are in danger of feeling too deeply our responsibility for the cosmos. After all, these world racking situations are much like the weather in that they change overnight due to causes about which we know nothing and over which we have no control.

On the other hand there still is work for us to do right in our own backyard. Still unfinished is the great task of preserving the individuality and real functions of the free press we hear so much about. Freed from what? From the blight of bellwether journalism some of us still hope.

None will deny the glamour value of big names on our programs. But I submit that those cute little convention chairs get almighty hard after a few sessions of "Afghanistanism" which many devoted members feel they must sit inarticulate and take.

A Rebuttal

In the Anniston (Ala.) Star, Col. Harry M. Ayers, editor, has taken issue with Jenkin Lloyd Jones' now famous "Afghanistanism" address.

"Admittedly, there is some justification for (his) indictment," writes Mr. Ayers in a lead editorial, "but in this day of international solidarity, when the world has shrunk from the relative size of a grapefruit to that of an English walnut, many of our editors might be equally indicted because they don't give a damn about Afghanistan. For it still is true, as was stated by an old sage many years ago, that 'he who will not take heed of things far away will soon find trouble near at hand.'"

After citing Afghanistan's role in Russian policy, the editorial continues:

"'Afghanistanism,' as we view it, is merely a generic term to denote the pernicious penetration through propaganda that Russia is pursuing today throughout the civilized world. The seeds of war she is sowing could entail far greater losses to us than any raciality or ineptitude in the City Hall, the County Court House or the State Capital. Indeed, the loss of liberty anywhere, if we may paraphrase John Donne, diminishes us, because we are involved in all mankind."

Haverhill Editor Thinks Humility Is Unwarranted

• By WILLIAM H. HEATH, Editor
The Haverhill Gazette

I wish to endorse Lee Hills' suggestion that this year's program have a panel on polls, but my motive is unlike his. I do not agree with his comment about "the low point to which the prestige of newspapers has sunk since the election."

His comment, to me, is another of too many indications of an unwarranted amount of abject humility among editors because they failed to predict the outcome of the presidential election.

This failure made newspapers look stupid for the reason that printing an inaccurate weather forecast by the weather bureau makes them look stupid. Folks don't say, "The weather bureau said — ." They say, "The paper said." This is a trait that I interpret as indicating prestige for the press among the people.

In the first place, reporting the pollsters' findings was routine newspaper performance. In the second place, I doubt there is reason to think reporters, no matter how close to the people they got, would have produced a more accurate performance. Indeed, I'm not sure the pollsters were wrong.

The election was close. The shift of only a small percentage of votes would have changed the result. It is readily conceivable to me that so many Dewey supporters were sold on the pollsters' prediction they figured they didn't

need to vote. The pollsters' misfortune, I think, could have been the prestige of divine revelation rather than mere statistical mistake.

Of course, I don't know how the big city editor feels, because I'm not one. He may sense a decline in prestige that I could not measure. I have not noted, however, any declines in circulation since the election. My own experience shows the people still think the newspaper a pretty important institution in their lives. If they need help, they still come to it. And politicians still think me important enough for denunciation. Only last week, one denounced me as a destructive force and demanded that I at once embark on a "slow boat to China."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Oct. 1, through Dec. 31, 1948)

BALANCE—Oct. 1

U. S. Savings Bonds....	\$ 2,500.00
Troy Savings Bank.....	2,042.18
Riggs National Bank....	13,718.38

RECEIPTS

Dues from Members....	\$ 395.00
Bulletin Subscriptions ..	3.00
Sales of Proceedings...	30.00
Interest (Sav. Bonds)...	31.25
	\$18,719.81

DISBURSEMENTS

Officers' Expenses	\$ 15.06
Officers' Secretaries	360.00
Bulletin (Including Salary of Assistant Sec.)	1,843.38
Proceedings Expense ..	1,831.93
Directors' Meeting Expense	126.39
	\$ 4,176.76

BALANCE (Dec. 31) ..\$14,543.05

Out With Syndicate Men and Politicians

I would like to endorse heartily the plea "let's remain truly professional" of Paul A. Schrader in the January Bulletin.

I remember two years ago trying to listen to General Eisenhower's talk while two syndicate salesmen argued the merits of their comic strips on either side of me. Moving to another part of the hall to get rid of them, I was confronted by a fuzzy-faced teen ager representing a college group who wanted me to sign a petition for Federal Union Now. Anyone who was there will remember how embarrassed Gen. Eisenhower and

the presiding officer were when some outsider spoke up from the rear and tried to question the speaker on some military event in one of his campaigns.

Like Mr. Schrader I have never asked for more than one banquet ticket, although I plan to take my wife this year. But after the lobbyists, social climbers, politicians and hangers-on have been seated, we will probably wind up out in one of the corridors and listen to the proceedings from a table equipped with television and a loud speaker.

GEORGE E. MINOT
The Boston Herald

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telegraph and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 306 February 1, 1949

No Need For Pollsters On The State Journal

In his column in The State Register on Jan. 10, Inauguration Day in Illinois, Vincent Y. Dallman recalled "the wake" at Philadelphia last June. "The burial party for the Democratic Party, as represented by Harry S. Truman, was deemed unnecessary," he wrote. "The grave-diggers galluped to their task. Then something happened. The corpse came to life.

He recalled too how Adlai Stevenson predicted he would win because he had faith in the people of Illinois.

Mr. Dallman did quite a little crowing, but it was in order. He not only had supported the Democratic candidates but had predicted they would win in both state and nation.

It's Publisher Young Now

Fate took a hand in blasting Dwight Young's announced determination to retire at 65. Last summer Col. Lewis B. Rock, publisher of the Dayton Journal-Herald, lured him into retaining the editorship with the promise that he could drop some administrative duties and spend half his time writing. Last month, on purchasing the papers, former Governor James M. Cox made him editor and publisher of the combined Journal Herald.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 307

March 1, 1949

White House Conference on Program; Speakers Include Acheson, Forrestal, Compton, Hoffman and Gruenther

Virginius Dabney, program chairman, has received acceptances from five high officials who will speak at the convention in Washington, April 21, 22 and 23. He also has arranged a conference, off-the-record and for members only, with President Truman. Together they will provide the insight into national and international affairs which is one reason for the Society's choice of Washington as a traditional meeting place.

The list includes two cabinet members, Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal. The others are Paul G. Hoffman, Economic Cooperation Administrator; Dr. Karl T. Compton, chairman of the Research and Development Board; and General A. M. Gruenther, director, The Joint Staff.

Three senators have accepted invitations to speak: Robert A. Taft

of Ohio, Ralph Flanders of Vermont, and Russell Long of Louisiana.

Another feature will be an address by Dr. Alberto Lleras, secretary general of the Organization of American States. He will be introduced by Tom Wallace, Louisville Times, who long has urged inclusion of a Latin-American speaker on the program, providing Mr. Wallace can get to Washington after a speaking engagement in St. Petersburg.

Plans for two panel discussions are progressing. One on "The Press and the People" will use the pollsters' error of last November as a springboard to a comprehensive discussion of newspaper prestige. N. R. Howard, Cleveland News, last year's president will be moderator. Tom Hanes, Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch and Virginian-Pilot; Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers; Paul Smith, San Francisco

Chronicle and Richard Finnegan, Chicago Sun-Times, will comprise the panel.

Acceptances for the managing editors' forum have not yet been received but it is still on the schedule.

A third session at which members will have their say will be devoted to "Attacks on Freedom in the United States", led off by Judge Justin Miller, president of the National Association of Broadcasters. While he will dwell largely on radio, newspaper angles will be covered either in a formal discussion from the platform or from the floor, but there will be discussion.

Time also will be allowed for discussion of the work of three major committees. J. Russell Wiggins, Washington Post, will report for the Committee on State Department Dissemination of News and Opinion; Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, for the World Freedom of Information Committee, and Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, for the committee on Atomic Information.

The banquet speaker, and other details of the daily programs, will be announced next month.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ASNE REGISTRATION

With this issue of The Bulletin you receive a registration form for the ASNE convention in Washington, April 21, 22 and 23, and for reserving tickets for the banquet, Saturday evening. Registration fee, \$15., includes luncheon each day. Banquet tickets are \$10. each, with a limit of four to each member attending the convention.

The blank, with check, should be mailed by April 1 to Alice Fox Pitts, Assistant Secretary, ASNE, Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Banquet tickets may be ordered after that date but the seats will be in the rear of the overflow room.

If, after ordering tickets, your plans change, please notify the assistant secretary promptly and your money will be refunded; no refunds will be made after 6 p.m. of the opening day of the conven-

tion. Tickets not picked up by noon on Friday will be automatically cancelled, unless you send word that you are arriving later.

In drawing up the seating plan, members who take only one or two tickets will be favored over those ordering more. When, last year, the membership discussed the banquet problem, opinion was about equally divided between a limit of four or drastic limitation to two. Permitting foursomes but favoring twosomes is the compromise decision.

Seating charts from 1948 and 1947 have been preserved, and members who fared badly in the past automatically will be accorded better tables this year.

Before deciding how many guests you will take, please remember that space is at a terrific premium. Here are the cold facts:

The Presidential and Congressional Rooms at the Statler together seat 1101 persons. About 350 members are expected at the convention, and if each took the maximum, the total of 1200 would exceed the capacity of both rooms. The Presidential Room seats 636. If the majority of members order only one or two tickets, the overflow in the adjoining Congressional Room will be smaller and more members will be happier.

Every member will be seated with his own personal guests. But many members like to share a table with friends in the Society and space on the reservation blank is provided to indicate such preference. However, in making up the chart, sometimes a member and his guests could be moved to a better table if he is willing to part

company with his preferred crowd. For the guidance of the seating committee please indicate on the blank whether you care more about a good table or being seated with people you know.

The question on the form about the hotel at which you are staying will make possible a complete list of members attending, and their Washington address, which often has been requested by members and will be provided this year for the first time.

Resolutions Committee Asks For Suggestions

Resolutions Chairman for the 1949 convention will be Paul S. Walcott, editor of the Greenfield (Mass.) Recorder-Gazette. President Canham has named him to replace Richard W. Clarke, New York Daily News, who will be in Europe at the time of the meeting.

This year, as last, the Saturday morning session will be devoted to resolutions, allowing ample time for members to discuss their import and, as is their wont, to revise the wording, and the punctuation to the last comma. The preliminary drafts will be made by the committee before the convention opens and, quoting Mr. Walcott, "the brethren should be reminded that word of deep thought or feelings should be lodged with any of us so we can begin work. Later suggestions are possible, of course, and resolutions may be offered from the floor after the committee reports."

Suggestions for resolutions may be addressed to Mr. Walcott or any member of the committee: Frank A. Clavoe, San Francisco News; Kenneth MacDonald, Des Moines Register and Tribune; and J. Russell Wiggins, Washington Post.

COMMITTEE STILL SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

L. R. Blanchard, membership chairman, suspects he has a split personality. Although he is among those who favor limiting the size of the Society, in his official capacity he is enthusiastically garnering applications, and asking for more.

Members wishing to propose candidates should do so without delay if they are to be elected in time to attend the convention. Write Mr. Blanchard, general executive editor, Gannett Newspapers, Rochester, N. Y., or any mem-

Convention Tips For New Members

In answer to a new member who writes, "As this is my first convention, and I don't know the ropes, I'd appreciate any helpful information you can give me."

For hotel reservations, write George Lumbard, Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C. Although the rooms reserved there for ASNE have been exhausted, Mr. Lumbard is making arrangements for our members to be accommodated at other first-class hotels nearby.

To register and order banquet tickets, fill in the blank enclosed with this Bulletin.

We do not mail tickets or credentials. They will be held at the registration desk for you, on the mezzanine of the Statler. You can pick them up first thing Thursday morning, April 21, or if you're in town on Wednesday afternoon the desk will be open from 2 to 5 p.m. Easier then, not so crowded.

The meeting begins Thursday at 10 a.m. Business is happily limited to a few short reports, and then the program begins. There are four sessions daily, morning, luncheon, afternoon and evening. Nothing is planned for the dinner hour either Thursday or Friday, but those are the only free times unless you cut classes.

The banquet Saturday evening is preceded by a cocktail party for members and their guests, included in the price of banquet tickets. Black tie—though there are always a few in business clothes. New members' wives usually want to know how to dress. Formal—but in Washington that's elastic, anything from extreme décolleté to dinner dresses to gold blouse and black skirt or what have you.

No entertainment is provided for the ladies but many attend the

sessions. While the luncheons are not open meetings—or they'd be as crowded as the banquet—members' wives may attend. Tickets for them may be purchased at the registration desk on arrival.

How to get acquainted? Members elected during the past year will be welcomed at a noon cocktail party by officers and directors of the Society.

Wire Recording As Aid To Better Speech Making

In January, The Washington Post printed the transcript of the recording of a speech made by District Commissioner J. Russell Young, unedited to the last dangling participle.

"Have you any observations," we asked Frank Dennis, assistant managing editor of The Post, "on the practical (rather than stunt) value to newspapers of recorded speeches?"

His reply:

"My only observation about the wire-recorded speech is that I believe that there ought to be more of it. I have thought, ever since I covered the Oklahoma legislature, that if newspapers reported more speeches of public figures more nearly as given either the speakers would do better jobs of speech-making, or the public eventually would choose better servants for public office."

Sigma Delta Chi Dinner

ASNE members attending the convention who also belong to Sigma Delta Chi are invited to attend the Founders Day dinner of the Washington Chapter, Wednesday April 20, in the National Press Club. Members of the national executive council will be present at the dinner, which commemorates the 40th anniversary of the founding of the fraternity. Reservations should be made through Theodore F. Koop, of SDX, care of Columbia Broadcasting System, Washington, D. C.

Lister, Keyser Represent ASNE

Walter Lister, managing editor of the Philadelphia Bulletin, and Earl E. Keyser, editor of the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal, will represent the Society at the meeting of the American Academy of Political and Social Science to be held in Philadelphia, April 8 and 9.

Committee Named To Work Out Plan For Internships

A plan proposed by the American Council for Education in Journalism, under which teachers would serve summer internships in newspaper offices, has moved forward a step with the appointment of Dwight Marvin, Troy Record, to head an ASNE committee to cooperate with ACEJ.

Other members of the committee appointed by President Canham are: L. D. Hotchkiss, Los Angeles Times; Ben Reese, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; and Allen Merriam, Dallas Times Herald.

Mr. Marvin, who is chairman of the ASNE Education Committee and also president of the Council, explains the idea behind the plan:

"Practically all of us put on summer men and we have felt that here and there a newspaper would be willing to take one or two men from the teaching profession. All of these teachers are, of course, former newspapermen and ought to be able to do a pretty good job. If they could make enough to live on during the ten weeks, they would refurbish their practical knowledge of journalism and be able to teach with a less remote hold on the practical side of the profession."

The men for the jobs would be selected from the 35 schools accredited by ACEJ.

Editors who are interested in the plan and wish further details are requested to write Mr. Marvin or any member of his committee.

Moose Lake Settled; Detroit Still Pending

"Apparently the affair of James F. Etzell at Moose Lake, Minn., has been settled satisfactorily," Basil L. Walters last week reported to the committee on World Freedom of Information which he heads. However he has voluminous records on the case, in which the country editor was denied access to public records, which he plans to submit to the committee before it reports at the convention.

The situation in Detroit, where Police Commissioner Toy required reporters to take loyalty oaths, is still hanging fire. Mr. Toy does not share the sentiments expressed in a letter from Mr. Walters (cf. Feb-



Photo from The Herald Statesman, courtesy of Oxie Reichler.

President Erwin D. Canham presiding at Bill of Rights Day services in old St. Paul's Church, Eastchester, N. Y. To his right is Richard W. Clarke, New York Daily News.

ruary Bulletin). This matter also will be covered in the committee's report at the convention.

"This Day In Texas"

"This Day in Texas," an historical feature which appeared last year in the San Angeles Standard-Times, has been reprinted in book form, limited edition. In a foreword, Curtis Bishop, who wrote the series, pays tribute to Houston Harte, editor of The Standard-Times "whose zealous appreciation of the Texas tradition made the volume possible."

H. Duncan Oliphant, retired as editor of the Portland Press-Herald, is continuing writing for the Maine newspaper and also broadcasting over its station WGAN.

E. Robert Stevenson retired, the first of the year, from the Waterbury Republican and American, with which he had been associated 32 years, as editor-in-chief since 1927.

Many Members of ASNE Quoted in Waldrop Book

A profitable book for any newspaper library, "Editor and Editorial Writer" by A. Gayle Waldrop also is a directory to what ASNE members have said about the editorial page for the past 20 years.

The author, professor of Journalism at the University of Colorado, credits the title to Arthur Krock of the New York Times who wrote, "Frank Cobb was a great editor, as well as a great editorial writer, two activities which are seldom synonymous." Other familiar names—Canham, Coghlan, Dabney, Daniels on through Wallace—dot the index. The text covers everything from the art of editorial writing to specific subjects such as the influence of syndicated columns and the use and abuse of statistics.

Many of the quotations are from ASNE Proceedings, including one by Minnie Madder Fiske who added glamour to an early convention program.

Election Results In 1832 Shed Light On Nov. 2, 1948

• By WALTER W. KREBS
Editor, The Johnstown Tribune

It seems that some editors still think the newspapers "lost prestige" in last November's election.

If newspaper prestige means the ability to swing elections, the newspapers never had it. An examination of editorial comment and election results for the last five presidential contests would prove that. But going farther back, it is amusing to read Parton's comment—written in 1860, in his *Life of Andrew Jackson*—concerning the part the newspapers played in the election of 1832:

"Both parties were confident of victory; but if one party was more confident than the other, it was the opposition. The reason of this was, that the printed matter relating to the controversy, with which the country was inundated, was mostly on the side of the opposition. Reading people, themselves under the domination of the printing press, could not but attach great importance to this circumstance. Reading people are not now all aware that not more than one-half of the voters of this Union can be reached by print, and that no party that chiefly relies upon the press can carry a general election. A striking pamphlet can influence voters, and so does a well-conducted newspaper; but a hickory pole, a taking cry, a transparency, a burst of sky rockets and Roman candles (alas! that it should be so!) have a potency over a large third of our voters that printed eloquence cannot exert."

Perhaps because we are reading people ourselves, we attach too much importance to the effect of editorial comment in elections. But it is still very doubtful that it reaches more than half the voters. As for bad guessing on the outcome of the election, of which most of us are guilty, we were in the same box with polls, analysts, professional politicians, gamblers and nearly everyone else who tries to predict elections. I doubt that we lost much prestige for that except among a few people who never held us in much prestige anyhow.

Book Reviewers Applaud Bingay's 'Of Me I Sing'

Three years ago when "Detroit Is My Home Town" was on the best seller list for six months, we asked Malcolm W. Bingay about his next book. He shook his head, raised his right hand and said solemnly, "Never again."



Happily for Bingay enthusiasts, he broke that pledge and last month Bobbs-Merrill published "Of Me I Sing." On reading the advance notice we

asked Mr. Bingay, who is editorial director of the Detroit Free Press, if we could have for the Bulletin "one good newspaper story from it, preferably one where the joke was on you."

"The whole book is a good story on myself," he replied, "300 pages of stories on myself—with pictures of myself. It is a wonderful story of myself."

The reviewers since have concurred. Said Gerald Johnson in the New York Herald Tribune, "It is the book of a happy warrior, a man who has spent half a century collecting scars and contusions more abundantly than cash. To young men it is at once a warning and an invitation; in newspaper work, it says, you are likely to end battered and bankrupt, but you will not be bored."

Grove Patterson Sees Eva On South American Tour

Homeward bound on a passenger-freighter from Valparaiso last month, Grove Patterson, editor of the Toledo Blade, took time out to recount the highlights of two months in South America.

He had interviews with the Presidents of Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, and Chile where he also called on his longtime friend, Claude Bowers, American ambassador. He and Mrs. Patterson also were received by Dona Maria Eva Duarte de Peron, who handed out 2700 pesos to a delegation of poor women while they were in her office.

Flying over the Andes in rough weather, he reports "the pilot turned the plane around between the walls of a gigantic canyon. If

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 307 March 1, 1949

I ever make that flight again it will be soon enough."

Mr. Patterson, who was in Europe last year, in Central America the year before, and the Far East the year before that thinks he'll stay home now—unless he goes to India next winter.

Afghanistan AND Middletown

• By EDWARD J. MEEMAN
Editor, Memphis Press-Scimitar

I never heard a better or more wholesome speech than that of Jenkin Lloyd Jones on Afghanistanism.

It was all to the good.

There shouldn't be any controversy about it.

How much effort of good minds has been wasted in arguing on the question of "or" when the solution was plain: to make an addition with "and."

No American newspaper has given too much attention to the affairs of Afghanistan.

Some have not attended vigorously enough to the affairs of the city named in the masthead as that of the post office in which they are entered as second class matter. Their vigor with respect to Afghanistan has only emphasized their weakness in relation to their own Middletown.

That's what I got from Mr. Jones' now classic address.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 308

April 1, 1949

Eight Are Nominated For Board; Four Will Be Elected At Convention

B. M. MCKELWAY, editor of the Washington Star, has been an ASNE member 11 years, a director for six, also treasurer, and second, then first, vice-president. Last year he was program chairman, took charge of press relations, represented the Society on the Secretary of Defense Security Council and served on the Atomic Information Committee.

DWIGHT YOUNG, editor and publisher of the Dayton Journal Herald, is also an 11-year member of the Society; brought in a record number of new members in two years as membership chairman; now is concluding his second term as director. Secretary for four years, last year he was elevated to the second vice-presidency.

RALPH COGHLAN, editorial page editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, appeared at his first ASNE convention in 1942. Attention focused on the new member when he presented a much-disputed resolution on government advertising in newspapers and he was promptly appointed to the Resolutions committee, on which he served again in 1947. That year he was elected to the Board.

JOHN S. KNIGHT, president of Knight Newspapers, joined the Society 20 years ago as managing editor of the Akron Beacon Journal. First elected to the Board in 1938, and twice re-elected, he was president in 1945 and 1946—two years because, with the war, there was no convention. Now concluding his ex-officio term as past president, he has been renominated for a regular term.

JAMES KERNEY, JR., editor of the Trenton Times News-papers, is the oldest in membership years of the new candidates. He joined in 1934, succeeding his late father who had been a member many years. Widely known among eastern newspapermen, he won national attention three years ago when, with his plant struck, he hired ex-GI's and trained them as printers within six months, a feat on which he reported at the 1948 convention.

KENNETH MACDONALD, managing editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, is a newer member of the Society—joined in 1942. The following year he went on active duty in the U. S. Naval Reserve as Lieutenant (j.g.) and did not return to Des Moines until the war's end. He appeared on the convention program for the first time last year, reporting his experiences while investigating schools of journalism for an ACEJ accreditation committee.

FRANK A. CLARVOE, editor of the San Francisco News, became a member in 1943, was named to the Resolutions committee the following year and has served on some committee ever since. He also has taken part in discussions, both in the Bulletin ("Radio and Video—Pampered Pets, Aug. 1948) and at the convention. Last year he studied nearly 2000 editorials for a report on the editorial page panel at the convention.

HODDING CARTER, editor of the Delta Democrat-Times, Greenville, Miss. (pop. 21,000) was one of the five members elected in 1946 from cities under 50,000. A Nieman Fellow and Pulitzer prize winner, the Saturday Evening Post said of him, "He is an able journalist who has had many offers to 'come up east.' He elected to stay home. He gives promise of becoming one of the most distinguished small town editors since William Allen White."



B. M. MCKELWAY



DWIGHT YOUNG



RALPH COGHLAN



JOHN S. KNIGHT



JAMES KERNEY, JR.



K. MacDONALD



FRANK A. CLARVOE



HODDING CARTER

Members To Vote On 3 Amendments

Three amendments to the ASNE by-laws, approved by the Board as required, will be submitted to the membership at the convention.

The first amends Par. 3 of Art. II, which now reads, "Not more than five members shall be elected from newspapers in cities having a population of less than 50,000 in any one year."

This would be revised as follows:

"Not more than five members shall be elected from newspapers in cities having a population of less than 50,000 in any one year, except that the Board, at its discretion, be empowered to elect a total of not more than two members per year from states having no cities of more than 50,000 population and one member per year from states having only one city of more than 50,000 population, in addition to the present quota of five such members per year from cities under 50,000 population."

The second amendment rescinds an amendment now on the books which reads: "Resolved, That any member elected after October 1, 1943, who fails to attend the annual convention for three successive years shall be notified of this fact, and if he fails to attend the next convention, shall be dropped from membership, unless retained by vote of the officers and directors."

In October 1947, the Board voted to extend this amendment to all members, regardless of when they joined. This proposal met strong opposition from members, new and old, who said they cherish membership even though they cannot attend meetings regularly. At the April 1948 meeting the Board consequently voted to rescind not only its proposed amendment but also the original amendment, thus removing any penalty for non-attendance.

The third amendment clears up a discrepancy in Art. III, Par. 2 sets the number of directors at 12, but Par. 8, an amendment providing that each retiring president shall become an ex-officio member of the Board for three years, brings the actual total to 15. Par. 2 would be amended to specify "not over 15 members" on the Board, to include the three ex-officios.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 10 A. M.

Invocation: Rev. C. Leslie Glenn, Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church of Washington.

Address by President Erwin D. Canham.

Reports: Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal, secretary; Alexander F. Jones, Washington Post, treasurer; John Herbert, Quincy Patriot Ledger, nominations; L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers, membership; Paul S. Walcott, Greenfield Recorder-Gazette, resolutions.

State Department Dissemination of News and Opinion: J. Russell Wiggins, Washington Post, chairman.

World Freedom of Information: Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, chairman.

Cocktail party for new members.

Luncheon

Paul G. Hoffman, Economic Cooperation Administrator: "ERP."

Afternoon

Managing Editors' Panel: William P. Steven, Minneapolis Tribune, chairman; Norman Shaw, Cleveland Press; George W. Healy, Jr., New Orleans Times-Picayune; J. Russell Wiggins, Washington Post; George Cornish, N. Y. Herald Tribune.

Evening

Senator Ralph E. Flanders, Vermont: "Federal Pay."

Senator Russell B. Long, Louisiana: "Experiences of a New Senator."

Senator Harry Flood Bird, Virginia.

Representative Christian A. Herter, Massachusetts: "Atlantic Pact and European Rehabilitation."

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 10 A. M.

Memorial Report: Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade.

The Press and the People: N. R. Howard, Cleveland News, moderator; Paul C. Smith, San Francisco Chronicle; Tom Hanes, Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch; Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers; Richard J. Finnegan, Chicago Sun-Times.

Luncheon

(Speaker to be announced.)

Afternoon

Dr. Alberto Lleras, Secretary General Organization of American States, Pan American Union: "U. S. Press and Latin-America—What Press Can Do to Improve Relations." Press Conference with President Truman (off-the-record).

Evening

Secretary of Defense Louis B. Johnson.

Dr. Karl T. Compton, Chairman U. S. Research and Development Board.

General A. M. Gruenther, director, the Joint Staff.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 10 A. M.

Discussion and adoption of resolutions.

Luncheon

Senator Robert A. Taft: "The Future of the Republican Party"

Afternoon

Judge Justin Miller, President, National Association of Broadcasters: "Attacks on Freedom of Communication in the United States."

Committee on Atomic Information: Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, chairman.

Committee on Journalism Schools Accreditation: Dwight Marvin, Troy Record.

Evening

Cocktail Party for members and their guests.

Banquet speaker: Sir Oliver Franks, British ambassador. Award of Peter Edson prizes.

FIVE EDITORS WHO WILL DISCUSS "THE PRESS AND THE PEOPLE"



RICHARD FINNEGAN
Publisher
Chicago Sun-Times



TOM HANES, Managing Editor, Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch



N. R. HOWARD, Moderator



PAUL MILLER
Vice-President
Gannett Newspapers



PAUL C. SMITH
Editor,
San Francisco Chronicle

Sir Oliver Franks Banquet Speaker

Virginius Dabney, program chairman, announces that the speaker for the banquet, Saturday evening, April 23, in Hotel Statler, Washington, will be the British Ambassador, Sir Oliver Franks, K.C.B., C.B.E. Presentation of the Peter Edson awards also will be made at the closing session.

The 1948 Raymond Clapper Memorial Award, won by Mr. Edson, is being divided by him into five prizes of \$100. each to be awarded for the best examples of work done by a Washington correspondent. Judges are the five previous Clapper award winners.

This completes the convention program, presented in this issue, except for a few invitations that are out with acceptances not yet received, principally the Friday luncheon speaker.

The off-the-record conference with President Truman is for members only.

Members Elect Directors; Directors Name Officers

Four three-year terms on the Board are open this year.

Directors whose regular terms expire are: Erwin D. Canham, B. M. McKelway, Dwight Young, Ralph Coghlan. In addition the ex-officio term of John S. Knight expires. Incumbents have been renominated with the exception of Mr. Canham who automatically succeeds Mr. Knight, ex-officio, for three years.

These, with the four new nominees announced in this issue make the eight required by the by-laws for four directorships.

Convention Notes from Bulletin Office

Members have been most cooperative about ordering fewer banquet tickets than they'd like to have. The score (still incomplete) on reservations:

One ticket	49
Two	78
Three	31
Four	94

This welcome trend, plus a shorter head table permitting additional guest tables in the Presidential Room, means that more members will be satisfied with their seats than ever before.

Charts of the past two years have been studied carefully for hardship cases (like Jonathan Daniels, Raleigh News and Observer, who never yet has made the front room but will under the new rules). While banquet seating never can be reduced to an exact science, the 1949 arrangements will be as fair as is humanly possible.

All reservations postmarked by April 1 (the deadline announced on the registration blank) have received like consideration. Tickets ordered now, or purchased at the convention, automatically will be assigned in the rear of the Congressional Room.

★ ★ ★

From a member who shall be nameless: "Please put my banquet seats at a table NEAR A DOOR. I'll bet this is a new high for you in strange requests."

★ ★ ★

From William M. McBride, editor, Passaic Herald-News:

"Can I buy a copy of the 1948 Proceedings? Mine is gone, like Othello's occupation. The book makes good bedside reading when you're away from home and don't feel like going out with the boys. There are always a few new faces at conventions to which you can't attach names when you come home until the who's who arrives in book form."

Back copies may be purchased from the secretary, Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal. This year, for "attaching" names and faces, a mimeographed list of members attending the convention will be supplied. The complete membership list will appear as usual in the 1949 Proceedings.

★ ★ ★

Informal pose of George Healy in this issue, only picture on file in this office, taken on the Malilhini last year at the start of the St. Petersburg-Havana yacht race.

(With Special Emphasis on Last November)

The Friday afternoon session confirmed a conviction widespread among the membership, that speeches are important and even entertaining, but panel discussions are better.

The program, as explained by the moderator, N. R. Howard, *Cleveland News*, arose "from the imaginativeness of Virginius Dabney who has spent some time in brooding over the outcome of the national election last fall, and the bad predictions of a great many American newspapers and the opposite outcome."

Richard J. Finnegan, *Chicago Sun-Times*, found the roots of the situation in the depression. Referring to an ASNE dinner at which the feature was a debate between Harold Ickes and Wendell Willkie on the third term, he said, "In trying to see through the third term cloud, we had not understood how deeply the people had been wounded by the shocks and punishments of a depression." In a scholarly review of events since then he built up his argument and concluded, "I feel that in the long memory of the people growing out of the early thirties came the mystery of the 1948 election."

There's plenty the matter with editors, in their ivory towers and also in convention conclave, Tom Hanes, *Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch*, told his colleagues, and one of them is that "we have made a sorry job of convincing the public that editorial bias is not slipping in between the column rules on the front page. It's hard for the reader to believe that the editor can take a violent political stand without influencing every desk man and every reporter in his evaluation of news. . . . Even if we religiously engage in ethical practices, we still impose a severe strain upon the public's incredulity. . . . Our failure to point out our virtues leaves us wide open to growing criticism and resultant decreasing confidence."

To Paul Miller, *Gannett Newspapers*, the cure for all newspaper ills is better reporting. Last fall "many a newspaper must have had at least one reporter who knew which way the wind was blowing. Few newspapers made the most of such reporters." He cited in evidence, Al Moss, political reporter of the *Rochester Times-Union*, who

wrote that Dewey would be defeated—based on information he got everywhere else but from headquarters. Mr. Miller confessed he thought Mr. Moss was getting out on a limb; and that since then the political reporter has been assigned to the editorial page for a hitch "to help the editorial writers get better acquainted with Moss and his methods."

Philip H. Parrish, *Portland Oregonian*, drew a simple conclusion: "During a period when papers had been gaining a great deal of prestige by objective news reporting, and strict separation of news from editorial opinion, they made the mistake of letting a single, and very powerful form of hidden editorial opinion—the polls—wander at will through their pages." Polls have their value and are here to stay, Mr. Parrish admitted; but they present the same problem the columnists did when they outgrew their pants and started dominating the papers. So, "Let's make it clear that polls belong to newspapers, not the papers to the polls."



NEW DIRECTORS: Jenkin Lloyd Jones, *Tulsa Tribune*, left, and Kenneth MacDonald, *Des Moines Register and Tribune*. Mr. Jones was nominated by John S. Knight refused renomination.

Board Authorizes Five Committees To Make Studies

Secretary Wright Bryant reported five new committees authorized by the Board of Directors at its pre-convention meeting. Three are to conduct studies on the following subjects:

1. State Department method giving information to the press.
2. Outgoing news from the United States and its use abroad.
3. The project of an international press institute.

This action followed Board discussion with Lester Markel, *New York Times*, who served last year on the Freedom of Information committee.

The fourth committee will examine the desirability of sponsoring an appraisal of the self-improvement possibilities of American newspapers.

The fifth committee authorized will confer with a similar committee from the Advisory Board, Pulitzer prizes and with Dean O. Ackerman regarding the basis for future cooperation by ASNE in the matter of Pulitzer juries.



TELLERS AT WORK, around the table, from left: Talbot Patrick, *Rock Hill Herald*; Oxie Reichler, *Youkers Herald*; Stadesman; Jack Foster, *Rocky Mountain News*; John Herbert, *Quincy Patriot Ledger* (nominations chairman, supervising but not telling); David Patten, *Providence Journal-Bulletin*; Arthur Laro, *Houston Post*.

PANEL OF MANAGING EDITORS

The managing editors' panel was all that members expected—provocative and meaty.

Original credit goes to W. G. Stouffer, *Roanoke World-News*, who has presented the idea to successive program chairmen for the past three years.

While the session was unlearned, the line it should take was carefully planned by the chairman, William P. Steven, *Minneapolis Tribune*, and whipped into shape at a pre-convention session of the speakers.

Proof of its success: Elmer F. Zunningham, *Wilmington Journal-Every Evening*, could attend only one session, chose this panel, pronounced it the best discussion he had heard at any convention. . . . Edward J. Gerrity, *Scranton Times*, couldn't wait for the Proceedings but ordered a copy of the transcript at his own expense to read to his staff on his return home.

Excerpt from the discussion following Norman Shaw's explanation of the *Cleveland Press* system of training copy boys for staff jobs:

DWIGHT PERRIN (from the floor): Would the distinguished and successful members of the panel mind telling how they got into the newspaper business?

GEORGE A. CORNISH (N. Y. *Herald Tribune*): I started in as a reporter for \$18 a week on the *Birmingham Herald*.

J. RUSSELL WIGGINS (Wash-

ington Post): I started at \$15 a week on a country weekly.

NORMAN SHAW (*Cleveland Press*): I started at \$15 a week as assistant librarian with the *Plain Dealer*. When I went to the Press as a reporter at \$25, I was fired after three weeks.

GEORGE W. HEALY (*New Orleans Times-Picayune*): I started as a carrier for the *Natchez Democrat* and graduated to high school correspondent—no pay!

WILLIAM STEVEN (*Minneapolis Tribune*): I read proof on the *Eau Clair Telegram* at \$10 a week while still a high school student.

MR. PERRIN: Not a copy boy in the lot!

MR. CORNISH: I could tell you that the city editor of the *Herald Tribune* is a former copy boy hired, I think, by one Dwight Perrin.

MR. PERRIN: Also a former copy boy.

Convention Pictures

Layout on page 5 should be captioned, "Pictures Money Can't Buy." Coaxing that came close to coercion finally prevailed upon Vincent S. Jones, executive editor, *Utica Observer-Dispatch and Press*, to turn photographer.

Other pictures in this issue by Chase-Statler Studio, including the one of B. M. McKelway so engrossed in a telephone conversation that he didn't notice flash bulbs popping.

Newsman Educated In Handling News Of Atomic Science

Gideon Seymour, *Minneapolis Star and Tribune*, reported need for intensive education in the handling of news of atomic science in three main areas—science editors; Washington correspondents; and rank and file desk men.

The third is the large field, he said. To get at it, the ASNE committee he heads, in cooperation with the University of Minnesota, arranged a three-day seminar for working editors, who went back to their jobs with a real understanding of what atomic energy is all about.

With the help of L. L. Winship, *Boston Globe*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is holding a similar seminar this fall.

Mr. Seymour recommended that an ASNE committee continue to serve until data on these two seminars has been put before the American Association of Teachers of Journalism, and then the matter be left to them to follow up. Four months more of service by such a committee should see the job done.

Since atomic information security is not primarily a concern in the field of science, but lies in the broader field of policy, Mr. Seymour recommended that the committee's duties in this respect be transferred to the committee on Freedom of Information.

PERTINENT QUOTATIONS FROM CONVENTION SPEAKERS

It is worth remembering that when General Marshall, in his now famous speech at Harvard, introduced his concept, he said, "Our policy is directed not at any country or any doctrine, but against hunger, desperation, poverty and chaos." So here (ECA) is the instrument that was designed to fight against hunger, desperation and chaos in European countries. As a result of staying on that beam, it has proved to be the one effective way of fighting against the spread of Russian communism or totalitarianism . . . I think the work that ECA is doing to help Europeans to help themselves also is building a sense of unity. I think we have all the advantages with us against Russia. We have more steel, more oil, and we certainly ought to have more ingenuity. So, to me, it is plain that if we stick together and work together, there won't be a third world war."—PAUL C. HOFFMAN, Economic Cooperation Administrator.

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Please notice that there is one thing that we are not trying to do regarding accreditation. We are not trying to get in journalism what we have in law and medicine. We do not want anything of that sort. We do not ever want it to be impossible for any likely lad who has a good nose for news and writes good English to come in and learn to be a good newspaperman. But when you hire a graduate of a journalism school we do think you have a right to know what you are buying—just as in branded goods you can buy crackers at any grocery store, but, if you want to be sure of what you are buying, you will buy a branded cracker. That is all we want to do.—DWIGHT MARVIN, Troy Record, Chairman of Committee on Education.

★ ★ ★

Your committee has worked within the confines of the following statement of objectives:

"Our responsibility lies in the domestic field as well as in the international field.

"There is a growing tendency of some officials in some of the smallest governmental units, as well as the largest, to forget they are the stewards of the people and to act instead as though the taxpayers were their servants.

"Our duty as newspapermen is to act always as the eyes of the American public and to keep the eternal spotlight of publicity on all servants of the people, including the military."—BASIL L. WALTERS, Chairman of Committee on World Freedom of Information.

★ ★ ★

Those who have been working in the international councils during recent months have seen what spokesmen of governments which believe in control of speech and press can do once they are allowed to get the government foot in the door. It has come as a shock and a surprise to our representatives to find how, alone, we stand. Let us hope that we may all discover how important it is to stand, at home, as well as abroad, in support of the proposition that it is government which

has always threatened freedom; however much it have disguised its actions and pretended they were the common good. Fortunately for us, whatever may think of our government, we have been able to keep it our servant, rather than our master, to a greater extent than have the people of the rest of the world.—JUDGE JUSTIN MILLER, President, National Association of Broadcasters

★ ★ ★

North American journalism has one glaring shortcoming, for this age and the United States' mission in the world: It is entirely North American. Its editorial writers are North Americans, and rightly so, but so are the columnists, all the contributors, all the correspondents. The result is that anyone who reads North American papers exclusively has only a North American slant on world affairs . . . I should like to suggest that as an experiment you might complement North American correspondents and columnists with some Latin Americans. Make as sure as possible of their sincerity, impartiality, and competence, then have some confidence that their opinions will arouse the interest of your readers. Reaction may be slow at first, but in the end the American reader will come to have a good grasp of foreign ways of life, thought, of expression; and even if he never acquires a taste for these, he would still have some point of view that should be extremely useful to him in part he is destined to play in world affairs.—ALBERTO LLERAS, Secretary General, Organization of American States, Pan American Union.

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Most American newspaper editors certainly would prefer a world in which our government might remain in utter divorce from the subjective presentation of information abroad. Most would choose above all possible worlds one in which private agencies had sole and exclusive responsibility for dissemination of news. Such a world, it is apparent, is not to be had in our time. The government of the United States, whether it wishes to do so or not, is compelled to engage in a program for foreign information. The only thing that we can do as newspapermen is to make that program every contribution within our reach. We will make it honest, responsible and effective.—RUSSELL WIGGINS, Washington Post, Chairman, Committee on State Department Dissemination of News and Opinions.

★ ★ ★

Liberty, to my mind, is the liberty of the individual to live his own life, to educate his own children, to enter into any business he wants to go into and run it as he wants to run it as long as he does not interfere with the right of other people to do the same. It is the liberty of a local community to decide how it wants to live and to work out its own problems to the very extent that it has power to do that, calling on the Federal Government only when the problem is beyond the power and the control of the local state communities.—SENATOR ROBERT A. TAFT



1) Tom Hanes tells what's the matter with editors, in strong language that made newspaper headlines. 2) N. R. Howard and Richard J. Finnegan, probing the mystery of last November. 3) Paul Miller cites a Gannett reporter who predicted Truman, and it wasn't guess work. 4) Real hospitality for new members: Bartender; Carl Lindstrom and A. Y. Aronson, membership committee. B. M. McKelway. 5) Managing editors' panel: George Cornish, Russell Wiggins, Norman Shaw, George Healy (liberty) and William P. Steven. 6) Norman Isaacs, asking ban on off-record sessions; J. D. Raridan, sitting; Talbot Patrick, peering. 7) Erwin D. Canham, presiding. 8) Wright Bryan, about to report. 9) Robert U. Brown, writing hot-off-the-griddle E&P editorial on ASNE.



AT DIRECTORS' COCKTAIL PARTY for new members: Ralph Coghlan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Robert W. Johnson, Wilkes-Barre Record; Warren Morrell, Rapid City Journal.

Five Members Died And 12 Resigned In Year; 48 Added

With deaths, resignations and elections, the membership now is 516.

L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers, as membership chairman, reported seven new members elected by the Board at its meeting on April 20. They are:

B. B. Donnell, editor, Wichita Falls Times

Stanley E. Hart, managing editor, Warren Tribune Chronicle

William R. Hearst, Jr., Hearst Newspapers

John C. Henry, Sunday editor, Washington Star

Alexis McKinney, managing editor, Denver Post

Richard Peters, chief editorial writer, Cleveland Press

Murray Powers, managing editor, Akron Beacon Journal

Five members lost through death have been reported in the Bulletin. The Society's memorial to them, made by Grove Patterson, will appear in the Proceedings.

Of twelve resignations received by Secretary Wright Bryan, eight have been previously reported. The others:

E. Robert Stevenson, Waterbury Republican and American, retired from newspaper work.

Ted O. Thackrey, who has left

the New York Post Home News. John F. Day, formerly Dayton Daily News, now with the Louisville Courier-Journal and Times, at present in Washington.

George Olds, formerly Springfield (Mo.) News and Leader.

THE BANQUET

The traditional banquet went off in traditional fashion—the cocktail party preceding was gay; approximately 700 of the 900 guests were satisfied with their tables; and the speeches were brief, proceedings concluding at 10:10 p.m.

The speaker was the British Ambassador, Sir Oliver Franks. The complete text of his address has been sent to all ASNE members by the British Information Service.

President Canham presented the \$100. prizes for excellence in Washington reporting which were contributed by Peter Edson, 1949 Clapper award winner. The recipients:

Nicholas Blatchford, Washington Daily News,

Ray Cromley, The Wall Street Journal,

James Daniel, Rocky Mountain News, Denver,

Jerry Kluttz, Washington Post,

Richard L. Strout, Christian Science Monitor.

The U. S. Navy Band played, under the direction of Lt. Commander Charles Brendler.

Resolutions Heard at the Statler

Resolutions presented to the Society by a committee headed by Paul S. Walcott, Greenville (Mass.) Recorder-Gazette, were debated at both Saturday morning and afternoon sessions.

1. Endorsement of Board action in affiliating for one year with the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and authorization to pay the expenses of one delegate to the June meeting in Amsterdam. (Carried)

2. Endorsement of an adequate program of foreign information essential to the successful conduct of American foreign policy and urging American newspapers and news agencies to furnish the State Department the news services required for such a program. (Carried as amended)

3. Appointment of committee to Pulitzer Prizes. (Tabled because Board of Directors already has acted.)

4. Appointment of committee to study the problems of advance releases by news services. (Carried)

5. Deploing 'off-the-record' practice by officials responsible to the electorate. (Tabled)

6. Deploing recent government action in many countries of the Western Hemisphere which deprive newspapers of essential freedoms. (Carried)

7. Reaffirming the right of the public to have news picture reports in court proceedings and undertaking to persuade the judiciary to admit press photographers. (Tabled)

8. Establishment of standing committee to enumerate outstanding examples of distinguished contributions to the public interest by newspapers. (Defeated)

9. Endorsement of Board action in regard to Baltimore court case. (Carried)

10. Directing mail poll on the convention city. (Carried)

Resolution offered by President Canham urging the State Department and the Attorney General to facilitate the entry into the United States of legitimate reporters engaged solely in news-gathering functions. (Carried)

Resolution offered by J. Curran Lyons expressing appreciation for the services of the Assistant Secretary of ASNE. (Carried)

Frederick J. Sullens, Jackson Daily News, recalled the year that as resolutions chairman he brought in a single resolution—to skip them entirely. Unanimously adopted.

James P. Rosemond, Erie Times, makes a unique claim to distinction. He has worked on newspapers in the following cities and in this order: (A)kron, (S)yracuse, (N)ewark, (E)rie.

Frank Dennis, assistant managing editor of the Washington Post and also a member of the District bar, is writing a legal column, in popular q. and a. form, illustrated.

When the Friday luncheon was sold out, an editor (name unknown) who could not attend left his ticket at the desk to be given without charge "to someone who can't get a ticket." John D. Haridan, Canton Repository, drew it and expresses thanks to the anonymous donor.

This year's inevitable member who lost his banquet tickets was William McBride, Passaic Herald-News. Took it philosophically, and blamed his wife, of course.

After the convention George Grimes, Oxnard (Cal.) Press-Courier, and Mrs. Grimes sailed for England to visit a son who is an exchange student there.

Joan Tate, who attended sessions with her father, H. Clay Tate, Bloomington Pantagraph, writes a teen-age column for the paper and, even more impressive, has a radio program with a national sponsor.

E. P. Martin, Casper (Wyo.) Tribune-Herald, came a long distance for a short time—arrived at the Statler just in time for the banquet.

Alfred G. Hill came up from Oak Ridge, Tenn., to the meeting, then went on to his Chester (Pa.) Times office. With him was Mrs. Hill, former Baltimore newspaperwoman, who had just completed organizing the news department of their new paper, The Oak Ridger.

Sitting beside a couple of youthful editors, Charles McD. Puckette, Chattanooga Times, overheard one of them remark, "I suppose all the men who founded this Society are dead now." Mr. Puckette, a charter member, piped up: "I'm not."

That American flag on Grove Patterson's badge? Had to find some way to designate the only charter member who has never

missed a convention. His closest rival is Donald J. Sterling, Oregon Journal, absent this year for the second time.

Harold Sanford, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, felt a bit lonely—first time none of his children has accompanied him to the convention.

Banquet flowers—wasted unless someone does something about them—were distributed to Washington hospitals through arrangements made by Mrs. Dwight Perrin, wife of the new treasurer.

Like everyone else, Grover C. Hall, Jr., Montgomery Advertiser, makes memos on the back of an envelope and loses them. Anything he really wants to remember he writes on a slip of paper no bigger than your fingernail and puts it in his glasses case.

Stanley Hart, Warren Tribune Chronicle, had as his guest his publisher, Helen Hart Hurlbut, whose mother, Zell Hart Deming, was the first woman member of ASNE.

Marc A. Rose, senior editor of Reader's Digest, attended the sessions. He was a charter member of ASNE when he was managing editor of the Buffalo Evening News.

Editor's wife (name unknown)

overheard in the elevator: "I know they're bored with sightseeing, but my children are going to get culture if it kills me."

Philip H. Parrish, Portland Oregonian, opened his eyes at six o'clock one morning and, to make certain he didn't oversleep, asked operator to call him at seven. "Thank you," she replied, "and goodnight, sir."

Tom Wallace, Louisville Times, and Julio Garzon of La Prensa, New York, plan to attend the fifth Congress of the Inter-American Press Association in Ecuador in July.

Most obliging pre-convention letter re banquet seating, from J. Albert Dear, Jersey Journal: "If it makes it any easier, split up my four tickets at two tables."

Thanks to John O'Rourke

Always, behind the scenes, there's someone who works but gets no credit line in the program. This year it was John O'Rourke, Washington Daily News. At the request of Virginius Dabney, program chairman, he lined up the guests of the Society for the banquet, issued invitations, sent out tickets, etc. A busy week for Mr. O'Rourke, who was chairman of the Washington meeting of Scripps-Howard executives preceding the ASNE convention.



FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT DWIGHT YOUNG, flanked by two new members, Stanley Hart, Warren Chronicle, left, and Charles E. Gallagher, Lynn Item.

THESE MEMBERS SENT THEIR REGRETS

Jack Tarver, Atlanta Constitution, has been in South America for nine months. This and other office absences kept Ralph McGill home. "Truly distressed," he wrote. "Please let everyone know that I miss them."

W. G. Vorpe, Sunday and feature editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, last month entered his 56th year in newspaper work, 48 on The Plain Dealer. He returned from a vacation in Florida to hold the fort while other editors attended the Washington convention, then went to New York for the AP and ANPA meetings.

Two directors were missing and missed. Hamilton Owens, Baltimore Sun, is in Italy. Business and personal affairs prevented Oveta Culp Hobby attending.

Arrival of a new son kept the Elmer F. (Wilmington, Del.) Cunninghams home except for one session.

Richard W. Clarke, New York Daily News, is overseas.

Bad luck dogs Paul Smith, San Francisco Chronicle, in April. Again this year he expected to attend, and had accepted a place on the "Press and the People" panel, but the serious illness of his publisher prevented.

William B. Ruggles, The Dallas Morning News, was among the new members notified of their election too late to attend.

Riley H. Allen, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, couldn't make the trip from Hawaii this year.

Loye W. Miller, Knoxville News-Sentinel had registered in advance, but his mother died.

William T. Evjue, Madison Capital Times, though long a member never has attended a convention. Urgent business forced him to cancel his registration this year, blasting hope of renewing acquaintance with old friends, among them a protege, Alexander F. Jones, Washington Post, whom Mr. Evjue hired as a reporter when he was managing editor of the Madison State Journal.

John E. Person, Williamsport Sun-Gazette, and Frank S. Hoag, Jr., Pueblo Star-Journal and Chieftain, regretted for reasons of health.

Illness of members or their wives accounted for several last-minute cancellations. Don Scism, Evansville Courier, was taken ill on the eve of the convention. Emergency dental surgery changed the plans of John Sutlive, Savan-

nah Evening Press. Mrs. Arthur V. Burrowes, St. Joseph News-Press and Gazette, had an operation. Mrs. Jonathan Daniels, Raleigh News and Observer, was recovering from pneumonia.

Money In The Bank

Alexander F. Jones, Washington Post, goes down in history as the only treasurer who ever made a financial report entertaining. Every member of the Society is paid up, he said, by virtue of the following tactful reminder to the last few delinquents:

"Do you realize, you boulder, that you are the only member of ASNE who has not paid his dues? Send me that \$25. immediately. Otherwise, I will see to it that you are put on a Pulitzer prize committee."

As the result of Mr. Jones's economic policies the Society ended its fiscal year with an operating balance (exclusive of convention receipts) of \$12,255.92.

Mr. Jones confessed that his books were kept by DeVee K. Fisher, of his office. For simplification and to avoid sending voluminous records on to the new treasurer, the Board on Saturday morning voted to make Mrs. Fisher assistant to the new treasurer, Dwight Perrin, Syracuse Herald-Journal.

Financial policy will be handled by Mr. Perrin. Detail work, including billing for annual dues, will be done by Mrs. Fisher from her office in Washington.

UNLESS unforeseen events of importance to the Society develop in the next month, there will be no June Bulletin, to permit the editor to concentrate on the annual "Proceedings."

Besides the convention transcript, the book, which is sent to all members, will contain the current membership list. Members can contribute to its accuracy by reporting corrections in names or changes in titles without delay.

This is not a vacation for the editor. Convention comments, suggestions for next year, banquet squawks, refund complaints, and bright ideas for discussions for the July Bulletin (when we return to welcome normalcy) should be addressed as usual to Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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B. M. McKELWAY *Washington Star*

1st VICE PRESIDENT
DWIGHT YOUNG *Dayton Journal Herald*

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The Board of Directors consists of the officers and the following:

L. R. BLANCHARD *Gannett Newspapers*
ERWIN D. CANHAM *Christian Science Monitor*
VIRGINIUS DABNEY *Richmond Times-Dispatch*
WILBUR FORREST *New York Herald Tribune*
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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telegram and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 309 May 1, 1949

Virginius Dabney Program Planner

Nobody but a long succession of past program chairmen knows what Virginius Dabney endured.

A methodical person, he had his program in order by early April. Because of this advance planning, it went off in the grand manner. But meanwhile:

Congressmen who had accepted invitations to speak went home.

Mr. Dabney spent anxious hours waiting word from the White House—would ASNE members be received in the Rose Garden, as planned, in a pouring rain, unplanned; or would President Truman come to the Statler? He finally, and graciously, did.

Then the little dilemmas. Where was Dr. Lleras? With the Friday luncheon running late, Mr. Dabney left his meal unfinished to prowl the corridors in search of the afternoon speaker. Time and nervous energy wasted. Somebody had invited our Latin American guest to the luncheon before his address, but nobody thought to tell Mr. Dabney.

No resolution was passed commending the program chairman, but that's all right, for Mr. Dabney is a modest man. In almost daily correspondence with The Bulletin office he never once mentioned "DRY MESSIAH: The Life of Bishop James Cannon, Jr."

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 310

(June - July Issue)

June 15, 1949

BOARD DECIDES ON WASHINGTON

Directors Adopt Recommendation of President McKelway on Site of 1950 Convention Following Near-tie in Ballots of Members

To the ASNE Membership:

As this edition of The Bulletin goes to press, 218 members have voted to hold the 1950 convention in San Francisco and 217 have voted to meet in Washington. Seventy did not return their ballots.

The meeting place is determined, under the by-laws, by the Board of Directors.

The Board has been polled and has adopted the recommendation of the president, by a vote of 11 to 4, that the 1950 convention meet in Washington.

The president's recommendation to the Board was based on these considerations:

The vote of the membership is so close that it fails to present the decisive sort of advice to the Board, on a matter of importance to the Society, which would tend to relieve the officers and board members of independent decision.

Letters received by the president indicate that if the Society met in San Francisco, the attendance would be substantially reduced.

One paper that sends three members to the Washington meeting informed the president that if the meeting were held in San Francisco, only one member could attend.

Two publishers raised the question whether many papers would consider the San Francisco meeting a legitimate item of office expense.

Another editor suggested that economic conditions in 1950 might cut the attendance of those who wanted to combine a trip to San Francisco with a personal vacation.

Another editor spoke feelingly of the ASNE's meetings in Washington as valuable professionally and expressed the fear that if the convention is moved to San Francisco the meeting would be chiefly recreational.

Three members of the Board have argued persuasively for the "Sabbatical year" theory of leaving Washington — a proposition which carries great personal appeal with the president.

But if the interests of the Society are to be given first consid-

eration, it seemed to the president and a majority of the Board that any decision to move the site of the annual meeting should be preceded by more open discussion and debate than there has been opportunity to have up to this time. Furthermore, the advice from the membership should be more convincing than the almost tied results of the mail balloting.

Therefore, with great personal reluctance but confident that the decision for this year is wisest, the president recommended and the Board majority has decided that the meeting in 1950 will be held again at the Statler Hotel in Washington.

B. M. McKELWAY,
President, ASNE

PAUL MILLER, vice-president of Gannett Newspapers, is off to Amsterdam as ASNE delegate to the International Federation of Newspaper Editors with no preconceived notions regarding the project. Asked for comment, he replied:

"The assignment from President McKelway is to (a) 'extend greetings' to the Federation Internationale des Editeurs de Journaux et Publications, (b) pay attention and keep reasonably quiet thereafter, and (c) come home and tell the brethren of the Board all about it.

"This doesn't leave much room for this delegate to comment, pending developments.

"The overall idea of the organization appears promising. Beyond that, a reporter can only say that he will go and see what he can see."



1950 CONVENTION

Hotel Statler, April 20-22

Illinois Payroll Case Is Under Inquiry By ASNE Group

Following publication of stories in the Chicago Daily News and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch of the reports of investigations of Illinois newspapermen on the State payroll, the Board of Directors unanimously authorized President McKelway to appoint an ASNE committee to conduct an inquiry into this condition.

As the Board felt that the committee would be able to do more effective preliminary work unhampered by publicity the names are being withheld temporarily. All three are outstanding members of the Society and highly competent to make the investigation. Their findings will be laid before the directors for any action that is considered appropriate.

The process will be lengthy as the Society is not equipped for quick action and Mr. McKelway is unwilling to commit the Society without thorough discussion with the directors. This led to the decision to withhold any statement until the Board, after studious investigation, forms its conclusions.

Mr. McKelway expresses satisfaction in the fact that the project was initiated by the Board previous to the receipt of letters from editors over the country suggesting that ASNE take some position on a matter that affects the standing of the newspaper press.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 1949-50 ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT

With a half dozen new committees authorized by the Board and the membership, President McKelway has had more appointments to make than any previous president. For complete coverage of the country, he is scattering them geographically, with 19 states and the District of Columbia represented in the first group of appointments announced herewith.

Pulitzer Juries

Three of this year's Pulitzer jurors, headed by Harry S. Ashmore, Arkansas Gazette, have been selected for the committee to confer with Carl W. Ackerman and a similar committee from the Pulitzer Advisory Board regarding the basis for future cooperation by ASNE in the matter of Pulitzer juries.



HARRY S. ASHMORE

The other two are James Kerney, Jr., Trenton Times, and W. H. Grimes, Wall Street Journal.

Dean Ackerman's appointees are the executive committee of the Advisory Board: Sevellon Brown, Gardner Cowles and Kent Cooper.

The two groups met on June 15 in the University Club in New York City.

Nominations

Nominations chairman is a more arduous post than most members realize. Several months' correspondence and many mail ballots are required before a far-flung committee reaches unanimity on the eight candidates required by the by-laws.



L. D. HOTCHKISS

If he follows the advice of the 1949 chairman, John R. Herbert, he will begin

work by September at the latest. In a memo to the president, Mr. Herbert also expressed dismay at the small number of members voting at the annual election. "We editors," he wrote, "go home and hammer away at the destruction of democracy through the failure of people to go to the polls to vote, and yet we turn out in pitiful numbers when it comes our turn to elect directors to the ASNE Board." Concurring with that opinion, Mr. McKelway plans to place greater stress on the election next year.

On the committee with Mr. Hotchkiss will be:

John M. O'Connell, Jr., Bangor Daily News.

Frank R. Ahlgren, Memphis Commercial Appeal.

John B. Mullaney, Cleveland News.

Harry Boyd, Cedar Rapids Gazette.

Membership

New membership chairman is Edward Lindsay, editor of The Herald and Review, in Decatur, Ill., close to the population center of the country. Four other members are far-flung, from South Carolina to the state of Washington.



EDWARD LINDSAY

Members wishing to propose candidates are requested first to consider their eligibility, in the light of Article II of the Constitution, which appears in the Proceedings. Application blanks may be obtained from the chairman or any member of his committee:

John H. Carter, editor, Lancaster (Pa.) New Era.

Walter R. Humphrey, editor, Fort Worth Press.

Harold Cassill, assistant general manager, Spokane Spokesman-Review and Chronicle.

Judson Chapman, executive editor, Greenville (S. C.) News and Piedmont.

Other committees will be announced in the August Bulletin.

Press Institute

Lester Markel, New York Times, appeared before the Board at its last meeting at the invitation of



LESTER MARKEL

President Erwin D. Canham to discuss several projects he deemed worthy of ASNE consideration. This led to authorization of three new committees to study: State Department methods of furnishing information to the press; out-

going news from the United States and its use abroad; the desirability of an International Press Institute. The first two are still to be appointed. Mr. Markel has been named to head the third. Other members:

Forrest Seymour, Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Ralph E. McGill, Atlanta Constitution.

Ralph Coghlan, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

John H. Crider, Boston Herald.

Press Releases

Resolution 4, adopted at the convention, authorized a committee to study the problem of A. M. and P. M. releases by press associations.



HAROLD F. WHEELER

Harold F. Wheeler, Boston Traveler, has been named chairman; John O'Rourke, Washington News, and Robert U. Brown, Editor & Publisher, to serve with him. Mr. Wheeler indicated interest in one angle of this problem when, in February 1948, he wrote an article for The Bulletin protesting the way government releases are handled, especially matters going before Congress. At that time he suggested that practically all advance texts, presidential or otherwise, could be timed for automatic release.

Walters Committee Already at Work

Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, reappointed chairman of the World Freedom of Information Committee, has started the new year's work with a letter to U. S. Judge Michael L. Igoe of Chicago who rebuked a federal prosecutor for telling reporters of a change in a mail thief's sentence.

According to the Chicago Daily News, Judge Igoe admitted that he had eased the penalty from a year in prison to a year's probation, but he angrily rebuked Assistant U. S. Attorney "for giving out press releases and saying that I changed the sentence in chambers." Mr. Gallagher explained that he informed the newsmen to save them from error.

Asking Judge Igoe why he objected to release of this news, Mr. Walters wrote: "On the surface it would seem that Attorney Gallagher should be commended for his action instead of being criticized."

Mr. Walters also reports that James Etzell, editor of the Moose Lake, Minn., Star-Gazette, who last year succeeded in opening the county clerk records on vital statistics, has won a second victory. On May 19 a St. Louis County District Court jury at Duluth found for Etzell in a suit brought by four Carlton County Commissioners, who claimed he libeled them in an editorial, "Time to Clean House at the Courthouse."

Other members of the Freedom of Information committee will continue to serve with Mr. Walters: Lester Markel, New York Times; Leon Stolz, Chicago Tribune; Felix McKnight, Dallas Morning News; and S. L. Latimer, Jr., The State, Columbia, S. C. Paul Block, Jr., Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Toledo Blade-Times, is a new member.

Atomic Information

Last year's Atomic Information Committee has been reappointed until its dissolution in about four months, as recommended by the chairman, Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star and Tribune. Other members are: W. S. Gilmore, Detroit News; L. L. Winship, Boston Globe; C. G. Wellington, Kansas City Star; Paul C. Smith, San Francisco Chronicle, and Alexis McKinney, Denver Post.



Grove Patterson has been named for the third consecutive year to memorialize members lost through death. Vincent S. Jones, Ulica Observer-Dispatch, caught this picture of the Toledo Blade editor at the April convention.

Harold B. Johnson

When Harold B. Johnson, editor of the Watertown Times died on May 17, at the age of 68, Mayor Henry A. Hudson broke precedent by ordering the municipal flag lowered to half staff, an honor ordinarily accorded only to prominent government officials. Marquis Childs devoted one of his syndicated columns to the man "whose life could serve as a kind of monument to the meaning of a free press in a free world." His death was mourned not only in New York's North Country but throughout the nation in newspaper and Republican circles where he was best known.

Mr. Johnson made national news when he won a fight against private utility interests which opposed a municipally owned power plant for Watertown, and when he raised money to take a trainload of dairy farmers to Albany to press successfully for passage of a control bill which saved them from ruin. He was a leading advocate of the proposed St. Lawrence seaway and power project.

A long-time member of ASNE, Mr. Johnson rarely missed a convention, and had attended the last one. He was a founder and three times president of the New York State Society of Editors.

Orientation Courses Are Open To Editors

At the convention, Secretary of Defense Louis A. Johnson invited editors to attend the Joint Civilian Orientation Courses to be given under the immediate direction of the Under-Secretary of Defense, Stephen Early.

The object is to acquaint leading civilians from all walks of life with the problems of the Military Establishment, and to obtain their views on matters concerning national defense.

The schedule is to begin with a two or three day seminar, devoted to problems of policy and organization, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, with speakers from other government departments closely allied to security planning participating.

The group then will be flown by military aircraft to three of the major Service bases—Army, Navy and Air Force—for demonstration of operations and techniques.

As each course will be limited to under 100 members, editors who would like to take it should write promptly to the Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C., Attention: Director of Joint Orientation Conferences.

Five Resignations

Five resignations have been accepted by Secretary Wright Bryan:

William R. Smith, Macon News, Ben B. Johnston, Richmond Times-Dispatch.

William T. Christian, Richmond News Leader.

V. Hummel Berghaus, Jr., Harrisburg Evening News (retired), Miles Wolff, Baltimore Sun.

In the past, ineligible members often had been carried on the rolls, but lately more are resigning as required by the by-laws: "Any member who, from any cause, shall cease to be eligible, shall forfeit all his rights and interests in the Society."

The Secretary also reports that he has complied with Resolution 6, adopted at the convention, instructing him to disseminate news of that resolution, which deprecates interference with the press in many countries of the Western Hemisphere. AP, UP and INS all have distributed the resolution. UP put it out the day it was adopted; AP has transmitted the full text on its Central and South American wires.

ECHOES OF THE CONVENTION

Al Moss Legend

Before the cigar-smoking Al Moss legend reaches further unjustified dimensions, let's straighten out the ASNE Bulletin, which in the May issue asserts that Moss "wrote that Dewey would be defeated."

What Paul Miller actually said at the convention is that Moss wrote on Oct. 28: "Political observers believe that President Truman will carry Rochester though not the country if labor turns out."

There is quite a difference between carrying Rochester and the country.

Paul's point that editors should listen more to their grass-roots political reporters was good. But straining the utmost out of his quotes from Moss, I am unable to find him (Moss) any farther out on the limb than a qualified prediction that some of Rochester's GOP ward leaders didn't think they could carry their wards.

I know how easily journalistic legends can spread unless intercepted at the start, which is why I wrote. And certainly the ASNE Bulletin should not be the first to prove inaccurate or apocryphal.

HUGH W. ROBERTSON,
Westchester County Publishers

Disillusionment

I wonder if other ASNE members share my disillusionment and slight irritation over some things said and done at the recent meeting? I refer specifically to the senseless two-hour discussion over whether or not to blackjack the AP and UP into turning over to the Voice of America everything it owns in news; also the fevered discussion over Freedom of Information; also the remarks about the "stinkers" within the profession and our bounden duty to throw them out on their ears.

The ASNE seems to have succumbed to the prevalent thinking in Washington that everybody is everybody else's keeper, that we have the God-given mandate to ride herd on the world, particularly if the offender doesn't believe and do as the individual member believes he should.

That Voice of America thing has cluttered up the meetings for two years. The first time I sat it out and voted NO when I could.

This year I did the same, with growing disgust.

I assume every man in attendance in his earlier years had been a reporter. He had attended banquets and dinners and meetings at which speakers orated sonorously and without terminal facilities on subjects so trivial that the reporter either slept through it or took to strong drink. Yet the same reporters now editors followed the old familiar banquet line, quibbled over the nuances of a single word and otherwise behaved precisely like the gentlemen they once ridiculed.

I recall the ludicrous spectacle of the wrangle over the "amendment to the amendment," the serious cogitation by the Chair over what was or was not in order, with et ceteras of parliamentary involvement that were as boring as they were out of place in a gathering of the sort we were presumed to conduct.

Maybe I'm wrong. Perhaps I am missing something in life by my lack of enthusiasm for eternally reforming somebody, eternally putting my fingers into pies which are strictly not of my making, eternally voting on resolutions to make this old world better, if it only will follow my advice.

I voted to meet next year in San Francisco. A year away from the "Washington influence" may do us all good.

LOUIS LaCOSS
St. Louis Globe-Democrat

Too Much to Eat

Let's have lighter luncheon menus next year. I don't think the average man when he is at home consumes anything like the amount of meat that was served at the Statler. When away from home and less physically active, luncheons should be lighter, not heavier. I hope that may also mean a reduction in the price, but at any rate it is wrong to waste the food.

EDWARD J. MEEMAN,
Memphis Press-Scimitar

An Editor's Ballot

I marked my ballot a few minutes ago, in the 1950 convention contest, by placing a cross mark in the box opposite "San Francisco in 1950," and then someone here

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N. R. HOWARD	Cleveland News
JENKIN LLOYD JONES	Tulsa Tribune
DAVID LAWRENCE	U. S. News & World Report
KENNETH MacDONALD	Des Moines Register & Tribune
HAMILTON OWENS	Baltimore Sun

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 98, Del. Telegraph and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7980.

No. 310 June 15, 1949

said that some people regard a cross mark as negative. So I then put what I call a check mark on top of the cross mark, and wrote "For" beside it. It would not surprise me now if a teller should wonder what kind of moron was trying to cast this ballot and how in the world he was voting. The ballot is meant to say that I favor San Francisco.

(Member's name withheld)

Free Booklets for Editors

When the managing editors' panel considered space taken by national drives, Michael A. Gorman, Flint Journal, reported briefly from the convention floor on the "Michigan plan" which extends Community Chest procedure to fund-raising activities of state and national agencies. (In short, "Put all your begs in one ask-it.") The complete story is told in a booklet, "Michigan Unites," copies available by writing Jim Cook, publicity director, United Fund Campaign, 560 Hollister Bldg., Lansing 8, Mich.

Facts and figures on how ECA operates in different countries are contained in a book offered by Paul G. Hoffman: "If any editor who wants a copy will write us a postcard, under the law we can send it; but if you don't write a postcard and we send it to you, we might get arrested."

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 311

August 1, 1949

Report to Membership on Illinois Scandal

On April 14, 1949, the Chicago Daily News and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch published the first of several news stories revealing that 51 newspapermen were on the payroll of the State of Illinois between 1941 and 1949. In view of the fact that the American Society of Newspaper Editors was established to promote adherence to its Canons of Journalism, the President of your Society, with the approval of the Board of Directors, appointed on May 6, 1949, an investigating committee of three members of the Society, with instructions to make an exhaustive inquiry and report its findings to the Board of Directors. The Board has reviewed the findings of this committee and presents this report to the membership of the ASNE. The report consists of three parts:

Part I relates to the findings concerning the employment of newspapermen by the State of Illinois.

Part II relates to the findings concerning published criticism that stories of the exposure were not carried sooner by the press associations.

Part III gives the conclusions of the Board of Directors on both phases of the inquiry mentioned above.

PART I Findings Concerning Employment of Newspapermen by the State of Illinois

Your investigating committee consisted of Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Editor of the Tulsa (Okla.) Tribune and a member of the Board of Directors of ASNE, who was Chairman; A. Y. Aronson, Managing Editor of the Louisville (Ky.) Times; and John W. Hillman, Editorial Director of the Indianapolis (Ind.) News.

On behalf of the membership of the Society, its Board of Directors acknowledges with profound appreciation and respect the work of this committee.

The nature of the investigation



THEY TRAVELED 3,000 MILES through Illinois, personally interviewing some 30 editors, to get the stories which formed the basis for their report. (L to R) Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Editor of the Tulsa Tribune, chairman of the committee; A. Y. Aronson, Managing Editor of the Louisville Times; and John W. Hillman, Editorial Director of the Indianapolis News.

itself was unprecedented in the history of the Society. The field work was entrusted to three distinguished members who were willing to undertake it from a sense of loyalty to the Society and of pride in the good name of their calling. Their conduct of the inquiry, in its objectivity, thoroughness and anxiety to be fair, reflected the highest standard of journalism.

Meeting in Springfield, Illinois, on June 7, members of the committee interviewed George Thiem of the Chicago Daily News and Roy Harris of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, who collaborated in writing the original stories of the Illinois situation, and Charles Whalen, Springfield correspondent of the Associated Press.

For the purpose of personally interviewing thirty of the newspapermen listed on the State payroll, the committee divided the State between them, setting out from Springfield on three different routes.

They spent more than three days on the road, traveling alone and covering about 1,000 miles

each, sleeping where night found them and eating at truck stops and village restaurants. Some of those interviewed were proprietors of poverty-stricken weeklies printed on ancient equipment in one-room plants. Others were connected with prosperous weeklies or dailies, produced by up-to-date methods and machinery. Some of the newspapermen were resentful or evasive. Some were anxious to tell their sides of the story and welcomed our representatives. Others were candid, if cynical, in their views as to acceptance of pay from the State as a legitimate share of party spoils.

Returning to Springfield, the committee members discussed their findings and wrote separate accounts of their interviews and conclusions, which were forwarded to the Board of Directors. Their combined reports cover nearly 70 typewritten pages. These have been studied in detail by each member of the Board of Directors.

A summary by the Board of the findings by the committee shows:

1. The majority of the editors on the State payrolls were found

to be associated with papers of small circulation in small communities. Many of these papers do not carry an editorial page.

2. The urban newspapermen who were on the payroll constituted a small minority of the full list. Most of them were not in a position to make editorial policy.

3. Another class on the payroll were found to be publishers of specialized organs not representative of the press as a whole.

4. Most of the newspapermen on the State payroll who were interviewed by our committee said that they received their jobs in return for personal and political services and that little or no pressure was brought on them to give favored treatment to State administration publicity or propaganda. This appeared to be the case insofar as it could be verified by our committee members.

5. A check of 40,000 names on the payrolls of the Green Administration for eight years revealed 51 newspapermen—some of them in positions widely known to the public and performing legitimate services. Of the 832 newspapers in Illinois, fewer than 50 newspapermen were in any way involved.

6. No member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors was listed on the Illinois State payroll.

7. In the published stories, the names of newspapermen whose service to the State was open and above reproach were listed along with those whose connection with the payrolls was questionable. Almost half the total figure given in the published stories was paid to newspapermen whose State employment appears to have been entirely normal and legitimate or to those whose connection with a newspaper was either indirect or had been severed for some time during the period covered.

8. The total sum paid for the eight years for both types mentioned above was a total of \$480,000, or an average of \$60,000 a year. No facts were obtained as to the number of newspapermen on the State payroll or the amounts paid in the years previous to 1941, when a Democratic administration was in power. Illinois newspapermen state that the practice existed under preceding administrations.

9. There was no indication in many cases as to whether the governmental positions occupied by the newspapermen were known to their respective communities. In certain instances the connection of

AT THE ANNUAL convention, members have the opportunity to express themselves on all activities of the Society. Between conventions The Bulletin provides the medium for exchange of opinion.

What is YOUR reaction to the Illinois report in this issue? Opinions of members, new as well as old, are not merely welcome; they are solicited.

Please address letters to ASNE Bulletin, Alice Fox Pitts, editor, P. O. Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Delaware.

newspapermen with the State government was public knowledge.

10. There seems to be doubt in some instances as to whether the State employment of individual newspapermen was known to the management. In other instances, the facts were known but no particular attention seems to have been paid to this by the editorial management.

11. Some of the facts concerning the employment of newspapermen in the State of Illinois were known to people in political circles but no public attention was called to the practice until the exposure by the Chicago Daily News and St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

12. Many of the newspapermen interviewed insisted that their connections had been known in their communities, and that any innuendoes of wrong-doing and lack of ethics were therefore unfair. Some of those interviewed criticized the manner in which the stories were handled on the ground that these articles linked the holders of legitimate positions with those whose incomes from the State were questionable.

13. One member of our investigating committee states:

"Padded payrolls seem to be an old custom in Illinois, and adhered to by both Democrats and Republicans. Party faithful are rewarded by State jobs many of which entail no duties. People who are engaged exclusively in party organization and party promotion are often given fake State jobs. Obviously, this device preserves campaign funds for other uses. Apparently padded payrolls involve not only union officers but members of other professions who were given State sinecures as a reward for political activity."

14. Another member says: "I would have no hesitation in reporting that of the ten cases I

looked into, six apparently did no useful work, two did little and only two appeared fully legitimate."

15. Another states:

"The practice of accepting public pay for the service of the party reflects the prevailing state of political morals in Illinois, rather than any wholesale degradation or corruption of the press, as such. The practice cannot be too strongly condemned both from a public and a newspaper standpoint, but it can best be interpreted in the light of the background of the general practice in the State."

PART II

Findings Concerning Published Criticism of Press Associations

The Chicago Daily News and the St. Louis Post-Dispatch published the first of their stories on April 14, 1949. Editorial criticism of the conditions as thus exposed and criticism of the press services for failure to transmit the story appeared in leading newspapers. The three press associations, replying to a letter of inquiry from your Board, stated that there was no immediate distribution by them of these stories, either in Illinois or outside the State.

One press association replied that, since the stories were copyrighted and since it did not have the right to republish the local and telegraphic news of either the Chicago Daily News or St. Louis Post-Dispatch, it passed up the stories at the outset. It also mentioned inability to check promptly on whether innocent persons were being libelled.

Another press association stated that, while its relay editor observed the notice of copyright, he also regarded the story as part of the political campaign previously conducted by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and Chicago Daily News against Governor Green.

In every one of the three cases the relay or desk editors of the press associations in Chicago or St. Louis made the decision as to news values on their own without reference to higher officials. Two high officials of press associations, in their letters to us, made evident their independent conclusions that the information contained in the Chicago Daily News and St. Louis Post-Dispatch articles should have been transmitted immediately on the state and national wires.

The Chicago Daily News Service itself did not immediately trans-

mit to its clients these stories and carried the information first on May 2 after a request had been made by one of its clients. Executive Editor of the Knight Newspapers, Basil L. Walters, informed us: "We considered it an Illinois story. We did not foresee the national impact. We have frankly been amazed by the terrific national interest manifested..."

"Newsweek" magazine, which went to press on Monday, April 18, for its issue dated April 25, printed about 300 words, picking up the story four days after the first installment of the series had appeared in the Chicago Daily News and St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Associated Press carried the first story on its national wires on April 27.

United Press and International News Service carried their first stories on May 10, based on an announcement by the Gannett Newspapers at Rochester, New York, that three employees of the Danville (Ill.) Commercial-News, a Gannett newspaper, had resigned. These three men were among those listed on the State payroll.

The weekly "AP Log" to all its bureaus, on May 4, summed up the situation as follows:

"We carried from Chicago April 27 a story almost two weeks old. It quoted April 14 stories in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the Chicago Daily News alleging 33 Illinois newspaper editors had received state salaries since 1942.

"The decision to pass the story at its first publication is best explained by Marvin Tonkin, Acting Chief of Bureau: 'We examined it carefully, looking for a news reason to use it. We examined it against the background of common information in Illinois that the News had fought (ex-Governor) Green and supported (present Governor) Stevenson; that Green had been roundly defeated in November and had been out of office for more than three months; that the period covered in the article extended back some six years; that there was no allegation of anything criminal or illegal; that no official action was taken or contemplated.'"

"This conclusion by Chicago was not forwarded to New York. The decision to carry the story in detail, even though belatedly, on April 27, was reached after publication of specials by the New York Times, Washington Post (which also editorialized on 'The

HOW AND WHY THE JOB WAS DONE

ASNE's own investigation of the Illinois press-payroll situation got under way late in April when the Board unanimously decided, after a mail poll, to go into the business.

It came to an end on Sunday, July 17, when a special committee of the Board completed the final draft of the report to the membership, printed in this issue.

In between, a lot of work was done. Jenk Jones cheerfully accepted the chairmanship of a special ASNE field investigating committee, though he recognized it as a "hot potato."

A. Y. Aronson of Louisville and John Hillman of Indianapolis as quickly agreed to serve with him.

The committee met in Springfield, and got down to cases. But let Jenk Jones tell it—

"It is quite a compliment to the ASNE that men of this caliber and standing (he is modestly describing his colleagues) were willing to spend four days away from home at their own expense, sleeping in small-town flea-bags, eating at truck stops, and driving 800 to 1,000 miles on the unpleasant task of interviewing ruffled and irate editors."

It is quite a compliment to the ASNE and a great credit to the committee!

Returning to Springfield, members of the committee discussed their findings, then wrote separate reports and conclusions for the directors. Their combined report was a beautiful example of sound, down-to-earth reporting by skilled newspapermen.

A copy of the full committee re-

port, with a proposed draft of the report to the membership, went to each director for study.

Their comments and suggestions for revision were whipped into a second draft and on July 17, the drafting committee — Dabney of Richmond, Howard of Cleveland, Jones, Lawrence and McKelway of Washington, and Owens of Baltimore—met at the Statler to work on the final report, made much simpler by David Lawrence's previous rewriting and amplification of the original draft. The final draft was re-circulated among the directors, who gave their unanimous approval.

Why was the job done? Because it seemed proper, to the directors, that the membership should have a complete analysis of a condition in Illinois which had been widely interpreted throughout the country as a serious reflection on the press. Taken at face value, the Chicago Daily News-St. Louis Post-Dispatch stories indicated a flagrant disregard in Illinois of the Canons of Journalism the ASNE adopted in 1922. The report puts the Illinois situation in clear perspective. As Hillman commented in his own conclusions, there was no evidence of an attempt in Illinois to buy the press, and no evidence that the press had been bought.

The investigation was a new venture for our Society. The directors believe it has been productive and worthwhile.

—B. M. McKELWAY

Silent Press') and Washington Star.

"Obviously in the light of later events, Chicago's decision to pass the story did not take fully into account the implications—politically and professionally—of such action. In our post-mortem discussion, AJG (Executive Editor Alan J. Gould) wrote:

"Hindsight, of course, is a wonderful thing... But there should be no doubt, now, that the belated interest focussed on this Illinois situation stems from its significance, on news merit.

"We are thus exposed to the justifiable criticism that we passed up, for nearly two weeks, a newspaper investigation about newspapers and their tieups with a state

government. Rightly or wrongly, the feeling arises that, if any other interests or organizations, such as industry groups or labor unions, had been involved, the story would have been all over the place without delay.

"The thing we must remember is that all media of public information, and particularly newspapers, are under constant scrutiny—from within as well as from without. This does not mean that we should handle every charge against newspapers or radio stations, or those who operate them. It does dictate the necessity for all bureaus to give New York a quick fill-in, by overhead or telephone, if not by leased wire message, whenever such stories appear, so

that we may fully consider all angles and call signals without delay.'

"It's no excuse, of course, but the fact is we were not alone in leaving the field to the Daily News and the Post-Dispatch, at the start. Other wire services passed the story, too, and we were told the Daily News wire, serving a number of newspapers, did not carry a line on the expose until asked to do so by the Washington Star."

PART III

Conclusions

There is substantial evidence of a long-standing political custom in Republican and Democratic administrations in the State of Illinois of rewarding some newspaper publishers and their employees, along with other citizens working for the party, by jobs on the State payroll involving little or no service to the public.

We deplore this practice by any government as an improper use of public funds.

We condemn the acceptance of such funds by newspapermen as unethical and as contrary to the public responsibilities and obligations of the press.

In the process of our investigation, certain facts became evident which we believe place in clear perspective the malpractice of a few newspapermen against the background of political custom in the State.

Some 40,000 names on the State payroll during the eight-year administration of former Governor Dwight Green were checked against the names of about 800 newspapermen. Exactly 51 newspapermen were found on the payrolls.

A majority of these 51, in the opinion of the ASNE investigating committee, held State jobs that were either outright sinecures or jobs in which their duties were entirely or primarily political. But

there were among them men who held legitimate positions, widely known to the public, performing services to the State against which there is no valid criticism.

Of the 832 newspapers in Illinois, fewer than 50 were in any way involved in a situation which was widely interpreted outside the State as reflecting on the State press in particular and, indirectly, on the press of the country in general.

For reasons that are partly historical, conditions in Illinois reflect the attitude of a small minority of the newspapermen, primarily individuals whose first allegiance is to party politics and whose newspaper work is incidental to their partisan activity. Most of the newspapers involved were of that class so small and so weak economically as to depend on public printing or other forms of political subsidy or patronage for existence. Emoluments, in the form of fake State jobs, were in some cases found to have been inherited by newspapers and newspapermen from previous ownership or previous holders of the newspaper job, and the precise origin of such emoluments was unknown to some of the recent recipients.

There are many legitimate opportunities for newspapermen to serve at the federal, state or local governmental level, but such service should never be clandestine, and there should always be, at the beginning of such service, full disclosure of the nature of the work and compensation given therefor.

We commend the initiative and journalistic enterprise of the Chicago Daily News and St. Louis Post-Dispatch in exposing these improper practices in the State of Illinois among members of our own profession.

The failure of the press associations to move the story promptly was due not to any considered intent to suppress the news of the exposures but to faulty news judgment.

Newspapers and wire services should be as quick to report public criticism of the press as to report criticism of any other element of our society. Failure to do so invites damaging inference as to the good faith of the press.

We believe the effect of the publication of the Chicago Daily News and St. Louis Post-Dispatch stories has been wholesome. While attention has been centered primarily on Illinois, the disclosures

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telegraph and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

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should lead newspapers and newspapermen throughout the country to examine their own practices as well as political practices existing in their localities. The press of the country should be alert to the importance of avoiding not only evil but all appearance of evil.

Our newspapers must be the auditors of government. Anything that compromises their independence, their freedom to evaluate and to criticize, their reputation for complete integrity and fairness, threatens not only the press but the system of free government under which we live.

This concept of the role of the press imposes an obligation that no newspaperman can neglect if he is true to his calling.

We draw attention finally to the Code of Ethics or Canons of Journalism accepted by the American Society of Newspaper Editors from its foundation which emphasize that "Independence — Freedom from all obligations except that of fidelity to the public interest is vital."

Errata

Problems of Journalism 1949
Page 212, line 20: word 'five' should be 'thirty-five.'

Page 213, line 30: word 'light' should be 'liked.'

Please correct, in your own copy of the book.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

NO. 312

September 1, 1949

Report On Illinois Gets Enthusiastic OK From Members

I am in complete accord with ASNE's position on the Illinois newspaper scandal. I can't see how anyone in or out of the newspaper business could think otherwise.

HODDING CARTER
Delta Democrat-Times
Greenville, Miss.

★ ★ ★

Why wasn't there an Illinois newspaperman on the committee?

This is not intended as a criticism of the three ASNE members who served. I think they did an excellent job. But I can't help wondering why President McKelway didn't name just one committee member from Illinois.

Surely an Illinoisan's knowledge of the background would have been of value in the investigation. And an Illinois editor, being "on the scene", would, it seems to me, be better able to evaluate the entire situation than editors from other states.

The ASNE has 18 members in Illinois. Wouldn't any of them have made an acceptable, objective, unbiased committee member?

ARNOLD BURNETT
Peoria Journal-Transcript

(President McKelway tells The Bulletin: "We were concerned primarily with principles, not personalities. It seemed to me that our field committee could function more freely if its members were uninhibited by considerations of personal friendship or even acquaintanceship. I did not want to embarrass any Illinois editor who might have felt that he was being asked to check up on a next-door neighbor.")

★ ★ ★

It is obvious the investigating committee completed the task with
(Continued on page 5)

GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

By OVETA CULP HOBBY

Executive Vice President, Houston Post

First the ASNE is a forum, to which come the questions, the experiences, the thoughts and ideas of its membership.

This means that the Society is a two-way street — something to be contributed to as well as to receive benefit from.

It means that as each member rises to a higher fulfillment of his responsibility, he has strengthened the Society.

As any one member reaches a new level of quality journalism, he has not only improved his own journal, but has helped to establish a new standard in public taste. The more we offer the public something good, the more the shoddy and inaccurate journalistic efforts will be judged for what they are.

By pyramiding accuracy, good taste, impartiality and breadth of coverage, the individual journalist has contributed to ASNE and to journalism.

Though accuracy is only a part of a greater something called truth, it is a basic part. The ASNE through its members must work relentlessly for an ever greater perfection of journalistic accuracy.

In modern times the newspaper has become man's chief means of knowing his society and his government.

In the New England town meeting, all the citizens could meet within the sound of one man's voice. Anything that one man had to tell, he could tell the others, face to face.

But the modern American has 140,000,000 fellow citizens. Their business, their government, even their most frivolous amusements, form so fantastically complex a web that there is no way of knowing much about it except through the printed word.

And the newspaper editor is the man through whose hands all this information must pass.

Wherefore: The proper goals of this Society of Editors can hardly be anything else than to find better

McKelway to Teachers

Speaking at a joint session of the three major organizations of journalism teachers in Minneapolis, on August 31, President B. M. McKelway defined education for journalism as "a continuous process of absorption that ends only when the human mind becomes impervious to impressions from the outside—a regrettable development that too frequently manifests itself early in life."

Discussing the Hutchins and the British Royal commissions' proposals for improving the press, and the ASNE's earlier consideration of enforcing its Code of Ethics, he rejected any form of policing as unfeasible and undesirable. Newspapermen have a strong sense of vocation, he said, consisting largely of a love of freedom and a concern for public interest. Their character, understanding and allegiance to their responsibility—rather than enforced rules of conduct—are the best guarantors of continued self-improvement.

218 TO 218

In the Washington-San Francisco poll, one ballot received since the last Bulletin made the final vote a tie.

As previously announced by the Board of Directors, the 1950 convention will be held in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C., April 20, 21 and 22.

ways of delivering that information to the 140,000,000.

There are three things involved: 1. To get the truth. 2. To tell it clearly. 3. To tell it impartially.

This very nearly calls for omniscience. Our powers are limited. We are the creatures and the prisoners of our own time and place. But we do not always use the powers for accuracy which we have.

Recently a column ran in many of our newspapers which referred to the Acropolis as though it were a building.

Now ours is not an age of classical studies. It is no longer expected that every educated person shall know what the Acropolis is—a fortified rocky citadel which includes within its walls the Parthenon.

But if the editors, copyreaders and proofreaders are really trying to carry the truth to the 140,000,000, is it not reasonable to assume that somebody, somewhere along the line, should have caught the error?

The copyreader could have looked up the word in the nearest dictionary.

For truth itself—whether big or little—is often immediately ascertainable. How does the prisoner spell his name? Ask the prisoner. What is the caliber of the pistol? Go look at the pistol; the caliber is stamped on the barrel.

Indeed, the first part of our problem is philosophical rather than technical: How shall editors and reporters and the young people in the journalism schools train themselves to go to some trouble to get the truth?

As for clearly writing the truth, it is both a technical and a philosophical matter. It cannot be denied that many newspaper people deliberately train themselves to write badly—never having a clear knowledge of what good writing is. They memorize clichés, polysyllables and all manner of pompous language.

They never realize that most of the world's best writing is the simplest, whether in the bald directness of the Proverbs or in the stripped prose of Ernest Hemingway.

Some progress has been made toward simpler and better writing in the newspapers. There are papers that have done this for themselves. There are others that have done it with the aid of consultants, readability surveys, etc.

For the third process of delivering the truth—how to tell it impartially—this may be too subtle and too complex a matter for brief discussion. Ours is a time in which nearly all opinions are in dispute. With so many sorts of opinions and on so many issues, impartiality becomes harder than ever before.

But there is one danger to be warned against: Not to make too rigid a cult of objectivity itself. Not to take refuge in the superficial or the noncommittal, whenever it seems too hard to be impartial.

Now to turn to the broader perspective of American journalism:

Free press and journalism have always been words which seemed to be universal and unanimous of definition. But in Geneva, I discovered for the first time that in no two countries are the definitions the same.

We have here in the United States something fine and precious, which should not be lost through lack of precise understanding of its qualities or through failure to stimulate those qualities in all who serve the profession.

In medicine a man may not be called a specialist in urology until he has interned under expert urologists and has passed examinations given by the American Board of Urology.

In law, a man may not practice law until he has passed State boards.

In teaching, a professor must have had a certain amount of training and have received certain college degrees.

In journalism, all this is harder. We fear to set up rigid standards or a powerful examining board for fear that at sometime in the future, the standard may be distorted or the board so misuse its powers as to endanger freedom of the press and with that freedom, the right of men to know.

But somewhere in journalism—perhaps in ASNE—there is a great need for some kind of volunteer codification of our standards.

ASNE does, and I believe should, serve as a conscience and a stimulus to the world of journalism.

For example, ASNE might draft a journalistic form of the Hippocratic oath—a Socratic oath if you please.

Socrates—a man of the inquiring mind—is surely a model to whom journalists could look for inspiration.

Each man or woman who goes to work in a newspaper might be given a copy of the Socratic oath—which might run something like this:

I will strive to write the truth with complete accuracy, with no expression of my own personal bias or opinion, in order to give the facts I transcribe the chance to be judged for themselves alone.

I will keep myself aware that my work is a service to my community, my nation and my world—that I serve all men rather than myself, that man's right to know is my first goal rather than the private furtherance of my own career.

I will work to improve my own knowledge in many fields, in order that I may better understand the facts presented to me and more clearly transcribe them to the reading public.

And so forth. Such an oath would have to be worked out with much thought and the combination of many ideas.

As a second example, I think ASNE should inspire its editors to self-examination.

The great man and the great paper are under a constant process of self-examination. ASNE should stimulate all its members to self-awareness on many points:

The balance, quality and quantity of its coverage. The caliber of staff employed. The efforts to help each staff member, young or old to grow in his or her work. The efforts to reward superior work and to help journalists develop themselves to their full potential.

There are newspapers which, in the extremes of chasing circulation, pander to "what the public wants" without recognizing the fact that the newspaper CAN develop reader interest in world events or serious news through good presentation and intelligent expansion of coverage.

All such things as they should be discussed at each annual meeting of the ASNE in at least one session which is frankly idealistic, purposeful, missionary in spirit—the spirit of self-search, self-test, self-pledge to grow during the coming year.

The ASNE can, and often does, set a standard to be striven toward. It should, and does, try to inspire American journalism—and American journalists—to strive toward the best.

News Contacts With The Military Receive An Airing

A Washington dispatch, early last month, reporting a new ruling which would require the approval of the Defense press section chief for interviews with Defense officers sent Basil L. Walters into action. As chairman of the ASNE Committee on Freedom of Information he wrote Secretary Louis A. Johnson:

"As reported by the Associated Press, National Military Establishment press officials deny the new ruling is an attempt to control news, but that it will enable them to know what is going on and that in this way they can facilitate requests. Can this explanation be accepted as given or is it a maneuver to give the press officer of N.M.E. censorship powers over what is printed?"

His letter brought a denial from William Frye, director of public information of N.M.E., that there was any such ruling. The story, he charged, stemmed from "careless reporting" and was based on a record form, used only within the press branch, to speed-up requests for interviews, not to bar them.

Mr. Frye added that "no requirement has ever been laid upon reporters that they file requests for interviews through this office."

In putting several questions pertaining to the matter to Secretary Johnson, Mr. Walters remarked that "while military security must be maintained, the right of the American people to have accurate information on subjects not involving information of value to a potential enemy also must be secured."

The Office of Public Information, Mr. Frye replied, feels, as does the press, that classification of information for security reasons is carried to unnecessary lengths; and that a paper on the problem of how to present the information needs as they conflict with those of the narrow military security view now is in preparation for presentation to the Armed Services Policy Council.

Acknowledging Mr. Frye's letter Mr. Walters wrote, "I think it should go a long way in clearing up for editors some confusion that exists about their contacts with the military."

ECHOES OF OUR '49 RESOLUTIONS

By Dep't of State

Resolution Six, adopted at the 1949 convention, deplored interference with the operation of the press in Argentina and expressed the hope that governments throughout the Western Hemisphere will universally respect the rights of a free press. It also instructed the ASNE secretary to request the State Department to provide American diplomatic representatives abroad with copies of the resolution. Wright Bryan did so, and received the following reply from James E. Webb, then Acting Secretary of State:

"The Government of the United States has, as you know, taken an active part in drafting both United Nations and Inter-American instruments which have as their purpose the promotion of increased respect for basic human rights. Special attention has been given in this respect to freedom of information in general and freedom of the press in particular. As a result, there is little likelihood that there is a government anywhere in the world which is not well aware of the United States position on these matters. It is my opinion that the transmission of the Society's resolution to other governments through formal diplomatic channels would not only have an unfortunate effect upon the relations of the United States with the governments of the Western Hemisphere, but such action might actually result in a setback to the approval by those governments of international agreements aimed at improving the observance of freedom of information and the press. The resolution singles out other American Republics as special offenders

against these liberties, even though observance of them is no less in the Western Hemisphere than in many other areas of the world, and representatives of many of the other American governments have taken a foremost part in the international activities referred to above.

"It will be of interest to you to know with particular reference to Argentina that the American Ambassador in Buenos Aires and officials of the State Department in Washington have on numerous occasions taken up with the Argentine President, the Foreign Minister and the Ambassador in Washington the question of the Argentine Government's restrictions on the transmission of news by press, radio and cable and this matter continues to be discussed between representatives of the two governments."

By George W. Healy

I would like to endorse sentiments expressed by Louis LaCoss in the June-July Bulletin.

The discussion on the miscalled Voice of America which I have heard certainly wasted a lot of time. The low point in those discussions, in my opinion, was reached when a member suggested that we shouldn't table a resolution endorsing the "Voice" because our action would be bad propaganda. He didn't want the rest of the world to know that American editors can differ with the master minds of the State Department!

And I always thought this country owes its greatness to the fact that editors, soapbox orators and everybody else in this nation is free to express any opinion he cares to express.

I think it was bad propaganda for the rest of the world to learn that a majority of ASNE, in the shadow of Capitol Hill, succumbed to "Washington influence."

GEORGE W. HEALY, JR.
New Orleans Times-Picayune

Miller Replaces Coghlan

Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers, has been named to the committee to study the feasibility of an International Press Institute. He replaces Ralph Coghlan, resigned from ASNE.

COMMITTEE NAMED

Resolutions chairman for the 1950 convention is Frank A. Clavoe, San Francisco News. Serving with him:

Frank Waldrop, Washington Times-Herald,
Norman E. Isaacs, St. Louis Star-Times,
Jack Foster, Rocky Mountain News,
George W. Healy, Jr., New Orleans Times-Picayune.

REACTION OF NATION'S PRESS TO ILLINOIS REPORT

San Antonio Express

Quoting the Illinois report, "Newspapers and wire services should be as quick to report public criticism of the press as to report criticism of any other element of our society." The Express commented:

"The ASNE's sound advice is instinct to most working newspapermen. Like any other human enterprise, however, the press must always have a few offending elements, lacking in honesty or perception of professional principles, that must be continuously policed and punished for wrong-doing. That enforcement of high journalistic standards in the public interest can be safely accomplished only from within the press itself.

"The hand of governmental regulation would be the touch of death to freedom of information and, it follows, to democratic society."

Kansas City Star

"The report on the Illinois newspaper scandals concerns rather minor derelictions, but derelictions that ought not to be passed over . . .

"It condemned the acceptance of public funds by newspapermen as 'unethical and as contrary to the public responsibilities and obligations of the press.'

"Fortunately these principles are universally recognized by newspapers and are almost universally respected. But it is wholly in order that a representative body of newspapermen should investigate every case brought to its attention and speak out with no pussyfooting on the evils involved."

New York Herald Tribune

"The ASNE is more and more assuming the valid function of mentor to the newspaper profession by first establishing high standards and then taking action to see that they are upheld. That is a function effectively discharged by bar associations and medical societies for their respective professions. We believe that the editors merit, and should have, the wholehearted support of all responsible newspapers in their efforts to apply ethical standards as constructively to the Fourth Estate. For a free press can remain free only by making its reputation for objectivity, integrity and fairness unassailable."

Louisville Courier-Journal

The Courier-Journal quoted Tom Hanes, Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, at the April convention: "While chanting platitudes about press freedom we are permitting something infinitely more precious to be sabotaged: our reputations for integrity. I say reputations, because I must sadly concede that we do have a few second cousins whose sense of integrity is as highly developed as a tomcat's celibacy. But when the family is attacked, we defend these distant relatives with a fiery vigor that would put the Hatfields and the McCoy's to shame."

Reviewing the Illinois investigation, the editorial continued:

"Mr. Hanes is entitled to congratulations for having made his little speech, but he must now take back some of his words. The press has criticized the press with effective vigor . . . But a few more threats to its reputation and integrity and the ASNE may have to go farther yet in listening to Mr. Hanes and other press critics of the press — insist, like the lawyers and the doctors, that every member newspaper live up to the professional society's excellent code of ethics, bar those that don't."

EDITORIAL INTEGRITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Two newspapers quoted the following paragraph from the report, one praising and the other condemning it.

"There are many legitimate opportunities for newspapermen to serve at the federal, state or local level, but such service should never be clandestine, and there should always be, at the beginning of such service, full disclosure of the nature of the work and compensation given therefor."

Providence Journal Bulletin

"This strikes us as a dangerously wide-open invitation to the very abuses which the ASNE condemns. Though it is certainly true that newspapermen should not be barred from non-political community or national service, it is much more important that they keep themselves wholly apart from the workings of government itself. A paramount requisite of honest journalism is complete freedom from obligation to any special interest, whether governmental, industrial, labor union or whatever. We believe that 'service at the federal, state or local level' of government infringes this requirement."

Cleveland Plain Dealer

"The investigation reveals that only 51 newspapermen were among the 40,000 employees on the state payroll, but nevertheless it constituted a situation which could not fail to undermine public confidence in the press.

"The press must remain the auditor of government, a duty it can discharge only if no employees are beholden to office holders."

Milwaukee Journal

"The newspaper profession has long had a code of ethics, promulgated by the American Society of Newspaper Editors. There is no enforcement machinery, no way to punish violators. It must be this way, of course, if the independence of the individual newspaper is to be maintained.

"But this does not mean that the press is helpless when its canons are violated. There is an obligation to expose and publicly condemn. This is essential if the integrity of the press is to be maintained and the people's confidence in it is to remain firm. Involved here is the very continuance of the free newspaper as the first guardian of the people's interest."

Illinois State Register

"Scores of illustrations can be given where conscientious editors and publishers have been selected for major governmental responsibilities and have distinguished themselves in both fields.

"Among notable instances are the late former Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels; the late former Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox; and former United States Senator Arthur Capper. . .

"These men demonstrated that editorial integrity and faithful public service can be synchronized with sacrifice of duty in meeting either responsibility."

Another Task For the ASNE?

Impressed by the job done in Illinois, The Bayonne Times suggested that ASNE "may be the agency best qualified to be helpful in improving relations between the United Nations and the United States." Referring to increasing resentment over charges that UN delegations are abusing their diplomatic privileges, the editorial said:

"The situation is complicated by the principles of free speech in the United States. This country can hardly tell Senator Blowhard to cultivate a better sense of responsibility before sounding off about matters in which he is incompetent . . . This does not mean, however, that we have no recourse at all. The editors of American newspapers might possibly be taught, through some such agency as their own society, that it is not altogether necessary to print such nonsense under boxcar headlines."

Urging restraint in playing unproved charges, The Times said that, with the UN providing our best hope of averting war, the issue is so grave that "once understood in proper perspective the mischievousness of our newspapers becomes obvious." It concluded:

"What will the world think, then, of American newspapers which blare to their readers that an unidentified witness before a Congressional committee says the UN is honeycombed with spies? The newspapers, like food, can be tools to make war or build peace. The ASNE might suggest, in a tentative sort of way, that its members respect freedom of speech and of the press by demanding just a little evidence before they blast away."

Okay from Members

(Continued from page 1)

a thoroughness that enabled the drafting committee to prepare what I thought was a comprehensive estimate of the situation. The restrained, yet sincere, reaffirmation of policy was reassuring.

However, the most gratifying part to me is that the ASNE is demonstrating an increasing awareness of responsibility, leading, I hope, to a greater voice in matters journalistic.

FRANK AHLGREN
Memphis Commercial Appeal

Atlanta Journal Checks Up on Georgia

At the time the Illinois story broke last spring, W. S. Kirkpatrick, managing editor of the Atlanta Journal, and Wright Bryan, editor, agreed that a similar investigation of newspapermen on the state payroll in Georgia would be newsworthy.

Up-to-date information was inaccessible because the State Auditor had not yet completed his current payroll analysis. By coincidence the new Auditor's report became available about the time the ASNE directors' statement on the Illinois situation was released, making the Georgia analysis doubly newsworthy. It was completed, and revealed seven editors and three former editors of Georgia weeklies holding state jobs.

Thus the ASNE study stimulated The Journal's investigation, but it was not made at the request of ASNE as the Associated Press stated.

Believes All Concur

I am in complete accord with ASNE special committee report on the ethics of newspaper people on public payrolls. My own belief, which we follow on the News-Press and The Gazette, is that newspaper people should serve in civic positions as a duty, but without remuneration, and certainly without keeping facts secret. No publisher or editor can be objective and entirely free to conduct vigorous unbiased editorial policy if he is on payroll of state, county or city. I am against it even if the editor gives more than value received for his services. Let him take leave of absence and print boldly that he has taken leave of absence.

I hope The ASNE report does not discourage editors and publishers from public free work. Publisher Henry D. Bradley of our papers serves ably as chairman of the Industrial Bureau of Chamber of Commerce; no pay. I serve on the library board; no pay. Neither of us would consider for a minute appointment to city, county or state position that carries remunerations. I think from the many ASNE editors I have met at conventions they will 100 per cent concur in committee report.

ARTHUR V. BURROWES
St. Joseph News-Press and Gazette

"Our situation was somewhat different from that in Illinois", Mr. Bryan points out, "in that all the jobs we reported were actual state jobs and there had been no attempt at secrecy. Most of the appointments had been published at the time they were made. We merely summarized what had appeared previously in fragments."

Several Georgia newspapers have deplored editors holding state jobs, while at least one criticized The Journal story as political carping.

Commenting on both investigations, The Richmond Times-Dispatch said: "Of 832 newspapers in Illinois, fewer than 50 were involved in any way, and many of these were not properly subject to criticism. Of course, even one newspaper holding a phoney and concealed job on the public payroll is one too many. It is good to know that there seem to be no such newspapermen in Georgia."

Is Afghanistan Out?

By J. N. HEISKELL
Editor, The Arkansas Gazette

I have found a column story about Afghanistan which points out that country's strategic situation as the junction of the Far East, the Middle East and Soviet-dominated Central Asia and tells of the hope of Afghanistan to become the Switzerland of Asia.

Here is a subject for a timely editorial which might interest and inform many readers at this time when the world is watching hot spots that might detonate another war. But editors who have heard or know about the scathing and scornful words that Jenkin Lloyd Jones has used in discussing "Afghanistanism" might instantly conclude, if they saw our editorial, that the Arkansas Gazette was dodging some local matter that it lacked courage to discuss.

The Tulsa Tribune editor has put the editorial curse on Afghanistan. Even though it might offer opportunity for, or seem to demand, editorial treatment, I should not be willing to expose our paper to the suspicion that it was recreant to its editorial duty and was seeking to cover up with what the women folks would call, and what, in a different sense, Jenk Jones would call, an Afghan.

Picture Assignments

A press photographer wandering around the mezzanine of the Statler at the last convention, with a vague assignment slip in his hand and no idea of what pictures of editors he was supposed to take brought this about. "They don't tell me what they want," he complained, "and then bawl me out for not getting it."

Question to members: "How do you make picture assignments?" Answers herewith.

No Picture Editor

• By CARL E. LINDSTROM
Managing Editor
The Hartford Times

A few years ago we had photographers wandering over the city in just such random fashion as the lad described. We think we have the problem licked now, however, and it goes like this:

The usual assignment sheet is made out for each job but all the photographers understand that they are not to take off without a thorough briefing from the assistant city editor who is also in charge of the photo staff. Often he will be asked to have a talk with the reporter covering the assignment. In other words, when the photographer dashes out on the job, he knows as much about that particular assignment as anyone in the place. He is not, of course, so straight-jacketed by his instructions that he does not use his imagination when he gets to the job. There may be new or unforeseen angles.

This method has worked so satisfactorily that I have never felt the need of a picture editor as such whose exclusive duty would be to pass on the paper's overall picture performance. Our plan seems better to keep the photographer in the local news stream where he belongs.

Much On Their Own

• By STANLEY P. BARNETT
Managing Editor
Cleveland Plain Dealer

Assignments for the daily paper are given chiefly by the city editor and occasionally the managing editor. We have a news photo chief, who sees principally that pictures are properly handled and placed in the paper. He rarely gives an assignment.

When the sports department wants a photographer, the sports

editor checks with the city editor and gets his O.K. on the individual photographer for the assignment. Early in the week the society editor usually checks with the city editor and makes arrangements for a special photographer to do society pictures. In other words, virtually all assignments are handled by the city editor, both night and day. Of course these assignments are always checked with the picture editor, so that he will know what photographers are available.

Our photographers, we like to think, are smart, and work much on their own. However, our editors do give specific directions when it seems necessary. Occasionally too the reporter will tell the accompanying photographer on a story what to shoot.

Six Cameramen To Cover One Ball Game

With 40 photographers on its regular staff, the New York News is almost in a class by itself. But the question was addressed to Richard W. Clarke, executive editor, who turned it over to the picture assignment editor, George Schmitt, for reply. His memo follows:

"In the case of a quick spot news assignment, the photographer is given the location, and briefly told the things to look out for. The average man on our staff has the experience and intelligence to size up these assignments himself upon reaching the scene. On extremely important assignments, I have made it a point to be there myself to direct, and make any split hair decisions.

"Take the story of the arrival of little Ann Chisari. Here was a story of great importance to us. A staff of seven men was taken to La Guardia field, where I directly assigned them to their tasks. As editions of The News were already rolling off the presses, we tried to get the pictures back as quickly as possible. Therefore I engaged the

City Desk Briefing

• By JOSEPH T. ADAMS
Managing Editor,
The Rochester Times-Union

Photographic assignments on The Rochester Times-Union are handled by the city desk for all departments.

Whenever possible the photographer is briefed on the subject he is to get. Frequently contacts are made with subjects and arrangements are made to set up desired pix in advance of the arrival of the photographer.

On spot news assignments the photographer and reporter—or the photographer alone—are given great latitude in making picture possibility decisions. Nevertheless, in a number of such assignments direction is pointed up by the city desk, or other department heads.

Getting good pictures is always a terrific problem. And careful direction gives you a good start.

When events are covered annually, such as opening day baseball, local festival and Memorial Day parade, errors are noted. These are reviewed the next year just before the event with an eye to improvement of picture coverage.

services of a police motorcycle, to convoy our station wagon, which I drove, and in which we developed four of the pictures. The run from La Guardia to the office was made in eight minutes, which enabled us to replate on our first editions.

"To cover the All Star game in Brooklyn, July 12, a staff of six photographers and myself went to Ebbets Field, where the men were assigned to their positions—two to make personalities, throwing out the first ball, the outstanding players of each team, general scenes and human interest pix. The other four were scattered in strategic spots in the stands to make action shots of the game. With the aid of two motorcycle riders and three copy boys, the pictures were quickly expedited to the office."

On routine or feature assignments, photographers are given such specific instructions. Mr. Clarke comments, that he does not believe any of them could often have a legitimate gripe that he was not told what type of picture he was supposed to get.

'Short Course'

• By DAVID SILVERMAN
Managing Editor
The Minneapolis Star

We try to give the photographer some idea of what the story is about so that he may develop good material to illustrate it. We prefer people doing something. The hearty handshake and the lined-up-against-the-wall "firing squad" type photo is out. If a man is retiring after 40 years in the milling business, even though he may now be president of the company, we get him sacking flour—one of his first jobs. Sometimes we make a rough drawing to show a cameraman how we want the picture framed.

Sometimes it is pretty difficult for a desk man to make a definite assignment with the information at hand. If the photographer uses his head and makes something out of nothing, we favor crediting him. We don't hesitate to send him back after something better if we think he's missed the boat.

Our problem is to improve the quality of the end product. Some sifting of picture ideas is needed, yet we do everything to encourage ideas from our entire staff. We are conducting a "short course" for photographers with one of our news editors meeting regularly with them as a kind of liaison between the news side and cameramen. They discuss things as accurate identifications, how to frame picture for use as one column cuts, and making pictures tell the story.

Maximum Planning

• By HAROLD E. CASSILL
Assistant General Manager,
Spokane Spokesman-Review & Chronicle

On the Chronicle, all photographic assignments (local, sports, society, etc.) are channeled through the city desk, to avoid duplication and to prevent, as much as possible, piling too many assignments on a photographer. Even then, concentration of assignments causes one of our biggest problems. Too often a photographer doesn't have enough time to properly set up a picture. We try to "spread" the assignments so that more time is available for each picture.

Chronicle photographers operate on a tight schedule. That means there must be a maximum of advance planning. They have little time to go on "hunting expeditions"

Greater Specialization By Photographers

• HARDING S. CHRIST
Managing Editor
The Cleveland Press

The Cleveland Press is proud of its increasing use of pictures and consequently proud that the photography staff makes such increased use possible.

We have not hired a new photographer in years. Additions to the staff have come from office boy personnel who showed interest in camera work and who were given an opportunity to practise and obtain experience.

All assignments are made and booked by the city desk, the pulsating center of all newspaper offices and a natural spot for dispersing photographers, as well as reporters, on various assignments.

All departments (women's promotion, etc.) fill in a detailed memo request for a photographer. These memos are listed on the day's hourly schedule. While photographers are assigned by the chief photographer, the desk at all times is informed on a man's whereabouts. The sports department has its own full time photographer.

All men develop and print their own material. Night jobs and Sunday work are undertaken in rotation.

without knowing what is wanted in the picture.

Of course, this doesn't mean that the photographer should not have initiative. It takes intelligent planning to get a good picture and most of that work falls on the photographer. A good news photographer must have a nose for news. There is every effort to have a happy medium between good direction and the use of initiative on the part of the photographer.

There are, of course, marked differences in photographers. The city editor acquires an intimate knowledge of their abilities, weaknesses and fortes. He tries, when possible, to route certain assignments to the photographer who can do best on that type of picture.

The photographers, also, soon acquire an understanding of the city editor's likes and dislikes. They know that informal poses are wanted, and that he particularly dislikes groups in which all are lined up looking right at the camera—especially pictures of planning committees doing no more than that.

Full discussion of assignments of a non-routine nature is undertaken between the cameraman and picture editor, city editor, managing editor or whoever might be interested in the job. If reporters have suggestions they pass them along. If possible they go along on the assignment but the photographer is responsible for the pictures.

We feel our system is good. It keeps a central point advised on a photographer's status. It allows the men time to print. On a fast-breaking story the desk knows who is available and who can leave his work and run.

We would like to move forward in one way. We'd like to have specialists for various assignments without destroying the effectiveness of having men who can cover anything.

Some men prefer aerial work—so we aim to give such jobs to him. Some like society, wedding, food and such assignments—so we aim to allow one man to concentrate on that coverage. Others are best, perhaps, on outdoor pictures. In other words steer assignments to the man who is interested in that particular type of job.

We feel interest means enthusiasm, and enthusiasm can mean a better picture.

Full Instructions

• By ROGER A. CONNOLLY
Managing Editor,
The New Haven Register

A photographer's lot is not a happy one in many newspaper offices. Sometimes he adds to his woes by being a problem child; on the other extreme he is frequently subjected to demands beyond reason.

We try to operate a system between these poles. Our cameramen are controlled by the city desk. On spot news, where circumstances cannot be anticipated, they are given verbal instructions, told to use their own judgment or advised to check with our reporter on the scene as to best shots. Later information may be relayed to them by radio phone to our emergency car and this also enables us to find out what we are getting before the man returns to the office.

All other pictures are taken on the basis of assignment cards made out by the news editor or department heads and filed with the city desk which schedules the workday

for each photographer. These cards must contain time, place, subject, person or publicity man to consult, number and type of pictures wanted. They must note whether they are to be interior or outside shots, groups, individuals and whether prints will be used in a layout or one or two selected from the lot. If a writer is to accompany the cameraman, place of meeting is stated.

The desk is expected to be insistent that all this information be on the card or otherwise return it for clarification. Photographers are also encouraged to demand clear and full instructions before accepting assignments. This reduces uncertainty in advance and limits alibis when results are not satisfactory.

The photographer enters his assignments before leaving the office in our photographers' daybook and completes the record as to films, bulbs and paper drawn and used when the job is completed. Assignment cards are turned in with the prints and must contain caption information by numbers for each print.

No system works unless rigidly enforced. When the desk insists on compliance we are reasonably happy; any relaxing of regulations usually results in breaks all along the line. By trying continually to restrict the field of possible misunderstanding, error and failure, we generally get satisfactory pictures. We prod our photographers to follow the picture magazines, other papers and study technical journals to keep abreast of their business and to pick up new ideas. We encourage them to write because that develops their news sense. We have also had good luck with combination reporter photographers in getting pictures that show alertness and initiative.

Dwight Marvin Heads Education Committee

President McKelway has reappointed Dwight Marvin, Troy Record, as chairman of the Education committee and also ASNE representative on the American Council on Education for Journalism.

A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News, Stephen C. Noland, Indianapolis News, and Walker Stone, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, will serve with Mr. Marvin on the Education Committee.

Mr. McKelway also has named two members to assist on the ACEJ

Harte Edits Work Of Bible Stories

"More widely owned than any other book, why is the Bible not widely read?"

Pondering that question, Houston Harte, publisher of the San Angelo Standard-Times, decided that few people know where to find the most thrilling narratives in the Old Testament, and that the characters seemed more awesome than human.

Out of that idea grew a book, "In His Image," to be published next month by Oxford University Press.

Ministers of seven denominations were asked to name the stories they considered most significant and interesting. From them Mr. Harte selected 26 and edited the King James text only to the extent of eliminating portions which interrupted the flow of the narrative. But to fulfill his idea, he required an artist who could portray Old Testament characters as "they doubtless were in real life, and very much like people we might meet today." He found him in Guy Rowe, best known for his Time magazine covers.

The advertising campaign planned for the book, which will be priced at \$10.00 is likely to make Houston Harte's name as well known throughout the land as it is in the Southwest and in newspaper circles.



Houston Harte

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 312 September 1, 1949

Tate Sparks Campaigns For Village Improvement

Introducing a new member in April, 1947, The Bulletin mentioned that H. Clay Tate, Bloomington Pantagraph, had originated a unique community betterment program for moribund small towns.

Collier's in its July 2, 1949 issue told the full story under the caption "The Old Home Town Fights to Live," crediting Mr. Tate with the plan which was worked out with the help of the University of Illinois. Five towns under 2000 population were enthusiastic guinea pigs, with civic and industrial leaders, and even school children, chipping in ideas on what each community needed, everything from water plants to jive joints.

Collier's reported the experimental stage passed. Mr. Tate's baby has grown to the point where the University has taken over; its offer to put experts to work in other towns brought a rush of applications from communities eager for renaissance.



H. Clay Tate

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 313

October 1, 1949

Committee Heads Report To Board At Fall Meeting

The Board of Directors will hold its semi-annual meeting, and a busy one, October 10 and 11, in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C. Besides conducting routine business, the Board will hear several important reports authorized at its spring meeting, or by the membership at the convention.

Among them will be the report of Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers, on the meeting, in Amsterdam in June, of the International Federation of Newspaper Publishers and Editors which he attended as ASNE representative. One purpose of his mission was to advise on ASNE's continued affiliation with the Federation. The Board previously had voted to join for one year, action that later was endorsed by a membership resolution. Following consideration by the directors, Mr. Miller's report will be printed in The Bulletin.

ASNE cooperation with the Pulitzer Advisory Board also will be on the agenda. The Board last April authorized appointment of a special committee to confer with a committee of the Pulitzer Board "to draft a basis of cooperation for future years." Accordingly, Harry S. Ashmore, Arkansas Gazette, James Kerney, Jr., Trenton Times Newspapers, and W. H. Grimes, Wall Street Journal, met in New York with their opposite numbers and reached agreement on a joint resolution. Three members of the Advisory Board who also are ASNE members, Sevellon Brown, Providence Journal and Bulletin, Dean Carl W. Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism, and Arthur Krock, New York Times, will also discuss the matter at the ASNE board meeting. The full Pulitzer Advisory Board will hold its deliberation on the proposed measure at a meeting later in October.

Lester Markel, New York Times, has been invited to give a progress

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN WANTS IDEAS



KENNETH MAC DONALD

Program chairman for the 1950 convention, in Washington, April 20, 21 and 22, will be Kenneth Mac Donald, executive editor of the Des Moines Register and Tribune, who was elected a director of the Society for the first time last April.

Except for the presidency, this is the most arduous and time-consuming job any member performs for the Society. To plan a program that makes every moment in Washington worthwhile, the chairman needs suggestions from members for shop talks, panel discussions and speakers. And for careful planning, he needs them early.

What's your idea about that 1950 program? If you jot it down now, and airmail to Mr. Mac Donald, he'll have it in time for discussion at the Board meeting.

HERE IS THE FIRST

• By JOSEPH A. LESLIE, JR.
Associate Editor, Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch

I believe the ASNE is suffering from an overdose of Washington. The programs of its meetings are so heavily larded with discussions of affairs related to government that ideas on ways and means of promoting the ethics and skills of journalism often are stifled.

I think the ASNE should devote more time in its meetings to discussing journalism, and now and then it should get away from Washington, and draw its guest speakers from other fields as well as from government.

My most valuable experiences in ASNE meetings, besides the personal contacts with newspapermen, have been discussions of the newspaper business by men who know their business. My least profitable experiences have been those in which learned members in those bleak business sessions have split hairs over resolutions, and in which nothing was accomplished except a display of erudition on

report on the committee he heads which is investigating the possibilities of establishing an International Press Institute, another survey authorized by the Board at its last meeting. Convinced that the project is desirable, Mr. Markel has been exploring its feasibility, and will report on the various approaches his committee has considered.

J. Donald Ferguson, Milwaukee Journal, will confer with the directors on plans for the newly appointed committee, of which he is chairman, "to examine the desirability of sponsoring an appraisal of self-improvement possibilities of American Newspapers." (Story inside.)

Other business includes election of new members and preliminary discussion of the 1950 convention. Communications concerning any matter which members feel should come before the Board at this time should be addressed to the Secretary, Wright Bryan, editor of the Atlanta Journal.

the part of some of the elder statesmen of journalism.

I get inspiration from discussions of journalism by men who make their living by it, but I am inspired scarcely at all, and the tools of my trade are sharpened very little, by off-the-record speeches which reveal nothing that hundreds of Washington correspondents have not known all along. These off-the-record conferences are a delusion. Does anybody really believe that the Secretary of State is going to reveal any secrets before a crowd of 350 strange newspapermen?

An element of vanity is present in these Washington meetings. We like to feel that the President of the United States regards us as important people. But except as a brief play to our vanity, I know of nothing that is ever accomplished by these visits of ours to the White House, or by such an abortive experience as Mr. Truman's visit to us this year.

Such organizations as the American Medical Association devote about 99 per cent of their time to discussing ways and means of advancing their own activities. I think it is proper for the ASNE to be interested in all the broad reach of world affairs. Such an interest is inherent in the calling of the membership. But I believe the Society should devote itself and its incalculable talent more to talking about making newspapers better, and inducing more people to read them. I know of no better way to make journalism a more effective instrument for good in the world, and for keeping everybody free.

(This is the second of a series on Goals of the Society. Others will appear in later issues.)

Another Suggestion

A half day's program devoted to different aspects of labor, it seems to me, might make a very interesting part of next year's convention program. In fact, there are so many facets to this one general subject that a full day's program might be made up of it.

Here's one, among many, possibilities: Most labor publications state, and probably a majority of labor union members believe, that the newspaper of general circulation is unfair to labor in its news reports, if not directly expressing opposition to labor in its editorial columns and by coloration of news reports. Is this belief correct? If the belief is incorrect, how can

newspapers obtain a more understanding and sympathetic attitude on the part of labor union members?

TALBOT PATRICK, Publisher
Rock Hill Evening Herald

And Still Another

May I suggest that you needle the chairman of the next program committee to schedule a discussion of Letters to the Editor. By no means a new theme, as it has been on the schedule at many sessions. But I am increasingly impressed with the importance of this department of newspapers, and with the complicated problems that the building up and maintenance of such a feature involves.

Incidentally, this is not a bid for selection for the handling of the subject. Many members are more competent than I to discuss it.

MELVILLE F. FERGUSON,
Editor, Philadelphia Bulletin

Program Of Journalistic Internships Will Be In Full Swing Next Summer

• By DWIGHT MARVIN, Troy Record
ASNE Education Chairman

Next year the American Council on Education for Journalism expects to have its program of journalistic internships working smoothly. The idea was broached at a meeting of the ACEJ last November. The machinery which was set up started to operate a little too late and it was not properly oiled and tended. As a result we had only about a half dozen interns at work last summer.

The idea is beyond criticism. That it can work is proved by the fact that a similar plan has been in operation for several years in radio. Practically all journalism school teachers are former newspapermen. But most of them have been out of the city room for ten or a dozen years. They have forgotten much of what was a daily habit to them then. They have retained the theory because they are teaching it; but they have grown rusty on the practice.

Inasmuch as the ASNE and the other newspaper organizations created the ACEJ to bring together schools of journalism and newspapers, making each one of more value to the other, we conceived the idea of asking newspapers to make places on their staffs for journalism teachers for ten or

Seven Leave Society

Seven resignations, all due to ineligibility, have been received by Secretary Wright Bryan.

Ralph Coghlan has gone to Europe as foreign correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

A. Vernon Croop, formerly assistant managing editor, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, now heads the Washington Bureau of Gannett Newspapers.

Dale H. Gramley left the Bethlehem (Pa.) Globe-Times to become president of Salem Academy.

Dr. Douglas S. Freeman retired from the editorship of the Richmond News-Leader to devote full time to his historical writing.

James L. Mahoney, Manchester (N. H.) Union, is now promotion manager of the newspaper.

H. R. McLaughlin, Fresno Bee, retired from newspaper work.

John M. McClellan, no longer with the Trentonian, Trenton, N. J.

twelve weeks in the summer, on a living wage, to refurbish their practical acquaintance with news writing and editing. There are new conceptions, new angles, which have not spread out of the city room into the class room. These should be examined and tried out.

Next year we hope to have the internship system running competently. A committee has been selected to begin work this fall and iron out every crease. The chairman of the ACEJ committee is Leslie G. Moeller, dean of the School of Journalism at Iowa State University. He will have working with him Ben Reese of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Allen Merriam of the Dallas Times Herald and any others he may wish to have associated in the work.

Schools will be circularized in ample time for teachers to prepare their affairs for summer work; and newspapers will be approached for cooperation. There is every reason to believe the plan will be successful as most of the teachers and editors invited to participate this year agreed to do so or said it was too late to change summer plans but they would be ready for 1950.

Mr. Moeller will be glad to give additional information if anyone is anxious to begin preparations for participation now.



J. D. FERGUSON



LOUIS B. SELTZER



R. J. FINNEGAN



HORACE HALL



TOM HANES



EDWARD T. LEECH



PAUL C. SMITH



GIDEON SEYMOUR

Ten distinguished members, headed by J. Donald Ferguson, president and editor of the Milwaukee Journal, have accepted appointment to the committee authorized by the Board and named last week by President McKelway. Other members are:

Herbert Brucker, editor, Hartford Courant,

Erwin D. Canham, editor, Christian Science Monitor,

Richard J. Finnegan, editor and publisher, Chicago Sun-Times,

Horace Hall, publisher and editor, Dothan (Ala.) Eagle,

Tom Hanes, managing editor, Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch,

Edward T. Leech, editor and publisher, Pittsburgh Press,

Louis B. Seltzer, editor, Cleveland Press,

Gideon Seymour, executive editor, Minneapolis Star and Tribune,

Paul C. Smith, editor and general manager, San Francisco Chronicle.

As an initial step, Mr. Ferguson will confer with the Board in Washington on the specific "terms of reference" for the committee and the scope of its inquiry.

President McKelway has told members of the committee that while the Board will decide such matters in detail, they probably will be asked to review the findings

"RESOLVED, That the ASNE authorizes its President to appoint a committee to examine the desirability of sponsoring an appraisal of self-improvement possibilities of American newspapers, and that this report be submitted to the Society before further action is taken."—Adopted by Board of Directors, April 20.



HERBERT BRUCKER



ERWIN D. CANHAM

of the recent report of the British Royal Commission on the Press, the less recent Hutchins report, the panel discussion on self-improvement conducted earlier this year under auspices of Editor & Publisher, and other developments in the same category.

A report from the ASNE committee to the membership on the general subject of suggested self-improvement methods, he said, should stimulate discussion of the subject and perhaps lead to some new undertaking by the Society.

It is hoped that at least a preliminary report by the committee will be available for discussion at the convention next April.

President Names New Committees

George Cornish, managing editor of the New York Herald Tribune, has been named chairman of the committee to investigate the State Department's methods of furnishing information to the press. This special committee was authorized by the Board at its spring meeting. Working with Mr. Cornish will be:

Walter Lister, managing editor, Philadelphia Bulletin,

Maclean Patterson, general managing editor, Baltimore Sun,

J. Russell Wiggins, managing editor, Washington Post.

Alexander F. Jones, assistant to the publisher of the Washington Post, and ASNE second vice president, heads the Washington committee. Other members are:

John T. O'Rourke, editor, Washington Daily News,

Walker Stone, editor, Scripps Howard Alliance, Washington,

Frank Waldrop, editor-in-chief, Washington Times-Herald,

J. Russell Wiggins, managing editor, Washington Post.

FEATURE POLL ASKED

How about members of the Society operating a continuous poll in features and comics for their mutual benefit, with box scores similar to that maintained by radio with its features?

The ANPA maintains the continuous study survey but those reports are widely spaced and include all contents of the paper.

I would suggest that this service of box scores could be handled through the Confidential Clearing House which could keep all of us constantly alert as to what is clicking in the feature and comic field.

JOHN J. MEAD, JR.
The Erie Daily Times

OVERPLAY?

Are newspapers giving readers an overdose of the Vice President's romance or am I the only woman in the world who can wait, not at all breathlessly, for an official announcement?

Answers from members:

Herbert Corn, Washington Star: I don't agree with you. Of course Washington is more than mildly interested. Furthermore I still like to listen to the September Song and Mr. Barkley seems to sing it quite well.

★ ★ ★

Harry Withers, Dallas News: I'd say the Veep's romance has been overdone but your sex would not agree. Who can say whether we should give them what they want or just what we think is good for them?

Some of the stories about Barkley's St. Louis visits remind me of the cackling of geese and, besides, probably are an invasion of his privacy which must be repugnant to him.

★ ★ ★

J. Curtis Lyons, Petersburg Progress-Index: Let the Veep court contentedly, without so much prying by the press. Mr. Barkley certainly is entitled to woo the widow without having reporters giving date-by-date and dance-by-dance accounts of it.

I don't think the public is too greatly concerned over how long it will take him and/or his fair lady to make up their minds.

If newspapers continue to feed their readers with almost daily reports of the romance, if and when he does "pop the question" the story will be as flat as Britain's pocketbook.

★ ★ ★

Milton Tabor, Topeka Capital: Maybe some readers are getting a little weary of the Veep and his widow, but just overlook it and here come complaints from the romantic-minded subscribers. Most editors gagged on the Rita Hayworth-Aly Khan stuff, but readers ate it up.

What notable people are doing rates as news, even in an ultra-conservative newspaper like the Daily Capital. The very fact that the aging "Dear Alben" has broken out of the Vice Presidential monastery and taken after a comely

NEW MEMBERS

Time is short, but applications for membership submitted now might reach the Board in time to be voted on at its meeting this month. Requests for blanks should be addressed to the membership chairman, Edward Lindsay, editor, The Herald and Review, Decatur, Illinois.

widow is human interest news, always a natural. Women readers go for love stories whether of the sordid type or on higher levels.

Perhaps we are prejudiced in favor of a fellow-Kentuckian, but when a Vice President makes news, it rates a play because of the novelty. If Barkley elopes with the widow, it will make banner headlines everywhere. Just you wait and see!

★ ★ ★

Editorial in the Jersey Journal, from J. Albert Dear: All the world loves a lover, and that's why Vice President Barkley's gallant attentions to a certain lady—in spite of all the attendant publicity—is a most appealing human interest story. Barkley may be annoyed that the reporters keep such close tabs on his personal affairs; but, after all, it is rather a compliment to a man of his age that he should be suspected of a little innocent sparking. And surely the lady recognizes the compliment intended when the news keeps intimating that she is captivating.

Walter W. Krebs Honored

Walter W. Krebs, president and editor of the Johnstown Tribune, has been appointed by Governor James H. Duff to the newly created Pennsylvania Highway Planning Commission. The group, which serves without compensation, will make a year-long study of facts necessary for the development of a long-range highway program for the Commonwealth.

1924 Proceedings Sought

The Charles Deering Library at Northwestern University is seeking a copy of the 1924 Proceedings to fill out a set, but the ASNE supply for that year is exhausted. If any member has a spare copy he is willing to donate to the library, please advise the Secretary.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PRESIDENT	
B. M. McKELWAY	Washington Star
1st VICE-PRESIDENT	
DWIGHT YOUNG	Dayton Journal Herald
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT	
ALEXANDER F. JONES	Washington Post
SECRETARY	
WRIGHT BRYAN	Atlanta Journal
TREASURER	
DWIGHT PERRIN	Syracuse Herald-Journal

The Board of Directors consists of the officers and the following:

L. R. BLANCHARD	Gannett Newspapers
ERWIN D. CANHAM	Christian Science Monitor
VIRGINIUS DABNEY	Richmond Times-Dispatch
WILBUR FORREST	New York Herald Tribune
OVETA CULP HOBBS	Houston Post
N. R. HOWARD	Cleveland News
JENKIN LLOYD JONES	Tulsa Tribune
DAVID LAWRENCE	U. S. News & World Report
KENNETH MACDONALD	Des Moines Register & Tribune
HAMILTON OWENS	Baltimore Sun

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 313 October 1, 1949

Correction

To The Editor:

The September Bulletin makes me the victim of a somewhat disturbing typographical error.

On page four, dealing with a very delicate and controversial topic (the Illinois investigation) you have the State Register saying, in the final paragraph: "These men demonstrated that editorial integrity and faithful public service can be synchronized with sacrifice of duty in meeting either responsibility."

It should read: "... can be synchronized withOUT sacrifice of duty in meeting either responsibility."

V. Y. DALLMAN, Editor
Illinois State Register

'Aspirin Age' Reporters

Three ASNE members were among the authors selected to write chapters concerning "people or happenings they know most about" for Simon and Schuster's "The Aspirin Age." Hodding Carter, Greenville, (Miss.) Delta Times-Democrat covers Huey Long; Roscoe Drummond, Christian Science Monitor, contributes a study of Wendell Willkie, and Jonathan Daniels, Raleigh News and Observer, concludes the book with "Pearl Harbor Sunday."

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 314

November 1, 1949

1949 BANQUET PLAN RETAINED; CONVENTION IDEAS EXPLORED

Tickets to the annual banquet of the Society, April 22, in Hotel Statler, Washington, again will be limited to four for each member, with the best tables assigned to those who take fewer.

The directors' cocktail party for new members was a success and will be repeated.

Those were the only definite decisions concerning the convention, which opens on Thursday, April 20, made by the Board of Directors at its meeting in Washington, October 10 and 11.

Not that more important considerations were ignored. On the contrary, program possibilities were explored at length. Banquet speaker, White House conference. Value of off-the-record meetings. Tuning some government discussions to state and local level. The comic strip situation. But selection of topics and speakers was left to the program chairman, Kenneth MacDonald, Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Mr. MacDonald said that he already has received many suggestions from members and is open to more. He expressed puzzlement over the cleavage in opinion on off-the-record meetings. Some like them, some don't, and he suspects that a poll of the entire membership would be as close as the Washington-San Francisco vote.

Their value to him, personally, he said is not that officials tell top-drawer secrets, since they don't and can't be expected to, but that if a man is not being directly quoted, he talks more freely and intimately. In doing so, he provides background information that often can be used, without source. On the other hand, an official who is on the record, usually reads his speech, eyes on the manuscript and not the audience.

Mr. MacDonald made clear that he thinks off-the-record talks can be overdone; and that he's aware that some members object to them at the convention because they are

trying to lick abuses of the practice at home. But one or two, yes, he's in favor of them. The Board inclined to agree.

Revised Basis For Participation In Pulitzer Prize Judging Proposed

These are the current developments in the complex problem of arriving at a basis for future co-operation in the matter of Pulitzer prize juries:

Your board endorsed a resolution adopted by the special ASNE exploratory committee following conferences with a similar committee representing the Pulitzer Advisory Board. The ASNE committee consisted of Harry S. Ashmore, Arkansas Gazette, James J. Kerney, Trenton Times, and W. H. Grimes, Wall Street Journal.

The resolution is now being submitted to the full Pulitzer Board with the request that it communicate its decision to ASNE in time to be presented to the membership at the April convention.

Meanwhile, the status quo maintains, and President McKelway will appoint seven two-man juries for the 1949 awards.

Principal provisions of the resolution are:

Members of the ASNE advisory juries are to select at least three and preferably five nominations in each category "without designation of relative merit, which selections shall be made public at the time of the final awards."

To give the broadest scope to the competition, neither the advisory juries nor the Advisory Board are restricted to nominations officially submitted, "and it is understood that the Advisory Board in its final action is not limited to the recommended lists submitted by the screening committee."

Juries are advised that their reports "must not take the form of final decision" because, under the

THIS issue of The Bulletin covers the activities of the Board of Directors at its semi-annual meeting, Oct. 10 and 11, in Washington, D. C.

Pulitzer will, that responsibility lies with the Advisory Board. They may make confidential comments, "not, however, as to a first award to the Advisory Board in connection with their recommendations."

A memorandum written for the Board by Mr. Ashmore reveals that his committee went into the subject with great thoroughness. He polled the 44 members who have served as jurors since 1947 and, finding only five completely satisfied with participation, with others dissatisfied to varying degrees, concluded that "This is too large an area of disagreement to be ignored."

On the other side of the problem, Mr. Ashmore pointed out that the will of Joseph Pulitzer definitely charges the Advisory Board with selecting the prize-winners; and that while, as Kent Cooper observed at the conference, ideally the Board should do its own spadework, the task has grown until it is beyond its capacity to handle.

The possibility of improving the mechanics of judging also was discussed at the joint conference, Mr. Ashmore said. He added that the proposal to publish the ASNE recommendation was suggested by Mr. Kerney as a feasible method of defining the area of ASNE participation and of increasing the prestige of the prizes.

The conferences, Mr. Ashmore stressed, were entirely amicable.

The same spirit of earnest co-operation prevailed when the directors discussed the problem with Mr. Kerney and three Pulitzer Board representatives. These were Dean Carl W. Ackerman, Arthur Krock and Sevellon Brown.

19 New Members Elected By Board; Total Is Now 517

Nineteen new members, including five from cities under 50,000 population, were elected by the Board:

John J. Brady, managing editor, Wilmington (Del.) Morning News
Tomme C. Call, associate editor, San Antonio Express

James F. Carroll, associate editor, Dayton Journal Herald

John H. Colburn, managing editor, Richmond Times-Dispatch

Wayne Freeman, editor, Greenville (S.C.) Piedmont

Gerald A. Harshman, editorial director, Sharon (Pa.) Herald

Alex McCullough, managing editor, Spartanburg (S.C.) Herald

John S. Moore, Jr., managing editor, Dayton Journal Herald

Joe Parham, editor, Macon News

Donald W. Reynolds, editor and publisher, Southwest American-Times Record, Fort Smith, Ark.

Charles E. Scripps, associate editor, Cincinnati Post

Paul Linwood Smith, managing editor, Woonsocket (R.I.) Call

Egbert S. Turner, Sunday editor, Syracuse Herald-Journal

Carl Daniel Weimer, managing editor, Greenville (S.C.) News

The five from smaller cities are:

Whitley Austin, editor, Salina (Kan.) Journal

Rebecca F. Gross, editor, Lock Haven (Pa.) Express

W. Earl Hall, editor, Mason City (Iowa) Globe-Gazette

John M. McClelland, Jr., Longview (Wash.) Daily News

Roy Pinkerton, editorial director, Ventura (Calif.) Star-Free Press

The next election will be by mail ballot of the Board, just prior to the April convention. Only editors from cities over 50,000 population can be admitted at that time, as the by-laws permit only five a year from smaller cities.

Application blanks may be obtained from the membership chairman, Edward Lindsay, editor, The Herald and Review, Decatur, Ill.

Other members of the committee are: John H. Carter, editor, New Era, Lancaster, Pa.; Walter R. Humphrey, editor, Fort Worth Press; Harold Cassill, assistant general manager, Spokane Spokesman-Review; and Judson Chapman, executive editor, The News and Piedmont, Greenville, S.C.

Local pride being what it is, the membership chairman is beset by applicants who claim their cities are well over the 50,000 mark, although E&P Yearbook places them under. Edward Lindsay, Decatur Herald and Review, questioned one of the current applications on that score.

The applicant, Donald W. Reynolds, editor and publisher of the Southwest American-Times Record, countered with a photostatic copy of an affidavit from the Bureau of Census certifying that the population of Fort Smith is now 50,724.

His point won, the Board elected him without further ado.

HOW BIG?

With membership at 517, grown from 243 in 1939, Jenkin Lloyd Jones raised the question whether a limit is desirable. The Board authorized the president to appoint a committee to explore the situation from all angles.

Such a measure was proposed in 1947 by A. M. Piper, Council Bluffs Nonpareil, then membership chairman. When membership was at 500, Mr. Piper wrote The Bulletin urging that it be kept there.

"That would probably keep attendance at conventions down to about 400, which is plenty big enough," he said.

"Membership in ASNE should be highly prized which it probably won't be so long as almost any editor from a 50,000 population city is elected without question.

"My idea would be to elect members only to fill vacancies, caused by deaths or resignation, from a waiting list of applicants approved by the Board of Directors."

Other members agree with Paul A. Schrader, Toledo Blade that (Jan. 1949, Bulletin): "The only safe limitation is qualification. ASNE's goal should be to enroll every qualified editor so that journalism may be better able to raise its standards and combat its enemies."

Press Freedom Source Book

Just published by the European Affairs Division of the Library of Congress is a 153 page selective report on recent writing relative to world freedom of information. It presents a wide selection of typical arguments chiefly stressed in currently expressed thought; documented and indexed. For information write Harry J. Krould, chief of the division.

Journalism Teachers To Attend Convention

Furthering cooperation with schools of journalism, the Board decided to invite five journalism teachers to the April convention as guests. ("Paying guests" Treasurer Perrin interpolated.)

They will attend primarily to observe, and to make or renew acquaintance with editors, but they will participate in the program if it fits in with the chairman's plans.

Choice of teacher representatives will be left to their own organization, with the understanding that if the practice is continued delegates should be rotated each year to give different teachers an opportunity to attend.

The Board also plans to invite two Canadian editors to attend the convention. The selected delegates will be members of the Canadian editorial organization.

Resolution Suggestion

In a letter to the Board, Frank Clarvoe, resolutions chairman, made several suggestions for handling of this session at the convention. Among them, he suggested printing in The Bulletin a summary of resolutions proposed, so that members might study them in advance of the meeting. The Board agreed that this might clarify membership discussion. It would still permit resolutions from the floor, as required by the by-laws.

Members who, in the next few months, have ideas about subjects on which the Society should take action next April should address them to Mr. Clarvoe at the San Francisco News.

The Hotel Room Situation

On the basis of last year's registration, the Hotel Statler has set aside 300 rooms for members attending the convention, April 20-22, 1950. These will be held for us definitely.

However, to the D.A.R., something else has been added—the District's Sesquicentennial. Washington will be even more overcrowded than usual. Therefore, members who prefer to stay at hotels other than the Statler, and some do, will be wise to make their reservations early.

Miller Reports on Amsterdam Meeting Of International Newspaper Federation

After consideration of a detailed report submitted by Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers, on the meeting of the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers in Amsterdam last June, the Board decided to postpone until spring the decision on the form that ASNE affiliation should take.

The improved mutual understanding among newspapermen all over the free world provided by such an organization is obviously desirable, Mr. Miller said and the ASNE Board members seemed to agree.

As to the composition of the international organization, Mr. Miller observed that "There is perhaps a greater community of interest between the ANPA and the Federation than between the Federation and the ASNE." He recommended that both should be represented in F.I.E.J. and suggested some working arrangement for splitting expenses of a joint delegate. This suggestion is being explored by the ASNE Board.

Digest of Miller Report

The Congress was a sort of combination American Press Institute session at Columbia, an ASNE debate on the Voice of America, and the annual Waldorf dinner of ANPA's Bureau of Advertising!

The Congress represented neither the best nor otherwise of all these. To many it might have suggested no such comparison at all; this is the reaction and report of just one delegate.

Prior to the Amsterdam meeting, a number of report assignments were made by the program committee. These involved the gathering and compiling of information on newsprint supplies; production, advertising and circulation costs and problems; international cable and wireless rates and services; freedom of information, and a United Nations proposal for setting up an "International Institute of Press and Information" at Paris.

Reports on all these matters were presented by the authors at Amsterdam. Netherlands hospitality was wonderful and physical arrangements excellent.

Delegates were seated at a U-shaped table, interpreters and re-

porters being placed at a rostrum beyond the open end of the "U." Telephone headsets were provided at each place around the table. One picked up his head-set for an English translation of a French discourse, for example, or of a Netherlands or Italian speech.

The Congress:

1. Arranged for each delegation to designate a "correspondent on newsprint" to keep a central chairman—G. van der Borgh of Belgium—advised of any noteworthy newsprint developments. Van der Borgh is to compile the reports for the general secretary who will make them available to all as and if deemed desirable.

2. Adopted a resolution deploring legislation held inimical to press freedom and reasserting determination of the press of free countries to oppose such legislation anywhere.

3. Urged the International Telecommunications Conference, in session at Paris at the time, to help the cause of international understanding by encouraging an even greater interchange of information through improved news transmission facilities at cheaper preferential rates.

4. Approved further study of the proposal for an International Institute of Press and Information but on a scale more modest than that outlined by UNESCO aides.

5. Decided to repeat individual assignments of this year at the 1950 Congress, in hope the Amsterdam discussions would have paved the way for a more general response and hence significant compilations next time.

6. Heard reports on thus far futile efforts of French Newspapers to get the French Press Agency out of government control; and applauded a Belgian report on newspapers' success in a similar move in Belgium.

7. Discussed and took no action on a French provincial proposal to censure newspapers sponsoring elaborate give-away contests.

8. Re-elected all officers (including Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor, vice president).

9. Accepted the Italian delegation's invitation to hold the next Congress at Rome in May or June of 1950.

Ferguson Hears Board On Self-Improvement

John D. Ferguson, Milwaukee Journal, was invited to the meeting to hear the Board's discussion of the terms of reference of the committee to examine the desirability of sponsoring an appraisal of self-improvement possibilities of American newspapers.

At President McKelway's request, 13 directors contributed their ideas (13 different ones, naturally) of what direction the study might take.

The Board agreed that the approach should be positive; that the project is one of the most important ever undertaken by the Society; and that details can safely be left in the hands of Mr. Ferguson and his able committee.

Mr. McKelway expressed the hope that by April the group can bring in a report which, while not definitive, will be extremely provocative.

Proceedings Of Past Years Still Available

As instructed by the Board, the treasurer set the price of the 1949 Proceedings at cost, \$3 for non-members or for members who want extra copies.

A limited number of most back issues is available to libraries or members who wish to fill out incomplete sets, at the former price, \$2.

Orders should be sent to the secretary, Wright Bryan, editor, Atlanta Journal, Atlanta 2, Ga.

Elapsed time between ordering and receipt is about two weeks as the books must be shipped from Minneapolis. That postmark frequently puzzles members, but there's a reason for it.

The Society had no adequate repository for its records so, several years ago when Basil L. Walters, then executive editor of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, was secretary, he arranged with the University of Minnesota to store ASNE records in the dust-proof vaults of its new journalism building.

Year after year, Dr. Ralph Casey, director of the school, serves as unofficial custodian of our archives. On order of the secretary, he ships copies of The Proceedings. This is a goodwill, non-profit service for which the Society is deeply indebted.

Perrin Reports Expenses Up But Balance Is Good

Dwight S. Perrin, treasurer, reported that operating costs have gone up in the past six months. Unusual expenses were incurred in connection with the F.I.E.J. conference in Amsterdam, the Baltimore contempt case, San Francisco ballot, special committee conferring on Pulitzer prizes, and miscellany, totaling \$2,071.

In spite of this increase the treasurer reported a total balance of \$17,982. The Board authorized him to invest up to \$5,000. in U. S. government bonds.

Mr. Perrin also announced seven members delinquent in dues. They will be given a period of grace before Art. II, Par. 8 of the constitution (non-payment is cause for forfeiting membership) is enforced.

Such an announcement always brings several frantic "Am I among them?" inquiries. Relax. The seven delinquents will be dunned.

Financial statement for the six months period, April 1 through September 30, 1949, follows:

BALANCE—April 1

U. S. Savings Bonds....	\$ 2,500.00
Troy Savings Bank.....	2,083.22
Riggs National Bank....	18,562.70
	\$23,145.92

RECEIPTS

Dues from members....	\$12,350.00
Bulletin subscriptions ..	37.50
Sales of Proceedings...	66.25
Miscellaneous	5.50
Interest (U. S. Bonds)...	31.25
Convention receipts	4,992.50
(collected during period)	

\$17,483.00

DISBURSEMENTS

A.C.E.J.	\$ 400.00
Officers' expenses	206.05
Officers' secretaries ..	881.82
Bulletin (including salary of assistant sec.)	3,458.85
Proceedings expense ...	1,896.02
Miscellaneous expense ..	2,071.60
Convention expense	13,731.02
Convention ex. (1950) ..	1.45

\$22,646.81

BALANCE (Sept. 30) \$17,982.11

George B. Parker

News of the death of George B. Parker, editor-in-chief of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, reached the directors at the opening session of the Board, on Monday, October 10.

The Washington Daily News that afternoon gave its front page to an editorial about him, from which the following quotes are taken:

"We never knew a man in whose integrity, personal and professional, we had more unflinching confidence. His own opinions were strong, but he had genuine respect for the views of others. When 'Deac' Parker helped us to think through a problem his advice was always on the side of tolerance and truth."

"He believed that a newspaper should serve one interest, and one only—the best interest of its readers. He never chose to follow any course because it seemed expedient."

"He had faith in the kind of democracy that is spelled with a small 'd'. His last editorial was a demand that the public be fully informed about the current Air Force-Navy-Army controversy."

"We would prefer the opinion of the American people on this question of national safety—after the light has been turned on," he wrote. "That, in accord with Abraham Lincoln's idea that everybody knows more than anybody."

Mr. Parker, who was 63, is survived by two children, George B. Jr., and Mary. Mrs. Parker died last June.

Index of Proceedings And History Proposed

Officers, committee chairmen and members frequently need background information about the Society but no one today knows all that has gone before. With that in mind, the directors authorized Mr. McKelway to appoint a committee to explore the feasibility and cost of indexing past Proceedings, from the first in 1922. A resume of Board minutes, and a brief history of the Society might also be included. This would be in book form, a companion piece to the annual "Problems of Journalism."

The Board suggested that the committee might consider whether the expense could be met by sales to members, journalism schools

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and others who might use the book for research.

Would you, for instance, buy it? Comments submitted now will be turned over to the committee when it is appointed.

Press Box Wire Facilities

Basil L. Walters, Knight newspapers, chairman of the committee on freedom of information, addressed a memorandum to the Board regarding American and National League contracts, giving Western Union exclusive rights to communications from the press box. It is impossible, he said, for newspapers or anyone else to install telephones.

The Board asked President McKelway to write newspapers in cities affected inquiring whether the ban is of major concern to them, and also to write the baseball commissioner inquiring into the background of the rule.

Personal Notes

Oveta Culp Hobby was unable to attend the Board meeting. Only other member absent was Wilbur Forrest; he traditionally dedicates the second week in October to duck-hunting.

Mr. and Mrs. McKelway entertained the directors at dinner in their home on Monday evening of the Board meeting.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 315

December 1, 1949

DOES SOCIETY NEED MEMBERSHIP LIMIT?

JENKIN LLOYD JONES, Wright Bryan and L. R. Blanchard have been named to a committee, authorized by the Board of Directors, to study the question: Should we limit the number of members in ASNE?

But first, what does the membership think? At Mr. Jones' suggestion, a cross section of members has been queried.

Some opinions appear in this issue; others received have been forwarded to the committee; still others are sought as guidance to the group which will bring in its recommendation at the next Board meeting.

Comments may be addressed to Mr. Jones at the Tulsa Tribune or to the Office of the Bulletin.

NO —

• By JAMES A. STUART
Editor, The Indianapolis Star

When the ASNE was launched in 1922 the charter list was signed by 90 editors. By the time the first annual meeting was held in Washington on April 27-28, 1923, 30 names had been added, including my own. In the 27 years that have passed, the total has grown to 512, as reported last April.

At our first meeting Dave Smiley, chairman of the membership committee, said in his report it was the feeling of the committee that every newspaper eligible under the rules should have at least one member of the Society. He urged the cooperation of all members in making recommendations and securing applications where desirable, as most every membership chairman has done since. No doubt we are approaching the goal of representation for every eligible newspaper, but I doubt if it will ever be attained. Some just will not join.

I think those who say the ASNE is overcrowded think more of the final banquet problem than attendance at the program meetings. Maybe we should limit the banquet to two tickets to each member. Or else install television in that rear room where I have so often sat.

If Washington hotels can't handle the ASNE, there are other cities that can. I thought we should have gone to San Francisco next year. Certainly the guest list at the annual banquet

SIMPLE SOLUTION

I think the problem would pretty nearly solve itself if, for a couple of years, the presidents would instruct their membership committees not to seek new members in any way, be inactive and become a drone committee. — ROY A. ROBERTS, Kansas City Star.

would not be so large away from Washington.

But the issue of overcrowding and inconvenience is beside the point. What is the ASNE for? Its founders had the idea it would represent all of the free press of America. If an editor qualifies under the present membership rules, on what ground could he be put on a waiting list? There are some 1700 daily papers, and very few can qualify for four members in ASNE, not many more for two, and the majority would have only one. Maybe the committee exploring the membership problem will find we have reached the peak, or that it may never go beyond 600 or 700. A thousand members would not be too many to give expression to the ideals of a free press. Those who say that would cheapen the honor of belonging to an organization that is the most powerful voice in America—well, they don't hold as high an estimate of the loyalty of the average newspaper editor to his profession as I do.

If we have tried to put on too much of a show in Washington, we can correct that. But a membership restriction other than by qualifications as at present would violate the spirit and the ideals of ASNE.

YES —

• By EDWARD LINDSAY
Decatur Herald and Review
ASNE 1949 Membership Chairman

Membership in the ASNE probably needs to be checked. Ever growing membership tends to limit participation in programs and activities to a small percentage of the members. Inevitably it formalizes discussion and tends to reduce all gatherings to a dead level of set programs.

This said, we are faced with the really difficult problem of devising a formula that will make the membership represent the best editorial brains of the country. This can't be done by any automatic formula.

The membership limitation for towns of 50,000 has resulted in a waiting list. There is a tendency on the part of membership committees and boards to consider these applications in the order of their dates. Whenever it becomes necessary to skip an outstanding small-paper editor over older applicants, all concerned are haunted by the fear that they may have been unfair to those who have been passed over because of limited information. How long are we justified in keeping William Allen Whites cooling their heels in our corridor, if there are any more William Allen Whites?

The limitation for towns of 75,000 has the same effect.

These automatic formulas become increasingly burdensome to those who have membership responsibility when considered against the comparatively open

ended rules applicable to larger cities.

A glance through the last published membership roster is revealing. The titles (and I realize that titles are not necessarily an index to editorial responsibilities) make the point.

Another test of membership might be by states against electoral votes, Washington, D. C. excepted. There is no magic in the electoral vote formula, God knows, except that it is another effort to meet the same objective of limiting membership without sacrificing representation. Moreover, it is a formula based on population, which is one of the elements the Society has played with in its formula for qualification.

Let's go down the list (the first figure is ASNE membership, and the second is electoral votes):

Ala. 9	11	Neb. 5	6
Ariz. 3	4	Nev. 1	3
Ark. 2	9	N. H. 2	4
Cal. 23	25	N. J. 20	16
Col. 4	6	N. M. 2	4
Conn. 14	8	N. Y. 58	47
Del. 3	3	N. C. 10	14
D. C. 16	—	N. D. 3	4
Fla. 12	8	Ohio 38	25
Ga. 9	12	Okl. 6	10
Ida. 1	4	Ore. 5	6
Ill. 18	28	Pa. 39	35
Ind. 16	13	R. I. 4	4
Iowa 8	10	S. C. 6	8
Kan. 9	8	S. D. 3	4
Ky. 6	11	Tenn. 10	12
La. 8	10	Tex. 23	23
Me. 2	5	Utah 1	4
Md. 7	8	Vt. 2	3
Mass. 16	16	Va. 12	11
Mich. 23	19	Wash. 5	8
Minn. 10	11	W. Va. 6	8
Miss. 3	9	Wis. 6	12
Mo. 15	15	Wyo. 1	3
Mont. 1	4	T. H. 3	—

Totals ... 509 531

You will see from this that the 1949 membership roster, plus the applicants voted upon at the October meeting of the Board, and minus the distinguished service members, would approximately equal the Congressional idea of a representative number of Americans.

In other ways the list may not be representative. Sparsely settled states, as a general rule, are under-represented in the Society.

While I am a Sun-papers fan, I am not sure that it is entirely cricket for competency in journalism to rest exclusively in Maryland on their broad shoulders.

In Minnesota, the Society is represented by but one outside of the

fine Cowles and Ridder organizations.

In the single member states—Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming—only one was present at the last meeting. New Hampshire and Vermont, which have two members each, were not at the meeting.

Three members seem to be the mystic number for stimulating interest in Society activities. Arizona, Mississippi and South Dakota had 100% attendance of their three members each, and North Dakota had two of its three members present. Hawaii's three members might be excused on account of distance, and the dock strikes.

After thumbing through the roster, I am inclined to feel that we could be too hasty in making drastic changes in the membership rules. I do think it would be desirable if some limitation is placed on the number of representatives from a single newspaper, no matter how large. I should think that after a number is arrived at, the Board should have some discretionary power so that the Society would not risk losing some of its distinguished names who might feel compelled, by the pressure of a limitations rule, to make way for younger and more active members of their staffs.

MISCONCEPTIONS

"Why not limit banquet tickets to members attending the meetings?"

That's done already. Strict rule, broken only once in a long while, in emergency cases.

"Why isn't the amendment requiring attendance at conventions rigidly enforced?"

That proposed amendment was withdrawn, April 1948. (Anyway, members who stay away don't take up space at the banquet!)

"How about limiting the new members from cities of 50,000 or more to some specific number, say ten?"

Little help there. Only four cities have ten or more: New York, 19; Washington, 16; Cleveland, 11; St. Louis, 10. Others: Chicago, 9; Baltimore, 7; Los Angeles, 4; Boston, 4; Philadelphia, 3; Buffalo, 3.

"We have taken in some men who do not actually engage in editorial writing."

According to Par. 1, Art. II of by-laws, membership is open to "directing editors," not necessarily "writing editors."

Restrictions Unfair

• By PHILIP H. PARRISH
Portland Oregonian

I can see no justice in closing ASNE to editors whose qualifications are equal to those of us who belong. On the other hand, I long for the earlier intimacy. That seems to place me with the merely confused.

However, I would have to vote against restrictions, since these would be unfair, and growth already has gone to the point where restrictions could not restore the past.

Maybe we had better leave the decision on membership to the next depression.

Pro and Con —

Limitation of membership to one member from each newspaper occurs to me as one way to keep the organization from becoming so large as to impair its effectiveness. — DONALD J. STERLING, Oregon Journal.

★ ★ ★

Yes, let's limit. If the Society continues to grow and grow in numbers, our debates may drop to the level of the House and our assemblies may become just as unwieldy. — JOHN SUTLIVE, Savannah Evening Press.

★ ★ ★

I am definitely NOT for a ceiling on ASNE membership. Who knows some NEW members might bring some NEW ideas into the organization and that would be helpful, even though embarrassing! — W. R. WALTON, South Bend Tribune.

★ ★ ★

Yes, I believe the number should be limited. Too many on the roll makes for less active participation by members in proceedings of the Society. Too many members reduces significance of, and interest in, membership. Too many members makes conventions generally less rewarding. — McCLELLAN VAN DER VEER, Birmingham News-Age-Herald.

★ ★ ★

I think the present limitations on membership are about right, that is those involving the applicant's newspaper position and the size of his paper. — M. H. WILLIAMS, Worcester Telegram-Gazette.

'We Ain't No 400' or 'Snooty Royal Family'

Ceilings went out with OPA and let ASNE avoid them, on membership, if not on dues.

As long as there are good editors applying, we ought to take them in. And even more should we admit lesser ones who can profit most by association with the Society and study of its ideals.

The Society can't be exclusive if it wants to avoid dry rot. We ain't no "400," I hope.

Or is the banquet our main endeavor? I think not. — WILLIAM J. WOODS, Utica Observer-Dispatch.

The Good Old Days

• By J. VANCE
New Britain Herald

I remember what I believe to be the first dinner of our organization—in the old Willard Hotel, then the "New Willard" I believe. President Harding was our guest speaker and there were not more than 150 guests and members present. It was a "chummy" little personal affair with everyone pretty well acquainted and on close terms with each other. The Society grew over the years and became increasingly unwieldy until it has reached its present membership.

I am getting older, more easily tired, and the meetings, particularly the dinners, are beginning to pall on me, because of their lack of contacts that used to exist. That point has been reached and passed. The Society is undoubtedly a powerful force in the newspaper world and, therefore in American society—but it isn't what it used to be to me.

I can suggest no means of lowering the membership roll without doing may people an injustice—we cannot go back to the good old days. I believe, though, that it might be possible to control the future membership and keep the organization from bursting its seams entirely by requiring that but one individual from a given newspaper should be a member. Or possibly allow one more from the largest papers. Of course you cannot suspend the duplicate memberships already in existence, but the plan might help.

I am all for the Society, proud to have been a member so long, and glory in its achievements, but I also regret the days when we were all much younger.

Letters to Editor Suggest Editorials

Many readers who hesitate to write letters to the editor want an avenue for their expressions, so they call up to ask, "Why don't you write an editorial about . . . ?"

Using that familiar question as a standing head, H. Clay Tate began using such suggestions in the editorial column of the Bloomington Pantagraph. Topics cover the usual local gripes, about garbage collection, dogs in flower beds, smoking on buses, and so on.

"We try to give the treatment a humorous touch," Mr. Tate reports. "Often we can get across a point better this way than we could through straight editorial treatment. The feature runs only when a topic is suggested, and I believe it is the best read item on the editorial page."

★ ★ ★

A small but potent editorial feature appears daily on the front page of the Wilkes-Barre Times-Leader Evening News. Entitled "Little Studies" it is written by the editor, John J. McSweeney, and anything that happens around town is grist for his mill. He's constantly on the alert for human interest stories, from the ex-GI who is desperate for a job, to the lost pocketbook that lay on the corner untouched by passersby who were too smart to pick up a purse—on April Fool's Day.

Twice a week he turns his column over to readers to sound off about anything they please; letter on the front page—that's a real thrill!

McGovern Honored at 80

James L. McGovern was doubly honored at the Connecticut Associated Press meeting in New Britain, Nov. 17. He was re-elected as president of the circuit, and observed his 80th birthday. Associate editor of the Bridgeport Post-Telegram, Mr. McGovern is one of only eight charter members of ASNE who are still on the rolls.

No Friday Night Session

For the first time in three years there will be no Friday night session at the convention, April 20-22 in Hotel Statler, Washington, D.C. This decision has been made by the program chairman, Kenneth MacDonald, in response to members' pleas for one free evening.

The Real Problem

• By CARL E. BRAZIER
The Seattle Times

Why doesn't the ASNE face up to the real trouble? Isn't all this chatter about limiting the number of members the direct result of the annual dinner-ticket demand outgrowing the supply? Why not approach it from that angle and cut down the individual allotment of tickets?

Personally, I'm against any restriction on the number of members; the only restriction should be a strict observance of eligibility requirements as now set forth in the rule-book. The more actual working editors enrolled in the ASNE, the more the Society will rate public respect.

Don't let some stuffed-shirt's yearning for a better seat at the annual dinner blind us to the real purposes and possibilities of the ASNE.

Flint's Unified Drive

At the last convention, Michael A. Gorman, Flint Journal, was called upon to tell about the Michigan plan, for uniting national drives on a basis similar to community chests. He had several inquiries from ASNE members, and now reports that Flint's campaign, combining the local Chest and the Michigan United Health and Welfare Fund, has been sensational.

As for newspapers, Mr. Gorman believes editors will be interested in knowing "what it means in reducing importantly the demands for space."

GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

By GEORGE S. CRANDALL
Executive Editor, Elmira Star-Gazette

Whither ASNE?

With the single, lone qualification of being an oldtimer, I hasten to answer.

Some of the younger members, I am told, want the Society to DO something. They want it to chart its course and have an objective, like a civic club.

Somehow this business of planning and regulating and regimenting folks and their actions seems to be unusually popular just now. It crops out in election campaigns, in political platforms, yes, even in governmental procedures.

Should the ASNE do likewise? In order to achieve some "heavenly mission" must the Society become the conscience, the mentor, and monitor of the American public? Is it untrue to some great principle or destiny, if it doesn't embark on such a high-minded course?

Such a course may be popular, and some may think it is essential, but I don't. I look at it this way:

During the 20 years I have been a member the Society has been conducted in a way very much like the business of gathering, editing and publishing news.

The editor takes what news comes to hand each day, decides which is most important, determines how it shall be displayed and interpreted, and also directs the editorial comments thereon.

The Society, to my mind, does likewise. Each year one of the ablest editor members is made program chairman. He decides what topics are most timely, who is best fitted to discuss them with authority, what national figures of press or governmental status the editors might like to see, hear and interrogate, and he sees that they get a spot on a program.

Can you think of any better way to prepare a timely, worthwhile program?

Do you think the Society should start, for example, a mighty crusade for worldwide freedom of the press, and make a lot of din and clamor to let the world know what shining knights we are? Maybe you think we should call attention to the Society by building a shaft higher and more imposing than the Washington monument.

No, I think the Society will do well to go along, as it has in the past, convening annually to mutually find ways and means of getting out better newspapers and thus showing by example what real press freedom is and does.

Let's keep "sticking to our last." Let's keep the speaker roster open to young, budding editors who like to denounce us for our courage in discussing the problems of Afghanistan and our cowardice in looking for evils and corruption in our home town. Most of you editors probably remember when you thrilled with a desire to transform the world into a utopia.

But crusading, like everything else, has to be done right. Many a town has been torn in two, to its lasting damage, by bungling crusaders. A skilled newspaperman can do the job more craftily. Looking for trouble just for the sake of having a trouble to denounce is not good.

Let in that other fellow, too, who wants the Society to "get rid of its stinkers." Just who is a "stinker," anyway? You know Mark Twain said that to be mentally sound one has to be a Republican, a Presbyterian and a Mason. Any deviation from that, that, he said, indicates a certain degree of insanity.

I don't know whether anyone ever checked to see how many members of the Society depart from Twain's norm, but that is inconsequential. What is important is that even the "stinkers" be given their day in court and be deemed innocent until proved guilty.

All too often, of late, some of our bureaucrats proceed on the assumption that all they summon to their bar are guilty until they prove themselves innocent. That is a most reprehensible, and dangerous, trend of our times.

Maybe we could have our critical younger members made a committee to do away with bureaucracy in American government. That should keep them busy for quite a while.

But, for myself, I prefer to continue the present method of having Society members do their crusading, and damning, individually in their own papers, and not make

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it a Society goal or objective.

I, for one, don't want to start telling my fellow members what they should think or do. My own conscience troubles me enough without trying to be conscience for others—especially editors whose conception of conscience is sometimes unconscionably dim. Maybe that's a little rough on the editors, but I have great faith in them for the long pull.

Most editors know that the Almighty has the last word when it comes to running the universe; and they know, too, that usually it is best to take Lincoln's advice and "cross Fox River when you come to it."

Any plans that can be made by the sagest of folks have a way of being upset by changing circumstances. Therefore, why shouldn't the Society keep on taking up the most important newspaper problems as they arise and acting on them then?

Of course, this makes me a reactionary and a dumbbell and a dimwit, and links me with the "selfish interests," but them's my sentiments. See you in Washington next April.

Copies of "Freedom of Information" a booklet prepared by the European Affairs Division of the Library of Congress, mentioned in last month's Bulletin, should be ordered from the Card Division of the Library. The price is \$1.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 316

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Fourteen To Serve On Pulitzer Juries

Last fall your Board of Directors voted to maintain the status quo in the matter of Pulitzer prize juries pending consideration by the Pulitzer Board of a revised plan proposed by a special ASNE committee. Accordingly, President McKelway has named the following members to serve:

Public Service

Frank C. Clough, editorial director, Speidel Newspapers, Palo Alto.

William P. Steven, managing editor, Minneapolis Tribune.

Local Reporting

Stanley P. Barnett, managing editor, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Samuel L. Latimer, Jr., editor and publisher, The State, Columbia, S. C.

National Reporting

Allen Merriam, editor, Dallas Times Herald.

Richard W. Clarke, executive editor, New York Daily News.

International Reporting

W. C. Stouffer, managing editor, Roanoke World News.

C. G. Wellington, managing editor, Kansas City Star.

Editorial Writing

Forrest W. Seymour, editor of editorial page, Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Philip H. Parrish, editor of editorial page, Portland Oregonian.

Cartoons

Jack Foster, editor, Rocky Mountain News, Denver.

Michael A. Gorman, editor, Flint Journal.

News Photography

W. R. Walton, managing editor, South Bend Tribune.

Carl E. Lindstrom, Managing Editor, Hartford Times.

THIS YOU SHOULD KNOW:

Convention dates: April 20, 21 and 22, 1950, Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

Daily sessions: From 10 a. m. to 5 p. m., including luncheon. Evening session on Thursday; none on Friday; no dinner meeting either day. Saturday evening, cocktail party and banquet for members and their guests.

Hotel reservations: Bloc accommodations have been made at the Statler. With the February Bulletin, you will receive a card for making your own reservations.

Registration: Wait for March Bulletin, enclosing form for advance registration and ordering banquet tickets. Limit of four tickets (member and three guests), with seating preference to those ordering fewer.

The Bulletin is the only source of convention information; watch the next three issues for announcements by the program chairman, Kenneth MacDonald, executive editor, Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Questions about convention custom or procedure may be addressed to Alice Fox Pitts, assistant secretary, ASNE, Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Delaware.

FORREST, RETIRING, RESIGNS AS DIRECTOR

After 40 years in newspaper work, Wilbur Forrest retires this month as assistant editor of the New York Herald Tribune. He will continue to administer the Reid Foundation.

His resignation from the Board of Directors, on which his ex-officio term as past president expires in 1950, has been accepted by President McKelway. His resignation from the Society will be put before the Board of Directors in April.

Mr. Forrest joined ASNE eleven years ago because he felt that the country's largest newspapers were showing too little interest in the important work the Society was doing. There were only three New York City editors on the rolls at that time, none of them active.

He plunged, with his usual zest, into the Society's affairs and in 1942 Dwight Marvin, then president, made him program chairman. That year he was elected a director, and the following year, second vice president.

When Roy Roberts, president in 1943, proposed that ASNE take leadership in the advocacy of freedom of press on a world scale, Mr. Forrest urged caution.

"Universal press freedom is eas-

ier said than done," he said, and "Our initial job is to cinch it in our own bailiwick before we go off on evangelical excursions and try to put Mother Hubbards on the hearth."

"One thing about Wilbur," Mr. Roberts commented, "you know exactly where he stands. Hard-boiled



and flea-bitten by years of world experience as he is, I agree with him thoroughly on one thing. We must be everlastingly first on the job to preserve a free press at home." He added, "I know Wilbur was writing just a bit strongly with usual Forrest emphasis in pointing out the size of the job and its dangers. I know he believes our Society should consider the part it should take."

Mr. Roberts had sized up his man. With no delusions about changing the face of the world, but with the profound conviction that ASNE must point the way, he accepted the chairmanship of the first World Freedom of Information Committee. In 1945, he headed the ASNE group which made an historic trip around the world, fortified by letters from President Roosevelt and lesser officials, but talking on an informal level to editors, heads of governments, and anyone else they could reach.

His colleagues on that trip were Dean Carl W. Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia, and Ralph McGill, Atlanta Constitution. His report of the trip appears in the 1946 Proceedings.

Mr. Forrest's world experience began early. Starting on the Peoria Journal, by 1915 he was European manager of the United Press. For service in World War I, first with the UP and then with the New York Tribune, he was decorated with the Legion of Honor of France. Later he roved and wrote from the Caribbean to the Orient, going to the home office in 1931.

Ten years ago, Mr. Forrest's eldest son, Edgar, wrote of him: "Dad is restless and energetic. Weekends he starts his day at 6 a. m., gardening, shooting, fishing, playing golf, fishing again. I have followed his routine once or twice but the pace was too much for me."

A decade hasn't changed him. In retirement, besides managing the Reid Foundation and doing some writing, he'll fire the gardener, do the work himself, and also get in plenty of duck hunting "either on the Gulf of Mexico or British Columbia — or possibly both."

The Bulletin art file is far from complete. Pictures of many members are lacking; others are ten years old, and look it. If you had a Christmas photograph taken, please send a copy to the editor of the Bulletin for filing.

GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

By KENNETH MacDONALD
Executive Editor, Des Moines Register and Tribune

"What is this Society supposed to do, and does it ever accomplish anything?"

These are proper questions coming, as they do, from a new member of ASNE. It may be that older members may profitably reflect on them, too. Sometimes organizations which are born in a fever of good intentions and dedicated to high ideals develop into little more than reasons for friendly annual junkets.

The preamble to our constitution, adopted 27 years ago, stated clearly enough the purpose. The society was formed because editors had "no facilities for those interchanges of thought and experience that are so helpful in promoting the general interest of any profession or craft, no means of defending their position from unjust assault, no avenue by which professional cooperation can be reached."

Among the purposes of the new society were "to maintain the dignity and rights of the profession, to . . . establish ethical standards of professional conduct, to interchange ideas for the advancement of professional ideals, and for the more effective application of professional labors."

It is difficult to measure the accomplishments of the Society in pursuit of these objectives. There is no exact gauge for determining professional standards, and probably the time will never come when the battle to preserve and extend press freedom is permanently won. However, there is ample evidence that the Society has worked diligently, and with at least some measure of success, both to improve the standards of the profession and to protect the principle of press freedom. The last annual report provides examples.

The Society, through its committee on world freedom of information, worked valiantly that year against censorship of one kind or another in a wide variety of places from Moose Lake, Minnesota, to Tokyo, Japan. The committee's success in a number of its engagements is a matter of record.

The Society recognized that the coverage of atomic energy presented problems to the profession, and through another committee it did

something about it. The atomic energy committee, among other accomplishments, recommended a series of seminars to help newspapermen acquaint themselves with the subject, and worked out the pattern for such seminars. One or two, perhaps more, have already been held.

Last summer the Society made a thorough investigation of the Illinois editors situation and released a forthright, comprehensive report.

These are a few examples of how editors themselves, the profession as a whole, and the public have benefited through the Society's work.

It could be said, I think, that the Society channels its efforts, broadly speaking, along two lines: one, toward the development of greater competence, greater skill and a greater sense of responsibility within the profession; and two, toward effective combat against all who would limit freedom of information and discussion.

There is no lack of work in either of these fields. The problems of human relationships grow daily more complex, making the news more important and more difficult to cover. The urgent need for good newspapers increases at the same time that providing them becomes more difficult. And outside the profession, antagonists continue their efforts to limit the public's right to know — antagonists who range from village officials to heads of states.

Some critics have accused the Society of being ineffectual because it does not take a more arbitrary position on policing the profession — because, for example, it does not expel editors for unethical practices. Unlike some professional societies and trade associations, this Society has no licensing power over the newspaper profession and, despite the critics, it should have none. It is not a weakness that the Society's objectives are sought by persuasion and not by force.

This series will be continued next month by Archie E. McCrea, Muskegon Chronicle, and concluded in the March issue by Melville F. Ferguson, Philadelphia Bulletin.

Capital Reporting Has Hit New Low Editor Complains

"What this country needs is not a good five-cent cigar, but a handful of honest-to-gosh Washington reporters."

That, says John P. Harris, is his conclusion after watching the steady decline in quality of Washington correspondence.

"More than a thousand of the country's best newspapermen 'cover' the capital, if that word still may be used," he wrote in an editorial in The Hutchinson (Kan.) News-Herald. "They no longer are reporters, however. They have ceased digging for the news and printing what they find irrespective of their future social relations with the high-placed in government."

"Instead, there has developed the official hand-out on the one hand, and the off-the-record conference on the other. Between the two, they have transformed the bulk of the Washington news, as printed, into nothing but government prop-

aganda. Because there are so many rival federal agencies trying to set the propaganda line, the result is babel."

He cited as the low of the year the "planting" in the nation's press of letters written by three high naval officers saying, in effect, that their service was being shot to pieces. While the explanation given by the officer who handed mimeographed copies to reporters was that "in some allegedly mysterious way" these originally confidential letters had "leaked", Mr. Harris said, "it couldn't have been done without the tacit approval of his superiors."

So thoroughly has the capital's propaganda system become established, he added, that the letter distributor, whom all the reporters knew, was not identified, simply because he had asked not to be. "As usual, a radio commentator first broke the silly off-the-record confidence. Then all the rest tramped over one another in their haste to name him."

In that incident it distressed him also, Mr. Harris told his readers, "to see the Associated Press, on which The News-Herald depends for its national news, hitting the new bottom with all the rest."

Public Responsibility of Our Newspapers Concerns Editors More Than Their Critics

"Newspapers must be fun to investigate, judging from the number of inquiries here and abroad," John H. Crider told Boston Herald readers in an editorial entitled "Seeing Ourselves."

"The epidemic of criticisms and investigations has not left the American press free of the infection," he wrote. In evidence he cited the ASNE growing "more and more introspective" at its meetings, the "soul-searching" of the National Conference of Editorial Writers, and last year's Editor and Publisher panel along the same lines.

It's a good thing, too, Mr. Crider said, because "The question of the public responsibility of newspapers is a serious one which concerns most editors a great deal more than their critics. Many editors would like to see a self-enforced journalistic code of ethics. But how would it be enforced? Granted that the views of the Chicago Tribune and the Daily Worker represent extremes with which most

Americans disagree, yet would it be in keeping with the democratic tradition to suppress either of them so long as there are actually people in this country who believe as they do?"

His answer was obviously no, for "Truth thrives best where discussion is as broad and untrammelled as possible."

An alternative, he suggested might be "an attempt through professional societies to enforce codes of ethics with regard to deliberate distortion of facts, a relatively rare occurrence. It would be a ticklish job, but if doctors and lawyers can take steps to discipline their ranks, why can't editors do likewise? The earthquake that it took to arouse the American Medical Association from its lethargy should be object lesson enough to the newspaper profession. Until a means for better self-discipline can be worked out, we say the more introspection the better. The press must stay free, and we of the press must keep it worthy of staying free."

Shop Talk Suggested On Libel Suits Based On Letters to Editors

Two members, Talbot Patrick, publisher of the Rock Hill Evening Herald, and Oxie Reichler, editor of The Yonkers Herald Statesman, are being sued for libel on the basis of letters to the editor.

A memorandum which Mr. Patrick prepared for his lawyers was printed in The Herald to explain to readers that freedom of the press is the right of every American — not only the publishers — to have his thoughts in print, and that the Voice of the People column is a way readers use their American right to freedom of the press.

In spite of precautions, a suit of this kind evidently can happen to anyone for, Mr. Reichler says, "we edit the letters fairly sharply." He adds, "I wish we had more discussions of such subjects at the ASNE convention. What shop talk it might make for our sessions!"

Some Pretty Good Reading In Those Old Proceedings

"The curse of American journalism, as I see it, is a lack of introspection. Newspapermen are so busy seeking to find the faults of others that they forget to look for them in themselves." — *Malcolm Binney, 1927 convention.*

"The ASNE gets more and more introspective." — *John Crider, 1949.*

Those statements, 1927 and 1949, are a more important evidence of the growth of the Society than the increased membership. And the whole story of an organization groping — sometimes, feebly, its founders felt — to discover how best it might serve its profession is revealed, year by year, in the annual Proceedings.

Besides the history of the ASNE, there's plenty of good shop talk in those volumes, interesting reading and valuable reference. All are still available except 1923, 1924, 1925, 1935, and 1945 (no convention). Books, \$2. a copy, may be ordered from Secretary Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal.

Or for particular information before purchasing — whether a certain topic was ever discussed, and in which book it appears — write the Office of The Bulletin.

Our Writing Editors

"Grandparents Abroad" is the reprint in book form of a series of articles Louis A. Weil and his wife, Blanche, wrote for the Port Huron Times-Herald on their return from a trip to Bavaria. It covers the same territory as other correspondents, but more intimately—a Weil characteristic. The book is dedicated to their six grandchildren and the proceeds (\$2 a copy) have been donated for Christmas gifts and clothing for children in refugee camps in Bavaria. Money Mr. Weil has received for speaking engagements since his return has been sent to Dachau.

Don Shoemaker, editor of The Asheville Citizen, spent most of his spare time last year on a rewrite of a book about Henry George, to be published early this year by the University of North Carolina Press. Anna George de Mille, daughter of the famous single taxer wrote the original. Mr. Shoemaker is his grand-nephew.

Lee Hills, managing editor of The Miami Herald, who recently was elected president of APME, is author of "Facsimile", just published by McGraw-Hill. With a dearth of books on this increasingly important subject, it was written to fill a definite need. Co-author is Timothy O'Sullivan of The Herald staff.

Selected letters to the Experience Column of The Detroit News have been published in "The Heart Speaks Plain", a 300 page book, cloth bound, \$1.50. Eight volumes of these letters were published between 1919, when the column started, and the retirement of its originator, Nancy Brown, in 1942. This is the first volume since her successor, Jane Lee, took over as editor.

Christmas In Passaic

"This piece, says the editor, must be in keeping with the spirit of Christmas. Or a reasonable facsimile thereof."

"Not a single word out of the way about our city fathers on Christmas Eve . . ."

The editor who gave the order, not only to his city hall reporter but to other staff writers, is William M. McBride. For one day the editorial page of The Passaic Herald-News had not a harsh word for anyone.

Edward T. Leech

The death of Edward T. Leech in Pittsburgh, Dec. 11, brought to a close a life of service with Scripps-Howard newspapers.

Fifty-seven when he died, he was editor and publisher of the Pittsburgh Press and senior editor of the group. He had started newspaper work at 20 on the Denver Express, then owned by Scripps-McRae, and three years later was its editor.

In Memphis, as editor of The Press, he campaigned against the Crump machine; in Birmingham, where he helped found the Post, against the Ku Klux Klan; in Pittsburgh, he put on drives for flood and smoke control, stream purification and urban re-development.

Between those assignments he had returned to Denver for a few years, as editor of the Rocky Mountain News. His experiences in that city, particularly in his earlier years, provided much of the material for Gene Fowler's book "Timberline", the story of Bonfils and Tammen.

Mr. Leech, who had been a member of ASNE since 1942, is survived by his widow and four grown children.

Three More Resign

The following resignations, all due to eligibility, have been accepted by Secretary Wright Bryan since his last report:

Paul Scott Mowrer, a director of the Society when he was editor of the Chicago Daily News, in recent years has been European editor of the New York Post. In retirement, possibly temporarily, he is living in Chocoma, N. H.

Stephen C. Noland, another long-time member, and active on the ACEJ accreditation committee, has retired from the Indianapolis News, and is devoting his time to writing and business interests.

Herbert R. Hill now is foreign editor of the Indianapolis News.

Too Much Hell in Delaware

Since a rape case nearly two years ago, no topic has brought so many letters to the editor in the Wilmington (Del.) Journal-Every Evening as a discussion of heaven and hell. Flooded with mail and desperate, Lee Reese, executive editor, announced in 18 pt. "Please—No More Letters on Hell."

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HAMILTON OWENS	Baltimore Sun

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telegraph and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7950.

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For Better English

Edward J. Meeman is still campaigning for an "Academy" of newspapermen dedicated to the preservation and revival of English as it should be used and often isn't.

"Such an academy," he wrote recently in his column in the Memphis Press-Scimitar, "should discourage, for instance, such corruptions as the use of 'too' for 'very' which has become widespread in the past decade."

"And why not revive good old words which have fallen into disuse, for no good reasons, such as the resounding 'aye,' so much stronger than the lisping 'yes.'?"

"English is worthy to become the world language (and is fast approaching that point, he predicted) and we must be worthy of it."

Former Member Honored

Cooper Gaw, a former ASNE member and active in its early years, last month completed 50 years of service with the New Bedford Standard-Times. He was honored at a party given by Basil Brewer, publisher, and attended by 500 guests. A native of Easton, Pa., Mr. Gaw went to New Bedford after graduation from Harvard, beginning on the police beat. For many years he has been chief editorial writer.

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February 1, 1950

NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU REPORTERS REPLY TO JOHN HARRIS ON CAPITAL COVERAGE

When Arthur Krock, chief of the Washington Bureau of The New York Times, read John P. Harris, Hutchinson News-Herald, in the January Bulletin ("What this country needs is a handful of honest-to-gosh Washington reporters") he showed the piece to three of his staff members and asked what they thought of it. Their comments follow.

I THINK it is silly; and nowhere better demonstrated than in Mr. Harris' view that "the off-the-record conference" is a vehicle for "Government propaganda." Maybe he doesn't know that the Republicans have them, too. I think on the whole that off-the-record information (granting that one must know something of the honor and competence of his informant) is about the best there is on the Hill. For example, is it better to have quotable "reaction" to a Presidential message; or is it better to know, without attribution, what the controlling people really think of it?

★ ★ ★

DON'T believe a word of it. Bet you 8 to 5 Harris nurtures a frustrated ambition to be a Washington correspondent. He'd show 'em.

If Harris has any point at all, I think he has failed to state it. Without being conscious of it, he may be trying to say that Washington officialdom has become more expert in the art of concealment. Certainly the effort is there. The material that carries the label of "confidential" and "restricted" in the departments downtown wouldn't be read beyond the second paragraph without that label. I've been shown stuff at State, ECA and Commerce that has been labeled both ways although it consisted entirely of "background" material on such as cartels, international oil marketing, etc. I have attributed this tendency to wartime practice which dies hard and to the overweening solicitude of State Department people for the tender sensibilities of foreign governments. Of course, any ad-

ministration tries to withhold information from the public so that the wartime labels are a very convenient device for giving effect to this predisposition.

But I can't agree that reporters are any less adept at or disposed to "digging" than they once were. I believe it is the other way round. I can remember when the gag about certain reporters never being "handicapped by facts" was all too true. My observation has been that this field has lately been preempted by the radio commentators.

★ ★ ★

I WOULD suggest that not only Mr. Harris but the editors of The Bulletin check further on "the steady decline in quality of Washington correspondence." If I've ceased "digging" at any point I'd like to have it pointed out.

It is my opinion that Editor Harris is full of ferry boat smoke and that the Hutchinson News-Herald might send its own correspondent here to show us, under his personal guidance, where we are falling down. I'd like to take him on. I think we are trying, very hard. True, we are not always satisfied with our products.

There is, as Mr. Harris said, a lot of hand-out material, much of it snide administration propaganda for which some of us fall now and then. But we check it the best we can. There also is much not-for-attribution information. But when stuff for attribution (when it's off-the-record we lay off it) is passed out it's usually partisan and not worth using. My best soundings have been among those who want their frankness protected. Such material usually comes true.

RESOLUTIONS

It is the hope and intention of the committee on resolutions to print summaries of prospective resolutions in the last issue of The Bulletin before the April convention.

To this end, early submission of resolutions to the committee is requested. They may be sent to the committee chairman, Frank A. Clarvoe, editor of The San Francisco News, 812 Mission St., San Francisco 1.

The committee hopes to do as much "processing" prior to its pre-convention meeting in Washington as the cooperation of the membership will permit.

It's Time to Make Room Reservations For the Convention

For your convenience, and the hotel management's, a form is enclosed for making room reservations at the Statler in Washington, where the annual convention of the Society will be held April 20, 21 and 22. Using this form will indicate to the desk that you are entitled to one of the rooms set aside for ASNE.

If you already have made a reservation at the Statler or any other hotel, discard the enclosed blank.

If you lose it, write a letter, and state that you are a member of the Society.

If changes in plans make it impossible to attend the meeting after you've made a reservation, please cancel to the hotel.

And if some other staff member is going to occupy your room instead, be sure to advise the hotel of the switch. (Standard hotel rule, to prevent chicanery; management doesn't know all editors are honest.)

All communications concerning room reservations should be addressed to Mr. George Lombard, Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

Capital News Mill Viewed by Croop Now Bureau Chief

How do the problems of Washington coverage appear to an editorial executive who is suddenly shifted from home base to the capital? The question was addressed to A. Vernon Croop, formerly assistant managing editor of the Rochester Times-Union, when he was made head of the Washington Bureau of Gannett Newspapers. No longer eligible, Mr. Croop since has resigned from ASNE.

• By A. VERNON CROOP, Gannett Newspapers

Reporting from the news capital of the world offers a special set of problems.

It's hardly a place for the lazy. To begin to understand what's going on in this overgrown seat of bureaucracy requires hours of reading. This includes bills, reports, handouts, newspapers, magazines—an endless array.

Then there's a constant going from here to there. Bureaucracy is spread out.

It takes 20 minutes to reach the Capitol from the Press Building. It's a \$3 round trip (with tips) by cab to the Pentagon. Departments, agencies and embassies are scattered all over the District. Even the Capitol and the Congressional office buildings, located together, call for miles of tramping, if you hope to get around to all of the possible news sources.

News in Washington is naturally a highly competitive commodity, with close to 2,000 reporters seeking to get it first. More than 800 are accredited to the Senate and House press galleries. Others are located at the White House, Pentagon, State Department and other key centers. Perhaps a couple of hundred attend the regular White House press conference.

The newcomer may be somewhat awed on his first visit. But he soon finds that the questions asked are no better—or worse—than those at a press session anywhere. Nor are the answers more enlightening.

One of the first things you notice in Washington is the abundance of press agents. Some are useful in getting you in touch with your

news source. Too many, however, set themselves up as judges of what ought to be published and what ought to be suppressed. Otherwise, they confine themselves to writing speeches for their bosses.

There are two general types of reporters: the "beat" men who become thoroughly familiar with a limited number of news sources, and the general correspondents who gain a lesser acquaintance with a vast number of sources. The ideal—virtually impossible—is a combination of the two. Veterans with years of experience sometimes approach this ideal.

Since coming to Washington less than a year ago, I have met most of the leaders in our national government.

The really big men are gracious, easy to see at their convenience, and they shoot straight. Some, not so big, act like the puffed-up aldermen we knew in earlier reporting days.

Herbert Hoover probably will be rated much higher by history than by his contemporaries. He has worked hard and unselfishly, at the request of President Truman, to chart badly needed reorganization of the government. Few men of his age, and with his wealth, would have tackled the job, much less completed it successfully.

His greeting to our reporter in his office recently was:

"Now, young man, what will you have of me?"

Mr. Hoover answered questions fully and freely.

In contrast a certain top government official has become "hard to see." His office explains that he is too busy, unless you happen to represent a major press service or a national magazine.

The press corps is inclined to sympathy with a busy executive and hesitates to impose on his time. But this same official is gaining the reputation of being available to take the "right kind" of speaking engagements—if they seem to have political value. So it may be more than coincidence that he was one of the best-roasted—and by reports, also best-scorched—victims at a press formal dinner fest, attended by all top leaders in government.

Fortunately, the list of those who snub the rank-and-file press is small.

Most newsmen in Washington don't want to be armchair correspondents.

Newspapers Awake To Constant Threat To Press Freedom

Newspaper editors' increasing awareness of the constant threats to press freedom at home is a source of gratification to Basil L. Walters, chairman of the Committee on World Freedom of Information.

"This last year, editors have been doing some excellent work educating the public about these dangers," he says. "In general I think the editorials and news items aimed at public consumption have been the most intelligent I have ever seen."

As a case in point, Mr. Walters applauded an editorial "No Iron Curtain on Auto Accidents!" in the Yonkers Herald Statesman, Oxie Reichler, editor. This answered, with a resounding "No!", a proposal by a New York state senator that automobile accident reports be kept secret, on the theory that "if motorists knew nobody would get to see their reports except police, they might be more truthful about what happened." The proposed measure is said to have been recommended by State Motor Vehicle Commissioner Clifford J. Fletcher.

Recommending strong and widespread protest, the Herald Statesman said, "As soon as some people achieve public office, they try to work out plans by which they will keep the public business away from the public... They get a yen to put up 'iron curtains,' by which the public can be kept in the dark on this or that—usually this or that which it is exceedingly important for the public to know."

This type of editorial is important, Mr. Walters says, because "our job is to make the people of this nation conscious of the fact that all public records belong to the people; that officials are merely the servants of all the people; that newspapers are the eyes of the people, keeping the eternal spotlight on officials and on public records. Unless we do this then the freedoms will slip out of our hands by default and we will truly have an Iron Curtain."

"The place to stop the iron curtain is in the smallest offices in the land as well as in the highest office in the land."

FEB. 14 IS BING-DAY

Malcolm W. Bingay, editorial director of the Detroit Free Press, is recovering slowly from his near-tragic tangle with an exploding urn of "devil's brew" at a banquet in Detroit last month. Messages from friends in ASNE would help while away his convalescence, so let's make February 14 Bing-Day.

Valentines, hearts entwined or comic, would be welcome; also get-well cards; or possibly original verses or cartoons from gifted members. Not yet up to writing letters, a greeting he doesn't feel required to acknowledge is in order.

An avalanche of mail on February 14, is the objective. Please send to his home address, 20383 Sunningdale Park, Grosse Pointe Woods 30, Mich.

CARE Packages Asked For French Journalists

Roscoe Drummond, Christian Science Monitor, now in Paris to head up ECA European informational activities, calls attention to the financial plight of French journalists and suggests a way for ASNE members to help them—through CARE packages.

Because of staff reductions or newspaper suspensions since the liberation, unemployment is widespread, Mr. Drummond says. There are, he has been informed, several hundred cases which are "truly desperate."

CARE packages, for distribution, may be addressed to Le Soutien Confraternel des Journalistes, 18 Rue Vignon, Paris 9. Or for further information about the situation, write Robert R. Mullen, Director of Information, ECA, Washington 25, D. C.

Registration Blanks In March Bulletin

At this stage the program chairman's work is largely a matter of culling suggestions that have come to him from many sources, selecting those that will be of most interest to the majority. With this phase about completed, Kenneth MacDonald will have the general outline of the program ready for announcement next month.

Also with the March Bulletin members will receive full instructions for advance registration for the convention and ordering tickets for the banquet.

Small Papers Wield Greatest Influence Says Society's Newest Woman Member

Rebecca F. Gross, editor of The Lock Haven (Pa.) Express, thinks that the small city newspaper editors in the United States have



more influence, in the aggregate, than the editors of the big city newspapers.

"By 'influence,' I don't mean the ability to tell their readers how to vote in the presidential elections," she explains. "I mean the ability to present facts and opinions so directly and effectively that the reader is stimulated to do some thinking for himself and make up his own mind about public issues."

The job of the newspaper, Miss Gross says, is to give its readers all the facts they need to understand and take part in community life, in a form they can assimilate most easily. She believes, too, that today's community embraces a wide area. All news is local in a world whose separated geographical areas are tied together by modern communication and are interdependent economically, culturally and politically.

"The Express," she says, "owes its readers the best efforts it can make to help them understand why the city council is installing new street lights, why the United States is spending money in Europe, and why atomic energy is important."

As a background for better understanding of press association reports from abroad, Miss Gross wrote 30 articles on the daily life and problems of the average European, based on a trip from which she recently returned. These appeared in several Pennsylvania newspapers.

One of the four women members of ASNE, Miss Gross feels that American journalism has suffered because of prejudice against women as editors and executives which exists on many larger newspapers.

"I don't go so far as to say that some defunct newspapers might still be alive if they had put some women in responsible positions," she says, "but it is interesting to

REBECCA F. GROSS, elected to ASNE last fall from a city under 50,000 population, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, also studied journalism at Temple. Worked on the Philadelphia Inquirer before going to the Lock Haven Express as a reporter; editor since 1931. In the WAVES, editing Naval Firepower for the Bureau of Ordnance. Nieman Fellow, 1947-48. Member of several editorial associations and past president of the Pennsylvania Women's Press Association.

note that many of the most lively changes in American newspapers took place after their neglect of women readers had given a wonderful opportunity to such rivals as the women's magazine, the picture magazine and the radio."

Newspaper readers are about half men and half women, she points out, but the interests of the women were neglected for years, and even yet there are few newspaper staffs not predominantly masculine.

Journalism Teachers Invited to Convention

At its meeting last fall the Board of Directors instructed President McKelway to invite five representatives of journalism schools to attend the convention. The following have been selected because they represent the constituent groups of the proposed new organization of journalism teachers: Dean Frank Luther Mott, President of the Association of Accredited Schools of Journalism.

Mr. Henry Ladd Smith, President of the American Association of Teachers of Journalism.

Mr. Dwight Bentel, President of the American Society of Journalism School Administrators.

Mr. Norval Neil Luxon, Chairman of the accrediting committee of the American Council on Education for Journalism.

Mr. F. S. Siebert, Secretary-Treasurer of the American Council on Education for Journalism.

Other journalism teachers are welcome as always, and the formal invitation to these five does not represent any limitation on others who care to come.

GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

By ARCHIE E. McCREA
Editor, The Muskegon Chronicle

Curiously enough, it seems to have been a non-member lawyer who authored the latest proclamation of the purpose and function of The American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Since, however, he was acting on behalf of the society, on the authority of the president, subsequently endorsed by the board of directors and the Society, it may be regarded as authentic.

Declared Attorney William L. Marbury, in the memorandum filed on behalf of the Society as a friend of the court in the matter of contempt proceedings against five Baltimore radio stations:

"They (the Society) have banded together for the purpose of maintaining the dignity and rights of their profession and of interchanging ideas for the advancement of professional ideals."

The proceedings of the Society in Washington last spring seem to offer much in vindication of that first statement of purpose. Of the seven out of eleven resolutions that survived the closing session, four had to do with the "maintenance of the dignity and rights" of the profession. And they were related to what have been the leading activities of the Society during the preceding years.

Paradoxically, while one of the four had to do with its intervention in a legal action on behalf of five radio stations, the most stinging rebuke the Society received during the convention was from the president of the National Association of Broadcasters, who maintained with considerable logic that the profession is not doing nearly enough in its own defense. He made a telling case for the thesis that freedom of speech and the press are being consistently sabotaged right here at home, the while we are lending our efforts to freeing the transmission of news in the international field, with not too much success thus far.

And these activities of the most recent year of our history, and the definition of purpose of Attorney Marbury, find rather complete justification in the preamble to our Constitution:

"It is with the purpose of remedying to some degree these condi-

tions (among those enumerated, "there have been . . . no means of defending their profession from unjust assault") that this society is established."

What is significant is that these proclamations of purpose were largely forgotten for years after the organization of our Society, and that our vindication of them in recent years—through such actions as this intervention in the action against the radio stations, through our participation in the work of the World Freedom of Information Committee, through the subcommittee of Freedom of Information of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and through the committee on State Department Dissemination of News and Opinion—has been forced by developments at home and abroad we have been unable to ignore.

Messaged Mordecai to his niece, Queen Esther, when the decree of extermination had gone forth against her people, "Who knows but thou are come for such a time as this?"

That is what we are doing, and it is strictly in accord with our declared purpose—but we are overlooking another fundamental purpose, much more regarded in the early days of the Society.

Declared we of the six Canons of Journalism we proclaimed in those days:

"To the end of finding some means of codifying sound practice and just aspirations of American journalism, these canons are set forth."

We have rather forgotten these, too, in the intervening years. They deserve more careful attention, and some implementation by which we shall be able to measure our progress toward their effectiveness.

If we are to command respect, imperative in our fight for a free press, we need to make sure we deserve it, by lifting the practices of the profession toward the standards we have set for ourselves.

This series will be concluded next month by Melville F. Ferguson, Philadelphia Bulletin.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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2nd VICE-PRESIDENT
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DWIGHT PERRIN Syracuse Herald-Journal

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 98, Del. Telegraph and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7950.

No. 317 February 1, 1950

Arthur W. Stace

Arthur W. Stace, editor of The Ann Arbor News, and an ASNE member for 15 years, died of a heart ailment on January 10 while vacationing in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Except for eight years as director of the Michigan Utilities Information Bureau he had been with Booth Newspapers since 1897, when he went to work on the Grand Rapids Press. As a special writer and researcher for the group, all of Michigan was his field. His articles were in large measure, instrumental in the development of the state's tourist and outdoor recreation facilities, tuberculosis and mental hospitals, rural electrification and highway system, and natural resources.

In 1947 he was one of the sponsors of a plan initiated by the University Press Club of Michigan to establish fellowships in journalism for foreign students. This program couples education at the University with practicing internship on Michigan newspapers.

Mr. Stace is survived by three children, Brig. Gen. Donald F. Stace, commandant of the U. S. Air Force Base at Middletown, Pa.; Vincent, an executive of the Detroit Edison Co., and a daughter, Margaret, assistant to the director of the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Mich.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 318 March 1, 1950

Truman To Be Luncheon Speaker; Balanced Program is Promised

Variety will be the keynote of the 1950 convention.

President Truman will speak at the luncheon on the opening day, Thursday, April 20. As an innovation, this meeting will be limited to members and their wives.

On the intimate side, David Lawrence is scheduled for a talk about ASNE itself. No other member knows the story better for Mr. Lawrence has given 20 years of service to the Society as a director.

Practical newspaper discussions will include an illustrated talk on picture editing by William G. White, picture editor of the New

York Daily News, a critical discussion of comic strips, and an analysis of editorial page problems.

Mindful of many members' opinion that there should be fewer government speakers, Kenneth MacDonald, program chairman, says that the number will be reduced to one or two, but "the committee believes the membership will want to hear a government spokesman on foreign policy, and we are attempting to arrange that."

A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News, is arranging a brief report on the journalism school ac-

crediting program. The speakers, besides Mr. Kirchhofer, will be Dr. Frank Luther Mott, dean of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, and Norval Neil Luxon, Ohio State University, chairman of the ACEJ Accrediting Committee.

In prospect also is a report from at least one of our members who have been traveling abroad.

Working on the program with Mr. MacDonald are George Grimes, Oxnard Press-Courier; Robert J. Blakely, St. Louis Star-Times; Everett Norlander, Chicago Daily News; Frank Ahlgren, Memphis Commercial Appeal; Lloyd M. Felmy, Newark Evening News; Felix R. McKnight, Dallas Morning News, and Alexander F. Jones, Washington Post.

FIVE DIRECTORS WILL BE ELECTED AT CONVENTION

Task of the nominating committee was greatly increased this year by the retirement of three directors whose terms are expiring.



J. D. FERGUSON C. C. HEMENWAY



WM. R. MATHEWS PHILIP H. PARRISH

David Lawrence, U. S. News & World Report, Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post, and Dwight S. Perrin, Syracuse Herald-Journal, refused the earnest request of the nominations chairman, L. D. Hotchkiss, Los Angeles Times, to stand for re-election.

Taking due consideration of geographic distribution the committee has selected the following eight members as candidates for the Board of Directors:

Alexander F. Jones, assistant to the publisher, Washington Post, and second vice president of ASNE (Incumbent)

J. Donald Ferguson, editor, Milwaukee Journal

Charles C. Hemenway, editor, Hartford Times

Walter R. Humphrey, editor, Fort Worth Press

William R. Mathews, editor, Arizona Daily Star, Tucson

Philip H. Parrish, editor of editorial page, Portland Oregonian

James S. Pope, managing editor, Louisville Courier-Journal

Gideon Seymour, executive editor, Minneapolis Star and Tribune.

The four receiving the highest vote will be elected, each to a three-year term on the Board. The fifth in place will fill the two-year

unexpired term of B. M. McKelway, when, as retiring president, he starts his three-year ex-officio term.



W. R. HUMPHREY ALEXANDER F. JONES



JAMES S. POPE GIDEON SEYMOUR

Convention Instructions

With this issue of The Bulletin you receive a registration form for the ASNE convention in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C., April 20, 21 and 22.

Because of the ever-increasing size of the meeting, the rules are necessarily complicated. To keep confusion to a minimum, please read the following instructions carefully before making out the form.

What You Pay

To register, you pay \$15. This includes one luncheon ticket for each day of the convention.

Tickets for the banquet, Saturday evening (including the cocktail party preceding it) are \$10. each, with a limit of four to each member attending, i. e., member and three guests.

An extra ticket for the luncheon on Thursday, for your wife only, at which President Truman will speak, costs \$4.

Make checks payable to American Society of Newspaper Editors and mail to the assistant secretary, Alice Fox Pitts, Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del.

Getting Your Tickets

Receipt of your check will be acknowledged. However, no tickets or credentials will be mailed.

You pick them up in person at the ASNE registration desk on the mezzanine of the Statler.

Banquet Seating

Last year's plan will prevail again.

Members who order only one or two tickets will be assigned to the best tables. Threesomes come next. Those who take four tickets will be seated in the back of the Presidential Room or in the Congressional Room.

"Hardship cases," members who were seated far back last year, will be accorded preferential treatment if possible.

Within this rule, everyone making reservations by April 1 will receive equal consideration. After that you may still register and buy banquet tickets but with no promise as to where the seats will be.

You will be seated with your invited guests. But if you would like to join parties with another member, please indicate on the registration blank.

Also check whether you are willing to be parted from that member if, by so doing, you can obtain a better table.

(Incidentally, the banquet is black tie and ladies are invited, as usual.)

About Cancellations

If, after sending your check, your plans change—can you get your money back? Yes, by notifying Mrs. Pitts in time.

Deadline for cancelling your entire advance registration, if you cannot attend the convention, is 6 p.m. of the opening day, Thursday, April 20. Or, if a guest drops out, you can obtain a refund on a banquet ticket up to that time.

Tickets not picked up by 6 p.m.

GOOD REPORTERS IN MINORITY IN CAPITAL, KERNEY REPLIES TO NEW YORK TIMES STAFF

• By JAMES KERNEY, JR.
Editor, Trenton Times Newspapers

When John P. Harris of the Hutchinson News-Herald said "What this country needs is a handful of honest-to-gosh Washington reporters," it was bound to stir up a rumpus. There's no surprise in the defense put up by three members of the New York Times staff. But the Times staffers seem to miss the point of Jack Harris' criticism.

Of course, there are some good reporters in Washington. There always have been and I hope there always will be at least a few. But there should be more. After some observation, I'm willing to wager that for every reporter who digs there is a slug who lies in waiting for handouts. To some degree, this has been true for many years. Lazy reporters have promoted the government press agent, as well as the multitude of private press agents in Washington.

There's some point to an "information specialist" in Washington. Government is so big today that no reporter should be expected single-handed to know it all. The government press agent is a reference library with rose-colored glass windows. His work presents useful facts to the good reporter and the easy way out to the lazy reporter. But the good reporter doesn't usually stop with hand-outs.

NO SUBSTITUTIONS

Mr. McKelway emphasizes that the Thursday luncheon, at which President Truman will speak, will be confined STRICTLY to members and their wives, since even with this limitation the largest room in the Statler will be filled to overflowing.

The presence of the President also necessitates the early deadline on luncheon cancellations, as the Secret Service requires an advance list of those attending.

Thursday will be automatically cancelled, without refund, unless you send word that you are arriving later.

However, the deadline for turning back that extra luncheon ticket for your wife for the Thursday luncheon is Monday, April 17.

A similar condition exists with off-the-record interviews. They can be useful, as the Times staff says. They are often abused by both big and little wigs and by the press.

The main point of the Harris criticism still exists. Washington demands the most exacting reporting. It doesn't always get it. The good reporters are outnumbered in Washington by sluggish confreres. Handouts and "reliable sources" or other nebulous authority make life easier for the lard-butted reporter, and pull the Washington reporters' average down.

Hotel Reservations

The large block of rooms set aside at the Statler for members attending the convention has been exhausted, but the management is making every effort to place additional members at nearby hotels. To make a reservation, write George Lombard, Hotel Statler, Washington, D.C., and be sure to state that you are an ASNE member.

Proceedings Index Proposed

Hamilton Owens, N.R. Howard and Virginius Dabney have been named as a committee to study the feasibility of indexing the Proceedings. They will report to their colleagues on the Board next month.

Ill Health Forces Dwight S. Perrin To Leave Board

Ill health, which he has been battling for months, has forced Dwight S. Perrin to retire as executive editor of the Syracuse Herald-Journal, effective, April 1, and also to resign from ASNE.



DWIGHT S. PERRIN

His regret in severing the association is shared by his colleagues on the Board of Directors, on which he has served since 1946, the last year as treasurer.

As "rest and a mild climate" are his doctor's orders, he and Mrs. Perrin will move next month to Santa Monica, Calif.

Mr. Perrin's illness interrupts a brilliant career. He began as a reporter in St. Louis but in 1914 decided to tackle New York. Name your newspaper, defunct or extant, and he worked on it. Among many distinctions he can claim, one is unique: He's the only man who was city editor of the New York Herald, The Tribune, and the combined Herald Tribune. On the merger hangs a story he tells on himself. In his own words:

"When I was city editor of the old New York Tribune, Frank Munsey and G. M. Lincoln persuaded me to come downtown to be city editor of The Herald.

"I listened to a lot of inflated remarks from my staff mates on the Tribune and was gifted, as Variety would say, with a couple of very handsome presents. One evening six weeks later the telephone rang in my home at New Rochelle and a brisk secretarial voice asked me to come into the city immediately.

"Mr. Reid has just bought The Herald," said the voice.

"I laughed and told the lady she apparently had the thing tail end to. 'I guess you mean,' said I, 'that Mr. Munsey has bought the Tribune.'

"I eventually got my old job back, amidst screams from the people who had contributed to the presents. It was suggested that I

Members' Reaction Sought on Proposed Report Regarding Atomic Information

Last spring the Society charged the Committee on Freedom of Information with the task of carrying forward on press problems relating to the atom. A proposal for the portion of the committee's report dealing with the atom is printed here so that members may give their thoughts on the subject to the committee in advance of the convention. Comments should be addressed to the chairman, Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, Chicago.

Your committee believes American newspaper men should give considerable thought to the viewpoint of most atomic scientists that complete freedom of information exchange is necessary for progress in their field.

They emphasize it is not only senseless but dangerous to restrict basic facts of nature which already may be available to a potential enemy. You cannot classify nature's secrets.

The danger of restriction lies in the false sense of security a nation develops. Other nations, having cross-fertilization of trained minds, will make quicker progress.

It is never known in science which man will have a new idea and what background he must have to get this new idea. Arbitrary exclusion of a certain number of scientists from full knowledge of a development removes the usefulness of these men.

Scientists believe there should be no restriction in the area of

pure research as differentiated between applied research. It is unfortunate that Congress does not have a clear understanding between the two. One deals with nature's secrets, the other with man's secrets. Pure research is concerned with formulating and extending our natural laws of science. Applied research is employing results of pure science to solve definite, practical problems, such as a hydrogen bomb.

Applied research, therefore, is the engineering detail, the blueprint stage. Scientists have no objection to classification in this area.

The greatest single secret of the atomic bomb was whether it would work. This was no longer a secret after August 6, 1945.

What shall the newspaper's role be in the publication of atomic information exchanged among scientists? Newspapers should decide that for themselves under a voluntary censorship program. Freedom of the press is freedom to publish or freedom not to publish, if it considers the information detrimental to the best interests of the country.

Editors should not acquiesce to any program of rigid classification of atomic information. Not only would this stifle the enterprise of a reporter but it would deprive the public of information it should have.

Tenseness of a world situation increases the need for public understanding. The history of the U. S. has always been one of free exchange of ideas.

New Members Elected

Secretary Wright Bryan reports five new members elected by mail ballot of the Board:

Robert W. Brown, editor, Columbus (Ga.) Ledger

David F. Connors, managing editor, Lowell Sun

Irving Dilliard, editor, editorial page, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

William J. Foote, managing editor, Hartford Courant

Dean R. McCollough, editor, Philadelphia Daily News

Mr. Bryan has accepted the resignation of George E. Stansfield, who retired last fall from the managing editorship of the Hartford Courant.

WHY NOT SAN FRANCISCO IN '51?

• By JENKIN LLOYD JONES, Editor, The Tulsa Tribune

Last year exactly half of the membership of the ASNE voted to move the 1950 convention to San Francisco. Because there was no clear majority, President McKelway decided to keep the convention in Washington. The tie vote was remarkable because there had been no campaign to sell members on the move. The proposal was a surprise to most, and was accompanied by no arguments as to why it should be approved. Many of us think that there are a lot of good arguments.

Those who held back on the San Francisco proposal generally did so for three reasons:

1. Some feared that this would inaugurate a yearly shift of the convention which might eventually include uninteresting cities where accommodations would be inferior.

2. Others wondered how we could get speakers who are informed on national and international matters if we went so far west.

3. Still others doubted if they could spend the time or if their publishers would approve the added expense of a California trip.

I don't believe it was ever the intention of those who proposed the San Francisco meeting to move the ASNE gathering around each year like an Elks convention. Washington is to remain our general headquarters. But it was felt that we needed a Sabbatical leave occasionally. Since the beginning of World War II our meetings have been largely concerned, first with global strategy, and second with post war recovery. Our distinguished speakers in the government, military and diplomatic services have kept our sights pretty largely on affairs overseas. Perhaps we should now turn our attention to some peculiarly American problems.

San Francisco is not only one of the most delightful and colorful of major American cities, but it lies in a state that has become a social and economic curiosity. California's 33 per cent. population growth in less than 10 years, its struggle for water, its old-age pension difficulties — all these are problems of considerable interest to every American editor.

Most of our members have not been on the west coast since the war. Many have never been west at all. Some of us think it's time

the ASNE stepped out to have a look at America.

As to objection No. 2, it would seem more sensible to bring speakers to the ASNE than to bring the ASNE to the speakers. We have a very potent Society, among the most powerful of all professional groups in the United States. It has been a long time since our program committees have had any difficulty securing top men to address us. With the possible exception of the President of the United States there has probably not been a single one of our speakers since the war who would not have seized the opportunity to fly to San Francisco or farther to address us.

As to time and expense: By plane San Francisco is closer to most of our members in point of time than Washington is by rail. Specifically, it is 10½ hours from New York, nine from Nashville and 7½ hours from Chicago. It costs more to get there, of course. It's about \$300. round trip from the east coast, but only about a third of our members are in the maximum-fare area, and 54 members are closer to San Francisco than to Washington. It is doubtful if there are many publishers who would refuse to pay the extra fare, if any, that is involved.

I am one who prefers the train, if travel is to be combined with sightseeing and fun. I could think of no more delightful experience than to spend two days on the California Zephyr with ASNE men and their wives. We could take over the entire Pullman accommodations of that train and have a real look at the west as we went.

If the '51 convention were held in San Francisco it is proposed to move the date back to mid June. That's a grand opportunity for eastern members to use up their vacation time in the west with expenses paid by the publisher in both directions. Such gentle larceny is certainly appealing.

Herman Deutsch of New Orleans, Jim Mills of Birmingham, Walter Leckrone of Indianapolis, and I are recently back from an aerial junket to Peru. En route home we discussed the San Francisco idea, and we all agreed that the only trips we ever regretted were the ones we didn't take.

Let's break out of this Washington routine for a change. Let's go west in '51.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PRESIDENT	
B. M. McKELWAY	Washington Star
1st VICE-PRESIDENT	
DWIGHT YOUNG	Dayton Journal Herald
2nd VICE-PRESIDENT	
ALEXANDER F. JONES	Washington Post
SECRETARY	
WRIGHT BRYAN	Atlanta Journal
TREASURER	
DWIGHT PERRIN	Syracuse Herald-Journal

The Board of Directors consists of the officers and the following:

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DAVID LAWRENCE	U. S. News & World Report
KENNETH MACDONALD	Des Moines Register & Tribune
HAMILTON OWENS	Baltimore Sun

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 318 March 1, 1950

Charles R. Corbin

Charles R. Corbin, assistant executive editor of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, died Feb. 19 after a long illness.

Except for Army service in World War I, and two years as assistant to the director of censorship in the second war, he had worked on newspapers since 1914. He went to Minneapolis in 1944, after 13 years on the Toledo Blade.

Mr. Corbin, who was 56, had been an ASNE member three years.

Membership Applications

Applications for membership received in the next month will be acted on by mail ballot of the Board, or at its meeting just prior to the convention. Address requests for blanks to the membership chairman, Edward Lindsay, editor, The Herald and Review, Decatur, Ill.

"Out of My Waste Basket" is a collection of Walter M. Harrison's recent writings (120 pp., \$3.) with cover reproductions of rejection slips from various periodicals. The contents are pure Harrison, sometimes inspirational, sometimes angry and always entertaining. Stories range from one about a newspaper that did not get caught on the false Amistice to the Tom Harmon-Clara Jones scandal in the Harding era.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 319

April 1, 1950

MANY NEWSPAPER PANELS TO HIGHLIGHT CONVENTION

Major theme of this year's convention will center about practical newspaper problems, and a large share of the speakers will be Society members.

President Truman's talk at the Thursday luncheon, the banquet address by Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Saturday evening and the ever-popular Congressional panel on Thursday evening are the only highlights of a governmental nature in the three day program.

On the other hand, Kenneth MacDonald, program chairman, responding to the expressed wishes of the membership, has scheduled several newspaper panel discussions with top-flight speakers participating. Among these are:

"Covering Washington," with Frank Ahlgren of the Memphis Commercial Appeal as panel chairman, and a group of four capital correspondents.

"Are We Making the Best Use of Our Comic Space?" Three top flight artists—Milton Caniff (Steve Canyon creator), Al Capp (Li'l Abner), and Leslie Turner (Wash Tubbs) will battle it out against three top flight editors—Felix R. McKnight, Dallas Morning News (chairman), James S. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal, and Norman E. Isaacs, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"Journalism Accrediting Program," A. H. Kirchhofer of the Buffalo Evening News, chairman, with Dr. Frank Luther Mott, dean of the University of Missouri School of Journalism and Norval Neil Luxon, chairman of the Accrediting committee.

Press Club Invitation

Radford Mobley, President of the National Press Club, has extended through President McKelway, an invitation to all ASNE members to avail themselves of the facilities of the club during the convention. Members' badges will secure for them guest cards at the Press Club desk.

EARLY arrivals will find it convenient to pick up their credentials at the convention registration desk on the mezzanine of the Statler on Wednesday afternoon before the rush begins. In your envelope you will find your badge, banquet tickets, luncheon tickets, list of members attending, and ballot for the vote on directors. Please check on them before leaving desk.

The Friday luncheon speaker will be David Lawrence, editor of the U. S. News and World Report who this year declined renomination after long service on the ASNE Board of Directors, during which time he has been treasurer, program chairman, chairman of numerous special and standing committees.

Saturday's luncheon will bring a report by Barry Bingham of the Louisville Courier-Journal on the ECA, and by Roscoe Drummond of the Christian Science Monitor on "The Situation in Europe." Both are returning from abroad to address the society.

In addition to reports by committee chairmen on various Society activities during the past year or plans for the future, Mr. MacDonald has scheduled an illustrated talk on "Picture Editing," by William J. White, picture editor of The New York Daily News, and one on "New Developments in Newspaper Production" by William Baumrucker, Jr., chairman of the A.N.P.A. Research committee.

Plans Advanced For International Press Institute

Following extensive study and much liaison work with allied organizations, the committee to investigate the desirability of establishment of an International Press Institute has reached conclusions which will be presented to the Society's membership by Chairman Lester Markel of the New York Times in a special, far-reaching report at the opening session of the convention.

It is proposed to bring to the United States a group of key foreign editors under the joint auspices of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and the American Press Institute. The main purpose would be (a) to examine the desirability of setting up an international press organization; (b) to acquaint the visiting editors more intimately with the philosophy and practices of American journalism; and (c) to acquaint American editors with the problems of foreign journalism.

Mr. Markel believes that if the foreign editors visit key newspaper areas in this country and gain an insight into American newspapers and their operation, probably late this summer or early fall, they should then meet at the American Press Institute with a committee of the ASNE to decide whether an International Press Institute is feasible.

Practical aspects of the project have not been overlooked. Mr. Markel reports that the Carnegie Foundation has assured him of a grant of \$10,000 and the Rockefeller Foundation \$25,000 to cover the estimated budget of \$35,000 for all the foreseeable expenses. The American Press Institute has agreed to take over the planning and execution of the plan and a tentative selection of foreign editors (the majority from Europe, some from Asia and some from Latin America) is now being made.

Attention, Please!

The schedule of convention events, as printed on this page, necessarily is not in final form, and members should consult the programs they will receive upon arrival in Washington for changes and substitutions.

★ ★ ★

Early submission of resolutions will be welcomed by the Resolutions committee, Frank A. Clarvoe, San Francisco News, chairman. The committee will hold a meeting at the Statler on Wednesday evening prior to the opening of the convention.

★ ★ ★

Members should note that no session will be held on Friday evening, an innovation that has been requested by members for many years.

★ ★ ★

At the time copy closed for this issue of the Bulletin, more than 300 members already had registered for the convention, and almost half of them will be accompanied by wives. That means a record attendance this year.

★ ★ ★

Repeating from last month:

Deadline for cancelling your entire advance registration, if you cannot attend the convention, is 6 p.m. of the opening day, Thursday, April 20. Or, if a guest drops out, you can obtain a refund on a banquet ticket up to that time.

Tickets not picked up by 6 p.m. Thursday will be automatically cancelled, without refund, unless you send word that you are arriving later.

However, the deadline for turning back that extra luncheon ticket for your wife for the Thursday luncheon is Monday, April 17.

★ ★ ★

Members of the ASNE elected during the past year should inform their wives that there will be a short delay following the Thursday afternoon session. This is the time when officers and directors of the society will greet them at a freshman cocktail party on the Statler mezzanine, room to be announced.

Two Ex-Members Die

Frank M. Sparks, who was editor of the Grand Rapids Herald, and George B. Armstead of the Hartford Courant, were former members of the Society who have died within the past month. Both men were active in the ASNE, served on various committees and were regular attendants at the annual conventions.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Opening Session — 10 a.m.

Address by President B. M. McKelway.

Reports of officers and standing committee chairmen: Wright Bryan, secretary; Alexander F. Jones, acting treasurer; L. D. Hotchkiss, nominations; Edward Lindsay, membership.

World Freedom of Information: Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, committee chairman.

International Press Institute: Lester Markel, New York Times, committee chairman.

State Department Dissemination of News: George Cornish, New York Herald Tribune, committee chairman.

Luncheon

President Harry S. Truman.

Afternoon Session

Self-Improvement Studies for the Press: J. Donald Ferguson, Milwaukee Journal, committee chairman.

Policies on A.M. and P.M. Releases by Press Associations: Harold F. Wheeler, Boston Traveler, committee chairman.

Memorial Report: Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade. Cocktail party for new members.

Evening Session

Congressional Panel. (Speakers to be announced).

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Morning Session

New Developments in Newspaper Production: William Baumrucker, Jr., chairman of the A.N.P.A. Research committee.

Journalism Accrediting Program: A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News, panel chairman; Dr. Frank Luther Mott, dean of the University of Missouri School of Journalism; Norval Neil Luxon, chairman of the Accrediting committee.

Luncheon

David Lawrence, United States News & World Report.

Afternoon Session

Picture Editing (illustrated): William J. White, picture editor of The New York Daily News.

Covering Washington: Frank Ahlgren, Memphis Commercial Appeal, panel chairman. (Panel of four correspondents to be announced).

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Morning Session

Panel: Are We Making the Best Use of Our Comic Space? Felix R. McKnight, Dallas Morning News, Chairman, James S. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal, Norman E. Isaacs, St. Louis Star-Times, representing editors, Milton Caniff, Al Capp, and Leslie Turner representing artists.

(Second morning session to be announced).

Luncheon

Report on ECA: Barry Bingham, Chief of ECA Mission to France.

The Situation in Europe: Roscoe Drummond, Christian Science Monitor.

Afternoon Session

Report: Erwin Canham, Christian Science Monitor.

Report of Resolutions Committee: Frank A. Clarvoe, San Francisco News, committee chairman.

Discussion and adoption of resolutions.

Evening Session

Cocktail party for members and their guests.

Banquet Speaker: Dean Acheson, The Secretary of State.

WHY NOT WASHINGTON IN '51?

• By DWIGHT E. YOUNG
Dayton Journal Herald

After reading Jenkin Lloyd Jones' quite persuasive piece, captioned "Why not San Francisco in '51?" in the March Bulletin, I feel an urge, even in the midst of a South Florida vacation, to write a few words "on the other side."

It so happens that I am one of the group in the Society, mentioned by Mr. Jones, as never having been on the West Coast. I should like to visit not only San Francisco, but Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland, and many other interesting spots in the far west. And I fully expect to do so in the near future as a vacation.

But I question the desirability of taking the annual ASNE convention on such a sight-seeing junket. It seems to me that ours is a rather vital newspaper organization, having important objectives in the newspaper field and serious subjects to discuss. I strongly suspect that in a sight-seeing convention the normal activities of our annual meetings would suffer sharply.

I agree with Mr. Jones that getting outside speakers, even governmental officials, would not be difficult whether we met in San Francisco or anywhere else.

Quite frankly I feel that in recent years we have had too many outside speakers, particularly governmental dignitaries, and not enough discussion by our own members.

However I feel I must disagree with the thought that convention attendance would not suffer as a result of meeting in San Francisco. Off hand I should say it would be from one-fourth to one-third less. It isn't merely a question of plane or train fares, although many members' wives accompany them to the convention. Expense accounts would be much heavier.

Unhappily there are too many publishers who reluctantly "ok" members' expense accounts to our convention in Washington. Some editors have told me they pay their own dues and expenses. I am afraid many of them would be unwilling to approve the additional cost of a trip to the Pacific Coast, and would regard such a trip as a vacation that should be treated as an individual matter, the same as other vacations.

Moreover a large number of our editors as well as editor-publisher members are accustomed to go on to New York for the ANPA conven-

tion the week following our own meeting in Washington. The number of editors at ANPA is increasing each year. I consider that desirable.

What would happen to this trend if a continent and two months more of time separated the two conventions?

Our Society was founded in New York City. As I recall, its first annual meeting was held in Atlantic City. Since then all of our meetings have been held in Washington with the single exception of one World War II year when we went to New York City because no Washington hotel could accommodate us as a result of war activity in the national capital.

I am certain the tradition of meeting regularly in Washington was not established in a haphazard manner. I do not believe this tradition should be broken, other than

A CALIFORNIAN EXPLAINS

• By L. D. HOTCHKISS
Los Angeles Times

I have noted with interest the article by Jenkin Lloyd Jones, editor of the Tulsa Tribune, in the March issue of the Bulletin, suggesting San Francisco as the site for the 1951 convention of the ASNE.

I think Mr. Jones has a fine idea, but the reasons ascribed for arriving thereat are disturbing, coming from an Oklahoman.

He states "San Francisco is not only one of the most delightful and colorful of major American cities, but it lies in a state which has become a social and economic curiosity."

As a favor to eastern members who consider the Hudson the western boundary of the country, permit me to point out that California became a "social and economic curiosity" only after the great migration which began in the early thirties and reached its peak during the war years.

And of the 33% population growth in less than ten years, of which Mr. Jones speaks, at least 32½% came from Oklahoma.

"Oakies" we call them, and I suspect Mr. Jones' plea for California as the site of the '51 convention has a touch of nostalgia in it.

Nevertheless, I am certain members of the Society should see California, and, although I can't speak for San Francisco, I know that Los

SEATS will not be reserved for the Thursday luncheon at which President Truman speaks, but there will be ample room in the Presidential Room for all who have made reservations. The luncheon remains limited strictly to members and their wives, and convention badges should be worn to ensure admission.

as emergency may require, except by a majority vote, not merely of those attending any particular convention, but of the entire dues-paying membership.

Such a decision should be on the basis of a mail ballot, the same as was done last year. Regardless of my personal views I, of course, am quite ready as always to acquiesce in whatever decision the entire membership in such a balloting might make.

Angeles and the southern part of that "social and economic curiosity" will welcome you with open arms.

And if we can't explain everything we'll let Jenkin "bark" for the sight-seeing buses.

He should know.

RESOLUTION

(Proposed for Adoption)

WHEREAS there has been discussion for some years at meetings of the American Society of Newspaper Editors concerning a change in the annual meeting place from Washington, D. C. and

WHEREAS a poll of the members of the American Society of Newspaper Editors showed a majority favoring moving the 1951 annual meeting to San Francisco,

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the membership of the American Society of Newspaper Editors instruct the Board of Directors that it is the consensus of the Society that the 1951 annual meeting be held in the Summer in San Francisco, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 1952 meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors be held in April in Washington, D. C.

VINCENT S. JONES
JAMES KERNEY, JR.

GOALS OF THE SOCIETY

By MELVILLE F. FERGUSON

Editor, Philadelphia Bulletin

The neophyte who wants to know where we of the ASNE are heading, what we are shooting at, might get a lead from the second paragraph of the preamble to our constitution, which says of the Society, in part:

"Its purpose shall be to promote acquaintance among its members, to develop a stronger professional esprit de corps, to maintain the dignity and rights of the profession, to consider and perhaps establish ethical standards of professional conduct, to interchange ideas for the advancement of professional ideals and for the more effective application of professional labors, and to work collectively for the solution of common problems."

The "ethical standards of professional conduct" have been established in a Code of Ethics, or Canons of Journalism, which for many years has been a chart for conscientious editors.

Now, the objectives thus stated and the means of attaining them practised are not just a lot of hokey. They are taken seriously by the growing membership of ASNE. They are promoted at our annual meetings through the seeking of advice and information from outside sources and by intelligent discussion of means of satisfying the public need for better newspapers.

We all want to increase the quantity and improve the quality of circulation. We can't do it unless we deserve and win the confidence of our readers, study their reasonable wants and keep abreast of the times in supplying them. To this end it is necessary to examine the experience of fellow-members and inform ourselves of the devices employed throughout the newspaper field; to consider all public measures that threaten the rights or otherwise affect the interests of newspapers, and steadfastly to defend the freedom of the press while acknowledging the responsibilities that go with it.

These tasks are so well performed that the ASNE speaks with the voice of authority on all matters affecting its professional interests, and that over the years it has been effective in raising the standards of journalism throughout the country.

The ASNE is working for all the people of the country. It gives them better newspapers, more reliable newspapers, even if from motives of self-interest. There is so much room for further improvement that a great deal of work still lies before it. That, I think, is the sum of the answer to the new member—and he will be expected to help in carrying on to the common goal.

Our Restless Directors

Never before in the Society's history has such upheaval occurred in the Board of Directors during a single year. In January, Wilbur Forrest, retiring from the Herald Tribune, resigned from the Board; in February, Dwight S. Perrin, compelled by ill health to leave the Syracuse Herald-Journal, resigned both from the Board and the office of Treasurer, effective April 1; and two additional directors, David Lawrence, U. S. News & World Report and Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post, whose terms expire this year, have declined to stand for reelection.

Now Alexander F. Jones also has messed up the Bulletin masthead. Named by President McKelway to be acting treasurer in addition to his duties as second vice-president, Mr. Jones promptly switched his allegiance from the Washington Post to the Syracuse Herald-Journal where he became executive editor on April 1, to succeed Mr. Perrin.

Coming from Minneapolis, Mr. Jones became managing editor of the Post in 1935, and since 1947 has been assistant to the publisher. His 15 years with the paper covered the period of its greatest expansion under the ownership of Eugene Meyer. Both Mr. Meyer and Philip L. Graham, the publisher, paid high tribute to Mr. Jones when his resignation was announced, and Washington loses one of its best newspaper men.

New Member From Ohio

Harold W. Carlisle, executive editor of the Ohio State Journal, Columbus, Ohio, has been elected to membership by mail ballot of the Board of Directors.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PRESIDENT

B. M. McKELWAY *Washington Star*

1st VICE-PRESIDENT

DWIGHT YOUNG *Dayton Journal Herald*

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT, ACTING TREASURER

ALEXANDER F. JONES *Syracuse Herald-Journal*

SECRETARY

WRIGHT BRYAN *Atlanta Journal*

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OVETA CULP HOBBY *Houston Post*

N. R. HOWARD *Cleveland News*

JENKIN LLOYD JONES *Tulsa Tribune*

DAVID LAWRENCE *U. S. News & World Report*

KENNETH MACDONALD *Des Moines Register & Tribune*

HAMILTON OWENS *Baltimore Sun*

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary

and Editor of The Bulletin. Address:

Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone

and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 319

April 1, 1950

Louis I. Jaffe

Distinguished editor of the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, Pulitzer Prize winner, and a member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors for more than two decades, Louis I. Jaffe, 62, died of a heart attack on March 12. Mr. Jaffe achieved his greatest success and received national recognition for his impressive writings concerning race relations, and it was his editorial, "An Unspeakable Act of Savagery," dealing with a Southern lynching that led to his being awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1929. After serving the Richmond Times-Dispatch as reporter and assistant city editor before World War I, he was appointed editor of the Virginian-Pilot on his return from Europe in 1919.

C. Sylvester Green Resigns

C. Sylvester Green, formerly editor of the Durham Herald, who resigned from the ASNE upon his appointment as executive vice-president of Medical Foundation of North Carolina at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, writes: "As much as I am intrigued by the opportunities I envision in this new service, I suffer a sense of genuine loss in leaving the newspaper field. I have thoroughly enjoyed my affiliation with the ASNE."

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 320

May 1, 1950

Record Attendance Applauds Program Of Pre-War Type

Again the Society's annual convention, in Washington last month, shattered previous attendance records. Many members thought it also was better than in many years because, to a large degree, it returned to a pre-war atmosphere. Carrying a step further a trend established by all program chairmen since the war, Kenneth MacDonald this year subordinated the number of government conferences to newspaper talks and panels.

Government spokesmen, of course, had an important place on the program, chief among them President Truman and Secretary of State Acheson. Mr. Truman addressed the largest luncheon audience in the Society's history; and the most beautiful by virtue of the presence of members' wives. President B. M. McKelway added in introducing the President.

As the result of perfect liaison between Mr. MacDonald and Mr. McKelway, there were no major changes in the program as it appeared in the last Bulletin. The comic strip panel, naturally, drew the biggest crowd, and the most laughs. All the newspaper talks, on Washington coverage, picture editing, production in the future, and other topics, ranked high in interest.

The Hotel Statler management, sensing even before the editors did, that Senator Joseph R. McCarthy talking on communism would draw a crowd larger than the Congressional Room could accommodate, moved the meeting into the large ballroom. More than 900 members and guests attended.

The Friday and Saturday luncheons ran a close second to the Presidential affair. Because of the general interest in his recollections of the Society by David Lawrence, copies of his talk have been mailed to all members. For Saturday's luncheon, two ASNE mem-



DWIGHT YOUNG, publisher and editor of the Dayton Journal Herald, photographed with other new officers of the ASNE directly after his election as President of the Society. Seated: Alexander F. Jones, Syracuse Herald-Journal, first vice-president; Mr. Young; Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal, second vice-president. Standing: L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers, treasurer; and Kenneth MacDonald, Des Moines Register and Tribune, secretary.

Photos in this issue by Elwood Baker, Washington Star

bers now on ECA missions, Barry Bingham, Louisville Courier-Journal and Times, and Roscoe Drummond of the Christian Science Monitor flew back from Europe. Their talks, and all other addresses, will appear in the annual Proceedings.

Banquet attendance, slightly less than some recent years, was approximately 800. This was not lack of interest but a plan, carefully thought out by the directors, to answer complaints that the dinner had been too large in the past. Promised that they'd get better seats if they took only two tickets, more members did. Some 200 in the outfield were far from happy, but the consensus was that this year's rules were fair; and the great majority were satisfied.

Registration was about 360, complete figures still to be compiled.

THE convention round-up in this issue skims the highlights of the meeting in Washington last month.

Committee reports, and action taken by the membership or the Board of Directors, are summarized.

The transcript of the debate on whether to convene in Washington or San Francisco in 1951 appears on pages 4 and 5. Enclosed is your ballot, with a return envelope.

Addresses by government spokesmen and newspaper panels are omitted. Some were broadcast; others already have appeared in the public press or in Editor and Publisher. Space does not permit adequate condensation, and in the printed Proceedings they will appear in entirety as this year there were no off-the-record sessions.

History of Society Will be Written By David Lawrence

The Board committee to consider the need and feasibility of indexing the Proceedings found itself with more of a chore on its hands than it had bargained for. Quoting the chairman, Hamilton Owens, Baltimore Sun:

"Neither the general meetings nor the Board meetings have ever failed to stimulate their members into excited and occasionally acrimonious discussion. But it also appears from both the Proceedings and minutes that, in the smoke of discussion, the decision reached is sometimes obscured."

Consequently, he said, no routine job of indexing would suffice. What is needed is a brief general history of the Society, not only covering events from 1922 but also clearing up obscurities and codifying decisions made. The man to do this tremendous work must be a diplomat as well as historian and all signs, Mr. Owens committee agreed, pointed to just one candidate who could qualify: David Lawrence.

Since he is busy, and just retiring from the Board after 20 years of indefatigable service, the committee hesitated to broach the possibility to him. When Mr. Owens did, he accepted the commission with the comment, "A man always finds time to do the things he wants to do."

Membership Limits

Decision on further limitation of membership: none at this time.

Reporting for the Board committee which studied the problem, Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Tulsa Tribune, outlined the arguments of pro and anti-limiters, and also his committee's proposal that the directors be admonished not to elect in the next year more new members than the number retiring. This and an alternative suggestion further limiting the number of members from individual newspapers were rejected by the Board.

After the full report appears in the Proceedings, Mr. Jones said, his "bloody but unbowed committee, and the Board as a whole, hopes the entire membership will give these matters some thought and air their opinions in the Bulletin."

PRESIDENT McKELWAY'S ADDRESS

"Let Us Continue to Preach the Growing Necessity
In a Complex Society for Press Responsibility."

In his presidential address, B. M. McKelway covered activities since last April and touched on ASNE history pertinent to the past year.

His first official act was to poll the membership on whether to meet in San Francisco this year. The prospect, he said, was enticing, but "when the ballots were counted, the members were found to have displayed a characteristic which is a hallmark of the free press of America. We could not agree."

With the vote tied, "Your president made a statesmanlike decision. He dodged the issue by maintaining the status quo. A loyal Board of Directors, with some faint grumblings from newly elected directors not quite regimented, agreed with the decision. . . . It is a matter of satisfaction to your outgoing President that you will have another opportunity to discuss the pros and cons of travel and to decide whether its broadening influences outweigh its hazards."

Next, Mr. McKelway took up the problem of bigness, the increased growth in membership and attendance, and linked with it "the problem of the direction in which we should move as a professional organization."

That is where history came in. "The men who created this organization selected a few good and simple things that we were to stand for," Mr. McKelway said, and quoted examples from the preamble to the Constitution. One was improved ethical standards and, he recalled, one of the earliest experiments of the Society was a committee to deal with them. But the subject was too nebulous, and the committee soon was abolished, as were its successors.

One purpose of his allusion to history, Mr. McKelway said "is to provide the evidence that there has always been, and there continues to be, a division among our members as to our role as a society of newspaper editors."

"One group, distressed and at times understandably outraged over abuses of newspaper responsibility and other shenanigans associated with our craft, would

have us move in the direction of unfrocking . . . those deemed guilty of malpractice.

"The other group . . . believes that our hope of raising standards of performance is more securely based on demonstration, exemplification and discussion of the attainable ideal than upon attempts to enforce acceptance of what some of us may think is the ideal."

Mr. McKelway identified himself with the latter group, in this statement, "Certainly this concept of our role conforms more closely to the concept of a free press."

Referring to the Illinois case last year, where ASNE investigated inferences that the press had been bought, Mr. McKelway cited it as a field "in which our Society can and should move effectively in defense of the good name and dignity of our calling." He suggested that the report of the Board of Directors on that case should be printed in the Proceedings.

His concluding remarks concerned criticism of the press, and the goals of the Society.

"Informed criticism of the press is healthy," he said. "But anything that attacks the principle of a free press, either directly or by some more oblique effort to destroy the people's belief in the advantages to them of its freedom, should become the business of this Society."

As for the goals:

"Let us continue, as a society, to search out the best things that newspapers are doing to raise standards of performance and bring them to the attention of our members."

"Let us continue to preach the growing necessity in a complex society for press responsibility. . . ."

"We should continue to lend encouragement to our fellow newspapermen in other parts of the world whose situation may not be so fortunate as our own. . . ."

"Let us rest our faith in the continuing improvement of journalism upon the men who serve it—men whose devotion, honor and sense of public responsibility are exceeded by the servants of no other profession. For if we cannot depend upon them, no fine formulas or commissions are apt to be of much help."

Newspapers Alert To Protect Rights Walters Reports

The World Freedom of Information Committee found it unnecessary to do much firing from the hip this past year, Basil L. Walters of Knight Newspapers said, because newspapers everywhere have been doing their own firing.

He read excerpts from a typical letter the committee sent to public officials when it was asked to intercede in disputes between them and editors in their communities. This pointed out that serious precedents often are set by well-intentioned officials who do not understand that suppression of records from public scrutiny means another step toward surrender of the American citizen's right 'to know.' It concluded: "Won't you, with open mind, listen to your editor's reasoning? This is a matter that can easily be settled between you two."

Mr. Walters suggested that editors who have difficulty with overzealous police officers misinterpreting the so-called Uniform Vehicle Code, now on the books of 35 states, write Sidney J. Williams, assistant to the president, National Safety Council, 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago 6, Ill.

The Committee recommended that the ASNE committee on atomic information, whose functions last year were turned over to the Freedom of Information Committee, be revived because the subject is at once broad and highly specialized.

'Self-Improvement' Report is Adopted

"We believe that the most effective sort of appraisal of the self-improvement possibilities of American newspapers lies in continuing self-examination," J. Donald Ferguson, Milwaukee Journal, said as chairman of the committee appointed to investigate those possibilities.

The starting point for improvement, he reminded, was in 1922 when the founding fathers laid down the purposes of the Society in the preamble to the constitution.

"Nevertheless," Mr. Ferguson said, "we also recognize that there is greater need for this self-examination and self-improvement than at any time in the past. . . . Our



NEWLY-ELECTED DIRECTORS: Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star and Tribune; James S. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal; W. R. Mathews, Arizona Daily Star; J. Donald Ferguson, Milwaukee Journal; Mr. Mathews fills the unexpired term of B. M. McKelway who becomes an ex-officio member of the Board.

Foreign Editors and ASNE Committee To Decide on International Institute

Lester Markel, New York Times, explained why his committee believes an International Press Institute is necessary and why ASNE is the desirable organization to spearhead the movement. His summary:

"The UNESCO project (along the same lines) is still very much of a blueprint. The FIEJ (of which ASNE is a member) is more of a publishers' organization than an association of editors. The Pan-American Congress is not international."

He added that the measure should be kept free of government

auspices because of the bickering that has marked the UN debates on any press issue; and that it is essential that the project should be a joint effort and not a unilateral program of American editors in order to dispel fears of U. S. domination which extend to the newspaper field.

As previously announced, 16 foreign editors will come here in September, under joint auspices of ASNE and the American Press Institute, financed by grants from the Rockefeller Foundation and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. For three weeks they will visit key areas where Society members will arrange gatherings for discussion of problems and practices of both groups.

Nominations

In the absence of L. D. Hotchkiss, Los Angeles Times, who was ill, John B. Mullaney, Cleveland News, reported for the nominations committee the names of the eight candidates selected, already printed in the Bulletin and on the ballots.

In addition, Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post, who had declined renomination, was nominated from the floor.

CONVENTION DEBATE ON LOCATION OF 1951 MEETING

Washington or San Francisco?—Read, then Vote!

At the convention a resolution was presented proposing that the 1951 convention be held in San Francisco. A substitute resolution provided that the matter be submitted to the entire membership by mail ballot, accompanied by a transcript of the debate. This was adopted.

The transcript follows. Your ballot and a return addressed envelope are enclosed. This mail poll will close on Saturday, May 20; ballots postmarked after that date will not be counted.

MR. FRANK CLARVOE (San Francisco News, Resolutions Chairman): Gentlemen, with the greatest feeling of hospitality, I read Resolution No. 5.

"Whereas, There has been discussion for some years at meetings of the American Society of Newspaper Editors concerning a change in the customary annual meeting place from Washington, D. C.; and

"Whereas, A poll of members of the Society, conducted by mail following the 1949 convention on moving the 1950 annual meeting to San Francisco, resulted in a tie vote; now therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That the membership of the American Society of Newspaper Editors in convention assembled advise the Board of Directors that it is the consensus of the Society that the 1951 annual convention be held in San Francisco; and be it

"FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 1952 meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors be held in April in Washington, D. C."

Mr. Chairman, without the slightest embarrassment, I move its adoption.

(The motion was regularly seconded.)

PRESIDENT McKELWAY: Gentlemen, the resolution has been moved and seconded.

MR. J. D. FERGUSON (Milwaukee Journal): Mr. Chairman, can this convention tie up the next convention on where they want to meet?

PRESIDENT McKELWAY: This applies to the 1951 convention.

MR. MELVILLE F. FERGUSON (Philadelphia Bulletin): If it is in order, I think the proponents of this resolution ought to give us some information on a subject which I am sure they must have considered, and that is San Francisco's capacity to hold a meeting of this size. I refer to hotel accommodations and banquet accommodations.

PRESIDENT McKELWAY: Perhaps the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee can answer that.

MR. CLARVOE: Gentlemen, we haven't much time between now and the banquet to give you the details of the glories of San Francisco (laughter). I think there is neither time nor would I have the needed eloquence. I believe there is an assumption that San Francisco could well handle this convention and while I am not shilling for any particular hotel, there are at least two which might very easily handle this crowd, one being the Palace and one being the Fairmont.

Understand now from the wording of the resolution, we are merely telling the Board that it is our wish that the convention be held there next year. I would, of course, admit that there are practical considerations to go into, and I am sure those who propose the resolution know something of the city. There are certain preliminaries, naturally, to moving a convention of

this size from a customary place to a place where it has never met. Although of course there might be an inconvenience or two, I am sure that San Francisco, and your enjoyment of it, would far surpass any irritation that might result from any such inconvenience; but I am positive that your Society, through its directors and through the proper person, upon inquiry in San Francisco, would be amply reassured as to the city's ability to handle it.

It being a favored convention city, I would suggest that, if this resolution passes and it is your wish to meet there next year, no time be wasted in making the proper examination of facilities.

MR. DONALD J. STERLING (Portland Oregon Journal): I want to go on record against this resolution. I am a West Coast resident; I have been in Portland forty years and love it and would rather go to San Francisco than come to Washington, but not to a convention, and I will tell you the reasons why. I think this Society belongs in Washington. We deal with government. We have occasion, while visiting here, to have contacts outside of our colleagues, with men in government. That does not mean we have to clutter up our programs with men in government. I have attended every meeting of the Society and all except two have been held here. You remember the second meeting was in Atlantic City. Of course, we were young and struggling in our swaddling clothes. That was a flop. We moved down here. Then some years later, Dwight Marvin was president and we were in New York. That was a good convention, but we were very glad to come back here.

There are so many attractions, or distractions, in San Francisco that I am afraid (and I know Paul Smith and Frank Clarvoe will agree with me) that the attendance at the sessions would not be as great as it is here.

Then, too, the convenience of a great majority of members should be considered. They live east of the Mississippi River. As you know, the Associated Press meets on the fourth Monday in April, in New York; it has to do that according to its by-laws, and with our meeting set just preceding that, a great many of us take advantage of that opportunity to go to the two meetings.

But my main objection to San Francisco or any place else is that because of the peculiar relationship between this Society and the government, we belong in the seat of government. (Applause)

MR. PAUL SMITH (San Francisco Chronicle): Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen: I rise to disagree with the assumption that I could agree with anything my distinguished colleague from Portland has said. Admittedly there are distractions in San Francisco; but despite a number of years' membership in this Society, this unfortunately, and fortunately, is the first meeting I have had the opportunity to attend here, and I have detected a number of distractions in this area, which distractions do not offer the scope of entertainment that can be offered in San Francisco, and which nevertheless seem to be sufficiently diverting to hold down the attendance at these general meetings.

I would like to suggest, in speaking in behalf of the resolution, that San Francisco is fairly well developed in a world that has long since abandoned the concept of Mercator's projection. We are approximately ten hours from any other place in the United States. I

know that everyone here is interested in mass communications and I would like to point out that, in San Francisco, we have a proximity to the greatest medium of mass communications existing in the world, the Pacific Ocean. It so happens that within a thousand miles of the Pacific Ocean there reside over one billion and a half of the peoples of the world, and I am sure that the members of this Society strive to get into the closest possible contact with the people of the world rather than the anachronistic forms known as states, the proximity of which they seem to enjoy here.

There is also in our refreshing atmosphere, Mr. President, the opportunity to clear our minds of many of the confusions that I have always found imposed upon me, upon arrival in Washington, even in the best of weather.

Last but not least, I would like to join Frank Clarvoe in saying that we certainly would be most hospitable there. I would like to be stronger than Mr. Clarvoe and say that I am sure that he and I together can guarantee, in a very short space of time, ample facilities for the accommodations of this Society. I want also to add that it is extremely difficult, under even normal conditions, to keep Washington officialdom out of San Francisco and if this Society meets there, I know you will be able to get any government counsel that you want, for your banquet speaker or otherwise, from the highest to the lowest, as they have an affinity for San Francisco.

Finally, may I just suggest that, by a curious geographical coincidence, it is just as far from San Francisco to Washington as it is from Washington to San Francisco. (Laughter)

MR. CLARVOE: May I assure the members of the Society that there has been no collusion whatever between Mr. Smith and myself in this resolution; it was offered by some gentleman from New Jersey. (Laughter)

MR. DAVID LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, I want to raise a question that perhaps some of us have not thought about. We conducted a poll in which 436 members of this Society participated. There are present here today 140 votes. Irrespective of which way you want to vote on this, does it seem fair for 140 members now to decide this question, when we have already had a poll, which happened, by accident, to be a tie? Wouldn't it be a lot fairer to submit this question to the membership in a poll? Why not let the proponents of San Francisco and those who oppose it present a memorandum on their views which the members can read and so see what the opposing arguments are.

I move, Mr. Chairman, that the question be referred to the Board of Directors with instructions to conduct a poll in the same way that we did before.

PRESIDENT McKELWAY: Do you move that as a substitute?

MR. LAWRENCE: As a substitute for the resolution, yes.

MR. STERLING: I will second that, if that is a proper parliamentary procedure.

MR. WALTER M. HARRISON (Oklahoma City): May I make this small comment, that while it is true that the matter has been submitted to a poll, the fact remains that this is the forum of this Society, to which all are invited. The time for passage and discussion of resolutions has arrived and every member of the Society who is in Washington knows it has arrived, yet the distractions in Washington which Mr. Smith referred to have pulled those people away; so it would not be amiss, in my judgment, to have a decision from



President Harry S. Truman and ASNE President B. M. McKelway at the Thursday luncheon in the Presidential room.

the people who are in this audience as to their preference as expressed in this resolution. They have at least shown by their presence here this afternoon that they are interested in the business that comes before the Society.

MR. LAWRENCE: Mr. Chairman, there are many members who have been unable to attend this session at all. This question is one that touches the convenience of many members and I think it is only fair to give those who are not in Washington a chance to vote also.

MR. BEN REESE: It looks to me like a sleeper resolution that is put in here for action at the last moment.

PRESIDENT McKELWAY: You will have an opportunity to vote on it, Mr. Reese. Of course, the original resolution was published in the Bulletin.

The question will be on the substitute resolution, which provides that there be a poll of the membership and, if I understand you, Mr. Lawrence, the question would be accompanied by some sort of transcript of this debate.

MR. LAWRENCE: I would favor the copy of this debate being sent to the membership.

PRESIDENT McKELWAY: The question is on the substitute resolution. All in favor please say "aye"; opposed "no." The "ayes" appear to have it. If anyone wishes the Chair to do so, he will have a teller vote. Does anyone request a teller vote? The substitute resolution is adopted.

State Department Press Relations Reported Better

An encouraging report came from George Cornish, New York Herald Tribune, chairman of the committee to investigate methods of furnishing State Department information to the press. Correspondents with whom his committee conferred reported that there has been an improvement in the Department's attitude toward the press in recent months. "They are far from considering the situation perfect as it exists today," he said, "but they say that they are finding it easier to see people in the Department, and to obtain information."

Whether this trend continues, Mr. Cornish added, remains to be seen, but "the committee believes that the Department, certainly in many cases, sincerely wants to get away from its former clammy attitude, and to give the public more reliable information."

He concluded: "Your committee believes that there is a wide area in which the State Department and the reporters can amicably cooperate, but regardless of how effective the Department's public relations program becomes, let's hope that there will always be embarrassing questions, and days when a certain reporter is not too popular in certain quarters. Perhaps, from such conflicts, as well as from cooperation, will the broad interests of a democratic nation be best served."

Membership

Edward Lindsay, Decatur Herald and Review, reported that the membership committee had brought in 32 new members, a net gain of five for the year. From this he concluded that "the perennial discussion of the need for further membership limitation will be carried on with less heat."

Two new members were elected at the Board meeting Wednesday evening: Paul S. Swenson, managing editor, Minneapolis Tribune; and W. W. Forster, managing editor, Pittsburgh Press.

With deaths and resignations, total membership now is 521.

Members still on the rolls who are ineligible and who plan to sub-

ASNE QUILTS PULITZER JURIES

Canham to Represent Society in Rome; Wilbur Forrest Elected Distinguished Member; Other Action by Board of Directors

Secretary Wright Bryan reported that at its meeting on Wednesday the Board of Directors took the following actions:

"Decided to discontinue any official participation by the ASNE in the selection of Pulitzer juries or screening committees and to leave the composition of such committees entirely to the Pulitzer Board and to individual members of the ASNE who may be willing to participate"; and

"Voted another year's affiliation with the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers."

Erwin D. Canham, who left for Europe just before the banquet, was appointed to represent the Society at the next meeting of FIEJ in Rome in May.

On a request for cooperation in plans for an Inter-American Press

Conference, the Board voted to express its gratification at the part being played in that organization by members of this Society, and to offer cooperation in any efforts which may be made to extend the boundaries of a free press.

The directors also voted to retain as a member, under the distinguished service clause of the constitution a past president, Wilbur Forrest, formerly assistant editor of the Herald Tribune and now director of the Reid Foundation.

Board Committee reports, membership limitation, the 1951 convention city, and other affairs of the Society discussed by the directors required an afternoon and evening session on Wednesday. Only business conducted by the new Board at its organization meeting Saturday morning was the election of officers.

mit their resignations, in accordance with the by-laws, are requested to do it now so that the membership list may be corrected in the Proceedings.

Memorials

Following Grove Patterson's memorial to members lost through death, Tom Wallace remarked from the floor:

"I feel that we have just heard an address that should be and will be historic in the life of this organization. Mr. Patterson's address was so masterly, so judicious, so well-wrought and yet not in any sense of the word overwrought, that I suggest that in recognition of the technical quality of the address, this audience rise for a moment."

Of the nine on the year's necrology, one died since the last Bulletin. He was Harold W. Sanford, editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

In reference to him, Mr. Patterson said, "He had given his intellectual attainments, his carefully earned techniques, the fine leadership of mind and spirit, to building and preserving the prestige of a newspaper," and quoted Frank E. Gannett, "He was a truly great editor."

Money in the Bank

Alexander F. Jones, appointed acting treasurer after the resignation of Dwight S. Perrin, reported a balance of \$14,131.82 this year, (exclusive of convention receipts), compared with \$12,255.92 last year, this in spite of unusual expenses.

Among them was the cost of sending a delegate to the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers. "In connection with the Amsterdam trip," Mr. Jones said, "I want to squash a whispering campaign which alleges that I told Paul Miller I would not okay his expense account unless he sent me 200 tulip bulbs from Holland. What I actually said was that I would okay his expense account with a lighter spirit if he did send me 200 bulbs. The tulips are in bloom now and spell out ASNE in lovely colors."

Mr. Jones reported two members delinquent in dues. After final warning by the new treasurer, L. R. Blanchard, Gannett Newspapers, they will be dropped as required by the by-laws.

Bills for 1950 dues will be mailed shortly by the assistant to the treasurer, DeVee K. Fisher. Checks should be mailed to her at 4123 Ninth St., N.W., Washington 11, D. C.

Society Adopts Four Resolutions And Rejects Two

Frank A. Clarvoe, San Francisco News, had a relatively easy time as chairman of resolutions. Only five were presented to his committee, compared with 11 last year. Summary and disposition of each follows:

1. Conveying the membership's best wishes for speedy recovery to Arthur H. Vandenberg, U. S. Senator from Michigan and a charter member of ASNE. (Adopted.)

2. For a standing committee on international affairs. (Tabled after discussion of what its specific functions might be.)

3. On withholding of news by governmental sources. Original resolution amended to read:

"Whereas, there continue serious complaints concerning withholding of news by governmental sources on all levels; be it

"RESOLVED, That ASNE registers its disapproval of any attempts to withhold news to which the public is entitled, and particularly if such attempts are made under the guise of providing information in confidence." (Adopted in this form.)

4. Recommending that ANPA confer with ITU to bring about "long-needed reform" and improvement in proof-reading by requiring "a stiff examination in the field of general knowledge" for hiring proof-readers since "experience in the printing trade is not necessary." (Defeated after discussion of its propriety and efficacy.)

5. To convene in San Francisco in 1951. (Discussion in full on pages 4 and 5 of this Bulletin; decision to poll membership; ballot enclosed with this issue.)

One resolution, proposed from the floor, concerned Judge Fennell of the Municipal Court of the District who had barred reporters from the courtroom because of the scandalous nature of a case under trial but, overnight, reversed his decision. The resolution, suggested by Marvin H. Creager, Milwaukee Journal, and framed by J. Russell Wiggins, Washington Post, commended Judge Fennell for his enlightened opinion upholding the right of access to the press to court proceedings. (Adopted.)

Kirchhofer Asks Greater Understanding Of Schools' Role in Future of Profession

Heading the panel on the ACEJ accrediting program, A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News, traced the Society's growing interest in journalism education since its beginning in 1926. Outlining the present program briefly, he pleaded for greater understanding among editors of what it can mean to the future of the profession.

"The accrediting committee," Mr. Kirchhofer said, "frankly faces the fact that in some of the schools much remains to be done, but a modicum has been established. . . . It is the judgment of those who have made the visitation (to inspect schools) that in some instances schools are not better because we as newspapermen haven't been interested enough to improve them. . . . I declare that we can get better trained men and women if we will draw upon our best schools for their best students. We must not let them drift into other fields. . . . It is up to the members of the Society to give practical proof that we believe in

the program which this body over a period of 24 years has helped to develop."

Dean Frank Luther Mott of the Missouri School of Journalism spoke on the problems in improving standards encountered by the schools until the accrediting program was set up. Dr. Norval Neil Luxon, assistant to the president of Ohio State University, and chairman of the accrediting committee from the outset, filled in the details of how the program works.

The speakers paid tribute to Dwight Marvin, Troy Record, who has retired as ASNE representative on the ACEJ, of which he also has been president. Mr. Marvin asked release because of the pressure of civic duties, among them his recent appointment by Governor Dewey as a trustee of the New York State University. Mr. Kirchhofer, named by President Dwight Young to succeed Mr. Marvin on the American Council for Education in Journalism, on April 24 was elected as its president.

News Release Time

The committee to investigate policies of A.M. and P.M. releases did its work at a meeting with representatives of the press associations.

Reporting as chairman, Harold F. Wheeler, Boston Traveler, outlined the present negotiated agreement on which present release times are based, and the arguments advanced by the news service executives for continuing it. It had, they said, to a large degree, brought order out of what was chaos and Mr. Wheeler reported that his committee was "greatly impressed by their reasoning" when the entire situation was fully explained.

Also discussed were Government releases from Washington, and the need for afternoon newspapers of an automatic release time as opposed to "release expected about" with the "about" sometimes running into half an hour. Just before the convention Mr. Wheeler received word from Alan Gould of AP, that wire service men had discussed this problem informally with Charles Ross at Key West and that "within a week or ten

days we may expect some real action."

Mr. Wheeler said that Mr. Gould, Earl Johnson of UP and Philip G. Reed of INS had been extremely cooperative and that he believes the matter should be left in their hands.

About Wives . . .

Wives have a rugged time at the convention, judging from mezzanine conversation.

"I went to Williamsburg because he said I couldn't go to the Friday and Saturday luncheons, and later I found out that women were invited."

"Half an hour ago he told me sit right in this chair and he'd be back in five minutes. Now somebody says they saw him in the men's bar."

"He told me he'd never find me in the crowd and I was to wait in our room till he phoned me the luncheon was starting. He never called, and then he wanted to know why I wasn't there."

However, they must like it, for the ladies attend in ever-increasing numbers.

ARE OUR HEADLINES UNFAIR?

Member Cites Treatment of Senator McCarthy's Speech
And Suggests Shop Talk on Subject at Convention Next Year

• By WALLACE ODELL
Westchester County Publishers

If Senator Joe McCarthy is a "headline hunter," as some columnists and radio commentators charge, then he must have been sadly disappointed at the headlines his speech before the ASNE received.

In my opinion McCarthy made a fine impression before the editors, if one were to judge from the enthusiasm of the applause. It was generous and sustained.

I had as my guests my niece and her husband. The next evening when I went to her home, she said,

"Did you see how the papers treated Senator McCarthy's speech? I was indignant. We take the ———, because we think it is conservative, but I guess it is like the rest of the papers. The headlines on that story were most unfair."

And her husband agreed with her sentiments and so did I.

The headline read:

McCarthy Questions

Fitness of Marshall

And Acheson for Job

The first paragraph of the story was as follows:

"Gen. George C. Marshall was 'completely unfitted' to head the State Department and Secretary of State Acheson is 'incompetent' in the opinion of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, Republican, of Wisconsin."

So far, the evidence supports the headline writer, but we who were there know that Senator McCarthy referred to Gen. Marshall only after he had been questioned from the floor, and then he spoke in defense of Marshall, saying it was unfair to put such a fine officer in a job he was not equipped to handle, especially against the Lattimores and John Services.

McCarthy's exact quotes were:

"To take a great general and put him in a diplomatic post for which he is completely unfitted, and put him in charge of the Lattimores and John Services, was nothing short of a crime."

The headline and the reporter's lead give the impression that McCarthy was on a rampage against Marshall, when, in fact, he was defending him. The Marshall ref-

erence by McCarthy was incidental.

As a parallel case suppose the New York Times had assigned Arthur Krock to cover the World Series between the Yanks and the Dodgers and McCarthy said, "while Krock was Washington's ace correspondent, he was unfit to cover sports," the headline might read:

McCarthy Says

Krock a Flop

As a Reporter

If we are a nation of headline readers you can guess the answer. Maybe that is why we, in the newspaper business, so poorly inform our readers.

I checked other papers on McCarthy's battle with the reds and the Budenz hearing. A southern paper flown to the convention had this streamer following the appearance of Budenz before the Senate committee, "General Backs Lattimore" or words to that effect. The big story was the testimony of Budenz, who placed Lattimore in a Red Cell. This paper put that fact second.

Another paper from the middle west had a streamer: "Budenz 'Sure' Lattimore Red." The putting of sure in quotes can be defended, but it seemed to me that in no instance did the papers give McCarthy a break.

I think this question of headline writing is one of the most serious facing our business. I think it should be a round table topic or a shop talk at our next convention.

I am not looking for headlines but I think the handling of the McCarthy story, and the way the papers headlined it, is the nub of the criticism that is aimed at us so often and for which I must admit the public has much on its side.

President Roosevelt and President Truman have boasted that the newspapers have lost their influence. Certainly the majority of us did not support them, but I think we have lost a lot of our influence due to our slanted and unfair headline writing.

I am offering this letter to the Bulletin solely for the purpose of being helpful and I hope it will be taken as constructive criticism.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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May 1, 1950

World Information

A year ago when Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor, reported on world freedom of information, a battle was raging in the United Nations Assembly over the News-Gathering Treaty and the Freedom of Information Treaty. Bringing the members up-to-date on the situation now, Mr. Canham recalled that, at that time, "it was touch-and-go whether the cause of free information would be advanced or seriously damaged."

The outcome, up to the present, has been satisfactory in his opinion, for "The News-Gathering Treaty was adopted; much in it could be improved but nothing in it can do any serious harm."

The Freedom of Information Treaty was badly amended he said, but "happily, it was laid on the shelf, awaiting the final decision of the United Nations regarding Article 17 of the Covenant of Human Rights, which is the article on freedom of information."

Mr. Canham urged appointment of a committee to study Article 17 and, at the conclusion of his talk, President McKelway mentioned that "the Board had voted to name a committee to share some of his burdens."

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 321

June 1, 1950

OBJECTIVES OF THE YEAR

By Dwight Young, President ASNE

It appears that incoming presidents of our Society are expected, at the beginning of their terms, to outline broadly for The Bulletin what their policies will be.

Now that sort of thing is all right for editors who are accustomed to laying out elaborate detailed programs for their papers; goals to shoot at, in a sense.

It so happens I am unaccustomed to that sort of thing. On my paper we have just one objective. That is to produce every day the very best paper we know how to get out. We have only one so-called "policy". That is to be straight-forward, honest, consecrated to the public welfare and unafraid of anybody. Summed up that means printing the news as it happens and commenting on it as we feel it justifies comment.

On my paper we make no special effort to anticipate things that may or may not happen, three months, six months or a year later in the community. It seems to me that is one way to develop a lot of unnecessary headaches.

I think I feel pretty much the same way about our Society. When a situation arises that either justifies or requires some sort of action by ASNE—the appointment of a special committee, the making of an investigation or a special study and a detailed report either to the Board or the Society—then it seems to me we should act speedily and effectively. By any other procedure I suspect we may be wasting time and energy that might well be usefully otherwise employed.

It is true, and I think we all realize it, that in recent years we have gone in rather heavily for what I shall have to designate, for lack of a more expressive term, "internationalism", in its broadest sense. The things we did were done with our eyes wide open, and I am convinced there was overwhelming support in the membership for all

these decisions. I spoke and voted in the Board in favor of all such efforts to stimulate a better concept of freedom of expression in other parts of the world. And I certainly do not feel that our Society's earnest endeavor in that field should be abandoned or curtailed. Rather they should be expanded as any practical opportunity to do so presents itself. Those objectives were sound when they were initiated and they are as important today as they ever were.

However there are other matters to which the Society should be giving more attention than they have been receiving in the recent past in my opinion.

Specifically I mean the improvement of journalism in the United States.

As we improve it, the example set by the American press is bound to have an effect in other countries. Also I suspect most of us will agree that our newspapers, as a group, can stand considerable improvement.

I don't know how the membership feels about it, but as for myself quite frequently, when I get home from the office in the evening I pick up a copy of the last Proceedings and re-read the preamble to our Constitution and our Code of Ethics.

Every time I read them my in-



DWIGHT YOUNG, publisher and editor, Dayton Journal Herald

spiration to strive for achievement of the ideals of American journalism, as set forth so compactly there, is renewed.

I recommend the re-reading of both these documents to all members. It will help us to become better newspapermen and to serve our respective communities and our country more usefully.

To sum up, if your new administration has anything in mind that might be referred to as "objectives" or "policy" I think perhaps these three or four thoughts might qualify:

1—To recognize the importance of our job at home on our own newspapers.

2—To encourage our membership to a fuller appreciation of the fact that this Society is THEIR Society; therefore, they have a responsibility to it and their fellow

WASHINGTON!

Following a mail ballot verdict of 227 to 173 in favor of Washington, the Board of Directors has designated that city as the scene of next year's convention.

The place: Hotel Statler.

The date: April 19, 20 and 21.

members to participate more actively in all its activities and in the detailed work that has to be done. To that end this administration shall undertake to broaden the field of membership participation sharply.

3—While I recognize there are obvious dangers in an overly large membership I cannot subscribe to the theory that our membership should be limited to any fixed number so long as there are daily newspapers in this country that could be improved and their editors helped to serve their areas more usefully, that are not represented in our membership rolls.

I feel quite deeply that our Society has a responsibility to American journalism that we must never permit ourselves, no matter what the provocation, to sidestep or to minimize.

If in discharging this responsibility we run the risk of becoming numerically unwieldy and ineffectual, perhaps we should give consideration to reducing the number of memberships that may be held on any paper.

4—(and last) I would like to suggest without intentional offense toward anyone, that, as members become ineligible, or have any question in their minds as to their continued eligibility, they forthwith contact the secretary of the Society.

I do not mean this harshly, but if they are ineligible, they will be doing both the Society and the profession a favor by tendering their resignations and thereby making room for someone else who is eligible. While the Board of Directors has full power to act in such cases it is understandably reluctant to take summary action.



Photo by Baker, Washington Star.

AT THE BANQUET: Secretary of State Acheson speaking, surrounded by B. M. McKelway, Alexander F. Jones, Dwight Young, Wright Bryan, and guests.

Memorials

As the saddest task of the year is writing memorials to members lost through death, Grove Patterson pleaded for release. He consented to take the post for a fourth year only at the solicitation of President Young, who argued, correctly, that the membership would not take no for an answer.

Resolutions

In 1942, Dwight Marvin, president, appointed Dwight Young chairman of resolutions. That year a certain hotly disputed resolution got bogged down in such a parliamentary tangle that a mail ballot of the entire membership was

voted as the solution. Mr. Young has appointed Dwight Marvin, Troy Record, resolutions chairman for 1951. Retribution, he calls it. Others on the committee:

Walter R. Humphrey, Fort Worth Press
Louis LaCoss, St. Louis Globe Democrat
Walter Leckrone, Indianapolis Times
George W. Potter, Providence Journal and Bulletin
Joseph Pulitzer, Jr., St. Louis Post-Dispatch
James G. Stahlman, Nashville Banner
George A. Smallsreed, Columbus Dispatch
Jack Tarver, Atlanta Constitution.

The McCarthy Headlines

Mr. Odell says that McCarthy was not on a rampage against General Marshall. He was, says Mr. Odell, just "defending him."

May I offer the pious hope that nobody ever defends me in that way.

CLAYTON FRITCHEY
New Orleans Item

Not Proud

• By WILLIAM M. MCBRIDE
Passaic Herald-News

I felt better after reading Wallace Odell's "Are Our Headlines Unfair?" in the May Bulletin. Until then I thought that perhaps I was the only one out of step.

When Senator McCarthy arrived at the Statler, I cornered him in the hope that I could wangle out of him a story with a local angle. A short while before, he had addressed a group of Marine Corps veterans in my Legion post clubhouse; at that meeting he spoke about Lattimore, Jessup and Service at length, for the first time without congressional immunity.

At the Statler I told him he could look for a very critical but fair audience. There might be, I ventured, a few loaded questions from some members who don't like him.

When the Marshall question came, I thought, "Oh, oh..." But the way he handled it (as Wallace Odell quotes it) the reply wasn't bad. I thought he'd have been better off had he said merely, "Let me skip that one, men. I think too much of the old general." But he didn't. He invited questions, got them and handled them, which I had to admire.

At midnight I blew my top when I heard the Washington radio blaring an announcement that McCarthy had gone out of his way that night to attack General Marshall. You'd think the Senator went into the old general's home and dragged him out by the scruff of the neck to shake and toss him around.

Next day, when I talked with my office, I learned the wire services were just as bad. We have them

all but we happened to use the UP's story that Friday.

The following evening some of us took advantage of the State Department's invitation to drop in for a briefing. It was a pleasant evening, and quite interesting. It was rather late before the questions got around to McCarthy. But when it was all over, the impression one took away was that the State Department was saying to us, without answering the Senator at all:

"Gentlemen, you've heard us and have had a look at us. How can you believe what's being said of us?"

I'm not very proud of our reporting as well as our headlining when I look back on the McCarthy episode.

But I was enheartened to read the piece in the Bulletin by our member from Westchester County, New York.

★ ★ ★

Deserved

• By ROBERT N. CALDWELL
The Bayonne Times

I'm glad the headline writers whose work is quoted by Wallace Odell are not so easily flimflammed as Mr. Odell appears to be. McCarthy's intention was to indicate that General Marshall was incompetent as Secretary of State, and that deserved the head and got it. If I want to indicate that McCarthy is incompetent as a senator, one propaganda device is to praise him in another connection: "Senator McCarthy, who roasts picnic hamburgers better than anyone I know, and who is a very entertaining conversationalist, is entirely unfitted to weigh evidence concerning the national welfare." This would be safe, since I would not expect to get into public controversy about the hamburgers or the conversations.

Furthermore, the problem of McCarthy before the editors was the familiar one of trying to get something new for the lead and the head. What he was saying, by and large, was painfully familiar. How to get some sort of angle? I think the solution that was used was the best available, and I can't see that it wronged McCarthy.

Finally, I think criticisms of heads ought to include a paragraph beginning: "For example, the head might better have read..." Thus

No one has hit the nail on the head so squarely and so accurately as Mr. Odell. The McCarthy coverage was the most dishonest and outrageous treatment of a news report I have ever read.

LOUIS A. WEIL
The Port Huron Times Herald

in the Krock head (which Mr. Odell composed), why not Krock Lays Egg On Sport Page, McCarthy Holds

★ ★ ★

Justified

• By COLEMAN A. HARWELL
The Nashville Tennessean

Wallace Odell said the headline, "McCarthy Questions Fitness of Marshall" was inaccurate.

He also questioned the accuracy of charges that McCarthy is a headline hunter.

I must disagree with Mr. Odell on both counts.

The lead he cites from a Washington paper fully justifies the headline, in my opinion. The lead reads: "Gen. George C. Marshall was 'completely unfitted' to head the State Department and etc..."

McCarthy's statement as quoted by the AP was: "To take a great general and put him in a diplomatic position for which he is completely unfitted—put him in charge of the Lattimores and the John Services—was nothing short of a crime."

The UP story read further, "He (McCarthy) said it was a 'pitiful thing' that Marshall was given the post."

Mr. Odell says that McCarthy really was not saying uncomplimentary things about Gen. Marshall but was actually "defending him." (Remember the boxer, Mr. Odell, who had been slugged all over the ring and whose second said to him between rounds, "He hasn't laid a glove on you"? The poor, damn boxer replied, "Well, for God's sake, keep an eye on the referee because somebody's beatin' hell out of me.")

The fact is, I believe, that Senator McCarthy put on one of his best shows for ASNE. All the crafty art of innuendo and double meaning was employed by him. He has taken the crude technique of the



Photos by Vincent Jones, Utica Observer-Dispatch & Press.

Speakers: Harold Wheeler, Boston Traveler, on press release times; comic strip panel, Norman Isaacs, St. Louis Star-Times; James S. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal, and Felix McKnight, Dallas News; J. B. Mullane, Cleveland News, nominations.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 322

July 1, 1950

Propaganda in Comic Strips Brings Renewed Protests from Newspapers

When, at the Board meeting last fall, B. M. McKelway asked for ideas for the 1950 convention program, Jenkin Lloyd Jones tossed out the suggestion that editors might well give greater consideration to the largest item in their feature budget—comic strips. From that small beginning the current and widespread airing of views on the trend of modern comics developed.

Members who missed the panel discussion on the subject in April, can catch up with that background in the Proceedings, which carries the complete text.

Since then, as reported in Editor & Publisher: The Denver Post ran an editorial deploring propaganda in comic strips; Al Capp defended the right of the cartoonist to be a "thinking human being"; and James S. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal, who participated in the convention panel, tried to set him straight in a letter in which he paid tribute to Mr. Capp as a genius "with an imaginative sweep and a comic power not matched by many writers in any form of our literature." But, Mr. Pope wrote, "The editors of the country are getting aroused about the use of comic characters to speak the social and economic and political philosophy of the artist. It could easily be whipped into a real battle now, and I would sorrowfully be arrayed against you and my favorite people, the Yokums."

A week later the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune decided to drop Li'l Abner for July 2, 9 and 16 because of the Happy Vermin sequence.

William P. Steven, assistant executive editor, wrote United Features Syndicate: "We do not allow staff members to use our space to further their personal feuds, even under thin disguises, and we will not let Al Capp do it either. This is just another example of poor judgment or bad taste which out-

crops more frequently in Li'l Abner than in any other American comic."

Mr. Pope wrote Mr. Steven concurring in that view and added another objection: "The Vermin story is plain stupid . . . has no spontaneity, no real humor . . . will merely repel and confuse readers." He added, "Unhappily I did not catch this series in time to drop it. You were smart to do it."

This full-blown discussion, certainly far from ended, is probably the answer to a question asked in the September, 1949, Bulletin by a new member: "What's our Society supposed to do besides get together once a year? I mean, does it actually accomplish anything?"

It arouses discussions which alert the membership to new problems; which clarify their views by interchange of ideas; and which sometimes bring far-reaching results.

Proceedings Due Soon; Back Numbers Available

The printer promises publication of the 1950 Problems of Journalism, Proceedings of the Annual Convention, in a few days.

As there were no off-the-record sessions this year, the book contains the complete transcript of the program. It also provides much information which members frequently seek: Membership list, Code of Ethics, Constitution, names of officers and directors, and reports of last year's committees. The directors' report on the ASNE investigation of the Illinois payroll scandal is included in the addenda.

Each member automatically receives a copy. Additional copies, suitable gifts for friends interested in newspaper work, may be purchased for \$3.50 each.

A limited number of the Proceedings of most former years is available. The prices, based on cost, are \$3. for 1949, and \$2. for previous years.

Task of Preparing 1951 Program Goes To Stanley Barnett

In a planned "spread the work" movement, President Dwight Young has named the 1951 program chairman

from the membership, instead of from the Board as has been customary in recent years. He is Stanley P. Barnett, managing editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Since joining ASNE 12 years ago, Mr. Barnett has served



STANLEY BARNETT

on committees but has never headed one before. He is widely known among the membership as a past president of the APME.

Serving with him will be: John D. Pennekamp, Miami Herald.

Richard W. Clarke, New York News.

George W. Healy, Jr., New Orleans Times-Picayune.

Melville Ferguson, Philadelphia Bulletin.

Ben Reese, St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Dale B. Stafford, Detroit Free Press.

F. W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg (Kan.) Sun & Headlight.

John O'Rourke, Washington News.

Laurence L. Winship, Boston Globe.

W. R. Walton, South Bend Tribune.

The August Bulletin will be omitted; next issue, September 1.

The Office of the Bulletin will remain open for business as usual during the summer.



Luncheon group by Chase; all others by Jones.

Wallace Lomoe, Milwaukee Journal, taking notes on resolutions; at luncheon, Wayne Freeman and Judson Chapman, Greenville (S.C.) News and Piedmont, with George W. Potter, Providence Journal and Bulletin; William J. Woods, looking for a copy of the Utica Observer-Dispatch for Life picture.

old-fashioned politician who asked, "Have you stopped beating your wife?" and worked it into a masterpiece of suggestive insinuation.

McCarthy not a headline seeker? Few men have imposed upon the press as he has in his day-by-day, morning, noon and night teaser method. From New York he phones his office to advise the press that he will have something hot "the next day." A dozen times he has promised the big break "tomorrow."

Not hunting headlines? The people of America are sick of his repeated charges and failure to back them up. More than anyone, the editors of the country should be irked by the way he has played us for suckers. Speaking of newspapers' influence, Mr. Odell, there will be little to worry about on this score as long as newspapers express their opinions on the editorial pages vigorously, whatever they be, and as long as they are honest and intelligent in the news columns. We may have every alibi in the world for having done so, but readers will remember only that the newspapers boomed to the skies the tempting promises of McCarthy and then failed to make good on them.

Mr. Odell also refers to a southern paper's streamer: "General Backs Lattimore", following Budenz's testimony. I wonder if he is referring to The Nashville Tennessean and its streamer which said: "General Denies Budenz Charge" and the readout, "Ex-Red Leader Terms Lattimore 'Party Member'".

You will recall this story broke for the pm's. By next breakfast time Budenz's statements were rather widely circulated. General Thorpe's statement broke for the am's and we used it, in keeping with our policy of new leads on pm stories.

Incidentally, what's wrong with a general's testimony? Do you have to be an ex-Communist to rate a streamer?

Enlarged IPI Committee

Lester Markel, New York Times, who laid the groundwork for a proposed International Press Institute will continue as chairman. To make arrangements for the visit of 16 foreign newspaper editors, the committee has been increased to 11 members. Mr. Markel's co-workers are:

Carl Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia
Carroll Binder, Minneapolis Tribune
Sevellon Brown, Providence Journal and Bulletin
Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal
Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor
B. M. McKelway, Washington Star
Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers, Rochester
Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post
Paul Smith, San Francisco Chronicle
Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, Chicago

Membership

Coleman A. Harwell, editor of The Nashville Tennessean, has been named membership chairman. Others on the committee:

Michael Bradshaw, Toledo Blade
A. T. Burch, Chicago Daily News
Jack Foster, Rocky Mountain News
Charles J. Lewin, New Bedford Standard Times
H. D. Paulson, Fargo Forum
Virgil M. Pinkley, Los Angeles Mirror
J. D. Raridan, Canton Repository
Elzey Roberts, Jr., St. Louis Star-Times
O. S. Stauffer, Topeka State Journal
William P. Steven, Minneapolis Star and Tribune
Hoke S. Welch, Miami Daily News.

Freedom of Information

World Freedom of Information Committee (whose name may be changed at the suggestion of Basil L. Walters, since it now deals largely with domestic affairs) is headed by James S. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal. Working with him are four members of last year's committee:

Paul Block, Jr., Toledo Blade
Felix R. McKnight, Dallas News
S. L. Latimer, Columbia (S.C.) State
Leon Stolz, Chicago Tribune
Two new members have been added:
Herbert F. Corn, Washington Star
Phillip H. Parrish, Portland Oregonian.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 321

June 1, 1950

Young Completes Committees and Goes Off to Fish

By the first of June, President Dwight Young had appointed the year's committees. Acceptances received, he went to Seven Islands, on the Moisee River, for ten days of salmon fishing. Back home and facing the accumulated mail he's ready to grant that the ASNE presidency makes more demands on an editor's time than any member realizes, until he's elected president.

Most of the committees were reported in the June Bulletin. The remainder are announced in this issue.

Nominations

C. G. Wellington, Kansas City Star, is chairman of nominations for the 1951 convention. Members of the committee:

Joseph F. Smiley, Tampa Daily Times.

Don Scism, Evansville Courier.
Don C. Shoemaker, Asheville Citizen.

Norman Shaw, Cleveland News.
Joseph T. Murphy, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, Evening News.

Paul S. Walcott, Greenfield (Mass.) Recorder Gazette.

J. F. Fitzpatrick, Salt Lake Tribune-Telegram.

Robert D. Caldwell, Bayonne Times.

Accreditation

Herbert Brucker, Hartford Courant, and N. R. Howard, Cleveland News, are ASNE representatives on the Accrediting Committee of the American Council for Education in Journalism. Mr. Howard is a re-appointment. Mr. Brucker, for several years assistant to the Dean at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia, replaces A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News, on accreditation.

In April Mr. Kirchhofer was named ASNE representative on ACEJ, and was elected its president.

The Council has announced that the School of Journalism at the University of Florida, at Gainesville, is the only additional school accredited in 1950.

Additional sequences approved

in accredited schools include pictorial journalism at the State University of Iowa; magazine at Montana State University, and community journalism at the University of Texas.

ASNE members who participated in the visitations to schools this year are Mr. Kirchhofer and Mr. Howard; V. M. Newton, Jr., Tampa Tribune; and Stanley P. Barnett, Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Washington

The Washington committee is headed by Walker Stone, Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance, assisted by John C. Henry, Washington Star. Its function is to advise the Board of events of interest to editors, and to attend meetings at which ASNE presentation is requested, cutting down the trips that officers might otherwise be required to make.

Study of Covenant

At the suggestion of Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor, the Board of Directors authorized appointment of a committee to study Article 17 (freedom of information) of the Covenant of Human Rights before final action is taken by the UN Assembly. Mr. Canham has been named chairman, with the following members:

Louis B. Seltzer, Cleveland Press.

John S. Knight, Knight Newspapers.

J. Donald Ferguson, Milwaukee Journal.

W. S. Gilmore, Detroit News.
Joseph Pulitzer (senior) St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

THE SENATOR REPLIES

From Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg, to Secretary Kenneth MacDonald:

"I deeply appreciate your letter of May 18, and the resolution adopted by the American Society of Newspaper Editors. This is good for my morale.

"If the truth were told, I think I would have to say in retrospect that my happiest days were spent in my period of active journalism and in my association with the ASNE since its birth. It is most gracious of the Society to remember me in this delightful and stimulating way and I send to you and to them my deep gratitude for their generous thought of me at the time of their annual meeting."

Members Can Help Preserve Freedom Of Information

A message to the membership, from James S. Pope:

"The Committee on Freedom of Information, in order to perform its extensive task, needs to know of any and all threats to such freedom. Would you help us by sending the chairman or any committee member near you a note, and if possible supporting data, on any effort by public officials or others to suppress or conceal information to which the public is entitled?"

"If you yourself are the victim of any such effort, you can perform maximum service, of course, by fighting it through your own paper and advising us of the circumstances so we can follow your battle and lend any support that the committee decides is proper and helpful."

Mr. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal, is chairman of the committee. Other members are: Paul Block, Jr., Toledo Blade; Felix R. McKnight, Dallas News; S. L. Latimer, Columbia (S.C.) State; Leon Stolz, Chicago Tribune; Herbert Corn, Washington Star; and Philip H. Parrish, Portland Oregonian.

Seven Resignations

With two deaths and the following resignations since the convention, membership is now 512.

Lee Ellmaker, formerly editor of the Philadelphia News, and now its publisher, resigned in accordance with the by-laws.

C. J. Harkrader has sold the Bristol (Va.) Herald-Courier.

Edward J. Austin severed connection with the San Diego Union early this year.

James E. Craig went into magazine work when the New York Sun was sold.

Others on the list:
C. E. McClelland, managing editor, Galveston News-Tribune.

Ward E. Duffy, associate editor, Hartford Times.

Frank M. Roberts, managing editor, Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette.

Press Relations

Gideon Seymour, Minneapolis Star and Tribune, will handle press relations for the year.

IS CHURCH NEWS NEGLECTED?

• By CALEB J. KING, Editor, The Florida Times-Union

Are the newspapers of the United States publishing as much news about religion as they ought to?

In my opinion, based on what I read in a rather extensive list of exchanges, they are not.

This is a subject that has not been on an ASNE convention program since 1941. Since that time the world has experienced such a revolution in its thinking concerning every phase of life that it seems to me the matter of the evaluation of religious news merits consideration.

The New York Times reported in its Book Review section of December 25, 1949, that the trend of reader interest in religious books was a significant commentary on our time.

"Two world wars, with a worldwide depression between," it said, "have shaken man's faith in his own unaided ability to save himself."

Personal experience substantiates the findings of The Times in this connection. For several years I have been writing a column for our Sunday editorial page, which might, for convenience, be given a general heading, "A Layman's Interpretation of the Teachings of the Bible."

This column has become one of the most widely read in The Times-Union. Members of virtually all faiths read it, and write and telephone their appreciation. Sunday school teachers by the score use it in teaching. People who say they never go to church read it, and express their appreciation for its words of encouragement.

All of which points to the fact that people are interested in religion. They are interested in carefully handled interpretations of the teachings we find in both the Old Testament and the New. They want to appropriate unto themselves those teachings which offer relief from a strife-torn world, and point to hope of something better after they cross the border line between life and death into eternity.

The newspapers have an opportunity to meet this great human demand. It is an opportunity that should not be left to the writers of books, and stories for the magazines. Nor should it be left entirely with the ministers. They need our help.

Not only is it an opportunity; the newspapers of America have a responsibility, a duty, in giving their readers the benefit of news concerning the great thoughts on religion, on salvation; of the past, as well as of today.

They are publishing scattered bits of such news, it is true, and also, as a rule, they print the calendars of local churches, and brief items about activities in those churches.

What is needed to a greater extent, however, are reports about what the great religious bodies of the United States are doing at home and abroad, and the results they are getting—not the little one-and-two-inch items, but interpretative articles that give the complete picture.

Heads Based on Sensational Incidents Imperil Public's Faith in Newspapers

• By C. C. HEMENWAY, Editor, Hartford Times

Newspapers and newspaper workers have great need of the admonition which Wallace Odell, of Westchester (N.Y.) County Publishers, gave in the May ASNE Bulletin.

We are sensitive to the unwarranted and untrue attacks often made on our business. But we fail to take note of shortcomings which often exasperate our readers and, much worse, which tend to undermine the faith of the people in newspapers. We need instead to strengthen that faith. What Mr. Odell said needed to be said, and he said it well.

"My papa says if you see it in The Sun it is so," little Virginia wrote to the editor. That was 60 years or more ago. It is fair to question if what today's papas say to their daughters breeds such confidence in their daughters.

A quotation from a recent weekly picture magazine is illustrative. It devoted an article to Texas' San Antonio Festival. A reader telling what features were ignored awarded a "Bonehead" (opposite of an Oscar) "for your zeal in giving a misleading picture."

An editorial note explained that cameramen covered 40 events, submitted 1,100 prints, the editors "as they always do select the pictures

Give religion a break, in other words, that is comparable to that given the race tracks, the dog tracks, the bridge players, the football and baseball followers—not as much space as for the latter, perhaps, but certainly enough to provide a reasonable, sensible representation for religion.

And don't overlook the fact that there are 80 million Christians in the United States—people who pay taxes, support the schools, and maintain the churches, without which no community would be fit to live in.

Can American Newspapers afford to pass up an opportunity such as lies before them of doing a better job in strengthening the moral fiber of this Nation to the point that is needed in this age?

Let's talk it over at the 1951 convention and see if we can't do something about it.

"they thought" (single quotes mine) best portrayed the spirit of the fiesta."

Every editor knows what that means. The editors thinking little of the event as a whole, which they were describing, selected pictures they thought had highest "reader interest."

That is just another phase of what Wallace Odell is talking about. In headlines and leads we select the sensational or attention appealing, even though it may be unessential to the incident described or speech reported. What we quote men saying may be exact, our description of something that took place accurate. But we don't report the speech truly or describe the event as a whole. So we disappoint those who were there and know. At the same time we furnish ammunition for the fire of those who attack newspapers as inaccurate, biased and worse.

There are few of us who do not at some time or other need Wallace Odell's jolt about our search for the headline or lead that will make the reader sit up and take notice.

By and large, the news as it happens, well and accurately told, and as completely as need be, carries all the punch that is necessary and builds a better and more lasting success than the embellishments with which we often seek to surround it.

Does One 'Climb Up' a Tree, or Just 'Climb' It? May a 'Bridegroom' Be Labelled a 'Groom'?

• By HARRY C. WITHERS,
Managing Editor,
The Dallas Morning News

Readers are interested in the proper use of words and the rules, if any, which govern newspapers in their usages. Three discussions of the subject published last year by The Dallas Morning News evoked impressive response.

Mention of The News style book and John Paul Jones' "The Modern Reporters Handbook" in one of these articles brought scores of requests, and suggestions for further discussion.

Walter Johnson, secretary of SNPA, reprinted the articles and gave them wide distribution. One of the reprints came to the attention of Mrs. Alice Fox Pitts who suggests that the discussion be continued in The ASNE Bulletin.

"I can't imagine any editor not being interested in the subject," she says. "And we might have some fun." Then, as if she had suddenly become distrustful of such a discussion, she asks if any editor who writes a style book is not likely to include a good many prejudices.

Assuming editors are interested, since words are the tools by which they earn their living, and admitting that prejudices have too much weight in some cases, I am willing to open the discussion by starting an argument with The Bulletin editor.

(The preceding paragraph consists of one sentence of 41 words, a crime for which the readability experts would give me a grade of 17 plus. I think a sixth grade pupil could absorb its meaning.)

Mrs. Pitts: William Mapel, formerly of the Wilmington News-Journal, later with the New York

City Publishers Association, was death on "climb-up". Climb, he said, means only to ascend; therefore you can't climb down and "up is redundant". But in common parlance isn't climb construed as either way? If I think my child has climbed far enough up the cherry tree I say: "Now let's see you climb down."

Comment: Webster sanctions "climb down". There is something to be said for Mr. Mapel. The statement, "He climbed the tree" can't mean anything but that he went up the tree. He was simply trying to save an unnecessary word. The only way the child should get down is to climb down, not to jump or fall.

Mrs. Pitts: Then take groom for bridegroom. The fifth meaning of groom in Webster is bridegroom. If Webster accepts groom for bridegroom, why are newspapers so stodgy about it?

Comment: That's something the Scots did to English. Medieval English had it bridegom or bridegume, guma meaning man. The Scots put a burry r in it and it became bridegroom. Since groom means essentially to care for a horse or to make it neat and tidy it seems in poor taste to apply it to a newlywed whose role in the festivities already is unimportant. Good taste as well as good usage is important in news writing. You may sing "Here comes the bride: where is the groom?" But don't put it in the newspaper.

Mrs. Pitts cites other examples on the border line of prejudice but this is enough to start the discussion.

Getting Out the Vote

I am sure many an editor, along with the politicians—although for a different purpose—has puzzled over ways and means of getting out the vote. I have never heard or read of anyone discovering anything that resembled an effective formula. Have I missed something important?

It seems to me that the person who finds a way of making our citizens eager to exercise their right of suffrage will render the Republic a tremendous service.

Frederick Ware,
Omaha World-Herald

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 322 July 1, 1950

Archie E. McCrea

Archie E. McCrea, editor of The Muskegon Chronicle, died, May 1, aged 69. He had been recurrently ill since December.

Determined in his youth to be a newspaper man, Mr. McCrea started as a rural subscription solicitor, and soon after became a reporter on The Chronicle, its editor for the past 40 years.

A leader in community affairs of all kinds, he was particularly active in the work of the Methodist Church, nationally as well as locally, and also in the YMCA.

He had been an ASNE member for 13 years.

L. J. Van Laeys

Suffering ill health for a long time, L. J. Van Laeys, general manager of the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader Evening News and The Record, died June 20.

Born on the Oklahoma-Kansas frontier 63 years ago, Mr. Van Laeys began newspaper work on the Kansas City Star, later worked for Capper Publications, then became assistant to Henry J. Allen on the Wichita Beacon.

He had been an ASNE member for 15 years and was particularly active in the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers Association.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 323 (August-September Issue) September 1, 1950

ASNE Brings Foreign Editors to U. S.

Prelude to Possible Establishment of International Press Institute

A year's planning for a meeting of U. S. and foreign editors, sponsored by ASNE, to consider the feasibility of an International Press Institute culminates next month with the arrival in New York of a group of visiting editors. The Korean war injected a degree of uncertainty into the initial plans, but the visitors agreed that because of the world situation, a meeting of editors on the international level is more important than ever, taking precedence over the urgency of affairs at home. The ASNE committee, headed by Lester Markel, New York Times, concurred.

Following a series of regional meetings, at which the guests will be entertained by members from Washington to San Francisco, the foreign group will meet with the Society's committee, in New York in October, to discuss their observations and reactions. The committee then will formulate its recommendations to present to the Board of Directors.

On September 18, the visitors will attend an orientation meeting arranged by Floyd Taylor, director of the American Press Institute, which is cooperating with the Society in the entire plan. That evening they will be entertained at dinner by Dean Carl Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism, at the University club.

From there, arrangements for the tour are in the hands of B. M. McKelway, Washington Star, and the members assigned to play ASNE hosts in the cities to be visited. The itinerary, and the names of the regional chairmen, follow:

September 19, Washington, Mr. McKelway, Washington Star.

September 21, Atlanta, Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal.

September 27, Houston, Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post.

September 30, San Francisco, Paul Smith, San Francisco Chronicle.

October 4, Chicago, Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers.

October 8, return to New York, for sessions at the American Press Institute for four days, with the ASNE committee.

In Washington, Mr. McKelway is scheduling a dinner, to which editors from the general region will be invited; a visit to the White House if President Truman is in Washington; a luncheon, and a sight-seeing tour, with time and opportunity for the visitors to follow their personal inclinations.

While the plans of other area hosts are not completed, they will follow essentially the same pattern. This is in accord with Mr. Markel's suggestion that each regional meeting should consist of two elements, meetings of editors with editors and visits by the foreign editors to places and activities of interest. He also suggested small dinners with plenty of time for free and informal discussion.

Members of the ASNE committee who will meet with the foreign editors to formulate recommendations are:

Lester Markel, New York Times, chairman.

Carl Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University.

Carroll Binder, Minneapolis Tribune.

Sevellon Brown, Providence Journal and Bulletin.

Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal.

Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor.

B. M. McKelway, Washington Star.

Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers.

Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post.

Paul Smith, San Francisco Chronicle.

Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, Chicago.

Ex-officio members of the committee are Floyd Taylor, director, American Press Institute; W. W.

Visiting Editors Represent 13 Nations

Selection of the Society's guests was made by Mr. Markel's committee from a list of working editors, compiled after consultation with newspaper correspondents abroad, executives of the press associations and others in this country who are acquainted with the foreign newspaper situation. Invitations then were extended by President Dwight Young on behalf of the ASNE.

The list of acceptances, only two of which are tentative, follows:

Dr. Oscar Pollak, Arbeiter Zeitung, Vienna.

Chikao Honda, The Mainichi Newspapers, Tokyo.

Urs Schwarz, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, Zurich.

Claude Bellanger, Parisien Li-

bere, Paris.

Hubert Beuve-Mery, Le Monde, Paris.

Harold Campbell, Melbourne Age, Melbourne.

Eljas Erkkko, Helsingin Sanomat, Helsinki.

Alfred Oste, Svenska Dagbladet, Stockholm.

Erik Reger, Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin.

Jose Santos Gollan, La Prensa, Buenos Aires.

Alfredo Silva Carvallo, La Union, Valparaiso.

Kasturi Srinivasan, The Hindu, Madras.

Marcel Stijns, Het Laatste Nieuws, Brussels.

Dr. Ahmed Emin Yalman, Vatan, Istanbul.

AS ASNE FAME grows, the Bulletin receives constantly more (and more curious) requests from all over the world. The following is from San Juan, Trinidad, B.W.I.: "It is with great pleasure I am writing you drawing your attention to the fact that I am desirous of subscribing to Ladies fashion magazines. Please mail me a list of Ladies fashion magazine publishers at your earliest opportunity."

Waymack, trustee, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and Charles B. Fahs, director, Humanities Division, The Rockefeller Foundation.

As Mr. Markel reported at the April convention, this venture in world understanding was made possible by grants of \$25,000 from The Rockefeller Foundation and \$10,000 from the Carnegie Endowment, to cover costs of the trip; and by the American Press Institute which consented to take on the details of the job. Aside from that aid, the project has entailed a prodigious amount of work on the part of Mr. Markel and the ASNE members working with him since April 1949.

By invitation of Erwin D. Canham, then president, Mr. Markel appeared before the Board of Directors at its annual meeting to discuss the need for a medium through which editors could exchange ideas on the international level, as they do in this country through various national organizations. After full discussion the Board authorized a committee to study the project of an International Press Institute. B. M. McKelway, incoming president named Mr. Markel chairman of the new committee. He was reappointed this year by Dwight Young, and his committee enlarged from five to eleven.

Initial work of the committee was purely exploratory, but at the last convention Mr. Markel was able to report grants in hand and a detailed plan. At that time he also reviewed the reasons for the proposed project, and why none of the existing international organizations was suited to undertake it. His report appears in full in the 1950 Proceedings, pages 58 to 64.

"I bespeak your support for the trip through the country," Mr. Markel said in conclusion. "This will be, I believe, a very special group of editors. They can learn from us and we can learn from them. Even though no program for an international organization is achieved . . . out of such gatherings there will come, I am convinced, professional talks and personal contacts that will bring new knowledge and, most of all, new understanding."

This concludes phase one of the project. At its fall meeting, the Board will consider the committee's findings and will report to the membership before taking any major action.

Lockhart Heads Committee To Study Government's Press Censorship Plans



JACK H. LOCKHART

Jack H. Lockhart, assistant general editorial manager of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, is chairman of a new committee, authorized by the Board last spring, to inquire into government plans for press censorship in the event of another world war. Its function is to find out what is planned, to study that plan and to report to the directors.

Other members appointed by President Dwight Young are:

Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Tulsa Tribune.

Virginius Dabney, Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Walter Lippmann, New York Herald Tribune.

J. Russell Wiggins, Washington Post.

Edward Lindsay, Decatur Herald & Review, and

N. R. Howard, Cleveland News, who was deputy in the Office of Censorship in World War II.

Aside from newspaper experience, including 12 years on the Memphis Commercial-Appeal before going to the New York headquarters of Scripps-Howard, Mr. Lockhart has had extensive background in governmental affairs particularly fitting him for the chairmanship. As early as 1929 he was doing public relations for the Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, War Dept. From 1942 to 1945 he was in the Office of Censorship, first in charge of night operation of the press division, later assistant director of censorship, heading the press division. Since



WALTER LIPPMANN

N. R. HOWARD



VIRGINIUS DABNEY

JENKIN LLOYD JONES



EDWARD LINDSAY

J. RUSSELL WIGGINS

then he has served as an adviser on public relations to the War Department and the United Nations, and as an adviser on security matters to the late Secretary Forrestal.

Board Meets in October

Matters for the attention of the Board of Directors, at its fall meeting, should be addressed to the Secretary, Kenneth MacDonald, executive editor, Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Pope Committee Asks Clarification Of War Censorship

At the beginning of Korean hostilities James S. Pope wrote Major Gen. Floyd L. Parks, Chief of Information, Department of the Army, that the Freedom of Information Committee was puzzled and uneasy over the erratic course of censorship in Korea.

Gen. Parks replied that the situation arising so suddenly superimposed problems on a staff organized for peaceful pursuits, but that he feels certain "it will resolve itself to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned, because General MacArthur is deeply conscious of the problems involved".

While admitting that the suddenness of events made arbitrary orders and countermandings understandable, Mr. Pope answered, that his committee was "less concerned about the immediate snafus than about long-range policies".

By keeping in close contact with Gen. Parks' office, Mr. Pope continued, "I hope we may be able to be of tangible help to you, to compensate for any headaches our complaints may bring. If we begin

to print anything 'unwarranted', it would be much easier, I think, for you to convince us of it than for a censor in Korea to make his opinion stick".

FIEJ Participation

Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor, heads a committee to study the desirability of joint ASNE-ANPA participation in the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers. Serving with him are Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers, and William R. Mathews, Arizona Daily Star.

Their opposite numbers in ANPA are Charles F. McCahill, Cleveland News; William L. Fanning, Westchester County Publishers; and JS Gray, Monroe Evening News.

This is the outcome of a report made by Mr. Miller, after he had represented the Society at the FIEJ meeting in Amsterdam last year. "There is perhaps," he observed, "a greater community of interest between the ANPA and the Federation than between the Federation and the ASNE."

He suggested that some arrangement might be worked out for splitting expenses of a joint delegate, and the Board voted to explore that possibility.

Your Rights in Covering War

This is a reminder to members of the Society that they have many rights as well as responsibilities in covering this war.

The self-appointed censor already has been at work. He has forcibly restrained photographers from taking pictures of military plane wrecks; he has told editors "You can't print anything about what that plant is manufacturing." He labels certain facts as "classified", and implies this means you can't touch them.

Even the Associated Press is so hazy about the powers of the military and the rights of editors as to use this sentence in a Washington story about industrial plants:

"The term 'classified' means that information is grouped in one of several categories, all of varying degrees of secrecy, but none of which permit publication."

The term "classified" means no such thing. Except for the stringent laws governing atomic infor-

mation, there is no legal ban against the publication of so-called classified information. It is all too easy to confuse the Defense Department's rules about the release of information with restrictions upon its publication.

Until martial law is declared, the military has no control whatever over the shooting of pictures outside of military reservations, and no control over publication.

Naturally, no editor wants to print any facts or any pictures which weaken the security of our armed forces and our country. This memorandum is not a call to careless editing. The whole point is that you are the one who can decide what you print.

And among your rights, also, is the right to leave out of your paper anything you want to leave out.

JAMES S. POPE,

Louisville Courier-Journal
Chairman, Freedom of Inf. Comm.

Paul Block Seeks Members' Atomic Information Ideas

As the committee on Freedom of Information has been charged with supervision of atomic information problems, James S. Pope has named a sub-committee to deal with the matter. Paul Block, Toledo Blade, is chairman, with Herbert Corn, Washington Star, as contact man with AEC.

In accepting, Mr. Block expressed uncertainty in regard to the course to be pursued.

"Some members of the Society," he wrote Mr. Pope, "may have strong convictions about the rights of the press in connection with atomic energy, and if I could be certain in my own mind of such a right, I would want to fight for it with all I've got. But it strikes me as a waste of time and energy to go to the commission, explain that we don't know what we can print and what we cannot print, and please, gentlemen, will you let us print all that is possible? This would be a perfunctory request and should receive a perfunctory answer."

"Right now I can see making a start in the following manner:

"1. Determine what the editors believe the relationship of the press to atomic information should be.

"2. Find out what informed and thinking scientists believe this relationship should be.

"3. The same with a miscellaneous group of politicians, bureaucrats and civic leaders."

Mr. Block offered to undertake the long series of interviews entailed by the second two points. For the first, he appeals to every member of the Society who has a definite idea — not the answer, but part of the answer or a clue to the answer — to write him.

'Proceedings' Available

Extra copies of the 1950 Proceedings have been ordered by various members as gifts for their staffs, for journalism student friends, and for the families of deceased members memorialized by Grove Patterson. About 50 of the books are left, six of which must be kept for the Society's permanent files. Remainder available, at \$3.50 each; check should be sent to the Office of the Bulletin.

Church Items Should Be Judged Solely On News Value, Editors Reply to King

• By ROBERT GLASS
Editorial Director,
Lynchburg News & Daily Advance

One sentence from the article in the July Bulletin by Caleb J. King of the Florida Times-Union stood out from all the others when I read it. The sentence is this:

"Can American newspapers afford to pass up an opportunity such as lies before them of doing a better job in strengthening the moral fiber of this nation to the point that is needed in this age?"

I do not believe that "strengthening the moral fiber of the nation" by more news of religion, or in any other way, is the job of the news department of a newspaper.

If some newspapers, or all newspapers, are giving less attention to news of churches and of religion than is required to give a well-balanced picture of American life, or than is demanded by readers, more such news should be printed. But it should be printed to meet that requirement and that demand in order to adorn a tale, not to point a moral. If publishing more news of religion and of the churches does strengthen the "moral fiber" of the nation well and good, but that is incidental.

The job of the news department of a newspaper is to publish the news fairly, adequately, accurately and in balance — that and nothing more.

★ ★ ★
• By McCLELLAND VAN der VEER
Editorial Editor,
The Birmingham News

Fundamental conceptions as to the nature and meaning of life are involved in the present world crisis. Broadly speaking, two doctrines are in profound conflict — the spiritual and the materialist interpretations. The struggle cannot be resolved by imposing any idea. For, ultimately, it is a battle for the minds and hearts of men. Thoughtful men recognize that. That is why the interest in matters of religion and philosophy is perhaps more widespread and intense than ever before in human history.

Ideas and activities in this field have an enhanced news value. On that basis I can readily agree with Caleb J. King, editor of the Florida Times-Union, that newspapers should reconsider how well they are doing in presenting news of religion, and of thought in general about ultimate questions.

I agree also with Robert Glass, of the Lynchburg News & Daily Advance, that the function of the news columns is to present the news, rather than to build "moral fiber". But I doubt if there is any real difference between Mr. King and Mr. Glass on this point. Mr. King believes that "strengthening of the moral fiber of this nation to the point that is needed in this age" would be aided by doing a better job with this kind of news. Mr. Glass agrees that it would be well and good if that were an incidental result. Mr. King would expect such a result though he might not describe it as "incidental".

It is not only religious news as such that seems in greater demand. Letters to newspapers show the increased interest in the discussion of basic ideas and principles. These matters are in the immediate forefront of the current human situation and should be so recognized by both news and editorial columns.

★ ★ ★

• By J. VANCE
Managing Editor,
New Britain Herald

We, on the Herald, feel that the churches should be granted sufficient space to acquaint the parishioners with what is going on. The average gentleman of the cloth is a spacehound and many of them wish to sermonize in their space allotment as they do in their bulletins. Some of them are very adroit at writing their notices, making it difficult for a rewrite man to separate the wheat from the chaff. We cannot allow all of them to spread their particular religious philosophy in our columns. Which one should we select? The answer, of course, in all fairness is none.

It is not our province to moralize, it is not our province to give spiritual uplift to our readers of whatever faith. If it ever turned out, which of course it will not, that we could so elevate our readers that need for the church would be eliminated, pastors would be useless. Then where would the reverend gentlemen be? They have to eat.

Pardon my irreverence. Let's treat church news just as we would any other news. Tell 'em, don't try to sell 'em is our motto here. "Em" is our readers, in case you haven't figured that out.

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ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telegraph and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 323 September 1, 1950

FINANCIAL STATUS

(July 31, 1950)

U.S. Savings Bonds..... \$ 5,000.00
Perpetual Bldg. Ass'n... 2,151.52
Riggs Nat'l. Bank..... 17,240.48

Bal. in Banks & Bonds... \$24,392.00

Cost of printing Proceedings, recently mailed to members and not included above, is \$2,009.06. Twenty-three members delinquent in dues, are requested to send checks (made out to American Society of Newspaper Editors) to Mrs. DeVee K. Fisher, Assistant to the Treasurer, 4123 Ninth St. N.W., Washington 11, D. C.

Three Members Resign

Brooke Clyde has left the San Francisco News.

Ill health makes it impossible for M. M. Harris, San Antonio Express, to carry on any extra-curricular activities.

With his new duties as assistant to the publisher of the Denver Post, Alexis McKinney is no longer eligible.

Applications for membership entered now will be screened in time to be voted on at the fall meeting of the Board. Blanks may be obtained from the chairman, Coleman Harwell, editor, The Nashville Tennessean.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 324

October 1, 1950

Editors, Ending Tour, Will Confer With Committee

The Society's greatest venture in international understanding since the world tour headed by Wilbur Forrest, in 1945, got under way with the arrival in New York last month of 15 foreign editors, now on their way back to that city after a tour of the country.

The response to President Young's request that members cooperate in welcoming them has been gratifying. Not only the area hosts but editors in the regions where stops were scheduled have done everything possible to open avenues of entertainment and information for the ASNE guests.

Certainly no other foreign group ever has been shown so much of our country, our people and institutions, in so brief a time. Returning home, they'll have memories of the President of the United States, a college football game, the Hotel Shamrock and the Midwest Stock Exchange; of informal discussions with high government officials, high school students, journalism professors, and newspapermen in-



Lester Markel of The New York Times greets Hubert Beuve-Mery of Le Monde, Paris, left, and Claude Bellanger of Parisien Libre.

cluding publishers and reporters as well as editors.

This is what Lester Markel, chairman of the International Press Institute committee, had in mind when he said that regardless of the ultimate outcome, the project is certain to bring "new knowledge and, most of all, new understanding."

In New York the group was entertained at a dinner given by Dean Carl W. Ackerman and faculty members of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. Dean Ackerman re-

minded the guests that ASNE has always been a journalistic pioneer, and that as early as 1934 it had supported the world wide "free flow of information" in a resolution providing that "as an international policy there can be no greater safeguard of peace than the freedom of news throughout the world." He wanted everyone to know, he said, that "the foundation for the International Press Institute Conference was not something hastily conceived and planned because of Korea or the tension between the East and West."

The next stop was Washington where B. M. McKelway had arranged for the guests to attend President Truman's press conference; a luncheon with Paul Hoffman of ECA; a dinner at which they met ASNE members from the District, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia; a luncheon with the Overseas Writers as hosts, and a cocktail party given by the National Press Club.

On to Atlanta, where Wright Bryan had scheduled a dinner with the city's newspapers as hosts and members in the vicinity as added guests. They visited the University of Georgia at Athens, oldest state university in the country, attended the Georgia-Maryland football



Conferring at the American Press Institutes: Urs Schwarz, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich*; Harold Campbell, *Melbourne Age*; and Alfred Ostr, *Svenska Dagbladet, Stockholm*.

game, and an informal reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan. After a sightseeing tour and a luncheon given by Mayor Hartsfield, they left for Houston.

There Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby of The Post had appointed Emmett Walter of The Chronicle and George Carmack, The Press, as her co-chairmen. ASNE members from four southwestern states, journalism school directors from Texas, and special guests were invited to participate in the four-day program. This began with a reception at the home of former Governor and Mrs. Hobby; next morning, a discussion session, then a tour of newspaper plants; a dinner at which the speakers were the three chairmen and Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Tulsa Tribune, with Dr. William V. Houston, president of Rice Institute, presiding. The third day they toured the city, lunched at the Shamrock; and were guests of Jesse H. Jones of The Chronicle, at a session to which the working press was invited. The fourth day was devoted to general discussion.

Paul Smith, San Francisco Chronicle, was absent from the city when the editors arrived there but left the arrangements, following the same general plans, in the

capable hands of his managing editor, L. S. Fanning.

As this Bulletin goes to press, the visitors are heading for Chicago where Basil L. Walters takes over. They and area editors are to be luncheon guests of Dr. Robert Hutchins, President of the University of Chicago. Other events are a dinner given by the Deadline Club, composed of reporters and desk men; a luncheon, given by the Advertising staff of Marshall Field's; a press conference with representatives from high school newspapers, and probably a dinner given by the Radio Newscasters. They also will see how news is handled at the Board of Trade and Midwest Stock Exchange.

Only two changes were made in the list of guests published in the last Bulletin. The Indian representative named was replaced by M. Chalapathi Rau of the National Herald, Lucknow, and J. Murray Watson, The Scotsman, Edinburgh, was added.

Accompanying the editors on the trip are Floyd Taylor, director, American Press Institute; Kenneth Campbell, New York Times, who is covering the story and acting as interpreter; and Ichitaro Takata, foreign editor of Mainichi, also as interpreter.

Four Sessions to be Devoted to Study Of I. P. I. Feasibility and Objectives

At the orientation meeting at the start of the four there was an agreement on what the agenda for the four meetings on the foreign editors' return to New York on October 9 should be.

"The two questions to be considered," Mr. Markel suggested, "are, first, is an International Press Institute desirable; second, is such an institute feasible? There is no doubt about the answer to the first one. The second query is really a query as to how the money can be raised, and that is a tough problem."

Accordingly it was decided that the discussion should follow these lines:

First session: A survey of what already has been done in the field, most importantly what the UNESCO project is and the existing federations of editors and publishers.

Second session: Question of whether the institute is desirable and what it might achieve. On this

Mr. Markel suggested a three point goal—to bring about understanding between editors and editors; to analyze and improve the communication of information between nations; to deal with the ethics and techniques of journalism, interpreting both words in the broad sense, and including such subjects as objectivity and news coverage, presentation of important news, responsibility of the newspaper and the like.

Third session: Discussion of feasibility and a survey of the possible sources from which contributions might be had.

Final session: A round-up of uncovered business and the preparation of a report of the feeling of the conference.

This report, with any recommendations made by the Markel committee, whose members will attend the sessions, will be submitted to the Board of Directors who meet in New York immediately thereafter.

Newton Pursues Campaign Against Evil of Handouts

"Government Handouts," a talk by V. M. Newton, Jr., of the Tampa Morning Tribune, might well have been titled "Rule by Press Agent" or possibly "Man with a Mission."

His message, arrived at after two years of careful study, is that "the modern system of government handouts is an ever-growing threat to the liberty that is guaranteed by our constitution."

Addressing the Tampa and Hillsborough County Bar Association last summer he said, "If carried to a logical conclusion government handouts will lead to censorship. And if we ever have censorship, first truth and then justice will disappear from our government." For, he explained, "Every line written by a government press agent is designed to reflect glory upon his government agency and to prolong the political life of his boss, regardless of whether it is the truth, half truth or no truth."

In the Tampa talk, reprinted recently in an SNPA Bulletin, Mr. Newton repeated some of the figures he presented when he addressed the APME at Fort Worth last year (federal government spending \$74,800,000, a year on handouts; State of Florida, \$200,000, annually) and added new evidence that "the blight of government press agents is spreading to our big cities." He referred to Los Angeles where 75 press agents, among them 20 on the staff of the water department, cost taxpayers \$400,000, a year.

The government is far from the only offender and his own newspaper is not immune to the evils of the system, Mr. Newton said. A check of The Tribune revealed that "65 per cent of all the news printed in our columns—sports, society, local, state, Washington and international—came from handouts."

Though mild in manner, Mr. Newton is anything but that when he embarks upon a campaign—to rid Tampa of rats, create a port authority or investigate Florida's prison system. His scrapping instincts, he once confessed, were acquired early when he had to protect himself from companions' taunts about his red hair and a name like Virgil.

Members Invited To Express Ideas About Convention

• By STANLEY P. BARNETT
Chairman, Program Committee

Although the next convention is months away and anything may happen before next spring to change the picture, your program committee has not been idle. Thanks to industrious and imaginative committeemen and society members, a bale of suggestions is in the hopper and we hope this brief report will bring more.

All members are hereby invited to tell us what they like and what they don't like among the proposals which appear on this page.

In addition contributions of new suggestions will be welcome. Your letters may be addressed to the program chairman in care of the Plain Dealer, Cleveland, or to any of these committee members: John T. O'Rourke, Washington News; Richard W. Clarke, New York News; Laurence L. Winship, Boston Globe; George W. Healy, Jr., New Orleans Times-Picayune; John D. Pennekamp, Miami Herald; Melville F. Ferguson, Philadelphia Bulletin; Ben Reese, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Dale Stafford, Detroit Free Press; F. W. Brinkerhoff, Pittsburg (Kan.) Sun and Headlight; W. R. Walton, South Bend Tribune.

What say the society?

Adams, McCarthy Resign

Joseph T. Adams, formerly managing editor of the Rochester Times-Union, has been made business manager of the Democrat and Chronicle, and has resigned from ASNE in accordance with the by-laws. Severing such connections is something of a wrench, he admits, but he is finding the new job fascinating and pleasurable.

Another resignation comes from William M. McCarthy who left the managing editorship of the Chicago Sun-Times last November to become executive sports editor of the Denver Post.

For your 1951 calendar: ASNE convention dates are April 19, 20 and 21; Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

1951 PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

A report on release of information by radio stations, with particular reference to charges of repeated early release of speeches, and workup stories, controlled by the sources of information.

A report on the movement to consolidate charity campaigns in one big drive.

Proposal to engage a good lawyer to inform the convention on copyright laws, customs and procedures.

Suggestion for a panel on columnists with appearance on the program of noted columnists building the discussion around the importance of syndicated columns, their usefulness, their integrity, etc.

Speeches by the best bet for the Republican nominee for president, or sharpest administration critic of the moment, and the best spokesman for the administration. Possibly these two on the same program, perhaps at banquet.

Talk by a lively syndicate salesman about editors and how they seem to pick features, with anecdotes, etc. Perhaps at same session a talk by same editor as to what he thinks about syndicate salesmen.

Bring new (to ASNE) government faces to the program, such as the Postmaster General or Secretary of Labor.

A proposal to hold the government boys' appearance at the convention to the luncheons and dinners.

More shop talks, not necessarily panels, but with the speaker exposing himself forum-fashion.

Proposal to eliminate night meetings and introduce more social functions.

A discussion of editorial page makeup with an expert representative from a typographical company as the speaker.

A proposal to put on at the convention the radio feature "Meet the Press."

Suggestion for a debate, with a time limit on the speakers, between two Washington correspondents and two editors who are extremely critical of the existing trend of Washington coverage.

A debate between a couple of paid government press agents defending their jobs, and two critical editors.

Panel on labor news, with editors and labor leaders exchanging blows. Endeavor would be made to bring top labor leaders, such as Walter Reuther and Phil Murray and Bill Green to the program.

Discussion by circulation managers and editors on how these two departments can co-operate to produce best results.

Ask a tough critic of the press, such as Joe Liebling or Robert Hutchins, to appear on the program and sound off, priming articulate editors to reply in kind.

A talk by General Eisenhower, probably at one of the luncheons.

A talk by Senator Byrd on governmental economy.

A talk or talks by sports editors telling us what is wrong with the news pages.

A suggestion to break up the convention one afternoon into panels that would meet in rooms on the mezzanine floor. The idea would be to have these panels take up various phases of newspaper production, such as society and women's pages, copy desks, publicity releases, etc. The originator of this idea suggests that those attending the convention would be asked to sign up for such panels as interested them.

Board of Directors Meets in New York, Oct. 14 and 15

President Dwight Young has called the semi-annual meeting of the Board of Directors for October 14 and 15 in the Waldorf-Astoria.

The Inter-American Press Conference, for which Mr. Young is program chairman, opens in New

York on October 9, and the foreign editor guests of ASNE will convene there the same week.

The shift from Washington, where the Board customarily meets, was made so that directors may attend more conveniently sessions of the other two groups.

Editors Give President Candid Appraisal Of Reporters From Schools of Journalism

An informal survey made by President Dwight Young in preparation for his address to the National Association of Journalism Teachers in Madison, Wisconsin, provides a comprehensive summary of editors' evaluation of journalism schools, their curricula and their products. Mr. Young queried more than a tenth of the membership and based his talk on the letters of 45 who responded.

Only one said "I can think of nothing more to say about journalism schools," and only one, "I am 100% satisfied." Two were "75% satisfied." Most opinions, naturally, were not so clear-cut. Those who, in general, think well of journalism school graduates as cubs and those who don't are agreed that much depends on the quality of the particular school and the calibre of the particular student.

As the following quotations reveal, several complaints, and certain suggestions for improvement, appeared recurrently in the symposium.

Trained for Big Papers

"Journalism students do not seem to be properly taught the handling or importance of minor, local news items. They do not seem to comprehend the meaning of a wedding, an obit or a lodge election to readers of a predominantly local paper like ours. They seem to be trained more for work on such papers as the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune."

"I find that journalism graduates regard working on papers in a town of, say, 100,000 population as equivalent to service on the Sauk Centre Gazette."

"Many of these youngsters who get jobs on a small or medium-size paper tend to look upon them as mere piddling posts on their way to Time, the New Yorker or the Book of the Month market."

No Courses in Digging

"Journalism graduates can take a handout and write a passable story. But they never think to go behind the release for the real story and when the suggestion is made, they do not know where to start. On the other hand, bright office boys we have trained are

among our best reporters. They know how to get a story and are skeptical of handouts."

"Most of them know little about digging."

"We are as well or better off with high schoolers who start as office boys, the lads who need the jobs and struggle to master them quickly. The boys we get from journalism seem to be in a fog, lack initiative, have a lackadaisical attitude."

Helping Hand Needed

"I feel that ASNE, all the newspaper organizations and each of the newspapers individually should work much harder than they do at making the accrediting program work, both in demanding that the journalism schools produce better people and, when they do, in seeing that the better people get newspaper jobs."

"I have a feeling that journalism school directors and newspaper editors don't work together closely enough. And, knowing something about newspaper editors, I should say that the school people will have to provide the push for any improvement in that direction."

Those Campus Guilds

"I had one young fellow who, on his first assignment, checked out with the city desk, leaving the job incomplete. Now mind you, we operate a Guild shop. Our relations are good and sound and we respect each other's viewpoint. When we discovered that this young chap had left us in the lurch, our desk wanted to know why. He was straightforward about it. He wanted to check out on time. We wanted to know where this reasoning came from. His reply shocked even the most ardent guildsman. It was 'I guess indoctrination in school. We had an undergraduate chapter and I thought that when your time was up it was up.'"

"I think the schools might well suggest to students that it would be wise to wait until they actually get into the newspaper business before getting too steamed up over crusades to reform it. These campus newspaper guild groups seem to me a little premature."

"Some of these kids have been sold on the idea (by their Guild

friends) that they need to organize against voracious publishers who seek to take advantage of their talents. . . . I have nothing against unions, nothing against the newspaper Guild, but I do have a crow to pick with those kids who, right off the bat, and before they have established themselves in their own right, become suspect of the management."

Look for the Mote

"Editors are inclined to expect too much from journalism school graduates with too little investment of their own time, advice and painstaking direction. . . . Seasoning—with a big admixture of patience and consideration—is also a requirement for building on the foundation laid in school. Nervous, impatient and exacting by nature and training, editors forget journalism school graduates are still beginners on a newspaper staff."

Society Urged to Demand Exclusivity on Releases

To the BOARD of DIRECTORS:

I hear on the radio as early as six or seven in the evening, news commentators giving out the substance of a speech by an important national figure that is to be delivered later that evening. I also hear formal releases of information which are not news breaks and will not be read by most newspaper readers until the next morning.

It seems to me that the influence of the Society should be wielded against this practise. Not only the pre-release of speeches is objectionable, but a formal release of information controlled by the sources of that information should not be available to radio stations until the morning after it has appeared in morning newspapers, or the night after it has appeared in afternoon newspapers.

I believe all of us are reconciled to the fact that radio is entitled to immediate use of news that breaks.

But we should recapture our exclusivity on releases.

EDWARD J. MEEMAN, Editor
Memphis Press-Scimitar

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Bulletin, Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

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THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 325 November 1, 1950

If War Censorship Must Come, Three Points Are Fundamental

RESOLVED, by its Board of Directors, that ASNE considers essential that any governmental plans for the imposition of censorship in time of war, should include these three points as fundamental:

1) That administration of censorship be assigned to an independent agency, established for that purpose alone, responsible only to the President of the United States;

2) That the director of this agency be a civilian whose standing and background of experience make him acceptable to the communications media, especially radio and press;

3) That censorship, as applied to radio and press, be a voluntary censorship modeled after the voluntary system which operated successfully during World War II.

It is further resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States and to the Honorable W. Stuart Symington, director of the National Security Resources Board.

★ ★ ★

This resolution was the outcome of a study authorized at the previous Board meeting, and conducted by a committee headed by Jack Lockhart, general editorial manager of Scripps-Howard Newspapers.

As instructed, Mr. Lockhart's group conferred informally with officials in the National Security Resources Board to ascertain government plans for press censorship in the event of another world war. Radio representatives were invited to take part in the discussions, on which Mr. Lockhart reported in detail at the Board meeting.

There was general accord that censorship is not necessary in the present "twilight period," and should be made effective only in case of some clear emergency; and that if it must come it should fol-

low the voluntary plan which operated with such success in the past war.

On the basis of Mr. Lockhart's information, the resolution quoted was drafted by Mr. McKelway, Mr. Howard and Mr. Pope. The Board voted to continue the committee, to watch further developments, at least until next April.

FIEJ Membership Is Taken By ASNE Jointly With ANPA

Joint participation of ASNE and ANPA in the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers, proposed by Paul Miller, Gannett newspapers, on his return from the 1949 FIEJ meeting has been accomplished. Erwin D. Canham, 1950 delegate and chairman of an ASNE committee to study the desirability of such cooperation, recommended favorably on the project. A corresponding ANPA committee already had approved the measure.

Mr. Canham explained that sharing of a membership by national groups is in accord with FIEJ policy and that this Society's continued affiliation lends important backing to the movement for a free press.

As a case in point, he cited the debate at the Rome meeting last year over the licensing of newspapers. At that time he warned that false and dangerous parallels have been drawn between the newspaper profession and such other registered and carefully qualified professions as medicine, and exhorted the FIEJ to remember that "Ideas must always be free, they must never be licensed," not even by a self-regulating body of journalists.

Parole Board Hush Policy Is Reversed By Sharp Protest

While the freedom of information committee keeps an eye on the world at large, James S. Pope, chairman, expressed increasing concern over the way news is bottled up at source on the domestic front, particularly by local officials.

From time to time, he said, members call to his attention instances in which public officials or others attempt to suppress information to which the public is entitled, but the coverage he receives is spotty rather than comprehensive. He appealed again to members of the Board and the Society to send him memos on such situations so that the committee can lend any support it decides is proper and may be helpful.

On his return home from the Board meeting, Mr. Pope found in his own bailiwick a case such as he had described to the Board. Taking immediate action, he addressed the following day letter to Walter K. Urich, parole executive of the U. S. Board of Parole, Department of Justice.

"The American Society of Newspaper Editors is deeply concerned and aroused over the increasing suppression by public officials and boards of public information. A general attack on such undemocratic practise was mapped at a meeting of the Society's Board of Directors in New York last week. As chairman of the Society's Committee on Freedom of Information I protest the refusal of your Board to make public names of citizens of Louisville who you say recommended a parole for Israel Goodman. Whether Goodman is in jail or out is not the question at issue. The secrecy surrounding this release is an issue to the whole press. Goodman is an alien who was serving a federal term for evasion of \$60,000 in income taxes, but it happens that his local reputation is a factor also, since it gives the

people of the community a special interest and right to know. He has run a gambling establishment here for many years and has been convicted of selling obscene literature. On the same page of today's paper which reported you had paroled him after service of less than half his term was a story linking his store to the illegal football racket which has become nationally notorious the past few days following arrests in Dallas and Chicago. Your Board is quoted as saying that 'citizens of standing' recommended a parole for Goodman, and that they must be protected from being 'embroiled in public discussion.' This throws a strange and mysterious cloak over the affair. Where else except in totalitarian countries is discussion of such public business considered objectionable? If these citizens are ashamed of recommending a parole for Goodman, why did your board take their letters seriously? As a matter of fact, just how many citizens did recommend parole? If they are not ashamed, why is your board protecting them?

"We urge and advise that you reconsider your action. And we urge you do not underestimate the growing indignation of the editors of the nation over official secrecy."

"A copy of this wire is being sent for the present only to the Attorney General."

"Israel Goodman and his story are not, of course, this important. The principle of public access to public information we consider of paramount importance, and we are starting our general fight for its application with the first flagrant case of news suppression that has come to our attention since our Board meeting."

The result was a 15-minute telephone call from George Killinger, chairman of the U. S. Board of Pardons, and the release of names of persons who had written that office asking Goodman's parole. Mr. Killinger, Mr. Pope says, "was stunned, and very much impressed, by the idea that government news belongs to the people and not to public officials." He adds "It seems to me an oblique indictment of all of us that we let Washington boards and bureaus acquire the assumption that our affairs are private."

The incident convinced Mr. Pope that "most bureaucrats will give in readily if we hit promptly and hard, and don't let our news rights go by default."

\$500 Voted For Organizational Work Of International Press Institute Plan

Following a report by Lester Markel, New York Times, on the American tour of 15 foreign editors and the culminating conference in New York with members of Mr. Markel's ASNE committee, the Board voted endorsement of a plan for further organizational work deemed necessary for the ultimate establishment of an International Press Institute.

The visit of the editors to the United States and their reception in six key cities, as originally conceived by Mr. Markel, became a success largely through the efforts of the committee members who arranged programs in Washington, Atlanta, Houston, San Francisco, Chicago and New York, as well as the vast amount of technical assistance of Floyd Taylor, director of the American Press Institute at Columbia University, who accompanied the party across the country.

Back in New York, the proposed International Institute was discussed in lively fashion by the entire group and while the ASNE guests, representing 14 foreign countries, were in practical agreement with the desirability of some such organization, many felt that further inquiry into the reaction of the press of their respective countries should be made before final action could be taken.

To carry this out, Mr. Markel explained to the Directors, it is proposed to set up a temporary secretariat in New York City which will undertake to gather and compile data from each national group of editors and editors' associations regarding such an international institution. This undertaking is considered merely as an extension of the exploratory work which began with the original invitation by the Society to the foreign group to come to this country.

To the end that the work may be completed and a definite idea gained on the possibility of co-operation from a suitable number of national groups, the Board of Directors voted an appropriation of \$500. toward a fund to implement a secretariat to make the necessary inquiry over an estimated period of three months. A final report on the entire undertaking should, therefore, be ready for the Board of Directors and the Soci-

RESOLUTION

This Board believes an International Press Institute can perform an important service in the field of international understanding. It endorses the work done by its committee and appropriates \$500. to the organizing committee of the proposed International Press Institute in order that it may continue its organizing work.

ety's membership at the April convention in Washington.

Following Mr. Markel's talk to the Board, B. M. McKelway offered the following resolution which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

"This Board, by the adoption of this resolution, acknowledges to Mr. Lester Markel its great appreciation for his competent, tactful and intelligent conduct of the enterprise represented in the visit to the United States, and our consultations with 15 editors from 14 foreign countries. The Board, in addition, requests that the President, after consultation with Mr. Markel, convey to the Rockefeller and Carnegie Foundations our gratitude for their generous assistance which made this enterprise possible; and to Mr. Floyd Taylor of the American Press Institute our gratitude for his skilled administrative direction."

Members of the committee, in addition to Mr. Markel, are:

B. M. McKelway, Washington Star; Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor; Carl W. Ackerman, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia; Basil L. Walters, Chicago Daily News; Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal; Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post; Paul Smith, San Francisco Chronicle; Carroll Binder, Minneapolis Tribune; Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers; Sevellon Brown, Providence Journal and Bulletin.

THIS ISSUE of The Bulletin takes the form of a report on the annual fall meeting of your Board of Directors held at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, October 14 and 15. President Dwight Young presided and all 15 members were present.



1943 Seated: William Allen White (deceased), W. S. Gilmore, Tom Wallace, Roy A. Roberts, Donald J. Sterling, and Dwight Marvin. Standing: Wilbur Forrest, J. M. North, Jr., Dwight Young, B. M. McKelway, Basil L. Walters and Erwin D. Canham. Absent when picture was taken: David Lawrence, John S. Knight, Paul Scott Mowrer, and Julian Miller (deceased). Mr. Sterling, whose term had expired, attended the meeting in an unofficial capacity.

FEW DIRECTORS REMAIN ON BOARD AFTER 7 YEARS

"Then-and-now" pictures show that the Board of Directors has changed completely in seven years, except for past-presidents serving ex-officio terms and Dwight Young, who will join that category at the conclusion of his presidency in April.

This constant turn-over was the reason for an amendment to the by-laws, in 1934, providing that past presidents should be retained ex-officio for three years. It was felt that their familiarity with the Board's proceedings would provide

wise counsel and a highly desirable continuity of action on a Board which changes more rapidly than most members realize.

Of the present ex-officios, N. R. Howard concludes his term next year; Erwin D. Canham in 1952; and B. M. McKelway in 1953.

Mr. Young, the only director now filling a regular, elective term on the Board who was on it when the original picture was taken, was first elected in 1942. That also was Mr. Canham's first year.

Others' first appearances are as

follows:

Mr. McKelway, 1943.

Alexander F. Jones and N. R. Howard, 1944. (Mr. Howard had been a director, resigned in 1942 when he went into the Office of Censorship.)

Wright Bryan, Hamilton Owens and Virginius Dabney, 1946.

L. R. Blanchard, 1948.

Jenkin Lloyd Jones and Kenneth MacDonald, 1949.

James S. Pope, Gideon Seymour, J. Donald Ferguson and W. R. Mathews, 1950.



1950 Seated: B. M. McKelway, James S. Pope, L. R. Blanchard, Alexander F. Jones, Dwight Young, Kenneth MacDonald, Wright Bryan, W. R. Mathews, Hamilton Owens. Standing: Gideon Seymour, Virginius Dabney, Jenkin Lloyd Jones, N. R. Howard, and J. Donald Ferguson. Erwin D. Canham was absent when the picture was taken.

Limit On Membership From Small Cities Holds 12 Applicants Over Another Year

At the urgent behest of Mr. Young, the membership and eligibility committees hewed to the strict line of the by-laws in screening candidates for presentation to the Board.

Coleman Harwell of the Nashville Tennessean, who was present as membership chairman, had documented each application with complete information concerning titles, editorial duties, and population figures. Congratulating him for his thoroughness, the Board elected nine members in the over-50,000 population class, and returned two applications for clarification of status, these to be voted on by mail ballot.

The five permitted from smaller cities presented a knottier problem since there were 17 applicants, some of them on the waiting list two or three years. Those who were not admitted at this time will be retained on the list for consideration at the 1951 semi-annual meeting.

The question of the wisdom and fairness of the rule limiting general membership to larger cities came up for discussion. The preamble to the Constitution states that the Society was founded to band together the editors of "the greater American newspapers," and Art. II makes 50,000 population the dividing line between greater and lesser.

Mr. Young appointed Virginius Dabney, Jenkin Lloyd Jones and Hamilton Owens to study the situation, and any corollary problems. They will report to the Board in April.

14 New Members

From cities over 50,000 population:

Robert C. Barton, managing editor, Lima (O.) News.

A. Vernon Croop, managing editor, Rochester Times-Union (former member who resigned as ineligible when he headed the Ganett Washington Bureau.)

E. Z. Dimitman, executive editor, Newark Star-Ledger (also a former member, with the Philadelphia Inquirer and later Chicago Sun-Times).

Herbert Elliston, editor, Washington Post.

E. C. Hoyt, managing editor, Cedar Rapids Gazette.

C. D. McNamee, editor, Muskegon Chronicle.

Mrs. Peter Miller, editor, Washington Times-Herald.

Joseph W. Sagmaster, associate editor, Cincinnati Times-Star.

Benjamin Franklin Park, managing editor and editor of editorial page, The Raleigh Times.

From cities under 50,000 population:

Robert S. Bates, editor and co-publisher, Meadville (Pa.) Tribune Newspapers.

John B. Johnson, editor and publisher, Watertown (N.Y.) Daily Times, son of Harold B. Johnson who, until his death last year, had been an active member of the Society.

Joseph LaGore, managing editor, Paducah (Ky.) Sun-Democrat.

Josh L. Horne, editor and publisher, Rocky Mount (N.C.) Telegram.

Dow Richardson, editor, Kokomo (Ind.) Tribune.

Indexing of the Proceedings, Hamilton Owens told the Board, is under way but the job is too big for even a progress report to be made at this time.

Blanchard Reports \$21,390 On Hand; Delinquent Members Warned On Dues

L. R. Blanchard, treasurer, reported a balance of \$21,390.68, of which \$5000.00 is in U. S. Government Bonds, \$2,151.52 in Perpetual Building Association, Washington, and \$13,239.16 in a checking account with the Riggs National Bank. This compares with \$24,397.82 in hand on April 1, the beginning of the Society's fiscal year.

At its last meeting the Board authorized purchase of U. S. Government bonds up to \$5000, in addition to the \$2500, then held. Only half the amount specified was purchased, Mr. Blanchard said, but with the Board's concurrence the remaining bonds authorized will be purchased now.

A suggestion that still more might be put into savings was dropped on recommendation of Alexander F. Jones, former treasurer, who pointed out that the Society has no further source of income until next April except the

M. E. Chilton, Jr.

W. E. Chilton, Jr., managing editor of the Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette, died Sept. 21 at the age of 56. Son of the late U. S. Senator W. E. Chilton, he became principal owner of the newspaper in 1922, shortly after his return from World War I, in which he served in naval aviation.

Mr. Chilton was elected to the Society two years ago.

Three Leave Society; Membership Now 517

With three deaths and 18 resignations since April, Secretary MacDonald reported membership at 503.

Those leaving the Society within the past month are:

John A. Park, publisher, Raleigh Times, who resigned to make room for the election of his son, Benjamin, managing editor, since the size of the city allows only one membership.

Hulbert Taft, editor, Cincinnati Star-Times, who has been unable to attend meetings and requested the election of his managing editor, Joseph W. Sagmaster, in his place.

James P. Rosemond, formerly with the Erie Times, who is not eligible at present.

Election of 14 members brings the current total to 517.

unpaid dues of nine delinquent members.

The nine will be reminded once more, after which Mr. Blanchard will reluctantly enforce Par. 8, of Art. II of the by-laws:

If any member shall fail to pay his dues within six months after date of maturity, notice of delinquency shall be given to him by the treasurer; at the end of four weeks if he still remains delinquent, his membership may be forfeited unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

FREDRIC G. PITTS, Editor of The Bulletin. ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Proceedings. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telegraph and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

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THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 326

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STRANGE, INTRICATE PLATITUDES

Past President Cites Wordy Resolutions—Endorsing, Empowering, Suggesting and Deploing—That Evolve at Saturday Sessions

• By DWIGHT MARVIN, Editor, Troy Record Newspapers

As chairman of the resolutions committee at the coming convention I should not present my views on the subject involved without consulting my associates. Therefore, having a penchant for doing what I hadn't-oughter, here goes.

I think resolutions in such an organization as ours are perhaps the most futile part of convention proceedings. In the first place, they come up for consideration at the end when many have started for New York and the rest are putting their studs in their shirts for the dinner. Second, they always develop a wrangle—which may have a value in the exchange of ideas but ends in division or in the watering down of the resolutions. And third, the watering down always can be counted on if the resolution amounts to anything at all. For every really controversial topic is discussed with the virility, the intensity and the conviction of planks in the Republican and Democratic platforms. They generally wind up as all things to all men—and not much to anybody.

Some of the resolutions have been silly. We used to thank the hotel for accommodations. That, happily, has ceased. Last year we congratulated a judge on something he had done. Perhaps it pleased him but it was hardly worthy of a great convention. Two years ago we adopted seven wordy resolutions, endorsing, empowering, suggesting and deploring with delightful breadth of purpose. The only one which seemed to me valuable was an authorization to pay the expenses of a delegate to a conference—which really belonged in a business session, not in the formality of a resolution.

The more dynamic resolutions are knocked down or twisted into strange and intricate platitudes. They give a chance to the debaters to discuss inflections, color, synonyms and all the other erudite points which we used to love to raise in Philologist Club debates when I was in college.



DWIGHT MARVIN

Now I have expressed myself and I hope my compeers this coming April will find good subjects for resolutions so that we can follow customary procedure and conclude our convention with the solemn serenity of a volcano.

CONVENTION SESSIONS

Early-birds making up their itineraries are asking for the convention schedule. This is the line-up as the program chairman sees it, subject to change if circumstances necessitate.

Thursday, April 19, 1951: Four sessions, morning, luncheon, afternoon and evening. (No dinner meeting.)

Friday: Three day-time sessions. (No dinner or evening meeting.)

Saturday: Sigma Delta Chi breakfast, followed by the three usual sessions, cocktail party, and banquet in evening.

Meetings will be held in the Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C.

Handling Strike News

For his own guidance, E. C. (Pete) Hoyt, managing editor of The Cedar Rapids Gazette, has been making a survey among Midwest editors of their handling of strike news.

His conclusion:

"Most good newspapers are handling strike news intelligently, but we all have a job of selling both management and labor on our impartiality. In the heat of a strike, each faction thinks we are biased if we do not come out swinging for its cause. When we have both factions cursing us, we know we are going right down the middle. But we should take some action, as a group, to soften that cursing."

A particular problem, Mr. Hoyt observes, is presented by the factory which is policy-governed by officers in a distant city. "The union has its local mouthpiece who can speak with authority to meet a newspaper deadline. Too often the plant manager has to wait until his boss in another city tells him what he can say. This makes for hard feelings because management's statement often comes a day late, if it comes at all."

On the brighter side of the ledger Mr. Hoyt cites Quaker Oats "which never had a public relations department until a few years ago and now has one of the best." Its chief, Don Cowles, sought suggestions from a score of newspaper editors, many ASNE members among them, in preparing a booklet "Quaker and the Press." De-



E. C. HOYT

signed to help company spokesmen improve relations with newspapers in cities where its plants are situated, the booklet contains such sage advice as this: "Don't threaten, scold or try to pressure newsmen. That's a sure way to get nowhere in a hurry." And "You can build up the reporter's respect for you as a news source by never making 'I think' answers. When you don't know, ask for a few moments to check."

Mr. Hoyt who was elected to ASNE last month, ran across several editors whose ideas struck him as particularly sound. Among them is Arnold Burnett of the Peoria Journal; his views on strike news are presented herewith as are those of Alfred G. Hill of the Chester Times, representative of a large eastern industrial area.

In Chester

• By ALFRED G. HILL, Editor and Publisher, The Chester Times

The problem of reporting industrial disputes is particularly important here because we have what is termed the "Chester War Front" which extends along the Delaware River for nine miles. It starts at Marcus Hook with the Sun Oil and Sinclair Oil refineries. It includes American Viscose, Ford Motor, Scott Paper, Sun Ship yards, Baldwin Locomotive, General Steel and on to the big Westinghouse plant nine miles up the river from Marcus Hook. The number of employees always exceeds 30,000 and sometimes goes far higher.

While this area has been relatively free of strike troubles, some have been inevitable and the various disputes have been frequent enough that something of a routine procedure has been developed. If the strike is important enough, we put two reporters on the job—one to contact management and one to contact the union.

We look on strike news in the same category as reporting an important football game. We get statements from both sides and really attempt to be objective in our news reporting.

On the rare occasions when we have taken an editorial stand on some of the issues, we have received objections and criticism but our reporters are well enough acquainted with their news sources that our ability to get the news is not harmed.

Originally, strikes were handled

Rules for Reporters Covering Strikes

(Cedar Rapids Gazette)

1. Brevity. Keep the story as short as possible. By avoiding excess wordage you avoid saying something that could be construed as propaganda.

2. Impartiality. Contact both sides on every occasion. Allow neither to use the news columns of The Gazette for propaganda. If you have a statement from one faction, it is all right to tell the other faction what the theme of it is, but do not read the statement to the other side; guard against being called a stooge. Avoid getting into arguments or debates. Strikes should be settled around the conference table and not in the newspapers.

3. Objectivity. Guard against use of words that imply feeling or partiality. Avoid propaganda quotes from either side. Get the

news value out of any statement and write it objectively; discard the rest.

4. Spokesmen. When a strike is called, seek out the official spokesmen for both management and labor and get your news from them. If plant management is not free to talk without advice from officers in another city, find out who is in authority and if necessary he can be called long distance.

5. Violence. In case of trouble, get your news through the police department or your own eyes. Do not go on hearsay reports.

6. Settlement. When a strike is settled, or is nearing settlement, urge both sides to issue a joint statement on the terms. If the terms are announced by one side, be sure the other side approves the wordage 100 per cent.

in many newspapers with the attitude of a person approaching a strange animal. Now that they have become a matter of routine news (probably unfortunately) the approach is more direct and casual.

My advice, based on nearly nine years in this industrial area, is simply to treat strike news as ordinary routine and to avoid getting all hot and bothered as far as reporting the news is concerned.

We still maintain the right to state our editorial opinion at times rather forthrightly.

I might add that there are important reasons why industrial strife has been held to a minimum here. The high proportion of our industries is locally controlled and our industrialists are willing to pay good wages. The second factor is that the labor leadership (largely CIO) is much better than the average. The labor people cooperate with industrial leaders amazingly well; for example, in the annual Community Chest campaign, which is uniformly successful because of this wholehearted cooperation. Friendships and mutual confidence are developed as a result.

It may be recalled that the writer took over the Chester Times at the end of a 10 month strike prior to September, 1942. This strike was conducted by the American Newspaper Guild and resulted in the paper being closed for the 10-month period.

While our news staff members have an option as to whether they belong to the Guild, a great majority do. I can testify that I have never known of a reporter failing to report the news fairly.

In Peoria

• By ARNOLD BURNETT
Managing Editor, The Peoria Journal

Strike news is dynamite for a newspaper to handle. No other type of news can make people so violently angry with the newspaper as strike reports.

Management usually feels betrayed if the newspaper fails to go along 100 per cent on its side and editorially damn the union. The union usually takes the attitude that the newspaper is anti-labor anyway, so the hell with it.

As a result, news — actual news — is very hard to obtain during a strike.

Here in Peoria we have a tremendous industrial concentration, and have learned to walk warily when strikes come along. By walking

warily I mean being wary of every statement, every remark, every news item. We have, from long and bitter experience, come up with some general rules on strike coverage which might be helpful to other newspapers.

1. Do we use statements of both sides? Do we limit one's statement to the same wordage as the other? Do we inform either side of the statement of the other, prior to publication?

No, no, no! Simply—we do not use statements. We have found that statements usually are completely one-sided, often are inclined to be hypercritical of the other side, and generally are not fair, unbiased presentations of the strike issues at all. So we take the statements, get the news out of them, confirm it with a phone call, and use it as quotes: "We won't return for less than 10 cents an hour raise," said Ben Bolt, president of the Chimney-sweeps union, today.

We do not, therefore, worry about the length of either side's statements, as we do not use them as such. We do not inform either side of what the other says prior to publication, because we do not use the highly explosive statements either side makes.

2. How do we avoid letting our columns be used for propaganda

purposes by either or both sides?

Simply by doing as stated above—not using the statements of either side. No one can use your columns for propaganda purposes if he can't have access to those columns except in the way you dictate—via regular news channels.

Strikes are important news and we treat them as such. We figure our duty is to the general public, and report the strike as intelligently as we can, despite the difficulties of getting the story from either side. In a strike, usually both sides are considerably annoyed at our actions, but we take that as evidence that we are doing a pretty fair job of presenting the case for both sides fairly and impartially.

A sample of our attitude was shown by our handling of a bus strike which tied up our town for 15 days. It was settled on the 15th day, after we had started a series of Page One boxes condemning the company, the union, and the city administration for failing to consider the public welfare ahead of their own interests. Our boxes started on the 11th day—on the 15th day we had to pull out our box for a replate announcing the strike was over.

The mayor gave us a lambasting in city council—but we have letters from several readers thanking us for thinking of the people—and that's what we want. That's what we're in business for.

11 Days

Eleven days—and nothing has been done about the bus strike in Peoria.

While Peorians walk, or thumb rides, or stay home helplessly, the bus company and the bus drivers' union fail to reach an agreement.

The city fails its duty to Peoria by letting this transportation strike go on and on and on.

Who cares about the people of Peoria? Let 'em walk! This is the attitude of the bus company, the bus union, and the city administration.

Keep walking, Peorians! Nobody cares but you—and you can always get your shoes half-soled!

One of a series of page one boxes in the Peoria Journal. On the fifteenth day, a replate was necessary to pull out the box and announce the end of the strike.



RUTH McCORMICK MILLER

New Washington Member

Election of Mrs. Peter Miller, vice-president and editor of the Washington Times-Herald, brings the number of women currently in the Society to five.

Daughter of the late Senator Medill McCormick and Ruth Hanna McCormick, Mrs. Miller, who is 29, was born in Chicago and educated at Foxcroft School and Bennington College. She and Mr. Miller have two children, Khristie Elizabeth and Mark McCormick. Their home is Al Marah Farm, in Bethesda, Md.

Busy with editorial affairs, Mrs. Miller belongs to few organizations, but she is president of the American Epilepsy League, and on the board of the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society.

Her sole hobby is breeding Arabian horses.

Grove Patterson on Post Mortems

My friend, Grove Patterson, editor of the Toledo Blade, and one of the greatest editors in America, says that he was a frequent victim of his own post-mortems. He would lie awake nights trying to figure out why he did this or that, or didn't do it. But he found a solution. Not being able to do anything about it, he just forgot it by saying, "So what!" This, says Grove Patterson, induces a strange tranquillity. Of course it does, for it relieves the mind of the foolishness of carrying past actions which, for good or ill, are done.—Norman Vincent Peale, in *A Guide to Confident Living*.



ARNOLD BURNETT

The Never-Ending Fight To Keep Official Records Open To Public

RECENT efforts of the Tampa Tribune to keep state records in Florida open to the public have centered on three departments, Welfare, Civil Service and Beverage.

The first fight began when The Tribune's staffer at Tallahassee obtained from outside sources the fact that the father-in-law of a state supreme court justice was receiving a \$50 a month state pension. To be eligible, the nearest of kin must swear he is either unable or unwilling to support the applicant. However, the justice is one of the capital's wealthiest citizens, and the beneficiary owned an automobile and a fine home.

Trying to substantiate this information from the records of the State Welfare Board, The Tribune ran smack into a difficulty which editors elsewhere have encountered: With the passage of the Federal pension act, Congress also passed a resolution calling on state boards to keep their records confidential. If they don't, the Federal government might exercise its threat to take back its allocation of pension funds.

Florida's constitutional law, however, opens all state records to the taxpayers; and in the opinion of The Tribune's attorney, any court in the land would rule that a state's constitutional law would supersede a Federal resolution. At the suggestion of V. M. Newton, Jr., managing editor, and armed with this legal opinion, The Tribune correspondent began copying, from records in the state comptroller's office, the names of all Florida citizens receiving pensions. He had taken down 200 of the 50,000 when he was tossed out, the Comptroller informing him that he was obeying the Federal resolution and not Florida's law.

Under constant pressure, the Comptroller finally agreed to supply an inquiring reporter with information about any individual record. Thus The Tribune was able to confirm and print the facts about the justice's father-in-law.

"This, of course, proved a sensation," Mr. Newton says, "and it indicated that there are possibly hundreds of similar cases hidden in the record. But the Comptrol-

ler's stipulation, limiting a newspaperman to a certain individual record, effectively ties the press into a knot and certainly forbids a wholesale investigation of the pension situation in behalf of public good."

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THE TRIBUNE next applied the same tactics to the state treasury office, in an attempt to copy the names of those receiving pension checks, and with the same result. On instruction, the newspaper's correspondent then appealed to Florida's attorney general, who listened sympathetically but refused to issue a ruling opening these records.

The Tribune is still hammering away on that one.

While recognizing that the apparent intent of the Congressional resolution was to avoid unfair embarrassment to unfortunate individuals, Mr. Newton believes that it "perpetuated one of the damndest boondoggling stunts on the American public in history." In evidence he cites a Saturday Evening Post story showing that 38 per cent of those on Detroit's city pension rolls were buying such musical instruments as pianos, and repeated rumors he has heard that in certain rural counties of Florida at least half of the inhabitants, regardless of whether they are 65 or not, are receiving state pensions.

Reflecting an opinion expressed by William D. Heath, Haverhill Gazette, in the September 1948 Bulletin ("If the press had access to such records, more could be done towards getting rid of chisellers"), Mr. Newton says:

"Nothing would please me more than to see the ASNE get behind an all-out drive to open the nation's pension records to public view. This not only would put an end to the present political boondoggling, which I am sure is true in almost every state, but it would save the American taxpayer hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars. I doubt whether one newspaper could do it successfully. Our politicians from coast to coast could gang one newspaper. But if a group of newspapers should band

together, I am sure right would prevail."

★ ★ ★

NEXT, the Florida Merit Council, a civil service administrative organization which handles details of hiring, firing and promotions for four major state agencies. If the director discovers violations of the council's regulations, he files 'exceptions' to the payroll, which are not necessarily binding but which point out that they exist.

The Tribune obtained several excellent stories, including one revealing that the son-in-law of the director of the state employment service had been given a civil service job even though he had failed in competitive examination. Then the Merit Council clamped down. It fell back upon the precedent set by the Comptroller's office in the pension case—it would give information if the newspaper would stipulate exactly which record was desired.

"This, of course, was nothing but a legal subterfuge," Mr. Newton comments, "because how could we tell where there had been a violation unless we had the opportunity to examine all the records?"

Bitter protests, verbally and in Page One stories, impelled the Merit Council to appeal to the Attorney General for a decision. He finally ruled that the Council's records were open except "personal or unofficial comments on records" and "letters of recommendation."

As that opinion was rendered only the first of last month, it remains to be seen how far the Council will hide its records behind the "personal or unofficial comment" screen.

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IN the State Beverage Department, The Tribune staffer uncovered letters indicating that three Floridians—one the assistant to the governor—had requested the postponement of scheduled suspension of liquor licenses of bar owners charged with operation of slot machines. Reason given for the request was that the tarpon tournament would suffer from closing of the bars. The director of the Department complied, cancelled the suspensions before they were started and changed the penalties to probationary periods.

After The Tribune printed that story, it was informed by the Beverage Board that it no longer

HOW ABOUT YOUR STATE?

James S. Pope repeats that the great need of the Freedom of Information Committee is for reports from all parts of the country on attempts by local officials to withhold information from newspapers.

At his request, Virgil M. Newton, Tampa Tribune, has provided the Tallahassee story.

Cooperation of members elsewhere is sought. Editors are urged to send clippings from their newspapers and other data, on comparable cases, to Mr. Pope at the Louisville Courier-Journal.

would have free access to records. Only designated records would be supplied.

Wary by this time of the same old dodge, Mr. Newton says:

"To ascertain if there are any monkeyshines in the operation of the State Beverage Board, The Tribune would first have to operate as a detective in the field before getting a look at the record.

"This, of course, gives the dear old public a merry buggy-ride and it establishes a most dangerous precedent affecting newspapers."

Simplified Spelling Trial Run In Iowa

Glancing over a copy of the Chicago Tribune, W. Earl Hall was reminded of a simplified spelling experiment in the Mason City Globe-Gazette, of which he is editor and for which he writes a column.

"We tried to be logical about it," he told readers, "but we found it extremely difficult.

"One day 'BOT' showed up in our biggest headline—120-point Gothic. This was our simplified version of 'bought' but the only 'bot' our readers knew anything about was some kind of fly."

End of experiment.

Actually, Mr. Hall continued, what's usually referred to as simplified spelling is, rather, just an arbitrary system of misspelling. While time and usage will bring about some reforms, he said,

"A newspaper—even a big one like The Tribune—will be trying to hold back the tides in any individual effort to make over our time. And it will appear awfully funny to its readers more than once in the process."

Pope Shows Fallacy In News Control Based Upon Good Faith of Officials

If you're having difficulty explaining to public officials why information about government belongs to the people, the following letter should help. This clear exposition was written by James S. Pope, chairman of the ASNE Freedom of Information committee, to George C. Killinger, chairman of the U. S. Board of Parole, after he had (at Mr. Pope's insistence) released the names of citizens who recommended parole for a Louisville prisoner who had served only half of his term for Federal income tax evasion. The names previously had been withheld. Details of the case were covered in the November Bulletin.

★ ★ ★

Dear Mr. Killinger:

Your thoughtful letter of October 27 is greatly appreciated. It will be perfectly clear in our records that we do not question your sincerity. Your promptness in making available the relevant facts in the Goodman parole case is sufficient evidence that you had no intention of concealing these facts, but were misrepresented by someone on your publicity staff.

I would like to close the matter on that agreeable note. However, you repeat in your letter to me a theory of news-control which, however wise it may seem to you, the newspaper editors of the country simply cannot accept. It is just this approach to the release of public information which has forced the American Society of Newspaper Editors to undertake a campaign of correction.

You say:

In the future, when your society or other established newspaper organizations make such a request (for news) we wish to assure you that the request will be handled individually and carefully and the desired information supplied if, in our opinion, such information would be compatible with the welfare of society.

You are far too intelligent and experienced a man to believe that public officials can be permitted to release or withhold public information on such grounds. Who is to decide what is compatible with the

welfare of society? It is decided very easily in the nations which have such control of information, and I am sure you do not advocate our using their system.

The fallacy of your position is simply this: you rely on your own honesty and good faith—and so do we. But the very keystone of democracy (which is the access of all the electorate to all the information about government) cannot rest on personalities. The Bill of Rights did not make exceptions to be applied to public officials who were honest. You can easily imagine how much news the public would get if every board, bureau and official at every level, all the way down to the small-town chief of police, could decide what news is releasable.

As the custodians of federal prisoners, you and your associates have peculiar problems. I do not believe there would be any particular difficulty, in actual practice, over publication of pointless material which is of no interest or value to the public, but could do damage to your work. But if such harm were caused, believe me it would be less than the harm caused by general news control in government.

That is the principle we are fighting about. I hope you will understand it. I do not anticipate that we will have major difficulties with your department, but we do need understanding and help from within the government.

Sincerely yours,

JAMES S. POPE

Proceedings Index Available

A selective subject index to ASNE Proceedings, edited by William F. Swindler, director of the School of Journalism of the University of Nebraska, which appeared in the Journalism Quarterly, has been reprinted in pamphlet form. Covering the "Problems of Journalism" from 1923 to 1949, it is exceptionally valuable for reference.

Extra copies, supplied by Raymond B. Nixon of Emory University Division of Journalism, editor of The Quarterly, are available to ASNE members, on request to the Office of the Bulletin.

Journalism Student's Query

(Unedited)

I am a college sophomore here at ——. I am majoring in Journalism. I am working on a term paper and through the ANPA received your address. The term paper is on the subject; How and Why News is Suppressed. The subject deals with suppression on newspapers here in the United States. Policies of the different papers and chains have on sup-

pression of news, influence of pressure groups and advertisers on newspapers, government influence, opinions of leading publishers and editors on suppression, and information on the amount of suppression there is and whether it is good or bad all comes under the subject of the term paper.

I would appreciate any information that you could supply on the subject.

And An Editor's Reply

Editor of the BULLETIN:

I am replying to your letter, enclosing the enquiry in reference to the suppression of news.

This is a subject which I am not very well qualified to discuss, because I know little about suppression of news; though I have read about it by some newspapermen, turned authors, who pretend to have all the answers. I suppose a reporter on this newspaper, who turns in a poor piece of copy, can go sour and figure this his priceless output is being suppressed when the editors throw it away or re-write it because they refuse to inflict it upon our readers.

But that, I am sure, is not what the inquirer means. He wants to know what hidden forces are suppressing news in American newspapers. I presume that is done from time to time, but in comparison with the vast amount of news that is printed in an attempt to give people reliable information it is such a negligible factor that it seems a foolish waste of time to dig into the field. It is like reading a poor text book when a good one is available. We know there are all kinds of editors and publishers. Some will try to please friends and some never try to please anybody. Make a virtue or vice out of either course, as you choose.

There is advertising pressure from time to time; sometimes it is applied to us. Some months ago we published a series of articles telling how overloaded trucks were harming our highways. A large truck manufacturer thereupon canceled his advertising. What did we do? Just went on with the campaign, as before. If he wants to sell his trucks in this market, he will find that our circulation is essential. There of course are some advertisers who bite off their noses to spite their faces.

On another occasion a large ad-

vertiser, who boasted of what he was doing for his country, scheduled a series of advertisements to appear in this newspaper. He demanded "editorial treatment" in connection with his expenditure of money. He really expected a flattering editorial. We told him we were selling advertising space and not anything else. He canceled his order. In some offices such conduct causes more concern than it does here, but when we know we are right we do not grieve about the loss of such business but we grieve for the poor judgment and lack of understanding of businessmen who still think they can buy editorial favor with their advertising. It is surprising how many businessmen and advertisers take the same view.

Now I have an awful confession to make: I have suppressed news, but it has been done to save some innocent person from harm or blame for which they in no wise were responsible. In most cases, when pressure is applied, you generally make sure that the item gets into the paper. But when, let us say, an advertiser does make a request for consideration, and you know that there is merit to his case, I wouldn't discriminate against him simply because he spends money with the paper. He is entitled at least to the same consideration that you would give a stranger walking into your office.

I think there is so much of a constructive nature in newspaper work to be learned by students that it seems to me almost a waste of time to dwell so much on shortcomings. By accentuating the positive we all can record better achievement. There no doubt is plenty of effort in the government to keep some news out of the papers but judging by the number of press agents on the payrolls one would think there was no secret the pub-

WITH increasing frequency journalism students write to the ASNE for information and advice.

Normally these letters are answered at the Bulletin office but the one reprinted on this page was of such a surprising nature that it was turned over to A. H. Kirchhofer, managing editor of the Buffalo Evening News, for reply.

Mr. Kirchhofer, a former president of the ASNE, has had close association with schools of journalism for many years and currently is president of the American Council for Education in Journalism as well as ASNE Education chairman.

lic wouldn't learn. But if the correspondents do their jobs, attempted suppression shouldn't go very far.

I note some spelling errors in the boy's paper. He'd better brush up on that subject because if he writes a letter of application and the words don't come out correctly no editor will hire him.

A. H. KIRCHHOFER

Inspiration Needed As Well As Equipment

The highest aim of a school of journalism may readily be stated as that of an awakening of an intense burning interest in a student's proposed life profession, thus making him study harder in the particular department than he would in any other department of the university in which he was not definitely and peculiarly interested. A candidate for service in the newspaper field might devote himself to getting a broad, academic foundation for his cultural life and ordinarily he would do well in newspaper work. However, with the intense specialization and its consequent acceleration of interest, he is sure to get more through the school than he otherwise would. The school of journalism must not only equip a man for service, but it must also give him a certain inspiration to carry him through the preliminary rough times of his early actual service on the newspaper.—The late HAROLD B. JOHNSON, editor, Watertown Times, reporting for Committee on Schools of Journalism, 1931.

EDITORS DIE; PAPERS LIVE ON

Average Reader Is Interested in What's in His Newspaper, Says J. Donald Ferguson, And Not Very Much in Who Put It In

• By J. DONALD FERGUSON, Editor, The Milwaukee Journal

I really don't want to stick my neck out on how an editor should behave, but the questions you raise interest me.

When you say "editor" I think you have to specify whether you mean a big town, middle size or small town newspaper. I have worked on all three and I do know that in smaller places an editor is a big frog in a little puddle. In the middle size and smaller communities he has to be an active participant in all kinds of community enterprises. His subscribers are his next door neighbors. He meets them on his way to work, calls them by their first names, shares in their happiness and their sorrows. He is an intimate part of their lives and they of his. Even so, I cannot help but believe he will be a better editor and his newspaper will be a better newspaper, if he does not toot his own horn too loudly and/or too frequently in his own columns.

"The more a man knows, the more he is inclined to be modest." —Fielding.

On a metropolitan daily an editor is in fact a nonentity no matter how frequently he puts his picture and his speeches and his doings in the columns of his newspaper. The masses simply do not know him and, in fact, don't give a damn about him. He may get a great kick out of the admiration of his cronies at his luncheon or golf club. But at best they can be only a handful of the thousands of readers of his newspaper, and not a few of them knowingly apply the soft soap, because they hope their flattery will gain them some advantage sometime in their editor friend's columns. But it is the institution he is connected with that counts. If any editor of a metropolitan daily wants to put it to the test, let him sever his connections with his newspaper and learn how quickly he becomes just another Joe Doakes.

No editor, of course, can be a recluse. Certain things are expected of him even in a metropolitan center. There are calls on his time and for his appearance that it would be discourteous to ignore. But I do believe that a proper sense of the fitness of it will lead him to try to let others bask in the spotlight of publicity. After all, the householder who picks the newspaper off his steps is interested in what is in his newspaper and not very much in who may have put it in.

EVERY editor's a big shot in his own newspaper office, but how big is he in the estimation of readers? How much space is he worth in the news columns when he is the recipient of honors or, eventually, the subject of an obituary?

And if, perhaps, the play accorded him is greater than would be given to other citizens, under similar circumstances, what's the effect upon readers? Does it tend to undermine their confidence in the objectivity of newspapers?

These brash but thoughtful questions were addressed to the chairman of last year's committee on self-improvement of the press.

I suppose now that I have got my neck out, I might as well comment on the two examples you cite in your letter. There are some editors whose death or manner of dying may rank Page 1 space, but I cannot think of any of them who would fit into your example of an obituary taking up most of the front page. They must have been really short of news that day.

The other example was a half-column story about an editor receiving a Silver Beaver award, with a last line merely mentioning that three boys in the troop received Eagle Scout awards without even naming them. Research reveals to me that the Silver Beaver award is about tops from the scout organization, but I believe I would have eliminated one paragraph about the Beaver, or added a paragraph, to make room for the names of the boys. It would have meant so much to the boys, their parents and their friends, and especially in so distinguished company. It might have inspired the boys to strive some day to be Silver Beavers themselves and, no doubt, the editor had a whole drawer full of awards and certificates of various kind gathering dust anyway. This awarding of awards once meant a great deal more before

every Tom, Dick and Harry press agent discovered its usefulness in getting publicity for his organization. Although I do hasten to add that there are substantial organizations and groups from whom an award means a great deal, and I count boy scouting and the good work it does as one of these.

My philosophy (and I do not ask anybody to subscribe to it) is that a newspaper is an institution which will live on. But like all mortals, editors die. Therefore, I do not think they should take themselves too seriously. Nobody else does.

About Members

Clayton Fritchey, who resigned as editor of the New Orleans Item last month to be Director of Information for the Department of Defense, was a writer of note before he became a newspaper executive. His by-line appeared in many magazines; he was a correspondent for Life and Time; and he adapted Lion Feuchtwanger's novel "The Oppermanns" for the stage. Managing editor of the Baltimore Post when Scripps-Howard sold it, he was transferred to the Cleveland Press as special writer. He was elected to ASNE six years ago when he was named executive editor of The Item.

Still in search of a climate beneficial to health, Dwight S. Perrin, former ASNE treasurer, has left California for Arizona. He and Mrs. Perrin will welcome friends or letters at 4126 East Haynes Avenue, Tucson.

Newspaper reports that Richard D. Finnegan has retired are, happily, untrue. Relinquishing some of his responsibilities to younger men, he remains with the Chicago Sun-Times as consulting editor.

Herman E. Gieske has left the Wheeling Intelligencer to become editor of the Parkersburg (W. Va.) News.

"Green Pastures," a booklet about the local dairy industry published by the Anniston, Alabama, Junior Chamber of Commerce, is dedicated to Harry M. Ayers, publisher of The Anniston Star, "who has given to agriculture in Calhoun County a lifetime of profound thought, unflinching good counsel, generous support and inspiring leadership."

Directors' Meeting Postscripts

Annual Accreditation Appropriation Raised

On the recommendation of Dwight Marvin, Troy Record, the Board increased the Society's annual contribution to the journalism school accrediting program from \$400. to \$500.

Mr. Marvin, under whom the project was begun when he was president of the American Council for Education in Journalism, wrote Mr. Young that "Accreditation is of no value unless it is permanently carried on with re-examination every four or five years." This, with a few new applications, he explained, means eight or ten examinations a year; paper work and a very small salary account have exhausted the available funds.

In the past, he wrote, \$1700 has been paid by ANPA, \$750 by SNPA, and \$500 each by other co-operating organizations, but ASNE has paid only \$400.

"Inasmuch as the job is of more value to editors than anyone else," Mr. Marvin concluded his plea, "it seems to me we ought to come up with the extra \$100."

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A request made by Edward J. Meeman, Memphis Press-Scimitar, that the Society should wield its influence in "recapturing our exclusivity on news releases" was turned over to Wright Bryan for study. Mr. Bryan had made a preliminary survey, will report more fully at the next Board meeting.

★ ★ ★

Since the appointment of Mrs. DeVee K. Fisher as assistant to the treasurer, Mr. Blanchard told the Board, the Society for the first time has a complete and detailed picture of its financial affairs. Paying high tribute to her work, he recommended a salary increase. This was voted unanimously.

The Board also increased the annual fee paid Alice Fox and Fredric G. Pitts. Besides their services they provide an office, equipment and general office supplies. The Society pays only for additional expenses directly chargeable to ASNE work. Mr. Pitts, who has been serving without portfolio, becomes editor of The Bulletin and Mrs. Pitts remains as assistant secretary and editor of The Proceedings.

Barnett Gives Board Lively Program Plans

Stanley P. Barnett, Cleveland Plain Dealer, program chairman of the 1951 convention, reported to the Board that membership correspondence had once more indicated a strong preference for shop talks and panel discussions. Many members suggested that talks by government officials be confined to the luncheons and banquet.

A score or more lively ideas were approved by the Board and Mr. Barnett's only remaining task is to crowd the best of them into a three-day meeting and nail down commitments from the desired speakers. There still remains plenty of time, however, for consideration of additional suggestions, and the program chairman will welcome comment from members of the Society.

Breakfast With Sigma Delta Chi

The Washington Professional Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi will be host to ASNE members attending the 1951 convention in Washington, at a breakfast in the National Press Club on Saturday, April 21.

A plan for a joint meeting was instigated by a committee of past presidents of the fraternity who are members of the Society. In this group are George Healy, New Orleans Times-Picayune; James A. Stuart, Indianapolis Star; Palmer Hoyt, Denver Post; Irving Dilliard, St. Louis Post-Dispatch; and Walter R. Humphrey, Fort Worth Press, who served as chairman. John McClelland of the Longview (Wash.) Daily News, newly elected president, joined in their deliberations.

As a result, the Washington Chapter came forward with the offer to be host not only to SDX members of ASNE but to the entire membership. Arrangements are in charge of Luther Huston, New York Times, another past president of the fraternity.

President Dwight Young accepted the invitation for the Society, with the proviso that the breakfast will be over in ample time for the Saturday morning session to convene at 10 a.m.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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No. 326 December 1, 1950

It is certain that The Bulletin will not be an effective publication, it will not satisfy the want felt by many members of the Society, unless every member makes it a part of his responsibility to read it, criticize it and contribute to it.—E. C. HOPWOOD, President of the ASNE 1926-27.

Step Taken To Prevent Banquet Overcrowding

Last year's limit of four banquet tickets for each member attending the convention will prevail again.

The Board emphasized the unwritten rule, that non-attending members cannot register or buy tickets for someone else. If every member who can't attend sent a substitute to luncheons and the banquet, no hotel could hold us.

Again, preference in banquet seating will be given to members who take fewer tickets. It is Mr. Young's hope that by voluntary rationing, the crowd can be confined to one room.

Lester Markel, New York Times, underwent an emergency appendectomy last month. Now recovering, he will report, in the January Bulletin, on the progress of the organizational committee for an International Press Institute.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 327

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No Magic Formula

Extreme instances of public officials withholding news, and the drastic measures necessary to obtain its release, have been reported from time to time in The Bulletin. Just as important is the routine job, along these lines, which editors are doing unceasingly, with an "all in the day's work" attitude.

The Bulletin queried a score of members on the practical methods they find most effective in prying public information from reluctant and stubborn officials. Their replies herewith:

Persuasion First

We have no 'magic formula' but we do have a *formula*, one compounded of persistence, a willingness to fight and a conviction that the people do have a right to know.

On many, many occasions we have battled successfully with public officials. Sometimes persuasion did it. Sometimes we had to threaten to go into court and obtain a mandamus. Sometimes we had to resort to other strategy.

A few years ago, the traffic bureau of the police department here became irked at us for general criticism we had made of the police. The bureau announced that it was going to hold up all accident reports and all arrests in connection with them until after trials. We told them to go ahead and do that little thing, that we would get the news some way and when we did we would announce in each case just how long the police department had sat on the news. The bureau quickly got the idea and cooperation was once again the order of the day.

Newspapers, if they truly fight the battle for the people's right to know, have the public on their side and public opinion, needless to say, is a powerful weapon.

We here have a happy or unhappy faculty for brawling quite frequently with public officials who forget that they are public servants, not masters. We recently got crosswise of a county prosecutor by making a well-documented expose of exorbitant profits in city purchases, an expose which resulted in a number of persons

being indicted but which also resulted in the grand jury castigating us at the prosecutor's instigation for revealing the bad situation to the public first and not first to the prosecutor and a grand jury. To the grand jury's criticism we replied in a page one editorial, saying in effect that we did our public duty and will continue to do it by blowing the whistle on any individual or condition that seems to us to be evil.

It is our conviction here that there are certain occupational inconveniences to newspaper work and that one of them is a constant necessity to be vigilant about liberty. It is not pleasant to have to fight constantly in protection of the rights of the public and the press, but the only alternative to us seems to be for timid persons among us to take up a different profession.

CLIFFORD B. WARD, Editor
Fort Wayne News-Sentinel

The Publicity Cure

We have, from time to time, encountered difficulty in prying stories out of the fat little hands of our public officials. But we have found them to be quite allergic to publicity regarding their reticence to let the public in on their little secrets. One or two such stories invariably bring them around to our way of thinking. Public opinion (particularly to a gent dependent on public opinion for his bread and butter) still is a most potent weapon.

JAMES R. DORAN, Executive Editor, Schenectady Union-Star

FOR NEW MEMBERS (and forgetful older ones)

All announcements concerning the convention, in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C., April 19, 20 and 21, are made in The Bulletin—no special mailings. Form for your hotel reservations will be enclosed with the February issue; and order blank, for advance registration and banquet tickets, with the March issue.

There's Always a Leak

In older days we had much difficulty at the courthouse where anybody in public office suppressed anything for "a consideration." That meant marriage licenses, or real estate transfers or hikes in valuations by the assessor, even more so reductions by ditto; petty criminal cases, etc. By a long and hard-boiled course, we have the courthouse in line and the practice there is broken. Now the only suppression we have is when the state gives hell to the sheriff and we have to wait for a tip from the state capital for naturally the sheriff's deputies are not going to broadcast that the highway patrol or the liquor supervisor have found them negligent.

There is still much that can be improved at Police. We know that sometimes it is essential to withhold news of arrests until an accomplice can be caught but we fight tooth and crown against hiding it when some burglar has looted the house of some wealthy person who does not want his name in print. All we can do is give it twice the play when we do get it. Now the police are beginning to advise victims that "if we suppress it and the paper finds it, they'll play it all the more."

Police commissioners here are named by the governor. The board meetings officially are open. Actually the caucus, maybe not even on police station property, is where the plans are made and usually we face a united board and stern policy by the time the reporter meets

EDITORS REVEAL WAYS TO KEEP NEWS SOURCES OPEN

up with the commissioners. We can boast though that the police are more afraid of the paper than the reporters are afraid of the police—a good condition if we do not take liberties or trade in, as once in a while a reporter is tempted to do.

Federal news is all on the up and up and no paper could ask fairer cooperation than we get from Judge Richard M. Duncan of the Eastern and Western districts of Missouri. We feel free to call him from the courtroom even by long distance if he happens to be in Kansas City or St. Louis when we get a tip.

At the city hall, our mayor is on the square. The city council tries hush-hush quite often. There is a similarity between police board caucuses and city council caucuses. We find the rolling too smooth when the councilmen open their sessions. 'It ain't natural,' and we then try to pry someone loose for inside dope.

You ask what is my magic formula for educating public officials to the importance of freedom of information. Simple, dear editor: They all know that somebody will leak sometime and it is damn sure they are going to get a page one spread with all the details as to who kept the news suppressed. And I try to make them look like crooks, not simple goons that they are, when we do catch them.

ARTHUR V. BURROWES, Editor
St. Joseph News-Press and Gazette

Wide Contacts Help

We have never had much trouble with public officials withholding news, though attempts, over the years, have been frequent. We have no magic formula. We merely encourage our men and women to build up contacts from high officials down to the lowliest copy boy. The result is that when an effort is made to withhold news, someone spills it to a staffer and we proceed to have a lot of fun with it. The subsequent results usually cure the situation for a time at least.

There is nothing that takes the place of good news sources, and these sources are usually some minor figure in the office involved. In other words, if a reporter is really a reporter, a little discouragement in high places does not stop him from getting the news.

BERT A. TEETERS, Managing Editor, Springfield News and Sun

Decoy Is Useful

There is the legend in the Banner office about the time the city editor got to see the city court docket through threatened mandamus action.

In my day we have not gone that far. Usually a story concerning all angles of the refusal, direct quotes from the official involved, together with his picture in whatever action accompanies the denial, does the work.

The last time we were barred from what we thought should be an open meeting of the county

hospital board, our reporter and photographer were attacked by one of the city's leading bankers. We got a picture of him in action and ran it on page one. We haven't been locked out since.

When we expect trouble like that we usually send two photographers, one to be a sort of decoy and the other to do the actual shooting. Being brave and big-hearted, I always tell the boys to go right ahead, explaining, of course, that those roughnecks can't intimidate me.

CHARLES MOSS, Executive Editor, Nashville Banner

New York State Editors Now Swapping Data

One of the happier phases of the fight to haul down barriers to news in New York State is a comparatively recent alertness on the part of the editors not only to recognize the situation but to exchange information about them promptly.

As the ASNE so well recognizes, this swap of data is usually an enormous force all by itself—it levels walls, floods with light, embarrasses power-hungry people who build the paper walls, and it interests and arouses the public.

In the Empire State, the New York State Publishers Association, the New York State Society of Newspaper Editors and the New York State Associated Press Managing Editors have committees to deal with the problem. For effectiveness and liaison, memberships on these committees sometimes overlap.

In the last dozen months or so, we've had only a few cases in New York. Right now we editors, lining up with the publishers, are preparing a barrage to obtain a state legislative record—at least a typed transcript of shorthand notes which, through the years, have never been typed up and made available. Once a legislative stenographer died and nobody could read his shorthand notes.

For lack of a transcript (and because of a curious legislative rule that a request for transcript must first be okeed by the member involved, who first can edit the material himself before it is typed) some member papers (N. Y. Daily News, for example) have had to pay damages in libel suits unwarrantedly.

The New Rochelle Standard-Star battled in vain against a state health department edict barring official death lists for publication. We in Yonkers still get them and publish them from our own Health department.

The N. Y. State Health department some months ago ordered birth notices withheld from publication unless parents signed a note on the certificate, authorizing it. That's effective state-wide. There was limited and ineffective protest.

The Rome (N.Y.) Sentinel not long ago experienced military iron curtain on information about a C-47 crash at the Air Force base there. We in Westchester ran into somewhat the same problem at our county airport where a military plane was involved.

The Newburgh News had a curious case early this year. It wanted to get data from the State Housing Division at Albany. The division offered to dig it up, providing "full text" was used, and pointing out, "We have noted inaccuracies in your newspaper concerning state-aid public housing." Paper denied the inaccuracies and regarded it as an attempt to censor the press. Some nice editorials were written around the state about it. The Jamestown Post-Journal, for example, branded it "an example of effrontery and also insolence by a government agency."

We're currently struggling with occasional efforts of the Yonkers Common Council to slip back into executive sessions—and our scoldings seem to be a deterrent.

OXIE REICHLER, Editor
Yonkers Herald Statesman

WHEN OFFICIALS TRY TO PULL DOWN IRON CURTAIN

'DP' Symbol Ignored

South Carolina only recently ceased to be the single state in the union without a divorce law and some of the parting couples apparently are coy about publicity. They try to get the clerks to hold out the records, and our reporters on occasion have found the records "misplaced"—whether purposely or inadvertently we do not know. But the reporters say the situation is pretty good now.

Certain lawyers, apparently harking back to a tradition that once might have been observed, mark "D.P." on deeds when they are filed. The initials stand for "Don't Publish." We have been ignoring this symbol for the 23 years I have been connected with the newspaper. I have not heard of anybody observing the injunction before my time, but some of the old-time lawyers still make a gallant try.

Scrutiny of Taxes Prevented by Statute

Several years ago, The Times discovered that a county official was withholding notices of intentions to wed (our state has a three-day waiting period), when bridal couples begged to be shielded from publicity for one reason or another. I invited the official to lunch, presented our side of the case, and convinced him his withholding of records was illegal and ill-advised, no matter how kindly his motive. Since then we have had his complete co-operation.

Occasionally we find a clerk trying to conceal the filing of a divorce suit or other litigation. Such furtive acts can be blocked by alert reporters if they keep track of filings by serial number. The problem isn't serious.

But there are two fields in which state statutes or federal regulations have dropped the curtain against all public scrutiny. Those are: 1) records of taxes paid to Washington State by clubs which have slot machines; 2) old-age pension and other social security payments.

State statutes prevent scrutiny of general taxes. That secrecy has been extended in recent years to an act levying a percentage tax on the take of slot machines. The invitation to corruption is rather obvious.

We have no magic formula for keeping official noses clean except that we raise Cain whenever we suspect officers of holding out information. We do not give sensational treatment to news which may help us in the contention that publication of the record is in the public interest.

T. R. WARING, Managing Editor
Charleston News and Courier

Editorial Nudging

I cannot imagine there is any experience in our little bailiwick of the slightest value to anyone.

But yes, there was an incident, not important and surely not a magic formula, just an old, old formula which is supposed to have died with Greeley and Dana, to wit:

An 8-man school board suddenly discontinued publishing its official minutes. It also made the official copy almost inaccessible.

As to social security, a resolution adopted by Congress, I'm told, directs the states to keep their pension records confidential, and federal officials have threatened to withhold federal matching funds to states that ignore the federal directive. These funds include old-age pensions and aid to dependent children, the blind and unemployables. The federal insistence upon secrecy even covers funds bestowed by the state which the federal government does not match. All disbursements by the state's social security division are thus concealed.

The highhandedness of the federal bureaucracy in this matter was illustrated not long ago in a murder trial in Tacoma, Washington, in which the trial court sought to subpoena social security records that would shed light on a disputed point of evidence. (A man's life was at stake.) The social security division refused to honor the subpoena, lest the federal government cut off its contribution to the welfare funds. And the jury never got the evidence!

Perhaps the press of the nation could prod Congress into modifying the regulations.

R. L. McGRATH, Managing Editor
The Seattle Times

There were three vacancies for the election last November. Three members sought reelection.

Two one-paragraph editorials called attention to the opposing slate. The new slate was elected. The records probably will be available after the new members take office.

Well, why boast, maybe the folks would have voted that way, anyway.

WALLACE A. BRENNAN, Editor
Dunkirk Observer

Reid Fellow Forsees Interest Focussing on Mexico in Future

In the long run, Tomme C. Call believes, certain problems below the Rio Grande will prove of greater interest to our Southwestern press than current happenings in Europe and Asia. That was his reason for selecting Mexico, with Central America thrown in for good measure, as his field of study as a Reid Fellow. Associate editor of the San Antonio Express, he was named last month as one of five recipients of the 1951 awards.

"The North American Southwest," Mr. Call says, "is industrializing rapidly. Mexico is struggling for economic development to support what promises, or threatens as the case may be, to be a 50-million population toward the latter part of this century. The two movements can be mutually helpful or highly antagonistic, depending on whether trade relations can be smoothed, racial animosities eliminated, and the tremendous weight of common interests realized." By his study, he hopes to help pave the way to better understanding and eventual solution of the problem.

Mr. Call, a Texan by birth, received his B.A. and B.J. degrees at the University of Texas, where he also did graduate work in government and economics. He has been with The Express since 1941, except for three years as a lieutenant in the Air Force.



T. C. CALL

Convention Resolutions

Two Former Committee Chairmen Answer Dwight Marvin

• By FRANK A. CLARVOE, Editor
The San Francisco News

As a very EX-chairman of the resolutions committee of ASNE, I'm in Dwight Marvin's corner when it comes to these expressions of sentiment or high purpose. They should be held to an effective and dramatic minimum. Merely to resolve for the purpose of saying that the convention has not been held in vain, is no excuse for producing them.

On the other hand, nothing should be done to discourage a member with a bone in his throat from starting some hell-raising for the satisfaction of the craft and the ultimate benefit of the people.

One reason why, as a neophyte chairman, I tried to promote resolutions, if any, in advance last year was to spot the function with the light of importance. Also, I believed and still do that the whole membership should have a shot at important resolutions by some referendum method.

When I used the word "promote" above, it didn't mean that the members of the 1950 resolutions committee were looking for work; merely that if we were going to have them, as seemed inevitable, we get them prior to the convention in the hope of some membership preview. It didn't work out, probably because the resolution urge among free souls doesn't jell until they can see the red in each other's eyes. (If that's a mixed metaphor, I'm glad.)

The kind of resolution I really like to see is not one which has been polished within an inch of its life in committee, but one where a member rises at the session and, in effect, says "I'm sore as hell about something, here it is, and I'd like you guys to make common cause on the matter."

Unfortunately, as Mr. Marvin said, too many members on Saturday afternoon have left for other parts, are trying to borrow a boiled shirt, or figuring up their expense accounts. Even many of those on hand are looking out the window.

The members, bless 'em, can take resolutions or leave them alone. In either case, I'd like to see some discrimination and virility in the proceedings connected therewith.

• By PAUL S. WALCOTT, Editor
Greenfield Recorder-Gazette

Dwight Marvin, delighting in doing what he hadn't-oughter, in the December Bulletin surely was sticking his tongue in his cheek, rather than out at ASNE Resolutions and their birth pangs.

Very likely places on the Resolution Committee, and particularly the chairmanship, will never be fought for—but, for one, I recall it was the Resolutions session of my first ASNE convention which revealed to me the value of the conventions of the Society to which I had been admitted. The speeches and papers, even the valuable panel discussions, could be read in part in the daily and weekly press and later in full in the Proceedings; real acquaintance with the membership, the wisdom of its elders and temerity of its fledglings, came speedily and best in the debates on the Resolutions. For my part, I have skipped the cocktail party and banquet for the last two years to retain more fully the savor of those Saturday sessions.

If a Resolution of the Society could be called platitudinous, what of our revered Canons of Journalism? Neither has penalty clause for teeth, but the one phrases the ideals of editors on current questions as the other does on general standards.

ASNE Resolutions should get better. Two years ago, as I said in reporting for the committee, a major handicap seemed to be the lack of convenient reference to past resolves and to matters considered by the Board. Last April David Lawrence and Hamilton Owens set in motion a plan to correct this deficiency. This important undertaking is in the best of hands.

The only further suggestion I can make, for coordination and continuity, is for annual appointment of one member of the Board to the committee on Resolutions. I do feel that Resolutions should be taken up on Saturday morning, as too valuable to risk a time squeeze in the afternoon. Since the value lies fully as much in exchange of views as in decision, it would be more fully realized if motions to table were withheld until after proposals have had discussion and not used to throttle debate.

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Doubtless a majority of our members are in complete agreement with Dwight Marvin concerning the futility of resolutions. The world is sadly afflicted with too much resolving and not enough doing; too much promising and not enough performing. Some day I would like to serve as chairman of a committee on resolutions that would make a report like this: "Resolved, that we do not pass any resolutions."

FREDERICK SULLENS, Editor
Jackson Daily News

Two Resignations

William S. Kirkpatrick, formerly managing editor, Atlanta Journal, retired from newspaper work.

Eliezer Shainmark, formerly managing editor, Chicago Herald Examiner, now editorial assistant to the publisher of Esquire and Coronet.

Applications

If you wish to sponsor a new member please 1) consult the by-laws to make reasonably certain he is eligible, and 2) write for an application blank without delay. Membership chairman is Coleman Harwell, editor, The Nashville Tennessean.

Only applicants in cities of 50,000 or larger can be considered at this time.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 328

February 1, 1951

THE PROBLEM AT LAKE SUCCESS

Carroll Binder Facing a Difficult Task in Making Clear To Other Governments Our Position on Freedom of Information

• By ERWIN D. CANHAM
Editor, Christian Science Monitor

Once more committee negotiations at the United Nations threaten to set up new curbs on the flow of information. Carroll Binder, Editorial Editor of The Minneapolis Tribune, is representing the American government at meetings of a 15-member committee, instructed by resolution of the U.N. Assembly to complete work on a freedom of information convention.

This proposed treaty is not to be confused with the newsgathering treaty, which was completed in 1949 on the occasion when I was the American delegate. The treaty now under discussion at Lake Success relates to freedom of information within national boundaries. It is a broad assertion of press freedom in reasonably satisfactory terms followed, however, by a recognition of various limitations in unsatisfactory terms. Any effort to lay down such definitions is likely to run into serious difficulties. The very act of spelling out areas in which freedom may be limited, although some such areas legitimately exist in all countries, is itself likely to recognize and guarantee new limitations.

The membership of this 15-nations committee includes many governments who have felt that the press, particularly the American press, must have "duties" and "responsibilities" imposed upon it. They reflect a very serious trend, not so much in Communist countries where restriction may be taken for granted, as in other areas, where restrictions on the press are being very seriously advanced. In many parts of the world, particularly the Middle East and Latin America, there is a heightened feeling of nationalism and a deep resentment at the way in which national affairs have

been treated by the American press.

This constitutes a very serious problem for all of us who believe in lowering barriers. Carroll Binder needs the thoughtful and attentive support of the American press in the uphill job he faces at Lake Success in making clear to other governments the position which is so fundamental to us.

Convention Registration Will Begin Next Month

Forms for advance registration for the convention, in Washington, April 19, 20 and 21, and for ordering tickets for the banquet, Saturday evening, will be enclosed with the March Bulletin.

Each member is limited to three banquet guests, or four tickets including his own.

Members taking only one or two tickets are entitled (by the Board's decree) to the best tables; three-somes are seated next; while anyone who buys four tickets can expect, at best, the last rows of the Presidential Room, with the less fortunate in the Congressional Room, popularly known as the "outfield."

PLENTY OF MIKES

Members will not only hear, at the April convention, but will be heard. For the first time, the Congressional Room will be liberally equipped with floor microphones. This was at the suggestion of Stanley P. Barnett, program chairman, and on the insistence of President Young. Technical difficulties (the Staller was built during the war) have prevented this service in the past but, through arrangements made by Mr. Young, the hotel has agreed to provide the special equipment.

Convention Plans Now Shaping Up; Truman To Speak

At this stage the program chairman's focus shifts from the gathering of ideas to the selection of speakers on the topics decided upon by his committee.

Some speakers have been nailed down, others are still to be selected, Stanley P. Barnett reports. Some changes inevitably will be made but the first draft of the program includes talks or panels on the following subjects:

Common problems of editors and circulation managers.

Government public relations men, with two of them on the defensive against two critical editors.

Columnists, bringing two or three to clash with a like number of articulate editors.

The challenge radio and television present to newspapers.

The Korean war, by a correspondent recently returned.

Criticisms of the press, by a severe critic, and editorial rejoinders.

President Truman has accepted an invitation to speak at the luncheon on the opening day of the convention.

The popular Congressional session will be repeated that evening.

An innovation will be the breakfast, Saturday morning, at which all members of the Society will be guests of the Washington Professional Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi.

With reports of committees on ASNE activities such as freedom of information, International Press Institute, war-time censorship, and journalism school accrediting, the three days are already filled. The time schedule and names of most of the speakers and discussion leaders will be available next month.

YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION BLANK IS INCLUDED WITH THIS ISSUE

IPI Exploration Work Progresses In Two Directions

Since the meetings at Columbia University last October, the work of exploration for the International Press Institute has been going forward steadily—and in two directions.

On one front, under the direction of Lester Markel, chairman of the Organizing Committee for the IPI, a temporary office has been set up at The New York Times. John Kenton, of the news staff of the Times' United Nations Bureau, is acting as Secretary. A detailed program has been drawn up and distributed to all those who participated in the Columbia meetings for their suggestions; it is also being submitted to the major foundations.

The draft program provides for an organization having two principal parts: the general membership and the permanent Secretariat—or, in other words, an international editors' contact center and an international press center. The former would hold an annual meeting each year in a different country, and occasional seminars on specific problems of press performance in the international field. The Secretariat would act as a research organization and a world clearing house for information about the press. There would be a Director to head the Secretariat and a twelve-man Executive Board to supervise the work of the entire organization, which would be set up initially under foundation grants on a trial basis for three years.

Meanwhile the temporary secretariat in New York has also under study a draft constitution, and the problem of incorporating the Institute abroad.

On the other front, each of the fifteen participating foreign editors has been exploring reactions to the International Press Institute project in his own country, and the response has been most encouraging. European editors have been quickest to see the need for closer contact between the editors of the world's free press; the reaction in the majority of the participating countries has been highly enthusiastic, and no country has declined to take further part in the project.

Aldermen Withdraw Police Censorship After Newspaper Recovers Stolen Auto

How one small newspaper's fight for freedom of information led, incidentally, to the recovery of a stolen automobile is revealed in letters from two members.

Carl Lindstrom, Hartford Times, supplies the news story:

In December, the Norwich, Conn., Board of Police Commissioners closed its records to reporters, directing that all news be funneled through the Chief of Police. The Norwich Bulletin (circulation 19,000) denounced the measure to no avail. The Board of Aldermen upheld the order by a tie vote cast by the Mayor.

Last month, the Chief of Police failed to disclose details of the theft of an automobile. Four nights later, the impatient owner reported the situation to The Bulletin, which printed a description of the car. Another Norwich man promptly telephoned the newspaper that it was parked in front of his house.

Less than a week later, the Police Board and Mayor announced that there never had been any intention of concealing information and that "In keeping with this policy and past practice of the department all records are available to representatives of the press."

Meanwhile The Bulletin had an assist from Herbert Brucker, editor of The Hartford Courant. "Norwich is on the fringes of our circulation area," Mr. Brucker says, "but because we are always interested in fighting this kind of thing, we had a piece on police censorship there." The Courant editorial said, in part:

"It is unfortunate that Norwich officials do not appear to be familiar with what always happens when such a news censorship is imposed. Immediately the public reaction is: What are they trying to hide? Eventually these bans on free access to news fall of their own weight, and not infrequently public officials go down with them. . . .

"The Norwich aldermen may think it entirely reasonable that all police information be filtered through the Chief of Police. In actual practice it is not reasonable. These one-man press sources are not always available. Sometimes, through an excess of sensitivity, news is either colored or suppressed. . . . The Board of Aldermen would do well to remove any

suspicion that it has something to hide by restoring free access to legitimate news sources."

Heath Sees Tail Wagging The Dog And Doesn't Like It

"I remember a man telling Northcliffe of the purchase by John Smith of a newspaper, and that John Smith was proceeding to cut down the overhead in a variety of ways to reduce the running expenses of the paper. Northcliffe said, 'He might as well sell it again for what he can get.'"

"Why?" asked the man.

"Because the business of successful newspaper publishing is a business of reckless expenditure."

SIR WILMOTT LEWIS, 1926 convention

Like other American editors, William H. Heath of the Haverhill Gazette, is reconciled to "reckless expenditure," but one phase of the total disturbs him — production costs.

"I am appalled," he writes, "by evidence that the newspaper tail is wagging the dog; by which I mean that the cost of producing the paper is absurdly in excess of the cost of obtaining the material that is processed in the mechanical departments. It doesn't make sense to me that the baking of the cake should cost more than the ingredients and the skill of blending them.

"This may not generally be a matter of editorial control, but it is one of editorial concern for, unless the dog gets the upper hand of the tail, effective news and editorial service must suffer.

"This newspaper situation recalls a skink my grandfather used to tell about. He was once asked by a girl to make a contribution to foreign missions and he gave her a penny. As she started away, disappointed, he called her back and gave her a dollar—to get that penny to the heathen.

"We aren't quite spending a penny on editorial content and a dollar to get it to the reader, but we are approaching that ratio. The situation might be worth somebody's critical examination."

YOUR AID ASKED FOR NATION-WIDE SURVEY ON DENIAL OF ACCESS TO PUBLIC RECORDS

Members of the ASNE:

Your committee on Freedom of Information finds a critical need for complete and correlated data on the denial of access to public records. Almost every day a police chief, a sheriff, a clerk, a judge, a bureaucrat, is refusing public information to an editor or a reporter somewhere. If every editor knew of all the other conflicts, and how other editors had won them,

our losing battle for unlimited knowledge of public business could quickly be reversed. Dr. Harold L. Cross has generously consented to collect and edit for us such a catalog of facts, and handbook on counterattack. Herewith is his appeal for your help. Surely no one with any pertinent information will fail to send it to him at once.

JAMES S. POPE, Chairman

Has your newspaper been a party to litigation involving access to public records; if so, furnish result, date and court decision citation and, if practicable, briefs of counsel (which will be safely kept and returned as soon as possible.)

Has your newspaper been refused access to any public records in the past five years; if so, when, what records and by whom? What reason was stated for refusal; if in your opinion stated reason was not real reason, what do you think was real reason and why do you think so; if officer refusing access referred to statute law or court decision, furnish reference to identify it or aid in search for it.

Had the refusal been a continuing one or was it something new; if the latter, what seemed to cause it at that particular time; is the refusal continuing; if not, what caused its discontinuance; if the cause was one other than judicial decision or change in statute law, full pertinent details will be particularly helpful and important.

In the refusal was there any discrimination practised as between newspapers or as between reporters of same newspaper; if the refusal was stated to be based on breach of confidence, irresponsibility, inaccuracy or other behavior of the reporter, did you investigate, was the refusal warranted or reasonable and what have you done about it and with what result?

Was the refusing officer a person whose election (or appointment) your newspaper had opposed or adversely criticized; or was he a member of a party which you had opposed or criticized? Had the refusing officer been the subject of any adverse (whether or not defamatory or disparaging) news story or editorial comment?

Are there any records (whether federal, state, county or local) which you think should be open to public inspection by newspapers and other citizens but to which you do not have access as a continuing general rule; if so, what are they, what are the reasons for your views concerning them and what course of action might properly be taken with reasonable expectation of success?

Apart from any direct or outright refusal of access, the particulars concerning any difficulty you have experienced or are experiencing in reporting data in police "blotters," arrest cards or other police records; and if you have overcome or by-passed such difficulty, how you went about it.

Any information, facts or comments which you think helpful within the scope of this project should be addressed to:

Harold L. Cross, Harlaine Farm, Skowhegan, Maine.

All Quiet in Greenville

We have not had any recent difficulties with public officials who attempt to withhold records. This is regrettable because we have had some swell fights over this sort of thing in the past. We have fought former officials to a stand-still over this very issue and have succeeded in knocking several out of

office. The last was a sheriff from whom we could get absolutely nothing at all and we decisively defeated his gang and now have in a new officer who gives us everything we're after. Life is just too easy these days—at least down at this cotton bowl level.

HODDING CARTER
The Delta Democrat-Times

Harold L. Cross Will Correlate Data For Society

At the fall meeting of the ASNE Board, your directors discussed the need for a summary of recent statutes and court decisions which supported official secrecy of public records. The



HAROLD L. CROSS

ideal person for the task, it was agreed, would be Dr. Harold L. Cross, whose record as a lawyer distinguished in the field of newspaper law and as journalism professor is known to every editor. Retiring this year as general

counselor for the New York Herald Tribune and also as associate dean of the Graduate School of Journalism, Dr. Cross had planned to divide his time between his farm at Skowhegan, Maine, and a trip to South Africa. The import of the ASNE project interested him and last month, Mr. Pope was able to report to the Board that he would undertake it.

Next step is the cooperation of members, solicited in the adjoining column. With the facts they provide, Dr. Cross can submit a progress report at the April convention.

You Never Are Certain

I believe the public officials in this part of the country have come to learn that it is far better to release information freely rather than to withhold it and have one of our reporters discover it later. They have discovered that much greater emphasis sometimes is placed on material withheld from the press and then discovered, than is the case when information is offered openly. . . .

It is a daily battle and you never are completely sure that you have it won. But I do believe the situation in this city, with two strongly competing newspapers, is better than it is in some other parts of the country.

JACK FOSTER
Rocky Mountain News

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN A CASE LIKE THIS?

A Financial Editor's Memo to His M.E.

Frank A. Clarvov, editor of the San Francisco News, reports a new twist to a current problem. The incident is covered in the following memo from John Piper, News financial editor, to his boss. Has any other member, Mr. Clarvov wonders, come up against a similar situation? Here's the memo:

As you know, —, the financial editor of —, has been complaining to me because of my practice of getting interviews with important financial people who are in town for speeches or press conferences. He objects because I have beaten him repeatedly on stories that were due to break later.

I have always construed it to be not only ethical, but an essential part of my job to get any story I can ahead of my competition. I think that all the tradition of the newspaper profession gives me that right.

Here are two examples of the sort of things — complains about: Financial editors received invitations to a luncheon to be held on a Wednesday at which the speaker was to be a New York broker. On Monday, I called at the office of the firm of which this broker is a partner, interviewed him, and, with his consent, published the interview on Tuesday. It was not my fault that the broker said nothing in his Wednesday speech that he had not already told me on Monday.

The second example: Recently we received invitations to meet the president of the Hawaiian Pineapple Co. at a cocktail party. I assigned a staff member to interview this official on the morning of the party, and, with the approval of the company's press relations director, published the interview from our Home edition on.

Recently, in a telephone call, — told me that henceforth he will accept all press luncheon and press conference invitations conditionally. The condition will be, he said, that "because of repeated and

flagrant violations of the practices of the newspaper profession" on the part of The News, he will come only if he is assured that no advance interview or information be given to me. I understood him to say that his paper is backing him in this policy.

I have no objection to — trying to get such assurance, but I do object to his accusation of "re-

peated and flagrant violations of the practices of the newspaper profession."

If he repeats this accusation to out-of-town visitors who may not know our reputation — and he threatens to repeat it — it could do us some harm. What, if anything, can we do to combat this?

Mr. Clarvov's advice: "Pin the guys ears back whenever and however you legitimately can. We've got to keep our business of news gathering on a level higher than the least competent or least energetic."

Editor Asks Why Newspapers Maintained Editorial Silence On Papal Rotary Ban

• By ARTHUR V. BURROWES, Editor
St. Joseph News-Press and Gazette

One of the chief criticisms of newspapers in the United States today, and for many years, has been that we no longer have a virile editorial page. Within the last few weeks Pope Pius XII officially banned Catholic priests from being members of the Rotary Club. Here was something that was discussed in all circles, Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, non-sectarian, yet how many American newspapers put their teeth in this thing and analyzed it and presented an argument, either pro or con, on the subject?

The St. Joseph News-Press did this very thing. Our editorial stand was that the Pope, through poor advice or misinformation, had done a wrong which should, and could, be righted. We based our whole editorial, which was in a friendly vein toward the Vatican, on a precedent of Pope Leo XIII and the Knights of Labor. Every editor has the history of that reversal in his library. I have read carefully newspapers from all parts of the country and for the most part the American press failed to comment on this live topic. It comes to mind right now a notable exception in the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Are the American newspapers so brave that we valiantly throw our criticism at sheriffs and other courthouse officials but hide in our editorial offices and shy away when we fear we might make enemies by a frank discussion of the very things people are talking about in our clubs, lodges and church vestibules?

It was just a little bit sickening the two or three days after this

papal ban to read editorial after editorial throwing old shoes at Harry Truman or Secretary Acheson, but for the Pope and Rotary—silence.

Would someone care to discuss "Freedom of the Press" at the April meeting of the ASNE in Washington? In case any of my fellow editors are interested I am a Roman Catholic and I wrote the editorial in question.

Delegate Is Sought For London Meeting

As the ASNE again is continuing its affiliation with the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers (on a year-to-year basis, jointly with ANPA), representation at the FIEJ meeting in London in May is desirable.

Last year Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor, who was in Europe at the time of the organization's meeting in Rome, offered to represent ASNE. That economical plan can be followed again if some member who will be in England, or on the continent in May and can spare time for a few days in London, is willing to serve as ASNE delegate.

Business sessions will be held from May 22 to 25. On May 26, delegates and their wives will visit Oxford, and Stratford-on-Avon to attend a performance at the Shakespeare Memorial Theater.

Any volunteer for the appointment will please write President Dwight Young.

Suggestions for resolutions should be addressed to the committee chairman, Dwight Marvin, editor, The Record Newspapers, Troy, New York.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 329

Frank Lee Martin Library March 1, 1951

Walter Williams Hall

Taft and Douglas to Debate at Banquet

Barnett Announces Four Panel Discussions for April Convention

A debate will replace the customary address at the annual banquet of the Society, Saturday evening, April 21, in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.

The speakers: Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio and Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois. Their subject: American Foreign Policy.

After the set discussions, and rebuttals, present plans call for questions from the floor, promising a lively conclusion to the three-day program.

President Truman already has been announced as the speaker at the luncheon on Thursday, April 19.

Since then President Dwight Young and Program Chairman Stanley P. Barnett have filled in the remainder of the program. People and events follow; the time schedule, and names of a few speakers whose acceptances are still awaited, will be announced next month.

Department of Defense

For members only, off-the-record, with Secretary George C. Marshall, Assistant Secretary Anna Rosenberg, General Omar N.

Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and others. Arranged by Clayton Fritchey, Chief of Information for the Department, an ASNE member formerly editor of the New Orleans Item.

Criticisms of the Press

By Joseph Liebling, of the New Yorker's "Wayward Press."

The War in Korea

As seen by two ace correspondents, Marguerite Higgins of the New York Herald Tribune, and Keyes Beech, Chicago Daily News.

Freedom of Information

James S. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal, chairman of ASNE committee on freedom of information.

Dr. Harold Cross, progress report on compilation of data on statutes and court decisions supporting secrecy of public records.

Carroll Binder, Minneapolis Tribune, representative on the United Nations Committee to draft a convention of freedom of information.

Jack Lockhart, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, chairman of committee authorized by Board to confer informally with National Security Resources Board on government plans for press censorship in the event of another world war.

Panel Discussions:

Problems of circulation managers and editorial executives; Richard W. Clarke, New York News, chairman.

Government public relations officers and their functions; W. R. Walton, South Bend Tribune, chairman.

Columns and columnists; George W. Healy, Jr., New Orleans Times-Picayune.

What are newspaper editors doing to meet the challenge of radio

and television? — L. L. Winship, Boston Globe.

The congressional session, speakers to be announced; reports of officers and chairmen; the resolutions session, Dwight Marvin, Troy Record, chairman; and the daily luncheons will round out the program.

Freshmen Members to Get Better Attention This Year

Reflecting on an oft-repeated complaint that most members are so busy greeting old friends at the convention that they are thoughtless concerning the new brethren, President Young decided to appoint

a committee whose function will be "to make the new members feel comfortable."

For the job he selected Michael Gorman, Flint Journal, because "he knows more editors by their first names than probably any other member of the Society."

Serving with Mr. Gorman will be Hugh Kane, Cleveland News; N. G. Henthorne, Tulsa World; Jack B. Thompson, Chester Times; W. C. Stouffer, Roanoke World-News; J. D. Raridan, Canton Repository; Jack Foster, Rocky Mountain News. Coleman Harwell, Nashville Tennessean, membership chairman, will collaborate with the reception committee.

As for the past two years, the Board of Directors will entertain new members at a cocktail party; but the new committee will shepherd them for the duration of the convention.



MICHAEL GORMAN

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

FREDRIC G. PITTS, Editor of The Bulletin.
ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary
and Editor of The Proceedings. Address:
Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone
and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

Read Before Registering

What do I do to register for the convention?

Fill out enclosed blank and mail with check as directed.

Will tickets be mailed to me?

No. Your check will be acknowledged, and tickets and badge will be waiting at the registration desk, on the mezzanine of the Statler, open Wednesday, April 18, from 2 to 6 p.m., and again at 8 next morning. (It's important to register EARLY to make certain of having your ticket and badge for the Presidential luncheon on Thursday; no one admitted without them—Secret Service ruling.)

Why can't a member unaccompanied by his wife take another guest to the Thursday luncheon?

The space problem again. If every member attending were allowed an extra ticket, the Presidential room wouldn't hold the crowd. Therefore, wives first.

If, after registering, I find that I can't attend the meeting, or if, after ordering banquet tickets, a guest drops out, can I get my money back?

Yes, if you make the cancellation in time—6 p.m. of the opening day, April 19. Tickets not picked up by that time will be automatically cancelled, without refund, unless you send word that you are arriving later.

However, the deadline for turning back that extra luncheon ticket for your wife at the Presidential luncheon is Monday, April 16; early deadline because the complete list of those attending must be delivered in advance to the Secret Service.

As my plans are uncertain, how late can I register?

At the desk on the opening day, if necessary. However, anyone registering after April 1 takes pot luck on banquet seats. (For seating rules see banquet story.)

Are ladies invited to the banquet, and is it formal?

Most cordially. Yes, black tie.

Will the cocktail party for members and their guests precede the banquet as in other years?

Yes, it's included in price of banquet tickets.

Do I need to be a Sigma Delta Chi member to attend the breakfast Saturday morning?

No. The Washington Professional Chapter of the fraternity is host to all members of the Society.

If I cannot attend the convention, may I send a staff member instead?

The Board of Directors regretfully frowns on this growing practice. It's space AGAIN. Each year attendance goes up; all sessions are crowded, some are overcrowded, and if every member who can't attend sent a non-member as alternate, the situation would be impossible.

If I have a special question or problem, to whom do I write?

The assistant secretary, and at this time of the year, convention expeditor, Alice Fox Pitts, P.O. Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Delaware.

Nominations Next Month

C. G. Wellington, Kansas City Star, has been ill, went to Key West to recuperate, but his work as nominations chairman has gone on notwithstanding. Original suggestions from his committee are being seeded down by mail and telegraph ballots to the required eight candidates for the Board, to be announced next month.

Clapper Award Presentation

The Clapper award this year will be made at the ASNE banquet. President Young will make the presentation, at the request of Fletcher Knebel, chairman of the Standing Committee of Correspondents of the United States Congress, which acts as executive committee for the Raymond Clapper Memorial Association.

SERVICE BANDS again have graciously agreed to provide music at one luncheon and the banquet. As is customary, the U. S. Marine Band, led by Major William F. Santelmann, will play when the President appears on Thursday. Saturday evening the members will hear for the first time the more recently organized Air Force Band.

Banquet Problem Is With Us Again

No matter how important the news, you can't get nine columns into an 8-column front page.

No matter how important the people, you can't get 900 into a banquet room which seats 700.

Some pretty fine stories have to be moved to inside pages and some pretty fine ASNE members and their guests have to be seated in the second room.

But who shall it be?

The Society's Board of Directors has sought to answer this question fairly by ruling that members attending the banquet alone or taking only one guest shall have preferred seats, those with two guests getting next best treatment, while those with three guests (the limit of 4 banquet tickets) shall be assigned to the remaining tables, many of them necessarily in the adjoining room.

This plan accomplishes two purposes:

1) Those taking fewer seats contribute most toward keeping the banquet confined to one room (the ideal situation, but not realized for years), and should be rewarded therefor.

2) More members receive choice locations.

The scheme isn't perfect and, inevitably, works some injustices, but you just can't seat 900 eminent editors and eminent guests around 57 tables of 12 places each. Figure it out for yourself.

ADD innovations instigated by President Young: Each day's meeting will be opened with a prayer by a member.

Those who have accepted his invitation to offer the invocation are George Smallsreed, Columbus Dispatch; Harry M. Ayers, Anniston Star; and Carl E. Lindstrom, Hartford Times.

Dr. Cross' Report

Last month, James S. Pope, chairman of the Freedom of Information committee, asked members' cooperation in the committee's project of assembling and correlating data on the denial of access to public records. Dr. Harold L. Cross, who undertook to supervise this comprehensive task, will make a report to ASNE membership at the convention.

Of the complaints communicated to Dr. Cross by newspapers thus far, the most challenging not produced by recent change of law is official resort to so-called "executive sessions"; the most widespread geographically is secrecy produced by Federal legislation and regulation for financial transactions between government and individuals in welfare, social security and similar fields; and the most numerous is refusal of access to police records. Newspapers also are complaining of "suppression" of records in filed law suits.

Information of experiences with these news barriers and methods used to overcome them will speed the progress of the survey. Editors should write Dr. Cross at Skowhegan, Maine.

Journalism Teachers Invited to Washington

In accordance with a policy established by the Board last year, President Young has invited five representatives of schools or departments of journalism to attend the convention. They are:

Dr. Ralph O. Nafziger and Henry Ladd Smith, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Earl F. English, University of Missouri; Dean Kenneth E. Olson, Medill School, Northwestern; and George E. Simmons, Tulane University.

In addition, Dr. Ralph Casey, University of Minnesota, has been invited in appreciation of his constant service to the Society. Years ago he offered space in the dust-proof vaults of the new Journalism Building for storing back copies of the Proceedings and other records, and has served as custodian ever since.

As in the past, other journalism teachers are cordially welcome. Any who are planning to attend are requested to write the assistant secretary in advance of the meeting so they may be provided with credentials.

Any 'Code' For Press Freedom Called Inconsistent With American Tradition

• By JS GRAY, Editor
Monroe Evening News

All honor to Carroll Binder and Erwin Canham for keeping the flag of American press freedom aloft when waist deep in marsh ground, first in Geneva and now at Lake Success.

We surely should go to their aid one and all in this matter of keeping the flag flying come what may. But is not the real remedy to pull out of the marsh and re-establish the flag on firm ground?

Our American tradition of press freedom is simple, clear, complete. Congress shall make no law abridging that freedom. It's a flat negative with no qualification.

A Clarification and Reply

• By CARROLL BINDER

Mr. Binder, editorial editor, *Minneapolis Tribune*, is United States representative to a 15 nation committee of the United Nations to draft the convention on freedom of information.

Those who distrust or detest the free press are determined to discredit it and create an international climate in which it will be brought under drastic governmental control. They are intensifying their efforts to place restrictions on the operations of United States news-gatherers abroad. They hope to persuade the American people

Government may not even try to define the right. The people reserve to themselves exclusively its interpretation and its exercises.

What would be the reaction of editors if our Congress or any agent of our government asked the press to participate with it in writing a "code" to define and delimit freedom of the press? We surely would rebuke government and refuse to have any part with it.

Delegates at Lake Success sit as agents of government.

Is not participation with other agents of government in any discussion and effort to write any "code" for the press a primary mistake from which we should rescue our representatives?

that the imposition of such restraints on the American press would increase their security and hopes of peace.

The U. S. State Department resists all such efforts. It ably champions freedom of information and of the press in the United Nations and all other international negotiations. It enlists the aid and counsel of the ASNE in doing so by asking members conversant with freedom of information issues and U.N. procedures to lead the fight instead of leaving it to State Department officials. That is how Erwin Canham and I were named to represent the United States in the United Nations. The Department puts its very informed staff at our service whenever we act in the U.N.

Refusal of the United States to have anything to do with further attempts to draft conventions on freedom of information would not bring an end to such attempts in the U.N. Those desirous of restrictions would write more restrictive provisions into conventions than they succeed in writing when the United States exposes the true character of the proposals and sets the powerful case for freedom as it does in each of these sessions. It would be the greatest folly to leave the field free to foes of freedom. So, the United States fights for what it believes to be right and against what it believes to be wrong or dangerous every time the issue is raised.

ROOM REPORT: "BAD!"

Every room and suite at the Statler has been taken, and few are available elsewhere in Washington.

Because of a shortage of single rooms, many members who are going alone have been assigned to twin-bedded rooms. Therein lies the hotel's only hope of accommodating late-comers.

If you have registered "single" and are willing to double up with some other ASNE member, as in wartime, please write George Lombard, Hotel Statler. He needs to know 1) whether you'll share your room with ANY member in desperate need, or 2) the names of both parties to the agreement if you can make arrangements to double up with a particular friend.

Papal Rotary Ban Editorial Silence Upheld By Some

Arthur Burrowes' complaint in the February Bulletin that American newspapers generally failed to comment editorially on such a talked-about subject as the Papal Rotary ban brought quick response from ASNE members.

One editor wrote that newspapers had no business to comment, that the Pope had the right to legislate for his priests. He said that the Papal ban was like the neighbor's way of raising his children—"none of my business."

Others agreed with the reasoning of the St. Joseph News-Press editor, but questioned his contention that the subject was generally ignored.

"I am enclosing an editorial that appeared in the Anniston Star," wrote Harry M. Ayers, publisher and editor of that newspaper. "I happen to have noticed also that the St. Louis Dispatch assumed a very 'virile' attitude in regard to the issue."

Enclosing an editorial which appeared in the Wilmington Morning News, Charles L. Reese, Jr., executive editor of the News-Journal Newspapers, told Mr. Burrowes:

"I do not relish, any more than any editor, being drawn into controversies in which religious feelings and prejudices are involved. However, I feel that the press has a duty to comment on some subjects regardless of how many brickbats it may get in return for its efforts. Incidentally, the Rotary editorial drew no comments whatsoever. This may be attributed to its moderate tone or, perhaps, people are always much more excited over a strictly local issue."

From Philip H. Parrish, editor of the editorial page of the Portland Oregonian: "As you will see by the enclosed (editorial), we promptly called the action of the Pope in regard to Rotary, as a 'medieval approach.'"

Comments Mr. Burrowes: "One editor suggests that a session of the American Society of Newspaper Editors' convention in April be given to a poll of how many papers actually did comment on the Papal ban. I have letters from 12 who did and from twice that number who were outspoken enough to say why they did not."

Obituary

WILLIAM J. CONNERS

William J. Connors, Jr., 55, publisher of the Buffalo Courier-Express died of a heart attack on February 3.

An ASNE member for nearly 20 years, Mr. Connors was widely known to editors everywhere. He managed to be at one time a newspaperman, business executive, sportsman, philanthropist and distinguished Naval officer.

At Yale in World War I he was one of a group of students who organized a flying unit, paying for their own equipment and instruction, then offered their services to the Navy. By 1936 he was a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve, and, called to active duty in 1941, served until the end of the war.

His newspaper career began in 1919 when his father turned over to him the management of The Courier and The Express.

As a sportsman his interests included fishing, hunting, yachting, piloting racing boats and trap shooting.

JOHN J. BRADY

John J. Brady, managing editor of the Wilmington (Del.) Morning News, died on February 20, age 51. Although he had been in ill health for some time, his death of a heart attack was unexpected.

For most of his life, Mr. Brady's prime interest had been sports. While manager of local baseball teams, he covered sport events for the Morning News, joining the staff in 1924. In 1946 he was appointed managing editor, and joined ASNE two years ago.

Five Resignations

Alex McCullough (resigned as managing editor of The Spartanburg Herald to join the staff of Governor James F. Byrnes of South Carolina).

Marshall Dana (retired as editor of editorial page of the Portland Journal, now assistant to the president of the U. S. National Bank of Portland).

Francis E. Croasdale (retiring as executive editor, Atlantic City Press-Union.)

Thomas George Lanphier, Jr., editor, Idaho Daily Statesman, Boise.

James W. Bell, editor, Sunday Courier & Press, Evansville, Ind.

Columbus Ledger Gets 'Stipulation' Written In Tax Bill

Believing that a "license tax" is a misnomer and feeling "as did the farmer upon seeing his first elephant—there just ain't no such animal," the Columbus (Ga.) Ledger has made a survey of "license tax" practices in the various Georgia municipalities and has conducted a one-newspaper campaign against this levy.

"While the practice of levying a 'license tax' against newspapers presents no immediate threat against press freedom," says Robert W. Brown, editor of the Ledger, "we feel that it is a dangerous precedent. If a municipality can issue a 'license' it also can withhold it or revoke it."

"The penalty for non-payment of a 'license tax' constitutes a misdemeanor and if some city government 10, 15 or 100 years from now wanted to withhold a 'license' from a newspaper it could then turn around and fine the publication for every day it operated without one."

"Arguing along these lines I have been successful in a request to the Columbus City Commission to forego or repudiate the 'license tax' practice here in Columbus. The new 1951 tax ordinance is at hand and after listing the 'license tax' rate for daily newspapers (\$250 per year) the Commission has written into the ordinance this stipulation:

"The foregoing taxes on newspapers constitute occupation or business taxes only. They are not to be construed in any way as infringing the liberty of the press."

Mr. Brown believes this to be unique in municipal tax ordinances.

Honored on 83rd Birthday

F. A. Miller, president and editor of The South Bend Tribune, celebrated his 83rd birthday, January 31, with an employees' party.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

FREDRIC G. PITTS, Editor of The Bulletin.
ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary
and Editor of The Proceedings. Address:
Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone
and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7990.

No. 329 March 1, 1951

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 330

April 1, 1951

4 New Candidates, 4 Incumbents Get Board Nominations

Work of the nominations chairman, C. G. Wellington, Kansas City Star, was interrupted by a siege of illness. Under a triple threat (wife, doctor and Roy Roberts) he took



C. G. WELLINGTON

a vacation, carried on from Key West. The nominations announced on page three of this issue, four incumbents and four new candidates, are the result of many ballots by the entire committee.

Refresher in ASNE by-laws: Nominations also may be made from the convention floor. The membership votes for four candidates. Top four win three-year terms on the Board; fifth-high fills the one-year unexpired term of Dwight Young, who becomes ex-officio for three years.

Other members of the nominating committee are:

Joseph F. Smiley, Tampa Daily Times,
Don Scism, Evansville Courier,
Don C. Shoemaker, Asheville Citizen.

Norman Shaw, Cleveland Press,
Joseph T. Murphy, Wilkes-Barre Times Leader, Evening News,
Paul S. Walcott, Greenfield Recorder Gazette.

J. F. Fitzpatrick, Salt Lake Tribune-Telegram.

Robert D. Caldwell, Bayonne Times.

Press Club Privileges

Through its president, Carson F. Lyman, the Board of Governors of the National Press Club again extends privileges of the club quarters to ASNE members during the convention days. Your badge is your admission.

CREDENTIALS

If you pick up your credentials on Wednesday, you do three things:

Lighten the Thursday morning peak load at the registration desk, and avoid being pushed around.

Help make it possible for President Young to start the opening session on time, Thursday 9:30 a.m.

Insure having your badge and your tickets, which are necessary for admission to the Presidential luncheon.

The registration desk, on the mezzanine of the Statler, will be open on Wednesday, from 2 to 6 p.m.; on Thursday at 8 a.m.

Sessions Start Early

Because of the heavy schedule, President Young is opening sessions earlier than usual. On Thursday and Saturday, it's 9:30 a.m. On Friday, members are asked to be at the Congressional Room door by 9 o'clock and, allowing 15 minutes for scrutiny of badges by the sergeants-at-arms for that "For Members Only" meeting, the program will begin promptly at 9:15 a.m.

And no dilly-dallying in the corridors, please, says Mr. Young. A warning gong will be rung five minutes before each session, and those morning sessions will start ON TIME.

For the Thursday luncheon, members should warn their wives to be on hand by 12:30 to allow time to go through the Secret Service lines, and be seated by 12:50.

Thursday Luncheon Tickets

Because of the number of members who leave their wives at home, or the ladies who prefer to come in on Saturday for the banquet, it now seems probable there may be a few extra tickets available for the Presidential luncheon on Thursday.

If you want to be put on the list, please write the assistant secretary today, giving the name of your guest for the Secret Service list. You will be notified, a few days before the convention, whether or not the request can be granted.

Dulles, Fulbright And Estes Kefauver Added To Program

Senator Estes Kefauver, chairman of the Senate Crime Investigating committee, Senator J. William Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Banking subcommittee investigating RFC, and John Foster Dulles, State Department Advisor, have been added to the list of speakers for the Washington convention, April 19, 20 and 21.

Stanley P. Barnett, program chairman, announces that Senator Kefauver will headline the Thursday evening session while Mr. Dulles and Senator Fulbright will be luncheon speakers on Friday and Saturday respectively.

On Friday morning the membership will hear General Walter Bedell Smith, who heads the Central Intelligence Agency. He will speak at the off-the-record session for members only, following the talks by the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Deputy Secretary Robert Lovett, and General J. Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, have been added to that session.

The program appears on page two of this issue. To accommodate speakers, a few changes in time of appearance may be made between now and mid-April.

All convention sessions will be held in the Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C. Registration desk on the mezzanine.

Your Hotel Room Problem

Although no more rooms are available at the Statler, a few have been obtained at two other hotels, only a block away. Anyone wishing one of these rooms should notify the assistant secretary (wire address, Wilmington 3-7990).

On Monday, April 16, the Wilmington office of ASNE will move to Washington. Last minute requests for information or service should be addressed there. Or, to play safe, send to Wilmington, with a carbon to Alice or Fredric Pitts at the Hotel Statler.

COMPLETE THREE-DAY PROGRAM OF 1951 CONVENTION

(All Sessions held in Presidential or Congressional Room of Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C.)

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

Opening Session—9:30 a.m.

Invocation: George Smallsreed
President's Address: Dwight Young
Reports of officers and committee chairmen:

Membership: Coleman Harwell
Secretary: Kenneth MacDonald
Treasurer: L. R. Blanchard
Nominations: C. G. Wellington
Program: Stanley P. Barnett
Resolutions: Dwight Marvin
ACEJ: A. H. Kirchhofer
Accreditation: N. R. Howard
International Press Institute: Lester Markel
Art. 17, Covenant of Human Rights,
Erwin D. Canham
Memorial: Grove Patterson
(Polls open for election of directors)

Luncheon

The President of the United States
Music by United States Marine Band

Afternoon

Panel Discussions:

Problems of circulation managers and editorial executives: Richard W. Clarke, N. Y. News, chairman

Ivan Annenberg, Circulation director, New York News
Matthew G. Sullivan, Circulation director, Gannett Newspapers
Walter Lister, Managing editor, Philadelphia Bulletin
Allen Merriam, Editor, Dallas Times Herald
Government public relations officers and their functions: W. R. Walton, South Bend Tribune, chairman.

Donald R. Burgess, Director, Office of Publications, Department of Commerce

Joseph L. Newman, Acting Chief, News branch, Economic Cooperation Administration

V. M. Newton, Jr., Managing editor, Tampa Tribune

Philip W. Porter, Editorial editor, Cleveland Plain Dealer

Evening

Senator Estes Kefauver, chairman, Crime Investigating Committee
(Remainder of program to be announced.)

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Morning Session, 9 o'clock

(Off-the-record, for members only)

Invocation: Harry M. Ayers
Department of Defense:

Clayton Fritchey, Chief of Information, presiding

Secretary George C. Marshall
Deputy Secretary Robert Lovett
Assistant Secretary Anna Rosenberg
General J. Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff,
U. S. Army
General Walter Bedell Smith, CIA Director

Luncheon

John Foster Dulles, State Department Advisor
Keyes Beech, Chicago Daily News war correspondent

(Polls close for election of directors)

Afternoon Session

Panel Discussions:

Columnists vs. editors: George W. Healy, Jr.,
New Orleans Times-Picayune, chairman
Drew Pearson, columnist
Ernest Lindley, columnist
J. D. Ferguson, Editor, Milwaukee Journal
Tom Wallace, Editor emeritus, Louisville Times

The challenge of radio and television to newspapers: L. L. Winship, Boston Globe, chairman.
E. C. Hoyt, Managing editor, Cedar Rapids Gazette

Ralph McGill, Editor, Atlanta Constitution
John Crosby, N. Y. Herald Tribune columnist
John Hayes, Station WTOP, Washington, D. C.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Sigma Delta Chi breakfast, at National Press Club

Morning Session, 9:30 o'clock

Invocation: Carl Lindstrom

Reports on Freedom of Information:

James S. Pope, Louisville Courier-Journal
Dr. Harold Cross
Carroll Binder, Minneapolis Tribune
Jack Lockhart, Scripps-Howard Alliance

Luncheon

Senator J. William Fulbright, chairman, Senate Banking subcommittee investigating RFC

Afternoon

Criticisms of the Press: A. J. Liebling of The New Yorker
Discussion and adoption of resolutions

Evening

(Reception for members and their guests 6 p.m.; banquet, 6:45)

Presentation of Clapper award.

Debate on American Foreign Policy:

Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio
Senator Paul H. Douglas of Illinois
John S. Knight, Moderator

Music by United States Air Force Band

EIGHT CANDIDATES NAMED FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



HAMILTON OWENS

HAMILTON OWENS (Incumbent) is a charter member, elected as managing editor of the Baltimore Sun, and now editor of the Sunpapers. He has been a director since 1946. That year he served on the committee to study dissemination of news emanating from the State Department, was chairman the next year. In 1950 he headed a Board committee to study the need for a history of the Society and an index of the Proceedings on which he is still working.

VIRGINIUS DABNEY (Incumbent) has been a member 11 years, on the Board since 1946. Editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, he is also the author of "Liberalism in the South," "Below the Potomac" and "Dry Messiah." He took his first active part in ASNE affairs in 1947, heading a panel on the editorial page; was program chairman in 1949, currently is on the committee to study the Government's press censorship plans.



VIRGINIUS DABNEY



WRIGHT BRYAN

WRIGHT BRYAN (Incumbent), editor of the Atlanta Journal, joined ASNE in 1941 as managing editor, second Georgia member elected. On program committee in 1942; resolutions, 1943. As war correspondent he was wounded, captured by Germans, liberated in time to broadcast V-E Day. Membership chairman, 1946, elected to the Board for the first time that year; after two terms as secretary, he is now second vice-president. He is also serving on the I.P.I. committee.



HODDING CARTER

HODDING CARTER, Nieman fellow and winner of a Pulitzer award for editorials against racial intolerance, was elected to membership only five years ago, under the small city quota. Editor and publisher of the Greenville (Miss.) Delta Democrat-Times, he was already nationally known for his books and magazine articles on southern affairs. He is the author of "Huey Long: American Dictator" in "The Aspirin Age," and two novels about Mississippi.

BASIL L. WALTERS, executive editor of Knight Newspapers, was relatively new to ASNE when, as membership chairman in 1941, he brought in 48 new members, raising the total to 292. He was then editor of the Minneapolis Star. Elected to the Board that year, he was secretary for the next two. Re-elected, he declined a third term in 1947, but continued active as chairman, for two years, of the Freedom of Information Committee.



BASIL L. WALTERS



STANLEY P. BARNETT

STANLEY P. BARNETT joined the Society in 1938, soon after he became managing editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, and has attended every convention since. He has served on reception and nominations committees, but until recently was more active on the executive board of APME, and president in 1948. This year he shoulders the burden of the most onerous of all ASNE chairmanships—in charge of the program for the annual convention.

L. R. BLANCHARD (Incumbent) is concluding his first term on the Board, his first year as treasurer. He joined ASNE in 1934, then executive editor of the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, now editor, and general executive editor of Gannett Newspapers. He has served on resolutions, freedom of information, and program committees; nominations chairman in 1946. A past president of the New York State Society of Editors, he is currently president of APME.



L. R. BLANCHARD



LYOYD M. FELMLY

LYOYD M. FELMLY has been on the Newark Evening News since 1916, except for 18 months in the Army in World War I. He was made managing editor in 1933, also editor in 1944. While this dual responsibility keeps him busy, he finds time for membership in several editorial organizations; and since joining ASNE in 1942 has served on nominations, and for two years on the committee on State Department Dissemination of News and Opinion.

Directors Admit 14 New Members

The Board of Directors has elected, by mail ballot, the following candidates submitted by the membership committee, Coleman Harwell, chairman:

Milburn P. Akers, executive editor, Chicago Sun-Times.

Warren S. Brown, managing editor, Atlantic City Press-Union.

James F. Chambers, Jr., managing editor, Dallas Times Herald.

Brainard Cooper, editor, Chattanooga News-Free Press.

Elrick B. Davis, editor of editorial page, The Deseret News, Salt Lake City.

Leonard G. Feldmann, managing editor, Buffalo Courier-Express.

Marshall Field, Jr., editor and publisher, Chicago Sun-Times.

Charles A. Guy, editor and publisher, the Avalanche-Journal, Lubbock, Texas.

Edwin P. Hoyt, editor of editorial page, Denver Post.

Frank A. Knight, managing editor, The Gazette, Charleston, W. Va.

Harold E. Moore, senior managing editor, Utica Observer-Dispatch.

Gustaf A. Nordin, managing editor, Duluth Herald and News-Tribune.

Mark E. Petersen, editor-in-chief, The Deseret News, Salt Lake City.

Hugh Wagnon, administrative assistant—news, Easton Express.

SDX Breakfast at 8, But Minus the Ladies

"Sorry, no ladies," says Sigma Delta Chi in regard to the breakfast at which the Washington chapter will be host to members (male) of the ASNE.

"We don't wish to be considered ungallant or anti-feminine," writes the chapter chairman, "but a rule of the National Press club prevents us from inviting the women members of the Society."

The breakfast will commence sharply at 8 a.m. Saturday in the club rooms on the top floor of the National Press building, Fourteenth and F Streets, and will be over in time for members to return to the Statler by 9:30 o'clock when the morning session of the convention begins.

No tickets required at the breakfast, but wear your badge for identification.

Paschall, Walcott Resign

Resignations reported by Secretary Kenneth MacDonald:

John Paschall, editor emeritus, Atlanta Journal, retiring.

Paul S. Walcott, formerly Greenfield (Mass.) Recorder-Gazette, ineligible.

Membership today, 519.

Membership a year ago, 519.

Deaths and resignations are controlling the figure without the mandatory limitation which was discussed and discarded by the Board last year.

About Members . . .

William G. Vorpe, who has been in newspaper work for 58 years, this month completes a half century on the Cleveland Plain Dealer. In celebration, he is attending the convention for the first time since 1943.

From Paul S. Walcott, who has left the Greenfield (Mass.) Recorder-Gazette: "The Society was of great value to me during these last six or seven years, and I am sure must be especially so to all small town editors enabled to participate in it. When and if the DAR and the Russians again leave room in Washington for a mere mid-April tourist, I shall hope to stop by the Statler for a reunion."

Riley H. Allen, editor of the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, will attend the convention for the first time since he became a member in 1946.

R. J. Churchill, executive editor of the London (Ont.) Free Press has accepted President Young's invitation to attend the meetings as president of the Canadian Managing Editors' Association. He will be at the speakers' table at the banquet.

The convention draws non-members from far points, among them, Walton Cole, managing editor of Reuters; and Robert T. Atwood of the Anchorage (Alaska) Times.

"Tombstone's Epitaph," to be published next month, is advertised as written by Douglas D. Martin, professor of journalism at the University of Arizona. This is denied by the author, an ASNE member when he was managing editor of the Detroit Free-Press. "It was written," he says, "by the working press of Tombstone. Those old boys gave their tales richer color, sharper flavor and more detail than anyone who rewrites their work can hope to equal."

Young Sends ASNE Protest to Peron

Dayton, Ohio, March 9, 1951

As president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, numbering in its membership more than 500 editors of leading newspapers of the United States, I have been instructed by our Board of Directors to transmit this communication to you:

The American Society of Newspaper Editors is gravely concerned over the reports of happenings in Buenos Aires affecting freedom of the press in Argentina.

As you undoubtedly are well aware, our Society is wholeheartedly dedicated to the vital principles of free speech and a free press. This devotion is not restricted to the boundaries of the United States. We believe and hold that all people and all publications are entitled to the enjoyment of these same freedoms.

In view of these facts we are certain you will readily understand the deep concern with which we follow current dispatches from Buenos Aires, we respectfully urge that you personally review all of the circumstances affecting La Prensa, and earnestly hope you will take prompt steps to clarify that situation with respect to the continuation of a free press in Argentina.

DWIGHT YOUNG

O. S. Warden

A member of the Society for 21 years, O. S. Warden, publisher of The Great Falls Tribune, died at his home on March 12. He was 85 years old, and had been with The Tribune since 1895.

Mr. Warden was graduated from Dartmouth in 1889 and a few weeks later arrived in Montana to begin his newspaper career with the Great Falls Leader. He saw Montana history from the territory's admission to statehood and was identified with many major projects in its development during the past 60 years.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

FREDRIC G. PITTS, Editor of The Bulletin.
ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary
and Editor of The Proceedings. Address:
Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone
and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7950.

No. 330

April 1, 1951

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 331

May 1, 1951



—Photo by Brenner, Washington Star

NEW OFFICERS: Alexander F. Jones, Syracuse Herald-Journal, president; Hamilton Owens, Baltimore Sunpapers, second vice-president; Kenneth MacDonal, Des Moines Register and Tribune, secretary; Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, treasurer; Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal, first vice-president.

Mr. President

"Cyclonic, convivial, incurably romantic about his profession," Fortune Magazine once described Alexander F. Jones.

Edward T. Folliard, Washington Post reporter, backed up the description in a two-column Sunday story based largely on recollections of oldtimers about their former managing editor.

When "Casey" arrived in Washington, the late Sir Willmott Lewis, London Times correspondent, remarked to him, "Don't you know, old boy, that Pennsylvania Avenue is paved with the bones of former managing editors of The Post?"

But the new m.e. broke that tradition (among others) and stayed 15 years, leaving last year to become executive editor of the Syracuse Herald-Journal.

In that time, Mr. Folliard recalled, Post reporters found out a lot of things about him.

"They discovered that after excommunicating them, he would go up to the National Press Club and brag about how good they were. They also discovered he could do any-

thing he asked them to do, and probably do it better."

The story concluded:

"A veteran of The Post's news room said yesterday that working under Casey Jones was like riding a cyclone. It was a rough ride, he said, but he always had the feeling that he was getting somewhere, and that the landing would be all right."

"Well, Casey got there yesterday. The other editors, however, are going to have an awfully hard time addressing him as 'Mr. President.'"

Or, we might add, even "Mr."

Convention Text In The Proceedings

This issue of the Bulletin is an interim report, for 149 members who could not attend the convention and for editors who missed parts of some sessions.

It covers only highlights, side-lights and official action. Some important features have been omitted entirely. Shop talks, for instance do not lend themselves to a summary; but for later reading they're on the record and will be published in the Proceedings. So will everything at the 1951 meeting, with the exception of the Department of Defense meeting, ably major-domoed by Clayton Fritchey, Chief of Information.

Aside from Thursday's luncheon, the program had few changes. Marguerite Higgins, New York Herald Tribune Korean correspondent, was able to arrange her speaking tour to appear at Saturday's luncheon. Only previously unannounced speaker was former Governor Millard F. Caldwell, Federal Civil Defense Administrator.

Year's Statistics

Membership: 522
New members elected: 32
Deaths: 7
Resignations: 24

Convention

Registration: 373
Banquet tickets sold: 948
Words spoken: 111,200

MacDonald Reports To Membership On Board Actions

Kenneth MacDonald, secretary, reported the retention on the rolls of Richard J. Finnegan, Chicago Sun-Times, under the Distinguished Service clause of the by-laws. Mr. Finnegan had submitted his resignation when he retired as editor of the newspaper, in the belief that as consulting editor he was no longer eligible.

Mr. MacDonald also reported briefly on a proposal to base the categories of membership on circulation instead of population. The plan was presented to the Board by a committee authorized to study possible changes: Virginius Dabney, chairman; Hamilton Owens, Alexander F. Jones and Jenkin Lloyd Jones. Mr. MacDonald emphasized that the proposal cannot be adopted except by an amendment to the Constitution, which would have to be submitted to the full membership. Meanwhile the details of the proposal will be published in a summer issue of The Bulletin, so members will have an opportunity to express their views before the Board considers it at its fall meeting.

Other items covered by Mr. MacDonald's report:

Increase in dues from \$25. to \$35. annually, to meet rising operating costs.

President Young's letter to the President of Argentina, regarding freedom of press in that country; no reply or acknowledgement received.

J. Hale Steinman, Lancaster (Pa.) Newspapers, to represent ASNE and ANPA at the meeting in London in May of the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Journalists (FIEJ).

(Lester Markel also will attend, it was announced later.)

The constitution requires resignation when a member "from any cause, shall cease to be eligible." Members whose changed status makes their eligibility doubtful should consult the Secretary, Kenneth MacDonald, Des Moines Register and Tribune, for advice.

Members who become ineligible in the next six weeks are asked to notify Mr. MacDonald promptly, so the membership list in the Proceedings can be brought up-to-date before the book goes to press.



—Washington Star Photo
PRESIDENT Dwight Young greets General Douglas MacArthur.

Absent...And Why

Paul Smith, San Francisco Chronicle, traveling in the Orient.
Frank Schroth, Brooklyn Eagle, on a world tour.

Bert Teeters, Springfield (Ohio) Newspapers, ill with flu.

Arthur V. Burrows, St. Joseph News-Press and Gazette, taken to hospital with pleurisy on eve of scheduled departure for Washington.

George Cornish, New York Herald Tribune, detained by Mrs. Cornish's illness.

Julio Garzon, La Prensa of New York, phoned from his sickbed that if non-attendance meant he'd be dropped from rolls, he'd fly to Washington, stay long enough to register.

Henry Williams, Paterson Morning Call, subpoenaed as witness by a New York grand jury.

John F. Wurz, Grand Rapids Herald, detained by Senator Vandenberg's death.

George S. Crandall, Elmira Star-Gazette, recovered from the flu but didn't feel quite up to the hurly-burly of a convention.

John Morrison, Greenville Record-Argus, is rationing his conventions, ASNE not included in this year's quota.

Verne Joy, Centralia Sentinel, couldn't get a reservation at the Statler for ASNE, or at the Waldorf for ANPA, decided to take the easy way and call the trip off.

Louis A. Weil, Port Huron Times-Herald, has been ill in Florida, didn't feel up to traveling.

Leis from Hawaii

Riley H. Allen, Honolulu Star-Bulletin, attending his first meeting since his election in 1946, had four leis flown from Hawaii. Lucky ladies receiving them were Mrs. Alexander F. Jones, Mrs. Wright Bryan, Mrs. John S. Knight, wives of the new president, first vice president, and debate moderator; and the assistant secretary.

Mr. Bryan had Mrs. Bryan's lei airmailed to her in Michigan, where their son was having an operation (recovering nicely at last report), as a memento of the first convention she has not attended with him.

Pope's Report Alerts Society To Danger Facing U. S. Press

A three-year campaign waged first by Basil L. Walters and then by James S. Pope to awaken sometimes apathetic editors to the fact that "our precious liberties are slipping away by default" worked up to a crescendo at the Freedom of Information session Saturday morning.

"Your committee can report some gains and some losses," Mr. Pope, chairman, reported. "But neither figure is as important as this: We can begin to report on the real scope and significance of this battle for free information. We are learning where the lines are closest; something of the size, the resources, and the methods of our adversaries. We are trying with the expert help of Harold Cross, to rediscover and reforge all our own weapons; for the truth is we have all we need if we use them."

Mr. Pope presented a digest of 500 items of correspondence in his files involving incidents in states where government officials, high or lowly, have attempted to withhold information. He was followed by Dr. Harold Cross who gave a progress report of the survey on access to public records he is making for the Society.

Several members having immediate need for the Cross report, to bolster cases they are now fighting, asked for copies. A few extra have been mimeographed, are available from the Office of the Bulletin.

In response to many requests for the chairman's report, Mr. Pope had extra copies prepared. These may be obtained direct from him at the Louisville Courier-Journal.

Carroll Binder on UN

On the international scene, same battle, Carroll Binder reported as U. S. representative on a United Nations committee to draft a freedom of information convention.

He reminded that those who, properly, view present trends with alarm "should not overlook the fact that we are godparents of the international approach to problems of freedom of information." He referred to a 1944 resolution by the Society urging international agreements permitting direct communication between nations, and authorizing an ASNE committee to participate in conferences with

other agencies to implement the resolution.

He reviewed the changing, and frequently worsening, situation since then and ended on a note of warning:

"If we do not exercise our high trust with integrity and respect for the rights of others the clamor for controls will grow and grow. The majority which is conscious of the obligations of freedom may be fettered and controlled along with those who abuse freedom with no thought of possible consequences."

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE on Freedom of Information in Washington has created an interest that astounded us. Since widespread interest and action are essential, we naturally are gratified. But this is a reminder that one committee, one report, one flurry, will accomplish very little toward forcing open all the sealed sources of news.

One essential is for every member of the Society to report to the chairman every instance of which he knows or hears, minor or major, involving any effort to conceal news which should be public property. From what we hear, there is some alarm among those who profit from news control. If we maintain an uproar of protest many of them will give up.

JAMES S. POPE, Chairman

Society Condemns Peronist Government

In the discussion of a resolution condemning the Peronist government, Dwight Marvin, chairman, was asked what would become of it after it was passed.

"Nothing," he replied. "It will be put in the minutes and given to the newspapers, and by tomorrow it will be forgotten. That is the reason my committee doesn't believe in resolutions."

Tom Wallace took issue: "The Peron government does pay attention. It had a front-page, 8-column article calling me, personally, a gangster, so that shows it pays some attention to what goes on in this country."

The resolution, which was carried, resolved,

"That we heartily condemn the action of the Peronist government in stifling press freedom in Buenos Aires by seizing La Prensa and thereby ending press freedom in Argentina; and that we commend the courage of Dr. Gainza Paz in refusing to yield to tyranny; furthermore, we believe that such re-

Lockhart on Censorship

As chairman of a committee to inquire into governmental censorship plans in case of another war, Jack Lockhart, Scripps-Howard Newspapers, gave the membership a fill-in on how the committee went about its work. Its recommendations were incorporated in a resolution adopted by the Board last October. Summing up, Mr. Lockhart said:

"The committee believes, and feels ASNE members believe, that editors of the United States of America are more eager to safeguard their nation's interest than any group of individuals appointed to censor. The editors need only to be asked—they will not be told."

version to the standards of the Dark Ages erects another barrier between Argentina and the United States, marking Argentina as callous to one of the supreme principles of Twentieth Century civilization."

On information that the Medill School of Journalism, at Northwestern University, has invited Dr. Paz to receive an honorary degree in June, Richard J. Finnegan offered a resolution "that our officers consider urging him to come and extending our hospitality." Carried.

Other resolutions adopted:

Reaffirming belief in the principle of an International Press Institute; thanking the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations for funds; and expressing hope that ASNE members will join, and attend its meetings.

Endorsing action of the Board in retaining Harold Cross to make the first comprehensive report on rulings affecting free access to public information.

MacArthur And the Editors

President Dwight Young took top prize for the finest gem of understatement in ASNE records when, at the opening session, he announced a "slight" change in program. He referred to the luncheon switch from Truman in person to MacArthur on TV, with the General's physical appearance rumored.

Not since the Russians came, under the aegis of Wilbur Forrest, has a convention been thrown into such bedlam. In 1946, our Soviet guests were reported coming as promised; forced down en route; landing at LaGuardia; reneging entirely. Finally arriving at the Statler, they went upstairs to nap and later appeared at a hastily-called rump session.

This year history repeated itself.

Here are the confused details as one eye-witness saw them after President Truman, understandably, had cancelled, and Stanley P. Barnett and Mr. Young had decided on the substitute set-up.

The UP ticker announced the General would speak to the editors; President Young's best guess on time was about 4 o'clock. That was enough to hold the crowd in the Presidential Room. Members who stepped down to the lobby found their return blocked by uniformed muscle-men. Some (W. P. Steven, Minneapolis Star & Tribune, among them) were indignant that ASNE badges were not honored. One wife, who couldn't get back, dissolved in tears. The truth was that the mob on the street floor was unmanageable. If they'd crashed the police lines, the editors on the mezzanine would have been trampled.

Roars from the crowd announced the General's arrival at the hotel. Surrounded by brass, the famed couple marched up the stairs, and down the corridor. Within 30 feet of the door to the ASNE meeting it was about-face. Completely. Confusingly.

Ordinarily, in Washington, anyone knows everything, loves to give the low-down to inquirers. But this time it was "The King asked the Queen, and the Queen asked the dairymaid . . ."

"What happened?"—Hotel executives asked the program chairman, the program chairman asked the AP, the AP asked the policemen, the policemen asked—

Finally word got through to the editors: exhausted, the General had retired to his suite; would appear later; and if everyone would just keep his seat—

The stenographic record reads: "The afternoon session adjourned at 5:45 o'clock."

About 6:30, a telephone call from David Lawrence, working behind the scenes in the true Lawrence manner, alerted the registration desk: "Congressional Room at 7—spread the word."

Couriers went through the restaurants, the corridors, the suites where groups had congregated. Cocktails were gulped, dinners left unfinished; and ten minutes later a group of 150 had settled in the Congressional Room to wait—again.



—Washington Star Photo

MEETING THE MACARTHURS: Mrs. Joe W. Seacrest, *Journal Newspapers*, Lincoln, Neb., and Mrs. William R. Matthews, *Arizona Daily Star*, Tucson, waiting in line; Carroll Binder, *Minneapolis Tribune*; Barry Bingham, *Louisville Courier-Journal and Times*; Herbert Brucker, *Hartford Courant*. Just out of the picture at lower left, introducing members to the MacArthurs, was the editor responsible for the meet-and-greeting session: David Lawrence, *U.S. News & World Report*.

That was all wrong, an excited Statler spokesman soon announced; the General would shake hands with ASNE members at the elevator entrance.

Grand rush for the elevators, only to be stopped by those strong-armed Washington police. On orders they broke ranks a little, to pass members through—150 of them packed into an area where a score might stand with comfort, some in high dudgeon at being pushed around, others (notably Barry Bingham) thoroughly enjoying the fox and goose chase.

Came at last the definitive Lawrence word: Congressional Room, but members only, no wives!

That was something that not even Mr. Lawrence could do. Shut out wives who'd been waiting six hours? Never! So, ladies in the lead, and mere husbands trailing, the crowd reseated itself to wait, eyes on the door behind the speakers' stand. A slight commotion to larboard, and the General, with Mrs. MacArthur and young Arthur, stalked through the door from the pantry, to be greeted, at long last, by President Young. The General looked wonderful; relaxed and gracious, he shook hands with members (and wives) who queued up to greet him. Informality prevailed—the picture lingers of six-footer Ken MacDonald standing on a chair for a better view.

Some hands that shook the hand of MacArthur went unwashed that night . . . or promised to.

Quotes from the Transcript

LESTER MARKEL: Membership in the International Press Institute is open to all newspapers provided they subscribe to the principle of freedom of the press.

TOM WALLACE: Suppose a communistic paper declared itself for freedom of the press—would it be eligible or ineligible for membership?

MR. MARKEL: It would be ineligible because the Executive Committee would pass on all applications and I assume that committee would be sagacious enough to spot the communistic paper . . . It would be automatically ineligible.

★ ★ ★

JAMES S. POPE, *Louisville Courier-Journal:* Freedom of the press does not necessarily bring freedom of information. We are free to fight for all the news of our governments, and we are free, no doubt, to forfeit it. But we can't get it without a fight.

★ ★ ★

MILLARD F. CALDWELL, head of National Civil Defense Program: I have noted some discussion about the possible seizure of newspapers if and when we are attacked. I can conceive of no such seizure. I can think of no service so necessary as a going free press under disaster conditions. Facts, information, and instruction are vital in a chaotic situation. Nothing else can so quickly avert panic and bring reassurance to a stricken population.

★ ★ ★

QUESTION, by William P. Steven: In your opinion, Senator, do newspapers and news services render a service to the gambling syndicates in printing race-track form sheets, odds and results?

SENATOR ESTES KEFAUVER: Undoubtedly this information is of some assistance to bookmakers and gamblers. I would say, though, that it is not the important thing that enables them to carry on.

They must have information between the races as to who won and how much was paid; last-minute jockey changes, and things of that sort.

They must have instantaneous service and be able to get in touch in case their customers are not there between the races. I think if that were not done, the influence of newspapers printing these things would be found rather negligible.

★ ★ ★

SENATOR J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT: To approach it (RFC) from the point of view that because unethical practices are inevitable, as they say, in the operation of such an agency, it ought to be abolished seems to me to be a sign of political immaturity. If that is a valid ground, I think we might abolish a great many agencies in the Government.

★ ★ ★

A. J. LIEBLING, *The New Yorker:* I think there should be an annual award for the most outstanding instance of press lying with particular reference to persistent misrepresentation of the data required for judging public issues. Nominations would not be made by the paper in which the story appeared, but I bet there would be so many nominations coming in from other papers that it would be very interesting.

N. R. HOWARD: In my opinion, journalism schools have made more progress in the last 20 years than the newspapers have. More than 40 members of this Society have gone out on trips of inspection, which is part of the ACEJ accrediting process, and I have yet to meet any of them who was not pleasantly surprised at the rationalization, the functional good and the idealism with which most of the schools that have been accredited are now being carried on.

★ ★ ★

W. G. VORPE, *Cleveland Plain Dealer:* In the early days of the Society, the baby was rather a sickly brat. It wasn't known whether it would live or die, and I think that the Publishers' Association looked upon this baby more as a poor relation or as a smart aleck, they didn't know which. Well, the baby thrived. Today it is a husky man. It now is in the forefront of the efforts of newspapermen to carry forward not only the freedom of the press but the defense of liberties in this country.

★ ★ ★

KEYES BEECH, *Chicago Daily News:* Three months ago I was writing stories pointing out the advantage of getting out of Korea . . . Today I would not recommend pulling out, but I would like to point out some of the advantages of such a move.

We Americans often express amusement at the face-saving devices practiced by the Orientals, but I think that Americans are very often more concerned with face-saving than they are. If the Chinese communists considered it expedient or a wise move to withdraw from Korea tomorrow, they would do so. They know that sometimes it is better to lose your face than to lose your pants. They are very practical people.



—Washington Pictorial Service

FORTIFYING FOR PANEL DISCUSSION: Allen Merriam, *Dallas Times Herald*, who spoke on circulation problems, and Richard W. Clarke, *New York Daily News*, panel chairman.

Two Charter Members Die on Eve Of Convention; Seven Attend Sessions



SENATOR ARTHUR H. VANDENBERG at the 1944 convention; he last addressed the Society in 1946, as U. S. delegate to the United Nations. With him are Col. Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post, war-time head of the WAC, and J. N. Heiskell, Arkansas Gazette. At a former Senator, Mr. Heiskell had a seat on the floor when General MacArthur addressed Congress.

Two charter members died on the eve of the convention.

Johnstone Vance, New Britain Herald, had telephoned to make banquet reservations the Sunday before the meeting, sounded in fine spirits, succumbed to a heart attack on Wednesday. Mrs. Vance received the tragic news en route home from a vacation in Florida.

Senator Vandenberg had been a member when he was editor of the Grand Rapids Herald, attended many meetings after he became ineligible.

Eleven charter members now are left on the rolls, of whom the following attended the meeting:

Marvin H. Creager, Milwaukee Journal, 1936 president.

Arthur Krock, New York Times, a member of the first Board of Directors, when he was managing editor of the Louisville Times, resigned as ineligible when he turned Washington correspondent, re-elected under the Distinguished Service clause of the constitution.

James L. McGovern, Bridgeport Post-Telegram, who escorted Claire Booth Luce to the banquet



J. VANCE

(nice going for an octogenarian). Hamilton Owens, Baltimore Sun-papers, newly elected second vice president.

Grove Patterson, Toledo Blade, 1934-35 president, who likes to be known as the only c.m. who never—but shucks, everyone must know that by this time.

Charles McD. Puckette, Chattanooga Times, who fell by the wayside (i.e., went over to the business side), was reelected when he became eligible again.

Donald J. Sterling, Oregon Journal, 1939 president.

Still on the rolls but absent: Frank S. Baker, Tacoma News-Tribune.

Paul Patterson, Baltimore Sun-papers.

James M. North, Jr., Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Incidental intelligence: On April 6 Mr. North received the Exchange Club's Golden Deed Award for community service.

Our Lady Members

Dorothy Schiff, New York Post, attended the sessions for the first time since her election four years ago. Of six women members, four were at the meeting: Miss Schiff; Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post; Blanche Hixson Smith, Meriden Record; and Rebecca Gross, Lock Haven Express.

Meet Josh Horne:

One of the five members elected at the fall meeting of the Board, from some 20 applicants in his category, edits a newspaper in a southern city of only 25,000 population, yet is widely known in other parts of the country. He is Josh L. Horne, Rocky Mount (N. C.) Telegram.

Among his admirers is Paul Bellamy, editor of the Cleveland Plain Dealer, who pays this tribute:

"He has a golden personality, fits into any crowd and speedily becomes the center of attraction. He tells stories better than almost anyone I ever heard. He is kind, understanding and tough, too.

"I can testify personally to his rare worth in the Associated Press during his service as director. He always takes a state-wide or national viewpoint against the narrow one of his own bailiwick.

"In addition, he is a good fisherman. Personally, I have never seen a confirmed fisherman who was small-minded and selfish. Have you?"

After graduation from Trinity College (now Duke University), Mr. Horne worked on several dailies, then settled in Rocky Mount in 1911. The office of his Evening and Sunday Telegram is less than 12 miles from the ancestral home where he was born, in 1887, and still lives.

Of this year's candidates, all new members in the small city group were present at the convention.

Harper Book Applauded

"Lincoln and the Press," a book that has won critical acclaim, is by a former ASNE member, Robert S. Harper. Managing editor of the Ohio State Journal, he spent some time as war correspondent in the Far East, then left the paper and settled down to several years' research. The Herald-Tribune commented: "Above all, this study is absorbing as a picture of the mid-nineteenth-century American press in general, its methods and its ethics."



JOSH L. HORNE

Society Welcomes 25 New Members At Cocktail Party

Coleman Harwell, Nashville Tennessean, chairman of the membership committee, announced that 32 members had been elected during the year, four at the Directors' meeting Wednesday evening. These were:

Robert B. Atwood, editor of the Anchorage (Alaska) Times, admitted under the "sparse states" amendment to the by-laws.

Nat S. Finney, editorial editor, Minneapolis Star.

Harold P. McCall, assistant editorial page editor, New Orleans Times-Picayune.

James A. Wechsler, editor, New York Post.

Of the total, 25 attended the convention, and were greeted with more than the usual fanfare.

Names in bold-face on the attendance list, besides the red stars on their badges, a distinguishing feature suggested many years ago by W. S. Gilmore, Detroit News.

They were seated on the platform at the opening meeting, later introduced around by the reception committee. This group, an innovation instigated by Dwight Young, was headed by Michael A. Gorman, Flint Journal. Hospitalized just prior to the convention, he turned the task over to Hugh Kane, Cleveland News, but made a quick recovery from an operation and attended the meeting to do the honors in person.



FRESHMAN COCKTAIL PARTY: A. Vernon Croop, Rochester Times-Union; Ben F. Park, Raleigh Times; C. D. McNamee, Muskegon Chronicle; and Charles A. Gny, Lubbock Avalanche-Journal.

Banquet Innovation Applauded



—Washington Star Photo

SENATOR TAFT in rebuttal; Senator Douglas preparing to rebut.

On Friday the new members attended a cocktail party in President Young's suite, given by the Board of Directors. Credit for that annual affair goes to L. R. Blanchard, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, who as one-time membership chairman, insisted that something should be done to recognize new members officially.

This should end forever the old complaint that ASNE neglects its freshmen.

"Enough of banquet speeches," President Young decided when the program was in the making. "We'll do something different."

"What?" was the question. When the answer came to him—a Taft-Douglas debate on foreign policy, with John S. Knight as moderator—it was the right one.

Attendance (which the Board for years has valiantly attempted to cut down) rose to the highest it's been since tickets for guests were unlimited.

Microphones for floor discussion were among Mr. Young's innovations; expensive, but worthwhile. In the happy confusion, George Healy was mistaken for a Senator, Senator Fulbright was mistaken for an editor, and the Senator from Ohio was referred to as President Taft. Good party.

In brief interludes before and after the debate was on the air:

Tom Wallace as president of the Inter-American Press Association, asked the audience to stand in silent tribute to Dr. Gainza Paz, of La Prensa.

R. J. Churchill, London (Ont.) Free Press, spoke as president of the Canadian Managing Editors Association.

Dr. Alberto Lleras spoke as Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

Mr. Young presented the Clapper award to Paul Martin, Gannett Newspapers.

And turned the gavel over to Alexander F. Jones.

—Washington Pictorial Service

Finances Are Good But Not Glamorous

Treasurer L. R. Blanchard reported:

"Financially, ASNE has had a good but unexciting year. It is solvent, its bills are paid, it is not threatened by bankruptcy actions—all very respectable but not glamorous enough to attract wolf whistles from five percenters or propositions from influence peddlers."

The figures: \$13,433.75 in cash,

U.S. Savings bonds and the Perpetual Building Association of Washington; in addition, \$15,529.96 in a special convention account. The latter represents money that goes out for convention expenses almost as fast as it comes in for registration fees and banquet tickets. By May 1, when the bills are paid, the new treasurer will render the final statement on our standing financially after the big show.

Misfortune

On MacArthur day, W. R. Walton, South Bend Tribune, created a counter-sensation by fainting in the Statler lobby.

Paul Smith, Plainfield Courier-News, suffered a sudden and acute attack of neuritis; arm in a sling gave him a little relief, but by Saturday noon he admitted defeat, returned home.

Report on Article 14

Erwin D. Canham reported little progress by the committee he headed to study the Freedom of Information article (formerly Art. 17, now Art. 14) of the Covenant of Human Rights. Even the further study he recommended might be inconclusive, he said, because the matters at issue are very legalistic and involved.

Taking personal responsibility for the delay in bringing in a culminating report, Mr. Canham said, "The lapse has not led us, I believe, into any great and imminent peril since the likelihood of the completion and ratification of the Covenant of Human Rights by the Senate is still a good, long way ahead and, on the whole, seems to be receding farther and farther into the mist. So our liberties have not been jeopardized by what has happened."

Election Tellers

Harold Fitzgerald, Pontiac Press, chairman.

Don Shoemaker, Asheville Citizen.

James A. Stuart, Indianapolis Star.

James A. Meckstroth, Ohio State Journal.

J. F. Fitzpatrick, Salt Lake Tribune-Telegram.

Members at convention: 373.
Members voting: 274.

Retirement

For a member making his valedictory appearance, Ben H. Reese looked singularly chipper. His retirement after 38 years with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch was announced April 5. As managing editor for the last 13 years of his distinguished career, Joseph Pulitzer said at the time, he had been directly responsible for handling a volume of news of historic importance such as the world never has seen in a comparable period.

Mr. and Mrs. Reese will live in Spring Lake, on the Jersey shore, where they have leased a house owned by David Lawrence, U.S. News & World Report.



MARGUERITE HIGGINS, Korean correspondent New York Herald Tribune, spoke briefly at Friday luncheon. Miss Higgins is the first woman, other than members, to address an ASNE convention since 1937.

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

PRESIDENT	
ALEXANDER F. JONES	Syracuse Herald-Journal
1st VICE-PRESIDENT	
WRIGHT BRYAN	Atlanta Journal
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The Board of Directors consists of the officers and the following:

STANLEY P. BARNETT	Cleveland Plain Dealer
ERWIN D. CANHAM	Christian Science Monitor
VIRGINIUS DABNEY	Richmond Times-Dispatch
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GIDEON SEYMOUR	Minneapolis Star & Tribune
DWIGHT YOUNG	Dayton Journal Herald

FREDRIC G. PITTS, Editor of The Bulletin, ALICE FOX PITTS, Assistant Secretary and Editor of The Proceedings. Address: Box 1053, Wilmington 99, Del. Telephone and telephone address: Wilmington 3-7380.

No. 331 May 1, 1951

Accurate news is not merely a prime necessity in a representative democracy; it is the prime necessity. Nothing takes precedence over it.—GERALD W. JOHNSON, September, 1950, Atlantic.

Patterned After ASNE

The Pennsylvania Society of Newspaper Editors, now in its second year, has a membership well over a hundred. An outgrowth of the old Editorial Affairs Committee of the state publishers' association, its pattern of procedure follows that of ASNE. Joseph Agor, secretary-treasurer, reports, and the majority of its nine directors are members of this Society.

Thirty-Nine Word Committee

Last year's "Committee to examine the desirability of sponsoring an appraisal of self-improvement possibilities of American newspapers," presented headline-problems, but it was not the longest-titled committee on record. It was exceeded, by 24 words, by a 1938 "Committee to call on Will Hays to take up the question of encouraging the film industry to present American newspapers and the rank and file of their employees in a light more in accordance with existing standards and practices."

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 332

June 1, 1951

Membership Eligibility

Dabney Reports on Proposal to Amend Constitution

- By VIRGINIUS DABNEY, Editor Richmond Times-Dispatch

Should the number of members eligible for ASNE from a given newspaper be determined by the population of the city where the paper is published, as has always been the case heretofore, or should the Society's constitution be amended to make circulation the determining factor?

As chairman of a committee appointed at the October, 1950, meeting of the directors to study this problem, I present herewith some of the salient facts, so that the membership can study the proposal.

The issue was brought sharply to the board's attention early in 1950 when Jonathan Daniels pointed out that although his paper, the Raleigh News and Observer, is published in a city with fewer than 75,000 population, and hence is entitled to only one member of ASNE, the circulation is well over 100,000. He argued that this made little sense and that circulation seemed to him to be a much better criterion of a newspaper's strength than the size of the city in which the paper appears. The force of this argument was considerable, and quite a discussion was precipitated in the board.

Then, at the October meeting, it became necessary to turn down several well-qualified applicants from cities of less than 50,000 population (such memberships being limited under the constitution). All this led to the adoption of a resolution directing President Young to appoint a committee "to study whether there should be changes in the rules governing the admission of editors of papers in cities of less than 50,000 population," and to "report on whether the number of members admitted annually from such cities should be increased, and whether all types of memberships should be

based on the circulation of papers rather than the population of cities."

During last January and February, the members of the committee corresponded concerning this matter and various proposals were made. The one which met with the most favor was brought forward by Jenkin Lloyd Jones of the Tulsa Tribune. In substance, his suggestion, which calls for a general overhauling of Article II, Section 2, of the constitution and an amendment to Article II, Section 13, is as follows:

Membership in ASNE should be determined on the basis of circulation of a paper rather than upon population of the city in which it appears.

Papers with over 100,000 circulation would be entitled to three qualified members (instead of the four which now go to papers in cities with over 100,000 population).

Papers with circulations between 50,000 and 100,000 would be entitled to two members (as compared with the two which today are allotted to papers in cities with 75,000 to 100,000 population).

Papers with less than 50,000 circulation would be allowed one member (whereas today papers in cities under 75,000 population are entitled to one).

It would be provided, furthermore, that as many as seven members could be chosen annually from the group with less than 25,000 circulation (as contrasted with the maximum of five which now can be elected from the under-50,000 population group). The "Sparse States" amendment, adopted in 1949, would be eliminated.

The plan would carry the proviso that if any paper fell from one circulation group to another, it would be given five years in which to scramble back. If, at the end of that time, it was still in the lower

INVITATION

When the Board urges members to comment in advance on proposed amendments, what usually happens is this:

Two or three editors comply. Months later, at the convention, the membership pitches zestfully, but without due forethought, into the question.

After action is taken, the dissenting minority complains there was not time for full discussion.

But there is plenty of time to debate the membership eligibility question. Article 2 of the constitution appears on page 321 of your 1950 Proceedings. Look it up, think it over, and—your comments, please!

category, it would have to reduce its membership in ASNE.

Of course, none of these provisions would be retroactive, but if they were adopted, newspapers which had too many members under the new plan would not fill vacancies when they occurred through death or resignation.

No formal action was taken on the foregoing at the April board meeting but the directors evinced interest in it. It seemed to be their view, in general, that membership based on circulation makes more sense than membership based on population. They realized that the proposed change would be a rather fundamental one, and that the membership should have every opportunity to analyze it. They themselves desired further information before approving any amendment to be submitted to vote of the membership.

For example, there has not been sufficient time to determine, through a careful study of urban population and newspaper circulation, what the overall effect of the proposed change would probably be upon the Society's total membership.

Hamilton Owens, a member of the committee, expressed vigorous opposition to the plan. He felt that circulation was not so good a criterion as population, that "there

are tricks in the circulation manager's trade just as there are in that of the town booster," and that "an excellent newspaper in a big city may have only a relatively small circulation, as witness the Wall Street Journal." He also pointed out that "geographical facts" might impose limits on circulation growth.

Another argument made by Mr. Owens was that there is a probability that ASNE will become so large as to be unwieldy, with all that implies in the way of difficulties at the annual meetings, and that the proposed basis for membership would almost certainly increase the number of eligible editors.

At the April meeting certain other aspects of the membership problem came up for discussion. It was felt that the phraseology of some of the constitutional sections affecting membership could be improved, whether or not the Jones proposal is adopted. Attention also was directed to uncertainties surrounding the eligibility provisions, as contained in Article II, Section 1. A specific question raised was as to "associate editors," who are not mentioned in that section. Some of them were deemed by a number of board members to be qualified.

This whole problem is scheduled for thorough discussion at the board meeting next fall, and it is thought probable that it can be disposed of one way or the other at the annual meeting of the Society in 1952.

No Syndicated Columns...And Why

Sevellon Brown, Providence Journal and Bulletin provides a follow-up on one convention panel. Answering a reader's letter, which protested the newspapers' anti-column policy, a Journal editorial said:

"Our chief quarrel with the nationally syndicated news columnists is that most of them—because they practice in a fiercely competitive field and are striving for fabulous incomes from fabulous circulations—are too concerned with posturing for attention value, appeal far more to the emotions than to the mind, and offer less common sense than verbal fireworks."

Admitting there are different breeds of columnists, the editorial continues, "Each Sunday we publish, not as news but as an editorial feature, excerpts from columns of the reflective sort, to-



NEW DIRECTORS: Stanley P. Barnett, Cleveland Plain Dealer, and Basil L. Walters, Knight Newspapers, later elected treasurer.

Editorials Uphold ASNE Fight for Access to News

"Suppression of news has a dangerous sound. The American Society of Newspaper Editors represents a cool and intelligent body. When an intelligent organization cites a dangerous trend, all thinking newsmen should listen . . .

"It may be of little importance, at the time, to accept an official refusal of information to which you—as a local editor—are entitled. But every acceptance is a contribution to the state of mind among officials which ends up with damaging multiplication in later

stages." — Publishers' Auxiliary, Western Newspaper Union.

"Editors from all parts of the nation have given their support to The Knickerbocker News in the efforts of this newspaper to require the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Treasury Department to make public the names of saloon keepers fined for watering their liquor. . . . They (Freedom of Information Committee) called it 'official blackmail' when officials say to malefactors, 'Pay your compromise and we shall conceal your guilt.'

"The public knows it has a RIGHT to know the names of law breakers.

"This newspaper will continue its efforts to insure to the public preservation of that right."—Albany Knickerbocker News.

INTERLOPER

Early Thursday morning a man approached the registration desk, introduced himself as Mr. X, a friend of Member Y, who had been taken ill and had instructed him to use his tickets.

On explanation of our rule against substitutions, Mr. X grew indignant. He was a newspaperman himself, president of his state press association, and his dear friend Member Y was going to be very annoyed if his request wasn't honored.

In response to a polite request for identification he muttered and disappeared in the crowd.

Later, same day, Member Y appeared to pick up his tickets; it was news to him that he wasn't coming!

SOME NEWS BANS REMOVED 6-1-51

Vigorous Protests Bring Prompt Remedial Action at Dayton And Fort Worth But Providence Mayor Remains Stubbornly Adamant

In the May Bulletin, James S. Pope, chairman of the Society's committee on Freedom of Information, appealed to members of the Society to report every instance involving an effort to conceal news which should be public property.

One week later, on May 9, John Moore, Jr., managing editor of the Dayton Journal Herald, telephoned the ASNE chairman, told how civilian guards from Wright-Patterson Air Force base had prevented a reporter and photographer from approaching close to a fatal air crash for nearly an hour, used abusive language, and in one instance grabbed a photographer by the arm.

Together Moore and Pope mapped a campaign of action so effective that, by May 18, The Journal Herald could quote Lt. Gen. B. W. Chidlaw, commanding general of Air Materiel Command, WPAFB: "Although investigation has not been completed, I am taking immediate action to prevent the recurrence of such restraint on members of the press."

The General told Mr. Moore he had taken three steps toward better cooperation: 1) Instruction to chief of civilian police that such interference should not occur in the future; 2) maintenance of a continuing program of education of civilian guards; 3) quick clearance by proper authorities, of photographs in which a question of security might be raised.

Comments Mr. Moore: "I think the coordination of our protest with Mr. Pope and the ASNE committee he represents was important in raising this from a local to a somewhat national issue. (Details were carried by the wire services and E&P.) His report before the ASNE convention had its impact in our thinking when we were faced by an abuse of power by civilian guards of the air base."

For the first time a high military officer had acknowledged what the ASNE committee has been telling the Pentagon: that there is no legal authority whatever for its system of taking over control of civilian property simply because a military plane has crashed.

Censorship next hit at Fort Worth, Texas on May 12, when reporters from the Fort Worth Press were turned back from the gate of

the giant Carswell Air Force base on the outskirts of that city. Editor Walter R. Humphrey promptly went into action, with vigorous protests and wide distribution of the news of the unwarranted Air Force procedure, and the Carswell ban was ended five days later.

"When military commanders on the home front attempt to impose their will on media of public information, freedom of expression is imperilled," commented Mr. Humphrey. "If they should succeed in doing that, no matter how patriotic their motives, then freedom is lost. Surely, they must realize that the people of America cannot afford that."

The ASNE committee pointed out that the ban placed upon the Fort Worth Press seemed to be a punishment for the paper's coverage of an airplane crash and said that the Society would never accept the principle that any branch or department of our government has the right to regulate in any way the conduct of newspapers. It argued that any ban against access to news by any medium is not just a blow to a single institution or the individuals who run it but a restriction of a basic right of the people who depend on that medium for news.

But all news bans are not by the Air Force and, unfortunately, all are not quickly resolved. The ASNE committee, for instance, took cognizance when the Providence Journal and The Evening Bulletin were denied access to one of the most public of all records, that covering parking violations. In reply to a protest against such unusual action, the Mayor of Providence wrote that it is petty and pointless "to pillory citizens in the press for such a minor matter as having parked overtime unless publication of their names is necessary to enforcement of the law."

To which the Society, through its committee chairman, replied: "We contend that you are pillorying the public's right to full information about its government when you undertake to decide what is best for the public to know. You are using in the case of parking violations the same philosophy and the same technique that are used the world over to conceal information which public officials do not

want to make public. They start with little suppressions, and when they get to the big ones, they become dictators."

Whether your home town attempt to prevent access to news is by a Mayor, a General or even a school board, the committee on Freedom of Information wants all the facts.

'It's Your Fight, Too,' Editor Tells Readers

Of the editorials written on the Freedom of Information report at the convention, one by Dow Richardson in The Kokomo Tribune is outstanding in that it explains lucidly why the newspapers' fight is for the citizens' protection.

"One of the precious freedoms that Americans have is the right to know what is going on in their communities and how their government is being run," it begins. "Our people enjoy this right through a free press. But, strangely enough in a country where freedom is the common heritage, that press has to be constantly alert to prevent violation of the people's rights."

Mr. Richardson makes it plain that editors recognize the necessity of some military secrecy (the fallacy that they don't crops up often in letters to the editor). But, he says, "Letting out news that would aid a national enemy is one thing, but withholding news of the public's own business is quite another," and "It is up to the press to fight for the right to report the people's news to the people."

Editors are so aware of the newspapers' virtuous intent that often they seem puzzled, even hurt, when the public suspects selfish motives. More, simply worded, explanatory editorials like Mr. Richardson's might help put the public in the editors' corner.

Four Resignations

C. C. Hemenway, retiring as editor of the Hartford Times.

Clayton Fritchey, formerly New Orleans Item, now Chief of Information, Department of Defense.

Prevost Coulter, left Duluth Herald and News-Tribune to manage a radio station.

Mrs. Peter Miller, resigned as editor of the Washington Times-Herald.

Reflections of a Program Chairman

• By STANLEY P. BARNETT
Managing Editor
Cleveland Plain Dealer

When I reflect on our annual meeting, immediately comes to mind this overpowering thought: Never schedule a convention when a great national hero is coming to town. For excited interest, "yes," but for peace of mind for the program makers, a resounding "no."

General MacArthur in Washington threw our schedule off balance and once a program falls behind, it is difficult to catch up. One thing, though, the General did for us was to cause a record to be set; the Thursday afternoon panels, scheduled as they were for the "waiting" session, drew the largest attendance in the history of ASNE business sessions.

Whatever success the program achieved was due in part to the early start and to the constant, helpful guidance of President Young. Program making was virtually a ten-month job, and all members of an unusually active committee had a hand in shaping the agenda.

It probably would be better not to schedule two panels for one session and, generally speaking, one

top-flight address is sufficient for a luncheon meeting. It was unfortunate that the radio-television panel, which had much excellent material, had to buck a late hour Friday afternoon.

I believe all were pleased with the public address system this year, and I would urge even more floor "mikes" at the next convention, as we found they helped much in promoting discussion. Any move for more comfortable chairs at another convention would meet with hearty cheers. Efforts were made this year to condense routine reports and, I believe, they were effective. Even more brevity might be one of next year's goals.

There have been some suggestions for a program which would break up sessions into sections where specific problems affecting groups of newspapers would be discussed. It would make for more representation on the program from a larger cross-section of the membership. This might be seriously considered by the next program chairman.

The Saturday night program, President Young's own, made a big hit and a similar show should be arranged for next year.

... and of Some of Our Members

Robert N. Caldwell, Bayonne Times, left the convention with three high enthusiasms: Gen. Marshall, Gen. Bradley and Mrs. Rosenberg. "They were rewarding to hear," he says. "They had a seriousness of purpose, combined with a sense of humor that made them easy listening, and that I thought offered solid information and a lesson to all of us."

As for the other general: "I thought the thing most to be admired about MacArthur was the splendid aplomb he showed in letting the editors of the United States stew while he took a quiet nap. Showed a fine contempt for the men who think they shape the nation's thinking."

His chief criticism: "The red-haired editor who makes a hobby of making fun of government informational pamphlets. The truth, I think, is that these pamphlets make a lot of sense to the people they're prepared for. I know I've used a lot of them and

found them extremely helpful; and if the government doesn't gather such material and print it, no one will. I think it ought to be used."

Mistaken Identity

It was a good party. But Senator Fulbright wasn't mistaken for an editor, and Senator Taft wasn't addressed as President Taft.* The voice on the microphone at that particular point in the confusion belonged to me, and I made the mistake of attempting a gag. Mr. Taft had inadvertently referred to a couple of previous questioners as "senator" so when Jack Knight asked for an identification I said that the senator from Arkansas would like to direct a question to the editor from Ohio. A poor thing, certainly, and it deserved its fate.

But what really concerned me was Knight's query when I began to talk. Blinking into the lights, he asked, "Is that George Healy

again?" At recent ASNE conventions my expanding girth has caused several near-sighted brethren to mistake me for Ralph McGill when approaching from the rear. If, as this latest incident seems to indicate, I have begun to look like McGill and sound like Healy there is nothing left but suicide.

HARRY S. ASHMORE
Arkansas Gazette

*As reported in May Bulletin. Stenotypist's transcript corrected for Proceedings.

Plea for the Wives

It seems to me that some plan might be worked out to bring members' wives together so that they might have company for their shopping, sight-seeing, etc.

I have thought all along that the convention programs are pitched too much on the metropolitan level and that the non-metropolitan members, who must predominate, do not get as much benefit out of them as they might. In this same connection, it also seems, from an editorial writer's angle, that quite a few of the topics and discussions would fit in more acceptably at a publishers' meeting.

I have wondered why, especially as our membership keeps growing, we do not have some smaller group sessions at which those with similar problems might get together. I feel sure there would be much wider participation in the discussions than there is in the full sessions.

H. W. KENDALL, Editor
Greensboro News

A new member, Elrick B. Davis, The Deseret News, sums up the convention: "Busy and useful; a noble shindig."

Charles McD. Puckette, The Chattanooga Times: "I felt a lot better at knowing that Marshall, Bradley and Mrs. Rosenberg are in charge of defense instead of some newspaper columnists I could name."

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 333

July 1, 1951

Can't Editors Take It?

Carl E. Lindstrom Believes That We Listen To Our Critics Only Peevishly or Not At All

• By CARL E. LINDSTROM
Managing Editor
The Hartford Times

Is there any better place than ASNE to raise the question whether the editors of U. S. can take it?

The year the Hutchins Commission Report was detonated upon an unsuspecting



CARL E. LINDSTROM

newspaper world, I wrote a piece about the Report itself and subsequently a review of Professor William Ernest Hocking's Freedom of the Press which was one of the six other reports to grow out of that study. I wish those comments had never been written. While it seemed that loyalty required the breaking of a lance in behalf of a profession in which one has spent some 35 years, the blow was unreasoned and reflexive.

Was that characteristic of a newspaperman's reaction to criticism? Probably not, but it seems to me that while we expect everybody else—in government, business, entertainment and human affairs generally—to know how to take it, that we listen to our critics only peevishly or not at all.

Most of our critics up to now have been professors, students, philosophers and historians—men and women who read a great deal besides newspapers and whose observation is broader than that of most people.

What about those people whose reading is limited to newspapers alone? What do they think of us? They seldom express themselves. Not in writing, that is, but I won-

der if they haven't developed a state of mind which has given men in high government places, the movie industry and other manipulators of mass reaction a resonant sounding board for what we regard as their libels upon the newspaper profession.

It isn't to be expected that a

DISTORTED VIEW OF THE PRESS

Southern Editor Finds School Children With Biased Ideas About Newspapers; Seeks Out the Cause, and Suggests a Solution

By WAYNE FREEMAN, Editor
The Greenville Piedmont

If the nation's editors are wondering whence comes much of the anti-free press propaganda about suppression and slanting of the news, they might check the social studies classrooms of their own public schools and colleges.

What they find there, in many instances, indicates a deadly trend, a trend that is doing much to undermine their best efforts, but which can be changed if they and their publishers are willing to make the effort.

A few weeks ago, I received a committee of three from the social studies class of a junior high school, lads about 14 or 15. I knew only that they wanted to ask some questions about how a daily newspaper operates and was completely unprepared for the grilling I got.

Without any preliminary pleasantries, they began to ask me such questions as:

How do you go about deciding what kind of news to suppress?

What kind of news items do your advertisers make you keep out of the paper?

Which stories are slanted?

I decided to be as frank with these young gentlemen as they had been in asking their questions. In language I thought they would

bunch of newspaper editors in convention assembled are going to start picking each other's papers apart. But are not the faults of which we have been accused—uniformity, bias, inadequate reporting, preoccupation with entertainment rather than reporting and ever so many other charges—sufficiently universal in their superficial aspects to warrant outspoken, honest examination? What has our performance been? Instead of deftly catching them and throwing them back, can't we afford to look and see just what kind of rocks are being thrown at us?

understand, I attempted to show them some of the factors that actually do sway editorial judgment in the selection of the stories in the daily news budget to be used, played up, or left out. I tried to explain that the advertiser who sits at the right hand of the editor and tells him what to print and what not to print hardly exists now, if he ever did, and I told them that all that most editors know about advertisers is what they see in the paper—in the form of paid advertising.

Then, I asked some questions. Since one of the boys was a son of a minister who writes a weekly column for my paper, I held him back and inquired as to the source of the questions he and his fellows had fired at me. The reply was: "From our teacher and our textbook. It (the textbook) criticizes everything."

I obtained a copy of the textbook, "Calling All Citizens," by Robert Rienow, assistant professor of Social Studies, New York State College for Teachers and Milne High School, Albany.

I examined Prof. Rienow's chapter 13 on "We, the People, Look and Listen."

I found that the professor, who obviously was not a newspaperman, was kinder to the press, gen-

erally, than are some of our own who have written erudite exposes of the weaknesses and shortcomings of American newspapers. He cited all of the faults that we know exist among a small minority of newspapers, but he did make it plain that there are some exceptions. Where he did us wrong was in failing to emphasize that the sinners comprise only the minute minority.

For instance, he says, in referring to "journals" that try to emphasize the important over the sensational and try to separate fact from opinion, that: "There are many such honorable papers—and some not so trustworthy."

He says that "The editor, in deciding what goes in and what stays out, is pushed first one way and then the other by four mighty hands."

These sinister forces which push the editor around are his publisher, the advertisers, the readers (of all things) and the politicians.

I can agree that all of these are factors — if only the professor would put them into perspective and make it plain that the majority of our newspapers deserve a clean bill of health. His effect on

the young mind is to leave the impression that all is wrong and that the honorable and truthful newspaper is the exception.

However, Prof. Rienow does not deserve all of the blame for the questions put to me. I had to conclude that the teacher was more to blame—and I have yet to get a line on her.

It is time that the editors of America's newspapers set about retrieving and preserving the respect they must have from their readers if they are to do their job.

They can do it by countering the propaganda being spread in the classroom (the best place to start) and in the political arena. They can persuade the Prof. Rienows either to let them help write the textbooks, as they relate to themselves, or they can help the authors to get the truth.

They can make themselves available for interviews like the one I ran into, and they can make more talks in the schools. They can take their readers into their confidence; take them, figuratively, into "the slot" and show them how decisions about the play of news are made.

I have tried this on a small scale, and it works.

Okay, Mr. Caldwell How About 'Sex Life of Raccoons'?



V. M. NEWTON, JR. ROBERT N. CALDWELL

I note in the June issue of The Bulletin the criticism directed by Robert N. Caldwell, of the Bayonne Times, at "the red-haired editor who makes a hobby of making fun of government informational pamphlets."

I can only refer Mr. Caldwell to Charles Stevenson's article, "How Government Pressure Boys Squander Your Money," on page 29 in the June 9 issue of Saturday Evening Post. If Mr. Caldwell thinks my blasts at the so-called "government handouts" are a "hobby," then he's way off base. Rather, they are indignant protests against the government's attempts to control public thought. One of these days the people of this country are going to awaken to the damage that many of our government bureaucrats have done to the minds of our younger generation through their vicious propaganda issued to the press, and used in too many cases under the guise of legitimate news, that damage being the implanting of the philosophy of "something for nothing" in the thinking of our future citizens.

Thomas Jefferson once advised our new republic that "government governs best that governs least." But, to use the words of Charles F. Kettering, "One of those things we have to be thankful for is that we don't get as much government as we pay for."

One of the latest government informational pamphlets is entitled "The Sex Life of Raccoons." My God, suppose we did get as much government as we pay for today! Just how far would our bureaucrats go?

V. M. NEWTON, JR.
Tampa Morning Tribune

Freedom of Information — A Progress Report

At the April convention, the Freedom of Information committee reported "some losses, some gains." Since then the record shows some major gains.

In Washington, the District Commissioners have held their first open meeting, although not required to do so by law. With the backing of the committee, the battle was fought brilliantly by J. Russell Wiggins, managing editor of the Washington Post, who submitted an eloquent brief on the fundamental necessity for open legislative sessions in a democracy.

For a long time Oxie Reichler, editor of the Yonkers Herald Statesman, had been fighting single-handed for the release of names of applicants for marriage licenses, was able to obtain only a third of the total. Now he's printing them all, and chalks up success to the committee's blast.

With that taken care of, Mr. Reichler now is backing, editorially, the State Society of Editors' campaign to require the legislature to file a typewritten copy of its proceedings in the Capitol. At present, the official stenographer takes notes in shorthand, doesn't transcribe them!

Missouri is even worse. According to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the State Senate "will not even allow the public to take notes on public legislative and committee debates." Some senators explain that they're afraid people may take notes so they can "put the heat" on the Senators later, but another observed that it's a "hell of a democracy" to be running a Senate chamber with such gags on the rights of the people.

The Department of Defense on June 7 issued a release on "Increase of published data on procurements and contract awards ordered by Munitions Board." (Previously the cost of duck—material, not fowl—in a defense order had been classified.) On that one Mr. Pope had the assistance of Clayton Fritchey, director of the Office of Public Information of the Department.

Perhaps most important of all, at least to the taxpayers' pocketbook, on June 2 the Federal Bureau of Employment Security, released figures on fraud in obtaining State jobless-insurance funds, previously held in separate State offices. The Associated Press story attributed opening of this particu-

lar channel of information largely to the efforts of the ASNE committee.

Last month, The Bulletin reported John Moore's difficulty at Wright-Patterson field, and General Chidlaw's acknowledgment that the military has no power

over the press. Since then, another crash, and the military helped the Dayton Journal Herald to cover it!

Victories won in one place provide precedents that are helpful elsewhere. The committee's files, experience and support are available to every member.

PRESIDENT PROPOSES AN ENLARGED AND SMARTLY EDITED PUBLICATION

By Alexander F. Jones

President, American Society of Newspaper Editors

In common with many members, I have long felt that our Bulletin ought to be something more than a routine little house organ.

We all get a terrific lift from our annual meetings and return to our desks stimulated and determined to do a better job.

Except for the monthly Bulletin, most of us have little further contact until the next meeting.

I believe a smartly edited and enlarged Bulletin, containing articles written by members on subjects of mutual interest would do much to bring us closer together and to bridge the void that now exists.

There is so much writing talent and such a wealth of ideas in our society that it would be our own fault if we did not produce a highly stimulating little publication.

I have taken this proposal up with the Board of Directors and all members have answered and approved the idea in principle.

The almost unanimous sentiment is that a committee of advisors superintend such an undertaking. This committee would solicit material and be responsible for it generally.

All are naturally interested in costs and formats.

It is my thought that, if properly done, the new Bulletin would be worth a real investment. And a real spirit of rivalry would be generated to gain admission to its columns. Only the best contributions would be published.

Naturally the change in the Bulletin would be a gradual procedure. We cannot spring full bloom into a publication that would rival the Nieman Reports over night. But, frankly, some such organ should be the goal.

I am prepared to name the committee to edit a new Bulletin and Freddie and Alice Pitts are busy checking costs and methods of publication.

No action will be taken until every angle in this proposal has been explored.

But I know of no major society that does not have a better organization publication than does ASNE. It is true that most of them have a paid secretariat on a much more pretentious scale than we, but in Mr. and Mrs. Pitts we have two able and loyal workers and, with the help of a strong committee, we can surmount this handicap.

I would appreciate comment from the membership.

Protest Against Schoolbook Text Brings A Promise of Modification

W. G. Chandler, of Scripps-Howard Newspapers, took the direct action that Mr. Freeman urges when, last winter, he came upon the "How to Study Handbook" by Robert W. Frederick, used in the eighth grade of a New York state school.

He wrote the superintendent of schools that instructions and suggestions in the chapter "How to Read Newspapers" are useful but that "the author gives student readers an inaccurate and prejudiced description of most newspapers. While he qualifies his statements with 'sometimes' and 'may be' the general effect is the charge of editorial dishonesty and of ulterior motive."

After a staff conference, the superintendent replied that while he believes the text performs a service in making people more discerning about newspapers, "most readers would get the impression that most newspapers are editorially dishonest which is certainly unfair to today's press. . . . Our deans will overcome this impression in their class presentation of this matter."

Mr. Chandler sent the correspon-

dence to Dwight Young, Dayton Journal Herald, who, as ASNE president, wrote the publishers, Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. In many respects, he said, the text appealed to him as excellent, but he objected vigorously to material under the sub-headings, "Understand the general bias of the paper" and "Be on your guard, headlines do not always carry the most important news."

Carl Van Ness, editor of the educational book department, replied that as an old newspaperman himself he was inclined to agree that Mr. Frederick had dealt "rather too harshly with newspapers" in the particular section under scrutiny.

Promising modification in any future printing, he added, "As a matter of fact, the text has been on the market for the last 13 years and this is the first time we have had a criticism concerning it."

Mr. Chandler's humble comment: "I am not proud of the fact that I have not made a practice of checking instruction material used for my children and grandchildren."

The Eligibility Problem

A past president, three membership chairmen of recent years, and a newer member of the Society here comment on the proposed changes in the membership clause of the Constitution outlined last month by Virginius Dabney, chairman of a committee studying the subject.

Jones Plan Okayed Inequities Noted

As one who has been concerned lest ASNE become unwieldy, I like Jenk Jones' proposal for basing memberships on circulation rather than on population. Circulation is



L. R. BLANCHARD

the natural measurement of a newspaper's acceptance and importance in a community. Also it is a figure which is definite and reliable, while population is subject to juggling. Many cities are compelled to report a low census figure because the suburbs, while snuggled up to the city line, insist upon being individual towns and villages. Trading areas, of course, are about what a publisher wishes to make them. They are far too elastic for sound population counts.

We have something like 90 cities with more than 100,000 population but we have at least 117 newspapers with more than 100,000 circulation. Not all of them take advantage of their membership rights but Jenk doubtless is correct in suggesting that the bigger papers be allowed only three members instead of the four permitted under the old rules. I imagine, careful workman that he is, he has studied the possible memberships in his new classifications. And that he is prepared to rule out Sundays and trick combinations which can be employed to boost a circulation total most amazingly.

Probably not everyone will be happy. I already hear wails from Bridgeport, Conn., and Richmond, Va., where circulations now top 99,000, almost over the magic line which would permit them a third membership.

L. R. BLANCHARD
Rochester Democrat and Chronicle
(Membership chairman 1948-49)

Virginius Dabney's discussion of the latest proposal for a change in the basis of ASNE membership indicates that it was inspired by—

1) The necessity of turning down, under the present system, well-



WILLIAM H. HEATH

qualified applicants from cities of less than 30,000 population, and

2) Jonathan Daniels' argument that circulation is a fairer basis than population. As a means of opening ASNE membership to the editors of more small papers, the proposed change in the basis of membership does not seem necessary. The present basis provides that as many as five members may be elected each year from cities of less than 50,000 population. The proposed basis provides that as many as seven members may be elected each year from papers with less than 25,000 circulation. Since a large majority of the daily newspapers are published in cities of less than 50,000 population and have circulations of less than 25,000, it appears that the end of wider representation can be gained merely by increasing from five to seven the number chosen annually from the under-50,000 population group.

The directors evidently recognized that granting more opportunity for ASNE membership by editors of small papers would increase the danger of an awkwardly large membership, for they undertook to offset the larger opportunity for editors of small papers by reducing the opportunity for membership for editors of large newspapers. This, I think, is another end that could be gained without a change in basis of membership. The case for a change in the

basis of membership seems stronger when Mr. Daniels' argument is examined. I recognize with Hamilton Owens that there are tricks in the circulation trade, but I think there would be fewer inequities in the selection of members on a circulation basis than there are on the population basis. The Wall Street Journal, which Mr. Owens cited as a paper of relatively small circulation in a large city, is large enough to be unaffected by the proposed change. Furthermore, it is a paper of national reputation. More pertinent than citing The Wall Street Journal, it seems to me, is a glance at the some 30-odd cities of more than 100,000 population in which are published newspapers whose circulations ranged from 90,000-plus down to 16,000. Under the present membership system, each of these papers is entitled to four members. As Mr. Daniels says, it makes little sense.

WILLIAM H. HEATH
Haverhill Gazette

No Need For Change

Anent Virginius Dabney's article in the June Bulletin on membership eligibility, I see nothing to be gained by the proposed changes.

The crux of the problem is whether or not the ASNE wants more members among editors of small papers. The larger papers are pretty well taken care of now and would be under the proposed changes.



A. M. PIFER

But the election of seven members a year from papers with less than 25,000 circulation would be less liberal than the present restriction to five members a year from cities under 50,000, plus the members that may be elected under the "sparse states" amendment which I sponsored the year I was chairman of the membership committee.

I think the present limitations are sufficient and do not favor changing them.

Each state ought to have a couple of members, no matter how small the population of the cities, assuming, of course, that there are

two editors in the state worthy of membership.

I think, however, that it would be well not to let the total membership of the Society go much above 500, but under the present rules I do not think a limit is necessary.

A. M. PIFER
Council Bluffs Nonpareil
(Membership chairman, 1947-48)

Original Limits

Jenkin Lloyd Jones is right in his belief that membership in ASNE should be "spread as widely as possible among the vigorous dailies." It is important that not



MARVIN H. CREAGER

only good newspapermen, but good newspapers, be on our roster. That principle was fully recognized in the Society's formative days. That was one reason for the constitutional requirements for limitations on membership. We wanted the big name newspapers in and some of them were, we thought, unbecomingly coy. Happily they are over that now.

Some members feel that the Society is about as large now as it should be if the original idea of personal contact — knee to knee stuff—is to be followed. But certainly none believes that all of the desirable newspapers are represented in it. If it is necessary further to limit the number of memberships from any one paper in order to make room for deserving papers I see no objection to doing so. A maximum of three is sufficient for any paper. Maybe two would do instead of the present quota of four.

Mr. Jones' argument that membership be based on circulation instead of population does not seem important to me, one way or the other. I do hope, however, that election to ASNE shall never become automatic. Our directors should continue to screen carefully both paper and candidate. Statistical eligibility should never be the final test.

MARVIN H. CREAGER
Milwaukee Journal
(ASNE President 1936-37)

All Annual Quantitative Restrictions On Society Membership Called Unwise

A friend of mine was made chairman of the rushing committee for his law fraternity 25 years ago. He said he would take the job if the brothers would permit him to make a test of the fraternity system. Not knowing what he was talking about, they agreed.

He stood on the walk leading to the law building and carefully counted out every tenth man. He asked if the young man was a beginning law student. If the answer was yes, he was offered a pledge pin. "Best pledge class we ever had," my friend reported.



EDWARD LINDSAY

It may be that ASNE is over-emphasizing the importance of membership restrictions. At present, membership is restricted by the "population" of cities of publication. Actually, this has been read by most boards as the A.B.C. city population.

Now the proposal is made that restrictions be made by circulations, meaning total circulations. My observation as membership chairman for one year is that restrictions do not necessarily limit the membership of the Society. They merely keep applicant editors from small cities properly humble by delaying action on their applications for from one to several years.

This isn't quite true. The by-laws, with or without the proposed amendments, limit memberships for individual newspapers to from one to four (three in the case of the Jones amendment). The members-per-paper restrictions do tend to hold down the total.

Older members of the Society have nostalgic memories of the good old days when meetings were small and intimate. It was possible to depart from the set program for live discussions, whether they were pertinent or not.

It is true, of course, that a small, informal meeting has much to recommend it. Nevertheless, I submit that after the rules drawn up in

the halcyon days have resulted in a membership of 500, nothing short of mass murder can return the Society to intimacy.

That being true, there are certain natural limitations upon attendance at annual meetings that can be relied upon. These are the availability of hotel rooms and the number of banquet chairs that can be crowded into any existing hall.

The latter is the only one with which the Society staff needs to be too much concerned. It would not be impossible—however much the brothers might wail—to restrict banquet tickets to members and wives. The children could be sent to movies and guests could be entertained on another evening.

There is a problem for the Society in keeping the membership within manageable bounds for the purpose of attendance at the annual conventions, but I think even this can be over-emphasized. The Associated Press has 2,771 newspaper and radio members. The ANPA has 775, with no restrictions on the number of representatives from a member paper who may attend meetings. Both of these more ponderous organizations have annual conventions and manage somehow to live through them.

The ASNE, by its constitution, exists "to promote acquaintance among its members, to develop a stronger professional esprit de corps, to maintain the dignity and rights of the profession, to consider and perhaps establish standards of professional conduct, to interchange ideas for the advancement of professional ideals and for the more effective application of professional labors and to work collectively for the solution of common problems."

Can these benefits, in conscience, be denied to any "persons of suitable qualifications who are directing editors, that is to say, editors in chief, editorial editors, and managing editors having immediate charge of editorial or news policies of daily newspapers . . . ?"

It may be in the interest of a better press to extend the benefits that the Society can impart to at least one representative of every daily newspaper in the United States.

While this may be a little strong, I think you must confess that all of the arguments against it are puny in comparison with the

ideals toward which the Society has set its course.

Quite seriously, I was embarrassed as membership chairman at the annual limitation to five applicants from newspapers in towns of less than 50,000 population. Changing this restriction to seven from less than 25,000 circulation would not be a practical solution.

If the membership restrictions are to be changed at all, I hope serious consideration can be given to the elimination of all annual quantitative restrictions. If a qualified member from a town of less than 50,000 population or a paper of less than 25,000 circulation is to be taken in, let's take him in the year he applies rather than the next year or the year after.

It seems to me that it is reasonable and necessary to accept more members from large papers than from small papers. This because large papers, necessarily, are more departmentalized in their editorial activities. I doubt if it would be wise to reduce the number for the biggest cities to less than four, as provided in the present by-laws. A reduction in the number of members from big newspapers will tend to eliminate some distinguished publishers who may feel that Society membership should go to the top executives in their editorial departments. It seems essential to me that the Society keep in its membership its distinguished publisher members in the big cities.

If the irritating annual quantitative restrictions are removed from all classes of members, I would regard the population-circulation discussion as a Tweedledee Tweedledum question. I doubt if there are half a dozen Raleigh News and Observer situations in the United States; that is, a 100,000 circulation newspaper in a town of fewer than 75,000 population. Nor are there enough Wall Street Journals in the United States to be the basis upon which a sensible set of membership restrictions can be written.

These special-case memberships, around which some of the by-law discussion is centered, can and should be solved by the Board of Directors. It would be a tragedy if the by-laws were so precise, and so omniscient, that the distinguished members of the Board would be reduced to the stature of automatons.

EDWARD LINDSAY, Editor
Decatur Herald and Review
(Membership chairman, 1949-50)

MEMO ON DATES

Barring unforeseen emergency, the next convention will be held in Washington, April 17, 18 and 19, 1951.

Block accommodations for members (400 rooms, upped from 350 this year) have been made at the Hotel Statler.

Resignations

From Elzey M. Roberts, Jr., Station KXOK, St. Louis:

"With the closing of the Star-Times on June 15, I am no longer eligible to be a member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors; so it is with great regret that I tender my resignation as a member of this organization.

"My associations with the ASNE have been most pleasant and I want to extend my sincere good wishes to you and the organization for continued success of the fine work you are doing."

Robert J. Blakely, editorial page editor, previously had submitted his resignation when he left the newspaper to become regional consultant for the Ford Foundation's adult education group.

Secretary Kenneth MacDonald also has accepted resignations from Charles S. Ryckman, editorial writer, The San Francisco Call-Bulletin, and Harry C. Withers, executive editor, Dallas Morning News.

Forty Schools Now Accredited

Boston University has become the first institution in New England in which a School of Journalism has been accredited, it has just been announced by Dr. Norval Neil Luxon, chairman of the ACEJ committee. This brings to 40 the number of accredited schools and departments of journalism.

The Boston University Division of Journalism is a unit of the School of Public Relations and Communications.

Burnett to Japan and Korea

The Peoria Journal has sent its managing editor, Arnold Burnett, to Japan and Korea to interview not only the brass but also Central Illinois soldiers. He'll report what they're fed, how they're enduring the strain and how they feel about the war.

Vorpe Suggests Limit On Terms Of Board Members

For some time I have felt the American Society of Newspaper Editors has passed the point when it should continue indefinitely the same people in the directorships year after year. I realize that when the Society was young it was necessary to follow this program, and the result was that some of the directors remained on the job for quite a number of years. But today the Society is strong not only in membership but influence, and I think the time has now come when a limit should be placed on the length of directorships in the Society.

When the people by vote can declare that the President of the United States is entitled to only two consecutive terms, and when the Associated Press discovers it is helpful to the organization to limit their directors to two consecutive terms, I believe it is only reasonable that the American Society of Newspaper Editors follow in the footsteps of more experienced people. Because of this feeling I would like to have considered at the next meeting of the ASNE a resolution which would declare that starting one year after the meeting of 1952 members of the Board of Directors of the Society shall serve not more than two consecutive terms of three years each. After a period of three years, members who have previously served as directors, would again be eligible for election.

Never having been a director of the Society, and not expecting ever to be one, it is very easy for me to suggest this because there are no selfish motives, and I am sure quite a number of members agree with me—some of whom are now directors. I am bringing this matter up now because I want to give ample time for the members to express themselves, and I am also serving notice on the next Resolutions committee that I want to have such a resolution considered.

W. G. VORPE
Cleveland Plain Dealer

Problems of Journalism

The annual Proceedings is on the press now, and, if it goes through the bindery on schedule, the book will be mailed to members before the next Bulletin.

ACCREDITATION IN JOURNALISM

Some Misconceptions Concerning Basic Objectives of Program Are Cleared Up by A. H. Kirchhofer of Buffalo Evening News

Last winter, in a letter to the Sunday New York Times, an attack was made on the journalism accrediting process. It was answered by A. H. Kirchhofer, managing editor of the Buffalo Evening News. Please let me refer you to Mr. Kirchhofer's splendid and glowing and practical statement as to what we are trying to do to get the best out of the schools with which we are dealing.—N. R. HOWARD, Cleveland News, at 1951 convention.

The writer of the original letter to which Mr. Howard referred attacked accreditation of journalism schools by the American Council on Education for Journalism as an attempt to "bureaucratize newspapers" and asserted that such accreditation could not be carried out "without destroying the American concept of freedom of the press."

Mr. Kirchhofer replied that the ACEJ, of which he is president, recognizes anyone's right to oppose accreditation and, in fact, believes that a certain amount of discussion of the subject is a salutary method of progress. Furthermore, if journalism accreditation is valid it must be able to answer any legitimate arguments which may be raised against it. However, he said, the charges made show lack of comprehension of the simple objectives of the American Council. To clear up misunderstanding he outlined them. An abridgement of his explanation of the program follows:

It seeks to "promote better selection of students and better college training in the field to the end that schools participating may turn out better qualified graduates for service in journalism." Accreditation is arrived at on a qualitative, quantitative and visitation basis. In no sense whatever is there any coercion. In no degree is any school told what it may or may not teach. In positively no manner is there any basis even for suggesting that the accredited schools will not continue to operate on their own individualistic basis.

Thirty-nine schools, which voluntarily requested accreditation, have been placed upon the approved list. Not all which have

been visited have been accredited. Some which have been refused accreditation have requested a re-visitation by committees of educators, journalists, radio or advertising experts who have examined the proficiency in and facilities for teaching the respective sequences. In some of the schools which have been accredited, the American Council believes, improvements have been made as a result of the accreditation reports. In this way the objectives of accreditation are being fulfilled.

The first series of visits has been completed, and the American Council now is considering ways and means for a re-visitation over a three to five-year period.

This program is being studied by a committee composed of newspaper and journalism school representatives headed by Joyce Swan of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune. A report it submitted refutes the theory of "bureaucratizing." It says:

"It has been obvious for many years that strong professional schools of journalism providing a liberal arts education, plus sound professional training, wouldn't be possible unless newspaper organizations accepted the same responsibility for their schools that medical, legal and engineering organizations had long accepted for their schools." The American Council's accreditation program is a sound step in this direction.

Newspaper executives are well aware that there exists a real need further to improve the standards of journalism schools. This can be said without disparagement of the schools that have been accredited or even some others. But when we face the fact that more than 550 four-year colleges and 250 junior colleges in the United States are attempting to teach journalism it is apparent that some measuring stick is required that will help students to avoid disillusionment and employers to avoid disappointment in the graduates they employ. By comparison there are about 100 law schools and fewer schools of medicine.

It is perfectly true that some educators consider all accreditation anathema; others concede that while it has its drawbacks from the standpoint of education adminis-

trators it nevertheless serves the useful purpose of improving instruction.

On one point the American Council and the critic are in substantial agreement. He says that "a large proportion of the makers of the nation's future publications will soon be coming from schools of journalism." Because we also believe that the publication and radio fields increasingly will seek journalism school graduates to fill their personnel needs, we believe students are entitled to guidance in their choice of schools that can qualify them for such important public service. Likewise, their prospective employers deserve the assurance that the graduates they hire are well qualified, and have overcome the drawbacks which some editors thought characterized an earlier generation of journalism graduates.

This process is not bureaucracy; it's democracy at its best. It will not undermine freedom of the press; it will underpin it and secure it. If the newspaper groups represented in the American Council didn't have this faith, they would not support the work.

Ralph J. Leysen

Ralph J. Leysen, 62, managing editor for 22 years of the Davenport Daily Times, died on May 28.

The public library, of whose Board of Trustees he was a member, was closed during the funeral and the City Hall flag flew at half staff in tribute to his community services.

His activities were manifold—besides managing editor, he was editorial writer and columnist—but his greatest zest was always for reporting. In the buzz-bomb period of the war, he spent three months in London as correspondent for The Times and other Lee newspapers. In an editorial in the space usually occupied by his column, The Times said, "He had a newspaperman's seventh sense of searching for truth and interpreting facts. To say he was a good reporter would be to pay him the most sincere tribute of all."

Report Reprinted in Decatur

The Decatur Herald and Review ran the Freedom of Information Committee's convention report in full. Intended as a "dignity piece," Edward Lindsay says, "it caused a surprising amount of comment around town."

President Names Committees

MEMBERSHIP

Coleman A. Harwell, chairman,
Nashville Tennessean
Lenoir Chambers,
Norfolk Virginian-Pilot
Roger A. Connolly,
New Haven Register
Walter P. Jones,
McClatchy Newspapers
John M. O'Connell, Jr.,
Bangor News
Joe W. Seacrest, Lincoln Journal
H. Clay Tate,
Bloomington Pantagraph
Moses H. Williams,
Worcester Telegram

PROGRAM

J. Russell Wiggins, chairman,
Washington Post
Herbert Corn, Washington Star
George Cornish,
New York Herald Tribune
Tom Hanes,
Norfolk Ledger Dispatch
L. D. Hotchkiss,
Los Angeles Times
Raymond McCaw,
New York Times
Ralph McGill,
Atlanta Constitution
Felix R. McKnight,
Dallas Morning News
Louis Seltzer, Cleveland Press

RESOLUTIONS

L. R. Blanchard, chairman,
Rochester Democrat & Chronicle
John H. Carter,
Lancaster New Era
Irving Dilliard,
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Grover C. Hall,
Montgomery Advertiser
Houston Harte,
San Angelo Standard Times
Philip Hochstein,
Newark Star Ledger
Burrows Matthews,
Buffalo Courier-Express

RECEPTION

Michael Gorman, chairman,
Flint Journal
Riley H. Allen,
Honolulu Star-Bulletin
Fred C. Christopherson,
Sioux Falls Argus-Leader
Samuel L. Latimer, Jr.,
Columbia State
H. R. Pinckard,
Huntington Herald-Advertiser
J. Curtis Lyons,
Petersburg Progress-Index
James R. Record,
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

James S. Pope, chairman,
Louisville Courier-Journal
Harry S. Ashmore,
Arkansas Gazette
Paul Block, Jr., Toledo Blade
Frank L. Dennis, Washington Post
Nelson P. Poynter,
St. Petersburg Times
George A. Smallsreed,
Columbus Dispatch
William P. Steven,
Minneapolis Star and Tribune

INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE

Lester Markel, chairman,
New York Times
Carroll Binder,
Minneapolis Tribune
Sevellon Brown,
Providence Journal and Bulletin
Wright Bryan, Atlanta Journal
Frank Clarvoe,
San Francisco News
Oveta Culp Hobby, Houston Post
Paul Miller, Gannett Newspapers
Hamilton Owens, Baltimore Sun
Basil L. Walters,
Knight Newspapers
Dwight Young,
Dayton Journal Herald

ART. 14, COVENANT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Erwin D. Canham, chairman,
Christian Science Monitor
Gideon Seymour,
Minneapolis Star and Tribune
John S. Knight,
Knight Newspapers
Hodding Carter,
Delta Democrat-Times
JS Gray, Monroe Evening News

EDUCATION

A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening
News, chairman; and ASNE
representative on American
Council for Education in Journal-
ism, (Re-elected ACEJ presi-
dent in April.)
N. R. Howard, Cleveland News,
Herbert Brucker, Hartford Cour-
ant, ASNE representatives on
ACEJ Accreditation.

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE

Walker Stone, chairman,
Scripps-Howard Newspaper
Alliance
David Lawrence,
U.S. News & World Report
John Henry, Washington Star

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No. 333 July 1, 1951

WARTIME CENSORSHIP STUDY

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Wallace Lomoe,
Milwaukee Journal
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John H. Colburn,
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Carl Lindstrom, Hartford Times
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Edward M. Pooley,
El Paso Herald-Post
Oxie Reichler,
Yonkers Herald Statesman

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Gideon Seymour,
Minneapolis Star and Tribune

REVISION OF MEMBERSHIP

Virginus Dabney,
Richmond Times Dispatch
Jenkin Lloyd Jones,
Tulsa Tribune
Hamilton Owens,
Baltimore Sunpapers

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 334

August 1, 1951

ASNE and the Oatis Case

A Chance for Us to Do a Hard Fighting Job, President Jones Tells the Board of Directors.

President Alexander F. Jones has called upon the Society for vigorous, but well-counselled, action in the nation-wide efforts for the release of AP correspondent William N. Oatis from prison in Czechoslovakia.

Such is the urgency and importance of the case that Mr. Jones, by-passing usual organizational procedure of naming a special committee, has, in effect, created the Board of Directors as a committee of the whole to act for the Society.

This certainly isn't a matter in which "we want simply to appoint a committee and have a report at the next convention," he observed.

The President who, with the aid of Past-President B. M. McKelway on the Washington scene, has made an intensive study of official and unofficial aspects of the case, promptly briefed Board members on all developments. He made tentative suggestions for effective action by the Society and asked for immediate and full discussion leading to a strong, positive program.

If necessary to expedite prompt action, he will call an emergency meeting of the Board, probably in Washington.

After warning against "any ill-considered step that would eventually make us look ridiculous or which would defeat everything we have ever stood for," Mr. Jones says, "At the same time, when the last chapter is written in the Oatis case, we will very much want to feel that the ASNE, by real digging and spade work, helped make his release possible.

"It seems to me that this is a chance for the Society to do a hard fighting job. But first, we want a program that is well thought out in advance. Win or lose, we can't go wrong if we take advantage of every legitimate avenue open to us."

In Hamilton, N. Y., last week, as moderator at a session of the Third Annual Conference on American Foreign Policy at Colgate University, Mr. Jones pointed out that Oatis is guilty only "of being an American newspaperman conscientiously seeking facts." He does not favor reprisals because to adopt the pattern of the Soviets in treatment of the press would defeat everything we have stood for.

"But I do charge," he said, "that where William Oatis was sentenced for fulfilling his duties as a responsible representative of a great news agency, Mikhail Fedorov, head of Tass in Washington, is not a newspaperman at all. Mr. Fedorov is

listed as a member of the Congressional galleries. He is entitled to walk into the White House. He was sent to Washington not for his journalistic skill, but because of his Politburo training. I do not ask the closing of Tass. I ask the investigation of Fedorov as an individual."

On the subject of ASNE's work to bring about a united front of the press in the free world, Mr. Jones spoke of the unremitting labors of Lester Markel, New York Times, which have led to the establishment of the International Press Institute.

He also mentioned the newspaper world's pride "in the courageous stand of General Ridgway in insisting on the presence of representatives of the free press at the Kaesong cease-fire conferences," which established that "the free world is through allowing Communist propaganda to dominate the air waves and press channels."

THEIR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

Editors of Medium-Sized Newspapers Find that It Pays Off
To Send Staff Men Abroad, Despite Good News Service Coverage

• By HENRY P. SLANE, Editor
The Peoria Journal

A number of newspapermen have expressed surprise that a paper the size of the Peoria Journal (circ. 70,000) should send its Managing Editor Arnold Burnett to Korea when the wire services are giving such excellent coverage of events in the Far East.

Our decision was based upon a desire to 'localize' the conflict for Peoria area readers. While the various news services can and do give ample details on the progress of the fighting, political maneuvering on both sides, and a multitude of other in-



ARNOLD BURNETT

formation and color, it is seldom the wire mentions a name which brings "why, I know that guy" to the reader's mind.

Before the ink was dry on the first story announcing Burnett's departure for the Korean war zone, phones began ringing, not only in the newsroom, but in the homes of many of the staff members. "My son is on the central front," "Tell my husband the new baby is doing fine," "Tell Bob we're praying for his safe return" and many more came flooding in. When he left Peoria, Burnett had the names of several hundred central Illinois boys in the war zone.

Then our worries began. Could anyone hope to contact so large a group in appreciable numbers or would red tape, impossible terrain, and 1,000 and one other things frustrate his best efforts?

At this writing, Burnett is about to return home, his stories having carried the names of over 100 Peoria area people from one end of the

Korean front to the other, on Navy ships, and in Japan.

Official cooperation has been excellent. In many cases Burnett has been taken into the fox holes where Peoria men were fighting to get their stories under fire. On one hospital ship the officer of the deck passed the word for anyone from Peoria, Ill., to come forward (not having the patients aboard listed by home cities), and a hospital corpsman appeared to lead Burnett to a Marine too badly wounded to come himself. In several cases Peorians who heard he was in the area walked miles to talk to him for a few minutes.

In addition to his stories, he has been sending a good many pictures back from the front of Peorians at whatever job he found them. After being used in the paper, a glossy has been sent to the family of each man appearing in the shot.

New Bedford Likes 'Afghanistan' News

• By CHARLES J. LEWIN, Editor
New Bedford Standard-Times

Whenever The Standard-Times (Circ. 57,338) sends a staff reporter across the continent to interview a Korean underground agent in San Francisco or to a dozen cities to uncover material for a series on the China purges which have taken 15,000,000 lives, I wonder whether such goings-on would upset the editor who delivered a paper on Afghanistanism at the ASNE meeting two years ago.

The impression he left with me was that newspapers should devote less editorial space to Afghanistan and more to Tulsa. But in New Bedford, with its cosmopolitan population of Portuguese, French-Canadian, English, Polish and, of course, some Yankees, we find a great deal of interest in Afghanistan as well as in Tibet, Korea, Indo-China and other specks on the world map.

The editors of The Standard-Times are interested, too, so we send our staff men whenever and wherever the story calls, to give our readers the special articles that provide background for the wire news and for our editorials. This summer we have also had one of our special writers doing a series of exclusive articles in Portugal, Britain, France and Italy.

The China purge series (The Mao Regime, by Everett S. Allen), turned out so well that we had no reluctance in devoting 19 columns of news space to it, some on Page 1, in seven daily articles.

Here at home the effects have been electrifying to say the least—everyone has come to take the 'Korean police action' as his own personal war. It is almost impossible to step into the street without being asked, "What do you hear from Korea?" The mother of a wounded Army corporal called to say that she was everlastingly grateful to have first hand information of her son's condition. The father of a young Marine replacement was relieved to learn his son had been assigned to an outfit of seasoned veterans who would 'show him the ropes.'

Readers who have neither chick nor child in the fighting call to say they deeply appreciate what The Journal is doing for the people of central Illinois.

Frankly, we have been completely dumbfounded by the response.

That we made no mistake was evidenced by the spontaneous local reader reaction, as well as by requests from a national digest magazine for permission to 'condense' the articles in 10,000 words and from a daily of about 1500 circulation in far-away Arkansas for permission to reprint them in serial form.

Even "Arkansas" is interested in "Afghanistan" these days.

Pope Article in The Atlantic

The Atlantic for July carries a story that needs to be told: "The Suppression of News," by James S. Pope. Largely a digest of the report of the Freedom of Information Committee, the material is familiar to editors; but for the general public Mr. Pope explains why, in a democracy, the people, being the rulers, must receive complete and accurate information.

"Starring the Editors" on TV

Three ASNE members are appearing on a sponsored television program, "Starring the Editors," Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m., NBC Channel 4, Station WBZ-TV. They are John Crider, Boston Herald; Erwin D. Canham, Christian Science Monitor; and Charles J. Lewin, New Bedford Standard-Times. Fourth member of the panel is John Griffin, Boston Post. Their hot arguments on current affairs are getting a tremendous reaction throughout New England.

It's Not Usually As Simple As This

The easiest time to stop the withholding of news is before a noxious precedent has been set. That was proved again recently, in Lima, Ohio.

On the agenda for a Board of Education meeting was a suggestion, by its president, that all releases in connection with school matters emanate from the superintendent of schools.

R. C. Barton, managing editor of The Lima News, who was elected to ASNE last year, promptly telephoned both officials.



R. C. BARTON

"I expressed my view pretty bluntly," he says, "that the proposal constituted the kind of a gag on free speech which Americans have traditionally opposed. I reminded them of our past cooperation and friendly relations, and suggested that I was seriously enough concerned about the matter to place it in the hands of the Society's committee on freedom of information, if that were necessary. After attempts by the superintendent to explain that the intent of the proposal was not as drastic as the wording made it sound, it was finally agreed to delete the entire proposal from the agenda."

Lima has had less of such trouble than many cities, Mr. Barton says, and he's pleased by the ease with which a possible entering wedge was forestalled.

Membership Applications

The fall meeting of the Board always brings a rush of applications for membership, without adequate time for screening.

If you wish to propose a candidate, better write for a blank now, addressing Coleman Harwell, editor, The Nashville Tennessean.

Mr. and Mrs. Harwell are vacationing in France and Italy; on his return, the membership chairman will process applications received in his absence in ample time for the Board meeting.

VORPE'S DIRECTORSHIP PROPOSAL

Dwight Marvin Points Out That Many a Good Man Would Be Lost to the Presidency Unless Plan Is Amended

• By DWIGHT MARVIN, Editor
Troy Record Newspapers

My friend, Vorpe, is quite right in regard to continuing directorates on the ASNE. There is, however, some difficulty in making the adjustment.

Most certainly, with an organization as large as ours is today, no man should remain on the board more than his two terms. On the other hand, there are cases where the rule should be waived. I refer to the members of the board who are in office and who, therefore, are in line to go to the top. Certainly the presidency of our organization is important enough to need trained men and the training is in the lower offices.

Let us imagine such a case as this: I was for four years treasurer of the organization. Naturally I had been on the board a year be-

fore assuming office. That meant five years. The sixth year I became second vice-president and was in line for the presidency. If there were not some adjustment, I would have been thrown off the board at that point and my experience would have been wasted. As a matter of fact, the first vice-president died so I was translated at once to the presidency.

There have been many cases like this, members who would have been deprived of the privilege of going to the top because of a limitation. Dwight Young, for example, could never have reached the presidency.

If, therefore, an adjustment could be made whereby no one could be elected after two terms unless he was an officer of the board, I think it would be a very salutary change.

No 'Indispensable Man' In Group of 500

• By TALBOT PATRICK, Editor
Rock Hill Evening Herald

Two practices of the American Society of Newspaper Editors were questioned in the last issue of The Bulletin—membership limitations and directors' terms. For some ASNE members the two subjects very likely link emotionally or in mental attitude; on analysis, the questioning of each seems to reflect changes caused by growth in membership of the Society.

Five men met in 1922 to start the Society. At the time of the first convention, in 1923, membership totaled 107. Now membership is 512. Ed Lindsay suggests that, since the old informal intimacy has already been lost, there be no quantitative limit to qualified editors who may be accepted as "plus" to the 500.

"Qualified editors." How qualified? The constitution says "Directing editors . . . of daily newspapers, which . . . shall have attained the ranks and standards of the metropolitan press."

Webster's International dictionary seems to suggest "the metropolitan press" is that of the principal cities of the nation. It was to editors of these cities that the initiator of the Society, Casper S. Yost, first addressed himself. And the first bottom limit for the source of membership was cities of 100,000 population.

That limit was soon dropped, in 1924, to 50,000. And in the 29 years of the Society a number of us from even smaller cities have been admitted, for which praise be to God! and thanks to the membership and to boards of directors.

The ASNE already has advanced in practice a long way toward what Ed Lindsay advocates. Perhaps it is time to amend the constitution so as to drop the quantitative restriction—whether measured by population or by circulation—and to direct attention of the directors strictly to quality as a test for admission.

What, then, of the directors and

Board Nomination Refused By Many

• By W. R. WALTON, Managing Editor
The South Bend Tribune

I say "amen" to W. G. Vorpe's suggestion in the July Bulletin advocating a two-term limitation for members of the board of directors.

I say this without casting any reflection on the present or past boards, because I sincerely think the Society has been blessed with boards of outstanding calibre. On the other hand I think we have other outstanding members, too, and are constantly adding to them annually.

Having served a few years ago as chairman of the nominations committee I know how difficult it

the suggestion by revered W. G. Vorpe that their 3-year terms be limited to two in succession?

First, I assume that the suggestion implies no change from the retiring President of the Society entering ex-officio upon a 3-year term. This means that normally each Board has on it three past-Presidents, each of whom could possibly serve 9 consecutive years on the Board. Of the 12 other members of the Board, in each year some will have already served from one to a possible five years on the Board.

To limit any editor's service to the Society as a director to six consecutive years (possibly followed by more after a lay-by period) might at times seem harsh to the individual and almost unwise for the Society. But I doubt that any one of us would subscribe to the doctrine of "the indispensable man" as applying to one of 15 directors from a membership of 512.

I haven't checked, and I doubt that Mr. Vorpe checked before making his recommendation, how many years anybody served on the Board. I'm sure Mr. Vorpe implied no criticism, and I certainly do not wish to; we have had fine directors remarkably well chosen by our nominating committees.

The question of limitation of director's terms, even more than that of membership limitation, has practical as well as philosophical aspects. To the extent that each member of the Society considers them, the Society will be that much better off. As President Casper Yost said to those at the first ASNE convention:

"This is your Society. It is going to be what you make it, all of you together."

is to get men not members of the board to make the race. My correspondence that year was voluminous before we finally succeeded in filling the slate. The feeling seemed to be that no man not a member of the board had even an outside chance for election. Some flatly refused to run; others finally agreed but usually after saying in effect, "I know I don't have a chance for election."

Such a feeling I think is bad for the Society and we should follow Mr. Vorpe's suggestion and offer a resolution at the 1952 convention to limit terms of office to two with a lapse of three years before a member is again eligible.

AND THIS FOR YOUR COPY DESK

From Cedar Rapids Comes a Plea for Closer Attention To Style — by Wire Services As Well As Reporters

Is newspaper style too sloppy?

E. C. Hoyt, managing editor of The Cedar Rapids Gazette, thinks so.

"My pet peeve is referring to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt as Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. A housewife breaks into the news and the papers refer to her as Mrs. Mary Jones instead of Mrs. John Jones. Her poor husband is ignored. When a Midwest woman was named U. S. Ambassador to Denmark, the wire services all called her Mrs. Eugenie Anderson, making her sound like a divorcee, or perhaps a widow. Lo and behold, when the family set sail there was a husband along. It not only was poor newspapering to overlook him, but it was darned unethical and disrespectful. If a woman wants to be known by her by-line or stage name, okay, fine, but leave off the Mrs."

Mr. Hoyt was sufficiently steamed up to write the heads of the wire services in Iowa. "AP and UP only looked blank" but Phil Reed of INS issued a page-long memo to his bureau managers, after consulting Emily Post. "A man gives his name to a woman for life or until she relinquishes it through re-marriage." That's socially, of course. Women in business, the instructions added, should be referred to by the names under which they are best known, and "Let's make it a rule that if a woman is known by a name which is independent of her marriage that we so call her, but do not combine it with her title of Miss or Mrs. In subsequent references in the story to her, we should point out that she is either Mrs. Green or Miss Green."

Mr. Hoyt worked for years with a city editor who was an alumnus of the Courier-Journal of Watter-son's day and of the old New York World, a stickler for style. He looks back on it as the best possible training in fundamentals, and believes that one way to encourage interest in good writing is to pass on the precepts of oldtimers.

Any other member feel strongly on this subject?

And what about spelling? One newspaper at hand refers to "chaperones"; four of them in a column can't be typos. Again and again in newspaper stories some situation

is creating a "furore." Just try those two words on your reporters, copyreaders or co-editors; and while they're at the dictionary, suggest that they look up another word which, more often than not, turns up as "tranquility."

Advs. in The Bulletin?

The idea of an enlarged Bulletin, as set forth by President Jones, is excellent. I wouldn't have small ambitions for this idea. I would think of more than a publication to rival the Nieman Reports, which seem to me too sophomore to be a proper standard for The Bulletin. I would think of a publication of potential general interest, and certainly one that should be in public libraries, in colleges and in schools, in the very classrooms where Wayne Freeman found the pupils exposed to vicious nonsense about the press. On the important matter of costs, why shouldn't the smartly edited and enlarged Bulletin accept advertisements?

WILLIAM H. HEATH, Editor
The Haverhill Gazette

Personal News About Members

Only one resignation received this month by Secretary Kenneth MacDonald; from Ben Reese, who has retired from the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and is living in Spring Lake, N. Y.

James L. McGovern, Bridgeport Post-Telegram, has been re-elected president of the Connecticut AP circuit for the 18th time. The hardy perennial of our charter members sends along a clipping just to show he's "alive and kickin'."

Michael Bradshaw, Toledo Blade, was "proxy" father to a baby whose father, a sergeant in Korea, sent a money order to the newspaper, for a present for his wife when their child was born. On a trip that took him to Tokyo, Korea, Manila, Formosa, India, Egypt and Europe, Mr. Bradshaw found time to deliver pictures of the baby to his father.

L. R. Blanchard, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, was born in Nebraska, graduated from the

IPI In Operation; 4 Projects Planned

With the International Press Institute's constitution adopted and in print, and only a director to be named, its Secretariat in Zurich is almost ready to go into operation.

The four projects decided upon, at the Organizing Committee's meeting in Paris are:

A survey of press freedom in the world.

A survey among journalists on what is needed to improve information about world affairs.

A study of the task of reporting and presenting news about the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in general.

A study of the freedom-of-the-press issue in Argentina.

On the organizational side, the next moves are the setting up of national committees in all the free countries, and the recruiting of members.

While everything is set, a large effort still is needed, according to Lester Markel, New York Times, chairman of the executive board. He adds that he does not minimize the difficulties in making the Institute an important force in the world but "on balance, I find the hopes far outweighing the difficulties."

University of Nebraska, began his career in Lincoln, and Nebraska hasn't forgotten him. He recently received an achievement award from the alumni association of his alma mater, an honor that has been bestowed on only 50 persons in Nebraska's history.

Stetson University has made Caleb J. King a Doctor of Literature, for his contribution to religious education through his Sunday column in the Florida Times-Union.

When the forms were ready, the bindery closed up; vacations, you know. Printer's last promise for the Proceedings was "around the first of August."

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 335

September 1, 1951

A Call for Courage

President Jones Offers 4-Point Program for State Department and American Newspapers to End Intolerable One-Sided U. S.-Russian Press Relations

BY ALEXANDER F. JONES

President, American Society of Newspaper Editors

There will be no real progress in the business of freeing William Oatis of the Associated Press from his prison cell in Czechoslovakia until there is a realistic approach to the subject of American-Russian press relations.

Tass agency enjoys the full privileges of the free press in the United States. American reporters in Soviet countries are subjected to every indignity — even jail — in the attempt to do an honest reporting job. There is no need to stress this point. Everyone is familiar with the situation.

It is my contention that the American government, American press associations and American newspaper publishers and editors are as much bound by totalitarian dictation as any Soviet satellite.

This is not a statement made to attract attention. It is cold fact and if any free newspaperman can get any comfort out of perusal of the facts that follow, or take any pride in our record, it will be, in my opinion, by a method of mental acrobatics that ignores the situation as it is.

In the first place, Tass is not a news service. It is a Russian government supported and controlled propaganda bureau. Its Russian employees — Mikhail Fedorov, in Washington, for example — are Soviet government employees who come into this country on a diplomatic passport. Tass serves no free customers.

They represent a government whose political philosophy teaches and advocates the overthrow of the United States government by force and violence.

Yet these representatives are accorded every privilege of the free press in Washington on the basis that they represent the free press.

The Standing Committee of Correspondents of the Congressional galleries, and the majority of the members, refused admission of "Voice of America" representatives to the galleries because they represent the U. S. Government and not daily newspapers. The Associated and the United Press refuse to serve "Voice of America" because it is controlled by the State Department.



ALEXANDER F. JONES

And yet Tass — a Russian government agency — is admitted to the galleries and accorded every press privilege in Washington, including off the record conferences.

Fedorov makes little pretense of being a newspaperman. He is a diplomatic representative of the Russian government, here on diplomatic passport, and his uncensored copy goes to the Kremlin by cable, his more confidential dispatches by embassy pouch.

While Fedorov, and other members of his bureau walk into the White House arrogantly, the surviving quartet of American newspapermen in Moscow are the next thing to journalistic prisoners — censored, controlled, suspect.

I am well aware that the attitude of the American Government in this situation is due to a long suffering desire to keep the door open, even a tiny crack, in Moscow. I am also aware that the State Department is influenced by the pressure of the Associated and United Press Associations, who are afraid they will lose their Moscow bureaus if any move is made on Tass.

Granting that these bureaus have value — more from a prestige angle than from a news standpoint — I still ask if that consideration is worth the submission to jailing of American reporters, expulsion of others, and treating our press people with the utmost contempt.

What can we do?

1. The Rules committee, which governs the Congressional galleries, can notify the executive

committee, or board of correspondents that no government agency, U. S. or foreign, can be members of the galleries, or enjoy its privileges. This would affect only Tass. This action would automatically shut Communists from official sanction to spy on this country.

2. As Tass representatives are of diplomatic rank, the U. S. Government can declare any one of them of Russian nationality persona non grata—and send them home and keep on doing it until the Kremlin realizes its cozy, one-way press deal is over.

3. The U. S. Government can notify Moscow that American newspapermen, while not government representatives, are American citizens, admitted on their visas, and any indignity to them, in pursuit of their duties, will be considered an unfriendly act.

4. American newspapers, which are really playing footsie with Communist control of this international press situation can get off their dead posteriors and start to fight.

I cannot forget General Ridgway's ultimatum to the Reds at Kaesong—United Nations press or no conference.

Here the ultimatum should be "equal treatment."

I recall that on the night of Pearl Harbor, the F.B.I. raided an apartment in Washington of an alleged Japanese newspaperman and from his papers

learned he was a rear-admiral in his country's navy. Fedorov, in my opinion, is another case. He calls himself an aeronautical engineer. He cannot be anything but a Soviet spy.

There are those who will contend that any step taken against Tass would involve the first amendment of the Constitution. The Constitution is not involved.

Tass is a powerful weapon in the Communist conspiracy. Its motive is destruction of the United States Government and Communist world domination. Fedorov works at it every day.

Within a matter of days, American newspapermen will learn of new security regulations which will affect us all to a degree.

They will not affect Tass and the operations of Mikhail Fedorov.

Whom are we trying to keep security matters from, the American people or the Kremlin?

So long as Bill Oatis is in jail and American reporters in Russian territory live like underground fugitives, the sight of Tass representatives walking into the White House will continue to be a red flag to me.

Happily, more than one government department in Washington is interested in this matter.

Action depends on our own courage and determination.

FIEJ Freedom of Information Resolution Helpful to U. S. Position

J. Hale Steinman, publisher of Lancaster Newspapers, who represented ASNE at the fourth annual congress of FIEJ in London last May, has submitted a report on the proceedings to President Jones.

"There was quite a lot of controversy in the matter of freedom of information," says Mr. Steinman, "but I believe the resolution as finally passed will be of considerable help to the U. S. position. It was a great improvement over the resolution originally proposed by certain countries. Following is the resolution as signed and passed unanimously:

"The General Assembly asserting its firm belief in the freedom of information and in the freedom of the press as provided for in Art. 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"While approving whole-heartedly all efforts to arrive at a sound world convention on freedom of information,

"Nevertheless is opposed to the draft Convention.

"It considers in fact that the draft as a result of compromises includes in several articles such serious restrictions that in spite of the original intention to secure the freedom of the press the Convention as now drafted could be used in violation of this freedom.

"Under the present international conditions it seems preferable to have no convention at all rather than one that is dangerous to freedom."

The resolution on Code of Honor, passed by a 9 to 4 vote, stated that an international code "must be the task of the international press, only . . . without interference from governments and states," but that "during the present international circumstances a world-wide press congress with this task would hardly result in a solution and therefore at present would be a waste of time and effort."

Lester Markel, who also attended as ASNE representative, told the Congress there could be no conflict between the newly organized International Press Institute and FIEJ. On the one hand, newspapers will be represented within the Institute on an individual basis, whereas the International Federation is a group of associations.

M. Claude Bellanger, the Secretary General, in his annual report declared that no duplication or competition was possible. "An international institute of the press," he said, "cannot place itself on the organic grounds of FIEJ and cannot like it be a federation of associations . . . It is a question of a central liaison where journalists,

responsible editors and publishers' workers interested together in the problems of public opinion, may meet. It is a question of a center of research, study and contracts.

"Finally, everything that can contribute to the furtherance of the press, its prestige, everything that tends to give it an undisputed place in the world of ideas and information, also to perfect it—all that cannot be for us a matter of indifference or foreign to us."

Brucker in Europe on Honeymoon

Herbert Brucker, editor of The Hartford Courant, and Mrs. Brucker sailed for Europe, August 11, following their marriage in West Hartford, where they will make their home. Mr. Brucker, who went to The Courant as associate editor in 1944, previously had been assistant dean and professor of journalism at Columbia University. By a previous marriage he has three children, a sergeant with the Air Force in Korea, a daughter at Bennington and a son at Williams. Mrs. Brucker, the former Mrs. Elizabeth Spock Dominic, who has two sons, has been attending Teachers College of Connecticut, New Britain, and teaching kindergarten in Windsor Locks, Connecticut.

IPI—Its Hopes and Aims

Markel Traces Development of Institute Idea Into a Working Reality and Asks Your Support

• By LESTER MARKEL, Sunday Editor
The New York Times

This report is both a communique and a billet-doux.

The communique, in brief, is this: The International Press Institute is now in being. The blueprint approved two years ago by the ASNE has become a working reality. As a draftsman of that blueprint, I am deeply gratified; I have hopes that the Institute can do an important job in the vast problem of world understanding.

The billet-doux arises out of my gratitude to the ASNE, generally for the support it has given me, particularly for the educational opportunities it has afforded me. As a result of my experiences with the Institute, I have had priceless lessons in the arts of fund-raising, of international diplomacy, and of incidental oratory. In short, this billet is very doux.

At this point, you may ask: what are you trying to do? First, to do what the ASNE does—through annual meetings to promote understanding among editors and to exchange information about editorial matters. Second, through a permanent Secretariat, by means of research and of seminars, to survey the important problems of international journalism.

This is how it came about: (1) In April, 1949, the International Press Institute idea was endorsed at the ASNE meeting. (2) In October, 1950, fifteen foreign editors met with fifteen members of the ASNE committee to decide whether the International Press Institute was feasible and desirable. We decided that it was both—and there was only the question of getting the funds. That was all! (3) In March of this year the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations together allotted a quarter-million dollars for a three-year trial run of the Institute. (4) In June of this year the Executive Committee of the Institute (appointed at the October meeting at Columbia) met in Paris, adopted a constitution, named an Executive Board, selected Zurich as permanent headquarters, arranged for a General Assembly of the Institute next year, and selected four research projects for the Secretariat.



DR. URS SCHWARZ

Since then events have moved rapidly. We have taken headquarters in Zurich in a lovely historical house with modern plumbing. We have met with the newspaper people and the city officials of Zurich, and a warm welcome is assured us. Incidentally, Zurich—to those of you who don't know it, as I didn't know it until my visit this year—is a fine and inspiring city and it is, moreover, the home of one of the world's outstanding newspapers, the Neue Zuercher Zeitung.

We have a temporary director—Dr. Urs Schwarz, foreign editor of the Neue Zuercher Zeitung—who will serve while the search for a permanent director goes on. We are confident that we shall find that permanent director before the first of the year. We feel that he should be a European so that it shall not be said—even in Moscow—that this is another "American imperialist institution." (But I am not too sanguine about this. As a matter of fact, Pravda has already assailed the International Press Institute as a New York Times effort to dominate the newsprint market—Finnish papers please copy!)

Our first project is under way, and we expect to report on it by October first—a survey among editors of what is needed to improve information about world affairs. (Incidentally, the other three proj-

ects are these: a survey of press freedom in the world; a study of the task of reporting and presenting the news from behind the Iron Curtain; a study of what happened and why in Argentina.)

There are the facts. I report on the spirit also because that is vital. The atmosphere at all the meetings I attended during my trip abroad was excellent—wholly cooperative and almost crusading. At the Columbia meetings, the value of man-to-man contacts among editors of varying nations was heartily demonstrated. Even the London editors who are likely to be, in a reserved nation, the leading reservists, were enthusiastic about the idea and pledged full cooperation.

Finally, there is our role. I am tremendously encouraged by the reception the project has had thus far, and I am convinced that in three years it can be demonstrated that the Institute is an indispensable part of journalism, nationally and internationally.

The American press has taken the initiative in establishing the International Press Institute. Now comes the next step. Unless we have a full and active membership, the project cannot realize the large promise it holds out. In the near future you will be asked by an ASNE committee if you will not join the Institute. (The dues are fairly nominal—only \$25 a year). We need your cooperation, and I hope we can count on it.

BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE

During more than 51 years of active newspaper life I have enjoyed a series of beautiful adventures. None has been more beautiful than reading, recently, a very kind and sympathetic letter to my wife from a member of her clan who resides in New York. The writer of the letter said she had read in a newspaper of my death, and was very much saddened by the news.

I haven't gotten around to it yet, but I shall write to her and express appreciation of her letter. It will be a pleasure to add that I am feeling fit, working no harder than usual and not bothered by the heat or the humidity.

I shall not make any reference to Mark Twain. I don't believe the newspaper she read exaggerated. Many people read newspapers carelessly and quote them, or report them, inaccurately.

TOM WALLACE,
Louisville Times

Boyd Urges Positive Approach To 'Sell' Newspapers to Public

• By EVERETT M. BOYD, Managing Ed.
Cincinnati Enquirer

Television, aptly referred to in August Fortune as "an amorphous mass," hasn't frightened me. Despite the fact that newspapers have permitted TV to buy most of the news services (with a notable exception, the New York Times), just as we did radio, this new medium fortunately is making use of only five per cent of its time for news telecasts. We have permitted TV to buy our picture services, thus giving away our still pictures before we can publish them. Yet still pictures are not too important on TV.

So long as we can keep at least 85 to 90 per cent of our newspaper content exclusive, or unavailable to TV, I believe we are as safe from TV as a competitor as we were in the past in meeting the threat of radio. But next time you buy a comic, or a lovelorn column, or a football prediction chart, better specify that it is exclusive to your newspaper, so that the salesman doesn't walk down the street and sell it also to a TV or radio station!

Like 13,000,000 other folk, I invested some \$375 in television, including aerials and repairs, two years ago. Now the novelty has worn off, and I find I am bored with Sullivan's dead pan, ancient movies, Berle's grimaces, leaping Lenas, and since there are no crime hearings or fading soldier receptions being televised at the moment I have retired to the printed pages, and radio, when I have leisure at home. I've given TV back to my children and am awaiting the Rose Bowl game—in color!

Recently I was moved to write an editor's memo which the Enquirer mailed to some 850 Cincinnati retailers. Also an Enquirer columnist reprinted it for our readers.

Our response was gratifying. The New York Times requested 40 copies to mail to clients. The president of a New York advertising agency wrote: "The need for the broad selling of the Newspaper as a whole was never greater. We have some new plans to meet this challenge which include running an advertisement once a month in 800 or 900 newspapers—each ad-

vertisement to sell Newspapers as a whole. Newspapers can sell every product made, hence it is obvious they can also be tremendously helpful in selling their own medium."

I did not regard this assist to our advertising people as "unique, or unusual" as mentioned by the editor of The Bulletin in requesting this piece, for I was not directed to do this chore. It so happens our publisher, Roger H. Ferger, insists on cooperation among all department executives, and he ascribes what success we enjoy at The Enquirer to his "we team."

I believe my ASNE associates could, and should, do a better job of selling their newspapers to the public. I trust my positive approach will give you some ideas.

* * *

A digest of the memo referred to follows:

Several friends tell me "Television is terrific." Sure, TV is terrific. But so are newspapers, books, movies, magazines. So is radio. Dagmar is colossal. So was Ben Hur! . . . Will television supplant newspapers? Of course not. Radio didn't, nor will TV. We can absorb this new art in our stride. . . . Did you ever try watching a movie on TV with your radio turned on as you "read" a book or a newspaper? Distracting, isn't it?

Recently I measured the Enquirer, and found only 14% of the content of the Daily Enquirer available to seven so-called competing radio-TV stations in Greater Cincinnati. Or, stating it in reverse, this edition contained 86% material which could not be purchased, or accommodated, on seven air media in the limits of broadcasting time.

More amazing was my check of the Sunday Enquirer, with less than 10% of its content available to radio and TV. Hence, 90% of your Sunday Enquirer is material you could not obtain by tuning in your radio or TV stations.

The Enquirer is serviced by all five leading news agencies—the New York Times News Service (which is NOT sold to radio or TV stations), the full leased wire reports of the Associated Press, United Press, International News

Service, plus AP Wirephoto. . . . Radio and TV carry only one or two of these services.

For a rundown of some of the other "exclusives" you receive in your Daily and Sunday Enquirer consider the thorough local news and photo coverage by a large staff. . . . And where but in your Enquirer, or another newspaper, could you follow some 30 nationally famous cartoons? . . . I've never seen, nor heard, editorials on TV or radio (with the possible exception of Winchell and several other commentators). . . . And you must turn to your newspaper to read the interesting "letters to the editor."

Where else but in your favorite newspaper can you learn what's going on in social circles or women's world? . . . Or stage, screen and music reviews? Or radio-video program listings, which you can clip and save? Where but in your favorite newspaper can you find baseball box scores, racing charts or sports columns? . . . (In each category, Mr. Boyd listed the names of the writers, 38 in all, of whom 21 are exclusively Enquirer people).

Sure, TV and radio are terrific. But so's the Bible. It's STILL a best seller!

Obituary

Judson W. Chapman, 51, executive editor of the Greenville Piedmont and News, died on August 7 of a heart attack. His health had been seriously impaired by an attack three years ago but rather than retire he relinquished the post of editor, which he had held since 1928, limited his office hours and confined his activities to an advisory capacity. He still attended conventions of the Society, which he joined in 1942.

Born and reared in the South, Mr. Chapman became a carrier boy for The Piedmont when he was 15, and had been with the Greenville Newspapers ever since except for a year in the Army, enlisting at the age of 17 in the First World War, and another year on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

He refused offers to remain in St. Louis to return to Greenville because, quoting his newspaper, "He had complete faith in the people of the South and believed in the destiny of the region, particularly the Piedmont Carolinas."

Mr. Chapman is survived by his widow, and three sons, all of Greenville.

Do Editors Neglect News of Their Own Society?

A question put by a member who asks that his name be withheld (reason not stated); and the answers of editors to whom it was submitted.

The Question

The members feel that the ASNE as such is important. But when the Society or its spokesmen make a statement, and it is not important enough to some news editor reading wire copy for him to put it in the paper, how will the Society ever become important to the public? When the president of the Society gave out a statement about La Prensa last spring, and a copy of a cablegram to Peron, I know that the morning papers (or at least one of them) in Cleveland, Chicago, Cincinnati and Columbus did not mention this piece of news. Why should people be impressed with an action of the ASNE if they have never heard of it?

The Answers

Not only is the ASNE important, as the complaining member points out, but it is also strong and effective. Performance, not publicity primarily, is responsible for the ASNE position. If much publicity is necessary to maintain the organization's strength, then something is wrong with it.

I don't believe there is.

The president of the ASNE sent the cablegram to Peron regarding La Prensa, I presume, for the effect it would have in Argentina and not in the United States. And our president did a good job. The entire profession knows that.

Let's not worry too much about the amount of publicity we get. Vigilance, common sense, action and results pay off in recognition in those places to which attention is properly directed.

GEORGE A. SMALLSREED
Columbus Dispatch

I think that official statements made by spokesmen of the ASNE on newspaper matters of national or international importance should be carried and we would carry the same in our newspapers.

J. F. FITZPATRICK
Salt Lake Tribune-Telegram

When the ASNE speaks, for whom does it speak?

It is not beyond my comprehension that a news editor who is not a member of ASNE might evaluate a statement from the President of ASNE, directed to Peron regarding La Prensa, merely as a resolution of a group of fellow newspapermen and, therefore, not of international significance. Especially, could this

be his opinion if there were plenty of spot news at hand.

I believe the attention of our organization should be focused on development of its members and improvement of our craft rather than through expressions of our opinions on public issues.

W. A. BAILEY
Kansas City Kansan

It seems to me that too often newspapermen are overwhelmed by that old idea that newspapers are designed to print the news, not make it. As a result we neglect the newsworthy incidents of our own business and its profession, justifying this neglect by saying that nobody is interested in them except those in our own offices. For years Time and Newsweek have made highly readable columns out of newspaper news—news that many newspaper editors toss in the wastebasket. There is no reason why newsworthy ASNE statements should not be printed as rapidly as statements from national associations of bankers or lawyers, the NAM or CIO.

MURRAY POWERS
Akron Beacon Journal

I believe the situation described is one of local operational procedure. In short, the wire editor just didn't know. Certainly the boys on this newspaper are aware of the importance of the American Society of Newspaper Editors—not because I am a member of it, but because they know its membership consists of the top editorial men in the country and when the president or any representative of the

Society speaks, it's news. Not only did we carry the La Prensa protest, but we joined in the half staff flag protest.

I don't think we should embark on any publicity campaign to dramatize ASNE, but I think a continuing vigorous participation in matters journalistic will in itself establish in the minds of readers the weight and authority the organization carries. And, of course, our own news staffs should have an indoctrination session in the wood shed if they haven't caught on by this time.

FRANK R. AHLGREN
Memphis Commercial Appeal

I am in thorough agreement with the member quoted that newspapers, especially those who have staff membership in the American Society of Newspaper Editors, should give more publicity to the Society's activities and to those of its officers acting in official capacity. I have been struck with the little space and the lack of display given to the proceedings of the Society. Only the top flight speakers from government departments and agencies get much attention. Of course, the routine proceedings are of little news interest, but there are debates within the membership and some panels that do have such interest. The News has been an offender along with others, but there was an improvement in its coverage of the 1951 convention.

If a man tooteth not his own horn the same shall not be tooted. To put it in more chaste language: "Neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel . . ."

ROBERT GLASS
Lynchburg News and Advance

I agree with the inquiring member that actions of the Society cannot impress the American people unless they have heard of the Society and realize its importance. For that reason I believe news of its activities and statements from its spokesmen should be carried by all newspapers if they are sufficiently newsworthy.

The statement in question, that of the president of the ASNE about La Prensa last spring, in my opinion, should have been judged by all news editors as of sufficient news

(Continued on next page)

EDITORS CAN BE SO WRONG

News-Journal High Command Got the Surprise of Its Life
When Daily Weather Map Was Dropped From the Newspaper

• By CHARLES L. REESE, Executive Ed.
Wilmington News-Journal Newspapers

Like most editors we are short of newsprint these days—and, also like most editors, we thought we had a pretty good idea which features the readers would never miss if we dropped them to save space. But we found out just how wrong a group of editors can be when we dropped the daily weather map a month ago.

The map had been appearing in the Journal-

Every Evening for three years and we had gone to a lot of trouble and expense to make it one of the best of its kind. When it first appeared, we prepared a 14-page illustrated booklet on "How to Read a Weather Map" for free distribution to our readers. But in three years of publication we had received only a handful of favorable comments. It seemed fairly obvious that we could save a valuable column of space, a good deal of trouble and expense by dropping a feature that very few people seemed to care about. So we checked with the staff of the local U. S. Weather Bureau, which helps us to prepare the map. They agreed that the people of this area seemed to be much more interested in forecasts, wind velocity, and relative humidity than in reading a weather map. So we quietly dropped the feature without notice or explanation.

For the first week or so we received only a few scattered telephone calls asking what had happened to the map. But after that the storm burst. Farmers wrote and phoned to complain that they relied on the weather map to plan their planting and harvesting; aviators said they used it to plan their cross country flights. Amateur weather fans were the most vociferous; they said the maps made it possible for them to forecast the weather twice as accurately as the Weather Bureau. (A wife of one fan phoned to say

that her husband was driving her crazy since the map was dropped and would we please restore it.) Nearly all of the letters stressed the point that a clear and accurate weather map prepared locally each day, with up-to-the-minute information, was more valuable than information available from any other source.

That just about settled the matter for us. But to make sure that readership of the weather map was

Neglected News?

(Continued from preceding page)

value to be carried. At that time the suppression of La Prensa was important news because it was another attack on the free press. The press of this country had the responsibility to inform the American people what the Society, representing the editors of the United States, had to say about it.

STANLEY E. HART
Warren Tribune Chronicle

Members of the Society certainly should give space in their own newspapers to actions taken by the organization and its officers when these have a bearing on spot news of importance.

News editors should be instructed to use such copy, but only in length comparable to other stories of the same relative value in the same edition.

ROBERT W. AKERS
Beaumont Enterprise

Your anonymous correspondent asks: "Why should people be impressed with an action of the ASNE if they have never heard of it?"

Let's hope he means never heard of the action, and not that they have never heard of ASNE. And let's add that they'll never hear of him if he continues his shrinking anonymity.

It is hard to believe any editor would deny the need for publishing the story of the ASNE action on La Prensa. We carried it.

If somebody's news editor spiked it, that somebody had better get to work himself.

As for ASNE, it has the highest ideals. I mean it sincerely. Too bad

as widespread as it appeared to be, we made an independent survey of farmers at the annual Kent-Sussex (State) Fair. A third of the farmers checked said they used the map; the other two-thirds said they missed it; all of the county agents said they hoped we would restore the feature.

So back it went and we are once again having a new map prepared each morning, rushed six miles to the city desk by special messenger, engraved by a time-consuming process which includes a Ben Day overlay, and getting it into the paper just before the deadline for our down-state edition. It's worth it.

it can't find a way to do more—in addition to statements, resolutions, and an excellent once-a-year meeting.

VERN CROOP
Rochester Times-Union

I was more than happy to proclaim to the world, through our columns, the ASNE attitude on Peron's treatment of La Prensa last spring. It was an excellent opportunity to again confirm that the traditional purpose of the American newspapers in promoting individual freedom has not been compromised since the Revolution. Yet I did not accord it a conspicuous place in the make-up for that day due to the fact that I felt the item rather run-of-the-mill, even though it was of historic significance to the Society.

"Run-of-the-mill" as a description of our action is probably somewhat hard to swallow because we as a Society are occupied first and foremost with thoughts as to newspapers, editorial opinion, etc. But, in a news sense it probably had the same value to the general public as a retail liquor association protesting a higher tax on its sale of spirituous liquors, or the ministers' association proclaiming themselves against sin.

In the final analysis I believe it much more important that we convince the reading public that our interest is in their behalf rather than our own promotion and, therefore, would rather accord the Society real publicity when it stresses ethics and otherwise it promotes the integrity of American newspapers.

ROBERT C. CRANE
Elizabeth Daily Journal

Free Tickets — Gratuities — Government Junkets

Their Acceptance by Newspaper Editors Called a Fibre-Weakening Journalistic Practice

• By FRED W. STEIN, Editor
The Binghamton Press

The wool and warp of our national moral fibre has become a topic as dear to editorial writers' leathery hearts as the first day of spring or public apathy at the polls.

They have poked, pried, pulled and peered at this fibre and, as one man, have recoiled with highly vocal alarm. Like Henny-Penny, they are afraid the sky is falling. But only on others.

Unfortunately, the same editors who are exercised by influence peddling in government often condone what amounts to the same practice in their own backyards. It is important that we recognize that a newspaper is as much a public trust as a government agency. A newspaper's moral footing, as a matter of fact, should be sounder, if it wishes to retain the privilege of criticism of those who are ethically lax.

I would like to touch on a small segment of what I consider fibre-weakening journalistic practices. I refer to the acceptance of gratuities and passes by newspaper staff members and participation in sponsored junkets.

Inducements Are Offered

I can excuse some organizations for the blandishments they offer newspapermen because they are ignorant of newspaper practice. But there are publicity wise groups which offer inducements to newspapers and their employees which never could plead such ignorance.

I refer to sports, fashion, and entertainment promoters who dispense free tickets and—along with industrial groups—gifts and other gratuities.

I abhor this practice and do not personally accept nor permit my staff to accept this largess and the obligations implied. The Press follows this practice, not with any desire to be a paragon of virtue, but as a principle of sound newspaper practice.

The practice of accepting free tickets may sound innocent, but it is particularly repugnant when the origin of the Annie Oakley is recalled. Originally it was the medium of a prime facie business transaction. Newspapers accepted tickets in lieu of cash payment for publicity at the regular advertising

rates. The free list is a vestigial reminder of that practice which many years ago was discarded by most newspapers.

Someone Is Defrauded

Some newspapermen insist that passes exert no influence on them. If this is true, they are perpetrating a fraud on those who gave them the tickets and expect special consideration in return. If it is not true, they are defrauding the readers, who have a right to expect that a newspaper dispenses its space in proportion to the significance of the news to the community and not in proportion to the number of passes it receives.

I have reason to believe that there is a trend away from the acceptance of passes in newspaper offices. Recently, I had occasion to contact a representative sampling of editors throughout the nation on many matters of newspaper ethics and their collective attitude toward acceptance of passes was most encouraging.

I found the majority of these editors observe the same practice as we do at the Press. We accept no passes—including movie and circus passes—except working press passes. We accept the latter only when the donor clearly understands that he is entitled to no special consideration.

Editors In Agreement

The Yonkers Herald Statesman and the Miami Herald observe the same rule. Oxie Reichler, editor of The Herald Statesman, added, "It is my feeling that this stiff-necked attitude of editors and staffs helps develop self respect and a proven attitude of independence, exceedingly rewarding in the long run."

William P. Steven, assistant executive editor of The Minneapolis Tribune and The Minneapolis Star, wrote that the rule in his office is to examine the motivation of the tickets offered. This is in line with the policy of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Mr. Steven reported, "It seems to me the important point is not whether offered tickets are accepted; it is whether tickets are accepted for an improper consideration in the news columns."

These answers were encouraging. In every case where newspa-

pers had no rigid rule against the acceptance of passes, there was an awareness of the possible dangers of this practice and an effort to stand clear of obligation to the donors.

It usually is in the woman's and sports sections that the problem of more substantial gifts arises. Not that these departments are manned by less ethical persons, but they are the most frequent targets of gift-bearers.

Sports Department Vulnerable

Probably the most unhealthy-condition exists in sports departments mainly because few editors give enough attention to that department. The argument is advanced in support of this condition that since no one takes sports too seriously, it is permissible to be morally lax when dealing with sports.

From public reaction to the basketball scandals and the dismissal of the Army football team, the premise of that logic obviously is false. And even if it were sound, an ethical weakness anywhere opens a newspaper to charges of being morally unsound everywhere.

The truth of the matter is that sports promoters try to encourage sports writers to have a stronger sense of obligation to the promoters than to their newspapers.

Here too, my admittedly unscientific sampling of opinion offers encouragement. Lee Hills, managing editor of the Miami Herald, offers this thought:

"The field of sports is probably the one in which newspapers have made the most progress ethically and still have the farthest to go. Arrangements commonly heard a generation or so ago under which sports editors or writers would be in the pay of sports promoters or teams, are seldom heard today. Few newspapers would tolerate it."

Hodding Carter, editor and publisher of The Delta Democrat-Times, says flatly, "We don't allow sports promoters to pay reporters expenses or any profit group to do anything like that..."

In the Women's Department

I find it difficult to follow the rationalization of editors who make a distinction between the

gifts accepted by the sports department and those accepted by women's editors at the New York Dress Institute shows. If one is wrong, both are wrong.

The Dress Institute was established to promote New York's fashion industry and is sponsored by a group of manufacturers. In displaying the latest fashions of many designers in a central location, the show has legitimate news value. It is human for the participating manufacturers to wish to curry the favor of the visiting writers, and their gifts are an expression of this desire. Knowing the motivation for these gifts, it is my belief that women editors who want to maintain their independence and integrity should return them.

Our women's editor attends these sessions but does not accept the gifts. Her traveling expenses are paid by The Press, not by the Institute. When she sits down to write her daily report of the show, she is under no obligation, real or implied.

Government-sponsored Junkets

Can the same be said about the participants in junkets, another important facet of any discussion of ethics. Many newspapers, even those which advocate the reduction of non-essential items in the budget, condone government-sponsored junkets as a necessary expenditure. They reason that the government is performing a public service in the interests of the taxpayers who are financing the junket. The service is the wide distribution of information which is essential to taxpayers.

In addition, some newspapers reason that they should accept every opportunity to see whether the government is operating in the public interest. Many editors who oppose privately-financed junkets particularly for staff members other than themselves, favor government-sponsored junkets.

The weakness of government-sponsored junkets, I believe, is that they are motivated as often by an ulterior purpose as those sponsored by industry. This can result in planned distortion of facts. Secondly, every junket, whether private or public, is conducted by human beings, who, too often feel that the truth lacks drama,

Atomic Display Staged

Our city editor went on a government-sponsored junket to the atomic energy plant in Oak Ridge, Tenn. There he witnessed a power-

ful and moving drama. He saw the removal from the atomic pile of the first radio-active atomic isotopes to be used for cancer research.

The procedure and dangers were explained to him and other newsmen who watched the operation. Scientists stationed themselves about the pile and, with elaborate hand motions signaled for the isotopes to be removed. A switch was thrown and a deafening roar of sirens and bells rocked the building. Our city editor was visibly impressed and not a little shaken by the spectacle.

Self-appointed Experts

A year later he learned that the Oak Ridge scientists who conducted the demonstration felt that the normal procedure was too routine for the visiting newsmen. To heighten the drama, they installed the sirens and bells. Like most humans, the scientists at Oak Ridge basically were hams, an inherent weakness of a junket in which people are involved.

Too, an editor in his quest to be well informed runs the danger of emerging from a junket little informed. A little information, of course, is a dangerous thing. Too often editors consider that a 48-hour visit is sufficient to make them more expert on a subject than newsmen who are assigned to the spot. This results in distorted dispatches, attributable to insufficient background. No information is preferable to inaccurate information.

Before an editor participates in a junket, he should ask himself four questions:

ONE—Will I be intruding on the beat of newsmen who are better informed on the subject than I am?

TWO—Will I be restricted to talking only to the persons to whom the sponsors steer me?

THREE—Could my paper afford to send me on this trip by itself?

FOUR—Do the sponsors have a motive or ax to grind?

If he can truthfully answer "no" to each of these questions, he is entitled to take the junket.

Incorrigibles Are In Minority

In this discussion, I have given you personal views on a variety of subjects in relation to newspaper ethics. I sometimes find myself wishing there was a way that some of these could be translated into an enforceable newspaper code.

The wish is fathered by the knowledge that there are a few

papers which knowingly subscribe to unprincipled practices. They are a small and inept minority but by their corrupt practices all newspapers suffer.

I sometimes wish for a means by which the profession could rule them off the track, the way the medical and legal professions disqualify their incorrigibles. But the American press is a unique institution. The Constitution which guarantees a free press, guarantees freedom for the worst as well as the best.

The source of the medical and legal disciplinary power over members is the power of license. The first amendment of the Constitution expressly forbids such power to the press when it states unequivocally, "Congress shall make no law—abridging—the freedom of the press." I would have it no other way.

Wants Membership On 'Quality' Basis

I have read with interest the several proposals advanced in The Bulletin recently about eligibility for membership in the ASNE. Personally, I think it is wrong to admit members solely on a population or circulation basis. Rather, I think election should be based on the quality of product produced, regardless of size.

I happen to be a member of the National Conference of Editorial Writers and I have observed that in that organization some of the smaller dailies, which could not qualify for membership in ASNE, frequently gain recognition over some of the largest papers in the country. In the NCEW every editorial page is given a thorough going-over in panel discussions, and you are exceedingly lucky if you come out unscathed.

As a matter of fact, it takes more guts to operate a fighting newspaper in a small town than in a metropolitan area, because in the former case it is very difficult to gain the protection of anonymity. I hope, therefore, that in future years we may give more consideration to merit wherever it may be found and not go on the assumption that mere size, whether of city population or of circulation, is a fair determinant of superiority.

H. M. AYERS, Publisher
Anniston (Ala.) Star

Medium Size Newspapers Value Staff Foreign Correspondence

(Continued from August Bulletin)

The Arizona Daily Star is another small-city newspaper which brings the world to its readers through the eyes of its own correspondent, in this case William R. Mathews, editor and publisher of the Tucson newspaper.

His reporting of international affairs began by accident. In London on a pleasure trip in 1935 he had a chance to go to the Soviet Union, returning via Poland and Germany, and felt that he had to write about what he saw there. It happened again, two years later, when he crossed the Pacific in a Japanese freighter. "When in Rome" is Mr. Mathews' travel motto and on that trip he took a bath Japanese style, in the crew's communal tub. He went home the long way, through China, Manchuria, Russia and Europe. Off and on, he's been roaming and reporting ever since.

Obviously he enjoys travel but in addition, he says, "I definitely feel it is the duty of a newspaper editor to know something about the world in which we live."

"The response I have received from remote cow towns in Southern Arizona, as well as from the more modern cities, has been encouraging. The response of the people to this kind of news coverage is indicative of the character of our country. Only in the United States can you find the people in small, remote communities vitally interested in what is going on elsewhere in the world. That curiosity, I am convinced, is an expression of the vitality and adventuresomeness of the American people. They are not going to stay home; they are going to take part in the life of the world."

Now Mr. Mathews is back from a summer's trip that criss-crossed Europe and took him as far as Yugoslavia. His daily reports to Star readers were encouraging and optimistic. He's convinced that the Marshall Plan and our diplomatic policy in Europe are paying off.

The thoroughness of his coverage is indicated by a partial list of his travels:

1939: Europe and the Balkans. 1942: England and Ireland. 1945: Back to England for the British elections; same year, in the Pacific,

he was on the Iowa on VJ-Day and on the Missouri for the formal surrender. 1946: Bikini for the A-bomb explosion. 1947: Palestine, where a crisis was developing. 1949: He had planned a trip to the Far East when an invitation came from the Dutch government to visit Indonesia and he arranged to go via Europe and return via the

Many a Planned Holiday Trip Turns Into a Writing Job, Ahlgren Finds

"It was supposedly my holiday," Frank Ahlgren, editor of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, says of a recent trip to Europe, "but as always happens to newspapermen, it turned out to be a busman's jaunt. I saw Sherman in Madrid just a few days before his death and did a story on Spain. Bernard Baruch was on board the Queen Mary on the way back and I prevailed on him to let me file something about his trip. But we love it, you know."

The Baruch quotes dealt largely with Eisenhower, whom he likened to Peter the Hermit, who roused the first great crusade against the Infidels threatening to sweep over Europe. Of the General he said, "He talks, sleeps and breathes SHAPE and is utterly devoid of political ambitions so far as I could determine."

To Mr. Ahlgren, "Europe, or that part of it which I saw, looked greatly improved over 1947," with France and Italy doing exceptionally well in contrast to his previous inspection. "Great Britain was coming out of it in characteristic fashion—slowly but certainly—when the Labor Government announced three years of price and profit controls which set the market off on a downward spiral."

In London, talking with persons in widely diverse walks of life, Mr. Ahlgren found few supporters of the Labor Government. But Mr. Baruch, in a later talk, reminded him that while working people did not apparently like the way the government was being run, they voted for it out of a sort of "sullen

Pacific. By adhering to that plan, he missed taking the plane that crashed at Bombay with other correspondents on the Indonesian trip. 1950: He was one of the two correspondents with the Dulles mission to Korea and Japan, and was at the 38th Parallel a week before the attack. The evening that the war broke out he was in Tokyo and spent an historic hour alone with General MacArthur.

"I happened to be there when . . ." is a phrase Mr. Mathews uses frequently. But his faculty for being in the particular spot where world news is breaking is more than a happenstance; it's uncanny.

contentment" in the leveling off process.

On the return trip, 15 Rotarians, including one from Manila and another from Bombay, discussed their reactions to their European tours and summarized their conclusions.

They agreed that "Apart from the difficulties of traveling in Russian occupied territory where new laws seemed to be passed overnight to inconvenience travelers, and intrigues of the black market in some zones, the reception was good." Also that "It was gratifying to see the tangible evidence of the constructive way United States dollars are being spent." They felt that if every traveler would regard himself as an ambassador of goodwill, it would do much to ease the tense situations that so frequently arise.

Interim Report on Finances

The assistant to the treasurer reports a credit balance of \$28,199.95 as of July 13, with the bill for the printing of the Proceedings (approximately \$2100.) still to be paid.

Resignations From the Society

Preston Wolfe, who joined the Society in 1942 as associate editor of the Columbus Dispatch, has resigned because of ineligibility. He is now president of the Dispatch Printing Company.

Dean M. Hoffman submits his resignation because of his retirement from the Harrisburg Patriot.

THOUGHTS FOR YOUR COPY DESK

A journalism teacher and two editors suggest that the Office of the Bulletin needs a more modern dictionary. "Chaperone," "tranquility" and "furore," to which we objected last month because they are not permissible according to our old Merriam-Webster, are allowed in the 1945 edition.

T. R. Waring, editor of the Charleston News and Courier, says that he had recently checked "tranquility," intending to put it on his own list of 30 most misspelled words, as it has always been a pet of his; unhappily, he adds, the new deal in spelling has gotten into Webster's so he had to abide by it. His list, for office use, of words frequently misspelled or misused follows:

abattoir	harass
accommodate	kimono
accordion	led (lead)
affect (effect)	liaison
battalion	liquefy
brooch	occurred
canvas (cloth)	pedal (peddle)
Caribbean	principal
dietitian	(principle)
ecstasy	privilege
embarrass	recommend
exhilarate	resistance
exorbitant	seize
farther	separate
(further)	siege
gauge	strait jacket

Edward J. Meeman, editor of the Memphis Press-Scimitar, is continuing his campaign "for the restoration and preservation of our noble tongue." Among the expressions which offend him are these:

sort of
small fry (he says it's contemptuous)
for free
too many (for very)
He surmises that the last one started this way:

"Some woman, at cocktails before dinner, put her pretty head slightly on one side and said, 'Well, not too many.' The affectation seemed smart at least to one of those present. The fellow, probably a writer, picked it up, and now we're stuck with it."

("Fellow" is a fine word that has fallen into disuse. But, we ask Mr. Meeman, is "stuck with it" noble English?)

Quotation marks about what should be an indirect quotation, and the language changed to the

first person, distress the Memphis editor. Example: "The spiv is a devout believer in the single creed that 'the world owes me a living.'"

Mr. Meeman blames this innovation on newspapermen, especially press association writers. "Only combined action by the press associations," he says, "can reverse this already established trend."

The Path to Stodginess

With due respect to my neighbor, Bill Heath of The Haverhill Gazette, let's not go overboard on President Jones' proposal of an enlarged Bulletin.

I'm all for a more spacious Bulletin to keep me more closely in touch with what fellow editors are doing and thinking between conventions and what the Society's top brass is plotting at the moment.

But Mr. Heath's idea of using an expanded Bulletin to bring journalistic light to the heathen leaves me cold. That's a job for individual editors in their individual communities. A hundred unread Bulletins stacked away in Podunk College's library will do less good than one straight-from-the-shoulder talk by an editor, alert to the dangers that beset his profession.

The moment we start prostituting The Bulletin as a propaganda vehicle, that moment it will begin to lose its professional value to me. That way, too, lie dullness and stodginess.

CHARLES E. GALLAGHER
Managing Editor, The Lynn Item

Check Your Proceedings

Any member who has not received his copy of the 1951 Proceedings should notify the Office of the Bulletin.

Every member is asked to check his copy for page numbers from 96 to 129 as one member reports the folios badly muddled in that section. A report on any other incorrectly assembled books is wanted promptly, so that the matter can be taken up with the printer and adjustment made.

Extra copies of the Proceedings are available. Price is \$3.50, and orders should be sent to Mrs. DeVe K. Fisher, assistant to the treasurer, 4123 Ninth Street, N.W., Washington 11, D. C.

Attempts at News Suppression Still Dot the Country

Three days is the record-low for cornering a petty tyrant who attempts to suppress news. That advice comes from James S. Pope, chairman of the Freedom of Information committee, who did it in Maysville, Ky.

On August 10, the Maysville Independent was told by the Circuit Court clerk that it could not have access to his records because it published an account of a suit filed against a former city commissioner. "Civil suits," the clerk said, "are not public news until they go on the docket and a judgment is entered."

Mr. Pope, in Louisville, went to bat for the newspaper, circulation under 5,000. On August 11 he wrote the clerk one of his now famous letters, explaining why such a position is indefensible and welcoming "a voluntary reversal that would make legal action unnecessary."

On August 12, the clerk informed The Independent that the records of his office would be open for public inspection after all.

The New Bedford Standard-Times had a longer job on its hands when it undertook to have the Fairhaven School Committee open its meetings to the press and the public. Charles J. Lewin, editor and general manager, headed an 18-month campaign to convince committee members that the public, and hence the press, had a legitimate interest in an agency entrusted with nearly \$300,000. in public funds annually. Stories in the newspaper, reminding readers that the school committee operated in secrecy, so aroused public interest that the issue was a major one in the school election.

Opponents of open meetings said they believed presence of a reporter would inhibit free expression of opinion by members and impede handling of school business. Mr. Lewin presented evidence that objective reporting had expedited rather than impeded the work of other committees, throughout New England.

Victory was won in July.

Mr. Pope's comment to Mr. Lewin: "As long as courageous editors do their job like that, our committee will have little to do but round up the details."

FIRST AND SIXTH AMENDMENTS

Reconciliation of These Basic Principles Called Essential To a Proper Solution of Problem of Crime News Reporting

President Jones calls attention to an address by Bert Struby, executive editor of The Macon Telegraph and News, of interest to ASNE members. Titled "Justice Jackson's Opinion and Freedom of the Press," it was delivered before the Judicial Conference of the Fifth Federal Judicial Circuit in New Orleans, early this summer.

The Macon editor welcomed the invitation to speak because "it permitted presentation of the views of the press on a very important subject." Somewhat to his amazement, he says, "our views were quite well received by many of the District Judges attending."

Mr. Struby is a younger, and newer, member of the Society, elected three years ago. In 1949 he won the Georgia Press Association award, for an editorial on racial tolerance, and last year he was cited by the Georgia Young People's League for Better Government as the Bibb County citizen contributing most to promotion of the organization's aims.

An abridgement of his New Orleans address follows:

The subject of newspaper reporting of judicial proceedings is one of the most controversial we have in this country, particularly when the reporting involves crime news.

We in the newspaper profession are just as anxious as are you of the bench and bar to resolve these differences which seem to be developing, so long as the citizens of our democracy are not denied access to information guaranteed them by their own Constitution.



BERT STRUBY

The Florida case of Shepherd and Irvin vs. the State is only the latest to spotlight a growing concept that newspaper reports of judicial proceedings should be restricted and regulated.

In this case the U. S. Supreme Court unanimously ordered a retrial of two Florida Negroes on rape charges. Seven members of the court voted for reversal of the conviction on the ground that there had been discrimination against Negroes in selection of the trial jury.

Mr. Justice Jackson, with whom Mr. Justice Frankfurter joined, contended the reversal should be given on the ground that "prejudicial influences" outside the court denied the men a fair trial. They suggested their colleagues had seen fit "to stress the trivial and ignore the important."

In his opinion, Mr. Justice Jackson said:

"But prejudicial influences outside the courtroom, becoming all too typical of a highly publicized trial, were brought to bear on this jury with such force that the conclusion is inescapable that these defendants were prejudged as guilty and the trial was but a legal gesture to register a verdict already dictated by the press and the public opinion which it generated."

Mr. Justice Jackson took particular note of the fact that newspapers published, and attributed to the sheriff, a statement that the defendants had confessed, yet this alleged confession was never introduced as evidence during the trial.

He took issue with the fact that "every detail of these passion-arousing events was reported by the press. . . ."

The defendants in petitioning the trial court for an order to remove the case to another county recited, among other allegations, the charge that "widespread newspaper publicity in the area and other Florida counties had inflamed the public mind in Lake County," scene of the trial.

Lake County is a rich community with good schools and a high standard of living. Probably more than half of its inhabitants are transplanted Northerners and the county voted Republican (for Dewey) in the last presidential election.

The Florida Supreme Court, in refusing to disturb the lower court's denial of petition for change of venue, said that it was true that strained racial relations existed in about a five square mile area surrounding the community in which the accused Negroes resided, and

that a mob burned the Shepherd home and two other houses in that area, but that the flare subsided on or before July 24, 1949. The trial did not begin until September first, five weeks later.

The court said further:

"The inflamed public sentiment was against the crime with which the appellants were charged rather than the defendants' race. It is true that newspapers carried reports of the alleged crime, but the impression of prejudice, if any made, yielded to the sworn testimony."

Mr. Justice Jackson's attack upon the press followed by only a few weeks a proposal by Former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind to the New York Society of Newspaper Editors that information which would contribute to "trial by newspaper" be screened before publication.

The New York editors spurned Judge Rifkind's suggestion on the very sound grounds that justice will not be impeded by truth. They might also have added that there already are sufficient laws on our statute books to safeguard against the abuse of the principles of truth.

Many of the nation's leading newspaper editors consider such proposals as that by Judge Rifkind and such opinions as that of Mr. Justice Jackson as contributing factors to a general trend on the part of governing authorities—be it premeditated or unintentional—which will lay the groundwork for control of newspapers.

Newsmen view with alarm any move, whether it be an opinion of a Supreme Court justice, a lockout by an Air Force general, or a proposed act of a state legislature, when these individual incidents comprise a pattern which forebodes further encroachments upon access to information.

This alarm is by no means entirely a matter of self-interest on the part of the press.

The American Society of Newspaper Editors affirmed as far back as 1934 that the constitutional provision that Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of the press was not written for the benefit of newspapers, but for the benefit of the people as a whole, and "the obligation of protecting the people's right to a free press falls on the newspapers."

The U. S. Supreme Court has been consistent through the years in upholding freedom of the press,

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 336

October 1, 1951

Should Tass Reporters Be Curbed?

YES by Alexander F. Jones

NO by B. M. McKelway

The brief of the Washington committee of our Society to the Standing Committee of the Congressional Galleries on the Tass matter is on every member's desk.

I am most grateful to Walker Stone, chairman, David Lawrence and John Henry, members of this committee, for the excellent preparation and distribution of our case.

This brief contends that Tass is not a news service and that its employees, as registered agents of the Soviet Union, are not legitimate representatives of the free press.

It is my understanding that the Standing Committee of the Congressional Galleries is now writing a letter to our committee pointing out that the rules of the gallery were changed in 1949 striking out the stricture on representatives of foreign governments being members. (Letter since released—Editor's note.)

But the Standing Committee decided unanimously against our brief on the basis that expulsion of Tass would involve abridgement of the principles of a free press. The committee stated it views registered agents of the Soviet Union as "neighbors" and that it is not interested in who controls or subsidizes any news agency.

As certain members of the Society had previously expressed similar views, I asked Ben McKelway, with whom I dearly love to battle, to set them down for the benefit of the members. His views appear in another column.

So what follows is in the nature of a debate with Ben.

Anyone would think from the statement of the Standing Committee that Communist journalists are as free as air in this country.

That is far from the case. Communist journalists cannot possibly enter the United States today unless they are accredited to United Nations or are official representatives of the Soviet Union.

The reason Communist journalists—and all Communists for that matter—are not admitted to the

President Jones has suggested that we stick to the record in this discussion.

The record in question, as I understand it, is President Jones' "Call to Courage" editorial in the September Bulletin. He offers to the American Society of Newspaper Editors a plan of action based on the following declaration:

"There will be no real progress in the business of freeing William Oatis of the Associated Press from his prison cell in Czechoslovakia until there is a realistic approach to the subject of American-Russian press relations."

The "realistic approach" was outlined in four points. My contention is that this approach is wholly unrealistic.

Point 1 was that the appropriate Congressional authorities notify the Standing Committee of Correspondents that "No government agency, U. S. or foreign, can be members of the galleries or enjoy its privileges. This would affect only Tass. This action would automatically shut Communists from official sanction to spy on this country."

The press galleries at the Capitol are under the nominal jurisdiction of the Speaker of the House and the Senate Rules Committee.

For many years they have delegated to the Standing Committee of Correspondents, elected by members of the press galleries, the drafting of rules of admittance and their enforcement. The theory is that the galleries are for newspapermen and newspapermen should run them.

It would be unfortunate if, at the suggestion of the President of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Congress should now disavow this wise policy and instruct the newspapermen whom to admit and not to admit to the press galleries.

Should the rule proposed by President Jones be adopted, however, representatives of Tass would not be the only ones excluded from the galleries. There are at least two and perhaps other

DIRECTORS TO MEET

The Board will hold its fall meeting October 19-20 in Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C. On the agenda are the Oatis case, new eligibility proposals, election of members, and other between-convention affairs of the Society.

United States is because they teach and advocate the overthrow of our government by force and violence and endanger security.

This ruling is subject to question on the angle of freedom of the press. It has aspects of abridgement.

Yet I have not heard Ben McKelway, or Carroll Binder, or Lester Markel raise their voices in protest. Why? Because the security of our government is involved!

Under the Smith Act, eleven Communist leaders were sent to jail as conspirators against our government. One was John Gates, managing editor of the Daily Worker. Gates was not tried as a newspaperman but as a party leader. The Communists raised the question of freedom of the press, but the U. S. Supreme Court was not impressed.

I did not hear Ben McKelway protest. In fact I am sure he agreed. He also agreed in a statement in Editor and Publisher that the indictment of 23 secondary

(Continued on page 3)

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

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No. 335 September 1, 1951

of our Constitution and to make one subservient to the other would mean an irreparable loss of a safeguard to our liberties.

I think if the judiciary and the press will approach this problem in the months to come with a viewpoint toward reconciling those differences which develop between these two basic democratic principles, rather than from the viewpoint of individual cases which necessarily color the issue, we will accomplish much more.

We will admit there are some black sheep among us in the Fourth Estate—as in any profession; members who do not abide by the canons of journalism. I think you will observe over a period of years, however, that the successful newspapers—those which enjoy the respect and honor of their communities—are the ones who do uphold the standards of the profession. It would be folly to restrain these because of a few.

James Madison, author of the Bill of Rights, in discussing reasons for the free press amendment, said that while there might be instances of the newspapers being not worthy of the trust imposed upon them and granted them, nevertheless it was far better to let a few such newspapers continue to exist than it would be to strike down the very foundation of our liberty by destroying the press in order to get rid of a few bad members.

even to the extent of reversing trial judges in three recent cases of contempt citations against newspaper editors.

None of these three cases involved a jury, however, and that is where the Florida case differs.

Mr. Justice Jackson asserted that newspaper accounts of the pre-trial events and coverage of the trial prejudiced the jury. It was the obligation and duty of the newspapers to report these events.

Would the honorable Mr. Jackson have such an event as an angry mob burning the defendants' homes go unreported and ignored by the press of the community? Is it not better that the public be given a factual account, to which it is entitled, rather than to feed upon wild rumors which unquestionably would develop from such an unreported event?

In a broader sense, would Mr. Justice Jackson have the nation's press go without a single printed word on the attempted assassination of President Truman, the arrest and trial of the assailants, until after the jury had returned its verdict?

Those are questions which must be decided if we follow the reasoning behind this esteemed jurist's criticism.

Certainly the fact that a newspaper reports every detail of all major events in its community, whether they be passion-arousing events or otherwise, is a tribute to its performance of duty in informing the public.

The statutes of all states provide for the voir dire questioning of jurors. Methods can be and are employed to eliminate from the jury panel any citizen who may have been prejudiced by accounts of the crime.

If, however, the court conducting the trial is not satisfied that the jury is capable of rendering an impartial decision, the law provides for a change of venue. . . . But the Florida court did not consider this necessary.

Yet, Mr. Justice Jackson criticizes the newspapers, not the court for a trial he described as "but a legal gesture to register a verdict already dictated. . . ."

On the point of publication of a confession by the defendants, Mr. Justice Jackson touches upon a matter which deserves constructive criticism, this time from the press against the courts, officers of the courts and the legal profession in general.

How many arresting and prose-

cuting officers do you know who immediately upon obtaining a confession or some new evidence in a criminal case, call in the news reporter to give him a "break"?

These officers purposely make their evidence (with some reservations) available to the press and radio in an effort to "get their case before the public" even prior to the time the defendant has come before a grand jury for indictment.

Publication of confessions undoubtedly do contribute to "trial by newspaper," but the press is not to be censured for this. The court itself is due criticism for permitting its own officers to disclose such information if justice is thereby jeopardized. . . .

A few years ago the Journal of the American Judicature Society said:

"Except for the slush and gush of the sob artists, there is very little offense chargeable against the press in which it is not led or abetted by lawyers, judges and other public officials."

If the courts properly administer their affairs there can be no such thing as trial by newspaper. The Florida case is a good example. The Sheriff alleged he had obtained confessions and gave those confessions to the press which printed them. Violent prejudices developed against the defendants who were brought to trial five weeks later in the same community where there had been "inflamed" public reaction.

The Florida press is not to be censured for these circumstances and certainly a blanket criticism of all newspapers is not justified. Neither is the evidence of abuse or negligence by the press as a whole sufficient to support argument for restriction or curtailment of reporting criminal cases and trials.

* * *

Perhaps in its broader aspects the problem resolves into a question Judge Rifkind posed some months ago. He said he was not so much attacking the press as he was attempting to underscore what he termed a conflict within the Federal Constitution itself: the apparent incompatibility of the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of speech and press, and the Sixth Amendment, which assures every individual of a fair trial.

Some of your bar journals are asking, Shall the First or the Sixth amendment be held paramount?

It is unnecessary that either be paramount; both are vital members

news services which would be excluded. Traditionally, the correspondents of all foreign news agencies, sent to this country as such, have been admitted to the press galleries, whether or not those news agencies derive support in part or in whole from the governments of their countries. The tradition, in my opinion, is sound.

President Jones and some others seem to misunderstand the status of representatives of the Voice of America at the Capitol.

They use the periodical galleries, while representatives of the British Broadcasting Corporation use the radio galleries. Certain facilities of the press galleries are available to the Voice of America. In other words, it is misleading to contend that the Voice of America is excluded from the press galleries while Tass is admitted. The practical reason for not formally admitting the Voice of America to the press galleries is that the bars would thus be let down to admitting every Government press agent in town. The galleries are not large enough to accommodate them, unless the newspapermen are to be excluded.

President Jones states that if Tass were excluded from the galleries, "This action would automatically shut Communists from any official sanction to spy on this country."

Admittance to the press galleries, of course, is not official sanction to spy on this country.

Tass is represented in Washington by one Russian citizen, Mikhail Federov, and by three American citizens.

Tass is represented in New York by seven Russian citizens, and perhaps by some Americans.

To exclude Tass from the press galleries in Washington would not affect the flow of American news to Tass. Mr. Federov could sit in one of the other galleries, or merely read the Congressional Record. His helpers here might get themselves accredited to the Daily Worker of New York or London.

The only way to stop the flow of news to Tass would be for the Government to impose censorship on all news dispatches leaving the United States. The ASNE has been correctly sensitive on the subject of censorship in peacetime and I trust it will remain opposed to any move in that direction.

Point No. 2 in President Jones' realistic approach is this: "As Tass representatives are of diplomatic rank, the U. S. Government can declare any one of them of Russian nationality persona non grata—

and send them home and keep on doing it until the Kremlin realizes its cozy, one-way press deal is over."

Representatives of Tass are not of diplomatic rank or status. They enjoy none of the immunities or privileges conferred on diplomats. They are subject to all the laws of the United States, including the laws against espionage.

If not American citizens, they could be deported, of course, for cause.

The United States Government, not the American Society of Newspaper Editors or the Standing Committee of Correspondents, is responsible for the enforcement of laws. If the Government is lax, its failure should be exposed. I have a profound respect for the FBI's ability to keep itself informed on who is spying upon whom. It seems more realistic for the ASNE to leave law enforcement to the Department of Justice.

President Jones' Point No. 3, in his approach to realism, is this: "The United States can notify Moscow that American newspapermen, while not Government representatives, are American citizens, admitted on their visas, and any indignity to them, in pursuit of their duties, will be considered an unfriendly act."

The problem, of course, is not in sending such a notification to Moscow. The problem is how to back it up. If President Jones implies that an improper response from Moscow to such notification means that we go to war, I am against sending the notification. If we can get Russia over a barrel, short of war, I am in favor of that. I do not think, however, that Russia can be got over a barrel by sending eight Tass correspondents home.

Point No. 4 is realistically stated by President Jones as follows:

"American newspapers, which are really playing footsie with Communist control of this international press situation, can get off their dead posteriors and start to fight."

If the evidence of dead posteriors on the part of American newspapers is a reluctance to dash off wildly in all directions, waving the flag at Russia and trying to win the cold war by expelling Tass correspondents—a dead posterior has at least some commendable attributes.

The Standing Committee of Correspondents took under serious advisement the proposals from President Jones. It received from the Washington Committee of ASNE a brief in support of some—but not

all—of the proposals. The Washington Committee is to be credited for bringing to the attention of the Standing Committee an apparent—though not a real—contradiction between the present rules of the galleries, which were rewritten during the 81st Congress, and the printed form filled out by applicants for admittance to the galleries. This form was not changed when the rules were changed. This technical error has now been corrected.

As a newspaperman, I take considerable satisfaction in the unanimous decision of the Standing Committee not to throw Tass out of the galleries.

If realism is the issue in this controversy, the members of this Standing Committee are the realists.

They know, in the first place, that to throw Tass out of the galleries would not help Bill Oatis. It might make it more difficult for him.

They know it would not help American correspondents in Moscow, or in other iron-curtain countries where they might go in pursuit of the news.

They know it would not improve freedom of communications throughout the world, which will benefit in the long run by the example established in freedom-loving countries in support of that principle.

They know, as they said in their excellent statement, "That the principles of a free press cannot be upheld by abridging them. . . . Membership of foreign correspondents in the press galleries is consistent with the American concept of a free press" and "Traditionally, the Standing Committee has accepted the credentials of foreign applicants when satisfied that they are the bona fide representatives of the press of their country."

Members of the Standing Committee of Correspondents do not want the job of spy-hunting, or of determining whether a foreign press service conforms to our own idea of freedom from government control, or whether news correspondents write propaganda or stick to straight news reporting. Nor do they wish responsibility for conducting the foreign policy of the United States or enforcing its domestic laws.

I don't blame them. Their stand, in this case, seems closer to the principles that should guide a society of American newspaper editors than the "realistic approach" suggested by my old and dear friend, Casey Jones.

ASNE and the Directive

• By WALKER STONE, Editor
Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance

Two days earlier Casey Jones had received a call from the White House. Joe Short had asked Casey to round up a committee of the editors and come to the White House to discuss "off the record" a proposed Presidential directive relating to information affecting national security.

So on the morning of July 10, Casey rolled into town from Syracuse. Jimmie Pope came in from Louisville and Jack Lockhart from New York. Ben McKelway and I joined up as the Washington contingent, and the five of us went over to Joe Short's office.

For three hours, and paragraph by paragraph, we discussed with Joe and his assistants a rather lengthy and complicated document which was called the tentative draft of the proposed executive order.

We offered a number of objections and suggestions. We were not persuaded that it was either necessary or desirable for the President to issue a blanket order delegating to the heads of all governmental agencies the authority to classify information as "top secret," "secret," "confidential" or "restricted." We agreed that it was proper for the Department of Defense to withhold military secrets, in instances where disclosure would adversely affect national security. But we suggested that it was an entirely different matter to give to the top officials of all Government agencies the discretion to determine how much and what of the public's business should be disclosed to the public. We contended that this would lead, too often, to the withholding of information which had no bearing on national security.

We suggested that if the Government was going ahead with the project, the executive order at least should define "security information," and should set up a central appeal board to pass upon the rulings of various Government officials.

At the conclusion of our session, our committee was invited to submit further recommendations, but was told that the executive order would be submitted to the National Security Council for action within two days' time.

After leaving the White House, we concluded that in the circumstances our committee could do nothing more than file a written protest for the record. So we drafted and sent to the White House the following letter, addressed to Joe Short, on July 10:

Hon. Joseph Short
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Joe:

All of the members of the ASNE committee who called upon you

this morning deeply appreciate your courtesy in asking our comment on the draft of the proposed executive order on classified information.

We recognize the problem with which you are dealing; the difficulty of solution. We recognize that there are some categories of official information which affect military security and therefore should be withheld from all except responsible Government officers.

A large part of this proposed executive order is concerned with the mechanics of safeguarding information within and among Gov-

(Continued on next page)

JONES STATEMENT

(Continued from page 1)

Communist leaders did not constitute a threat to press freedom. The indictments charge these Communists, among other things, with teaching and advocating the overthrow of our government through newspaper and magazine articles.

Why then should there be this sudden affection, this Alice-in-Wonderland defense of Tass, the official mouthpiece of the Soviet Government, which is the fountainhead of the doctrine of overthrow of the U. S. Constitution and the freedoms it guarantees? What is the difference between the little Communist journalist who cannot obtain admission and Mikhail Federov, the trained espionage agent, who, twenty-four hours after the Standing Committee ruling, boldly walked into the White House and asked for, and obtained, an official transcript of a Presidential news conference?

One answer, of course, is Tass, alleged news service of the Soviet Union.

The real reason is the predicament of American correspondents in Moscow.

For two weeks the Associated Press and the United Press have done everything possible to head off any action on Tass. The possibilities of arrests of American newspapermen in Moscow have been emphasized to every one concerned, including me. One AP director wrote saying: "What are you trying to do, put Eddy Gilmore in jail?" My information is that Ambassador Alexander Kirk cabled Secretary Dean Acheson that four out of five American correspondents in Mos-

cow are married to Russian women and are greatly worried.

I yield to no one in my concern for these fine reporters.

But the backstage flinching in the last fortnight has proved to me that our policy on Tass is not fathered by freedom of the press concerns but by fear. Mikhail Federov has been given a front door license to steal because American correspondents in Moscow are hostages!

Is this a proper concern of ASNE? Since when has American security and the safety—and dignity—of American newspapermen not been a proper concern of our Society?

Is the viewpoint expressed here simply reprisal for the arrest of Oatis? It is true the arrest of Oatis brought the matter in focus, but American-Russian press relations have irritated me for years.

To me, the vote of the Standing Committee is only the opening skirmish in this matter.

It would be helpful, I believe, if Kent Cooper and Hugh Baillie were invited to discuss in the next Bulletin their tieups, if any, with Tass and to answer the question why they keep their Moscow bureaus open. These bureaus produce no legitimate news and place the freedom of their reporters in jeopardy and are a constant embarrassment in guarding American security.

When one surveys the American scene today and sees practically every energy directed towards combatting Russian aggression—the future of our country, our sons, our treasure at stake—it is a bit difficult to envision Tass as a neighbor.

EDITING WITH IMAGINATION

This Small Pennsylvania Daily Goes Far Beyond the Mere
Chronicling of Events to Fit Paper to Needs of Community

• By REBECCA GROSS, Editor
The Lock Haven Express

We have two rather undramatic goals: To tell the news as completely, promptly and correctly as we can, and to induce people to read it, with some appreciation of what it means to them, not only in the satisfaction of current curiosity, but in the long-term stock of information they need as citizens and personalities.

One technique we use, not systematically, but as suits our needs and convenience, is to rotate the members of our staff in various assignments, to keep them from falling into a rut, to keep as many as possible acquainted with the news sources in all departments, and to make the faces of our people familiar in the community. Our city editor will take a wedding story; our society editor has covered fires.

To get people to read the paper, we have employed stunts such as the special front pages we have used several times on Christmas and the Fourth of July. We started these about 15 or more years ago, and repeat them about once every five years. Meanwhile, they have been pretty widely adapted by other papers. On the Fourth, we cover the Declaration of Independence as if it had just happened, using modern news coverage methods, including pictures, to tell the story. At Christmas time, we take the Gospels of St. Luke and St. Matthew and treat them as news reports, using the Scriptural text, but breaking them into stories of suitable length with appropriate headlines and illustrations.

We are experimenting with types of news many papers ignore, such as, for instance, unappetizing social and sociological conditions in the community, which are not "spot news," but which should be brought to the attention of responsible citizens and public officials. We keep these stories brief, omit all identification of individuals, and emphasize the problem illustrated by the specific case, i.e., relief recipient who neglects children, eloping mother who abandons five youngsters. We do not use these stories at the time they first come to our attention, but usually a couple of weeks later.

In the effort to explain what Communism is, we serialized the

text of the Communist Party handbook in about 60 daily installments, summarizing some of the text and omitting repetitions, but quoting most of it verbatim.

Discovering that many young people and a good many older voters do not know the duties of various local public offices, we are preparing a series of articles on the posts to be filled in the General Elections this fall, each installment to contain a brief summary of the office and its duties, a thumbnail sketch of the nominees for that office, and quotations from the candidates on their proposed policies, if elected.

In order to appeal to the older readers—the elderly are fervent readers of newspapers which use legible type—we go rather extensively into the "Looking backward" stuff, with a daily department "It Seems Like Yesterday." Often we use a news picture from the old files, if it helps tie the past to the present.

As for the younger readers, we do not rely upon "school news" or High School pages, although we encourage news from all the schools and publish a lot of it. We believe, however, that young people are interested in about the same general news as adults, so we try to tell it in crisp, lively language that will appeal to them and capture their interest. We figure that, in that way, we can also improve readership by all types of people. For the same reason, we do not segregate women's news, beyond the requirements of typographical design. It's there and if the men want to read it, we do not scare them away by labeling it for women only.

We carry on a half dozen consistent campaigns, by frequent editorial discussion, calling attention to the editorials by brief notations accompanying front page news coverage. These campaigns range from highway safety to the United Nations. We keep after them all the year round, striking our strongest blows when fortuitous news events fan the interest.

But none of this is really new; it is only an example or two of how one paper does an old job day after day, trying to fit itself to the needs, the peculiarities and the special tastes of an individual community.

Walker Stone

(Continued from page 3)

ernment departments. That is not within our province. That is a responsibility of Government officials.

Our interest arises only at the point where information is classified so as to deny public access.

We strongly oppose an executive order which formally designates each head of a Government agency an authority to classify information as injurious to national security, without definition of what breaches national security, and without appeal or review.

We feel that the net effect of this executive order would be to formalize the suppression of much news to which the public is entitled.

Sincerely,
SPECIAL COMMITTEE, ASNE
Alexander F. Jones, President
B. M. McKelway
James S. Pope
Jack H. Lockhart
Walker Stone

Under the date of July 27, we received a reply from Short saying:

"On July 12th, the National Security Council approved the proposed Executive Order subject to working out by the Department of Defense and the Department of Justice of certain details which have no relation to your objections to the order."

Short's letter said that at the time the order was issued the President would make a statement emphasizing that the order "should not be used to withhold non-security information or to cover up mistakes made by any official or employee of the Government." The President, Short said, would state that "he hoped and anticipated that the net effect of the order would be a more exact and restricted use of classification rather than more extensive use."

The executive order which the President issued Sept. 25 does not differ in any important essentials from the tentative draft we saw July 10.

The President's admonitions to subordinate officials not to abuse their powers under the directive lived up to all of Joe Short's promises.

Time will tell how long and how well the President's admonitions are remembered by Government officials classifying information as not available to the public.

Six Months' Record of Keeping News Sources Open

Summary of Suppression Attempts Throughout Nation Shows Barriers Removed in Most Cases

"Our job is to make the people of this nation conscious of the fact that all public records belong to the people; that officials are merely the servants of the people; that newspapers are the eyes of the people, keeping the eternal spotlight on officials and on public records. Unless we do this then the freedoms will slip out of our hands by default."—Basil L. Walters, 1949.

As chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee for two years, Mr. Walters sought to alert a sometimes doubting membership to the very real

threats to press freedom at home. The current committee, under the chairmanship of James S. Pope, has continued on the groundwork he laid with such success that, in the words of one committee member, "They're fighting all over the place and the fight is spreading."

Note the geographic range in this mid-year survey of incidents which have come to the committee's attention since the April convention; also the number of cases in which the outcome (italicized) was satisfactory.

Attorney General of the State called the ban unheard of, and the Freedom of Information Committee protested.

Clerk announced, three days later, that records would be open.

PLANNING AND ZONING commission meetings in Shreveport are closed. Shreveport Times is fighting to open them.

No success yet.

STATE INSURANCE commissioner refused to give Indianapolis News names of agents handling State policies. After front page stories for a few days, commissioner conferred with Governor.

Names came forth.

SHERIFF, in Borger, Texas, seized pictures of Navy plane crash. News-Herald (circulation 9,000), ran blank space, size of 3-col. cut, explaining why it was blank.

Pictures returned to newspaper next day.

JUDGE in Denver was taking secret depositions on a bankruptcy case involving \$3,000,000.

Denver Post gained access to deposition hearings.

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS in Washington had always held closed meetings—no law against it there. Washington Post urged fundamental necessity for open legislative sessions in a democracy.

First open meeting held last May.

LEGISLATURE in New York has stenographers take shorthand notes of proceedings, but nary a typewritten copy available.

Battle still being waged by New York State Society of Editors.

PARKING violations are a private affair in the opinion of the Mayor of Providence who refused requests of The Journal-Bulletin

and the Freedom of Information Committee that names of violators be made available.

Result of contest unreported.

GRAND JURY, in Louisiana, indicted 5 newsmen of Lake Charles American Press for "defaming" gamblers and officials in fight against open gambling situation. About a dozen newspapers, including New York Times and Herald-Tribune, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and Louisville Courier-Journal, sent in reporters and the law, so far, has backed away.

ASNE committee is watching.

ARMY M.P. stopped Denver Post reporter from interviewing soldiers in Colorado Springs. Protest made to Camp Carson authorities by The Post, and to Washington by ASNE committee.

Ended in love feast between Army and Post when officers admitted they have no right to supervise interviews with soldiers to extent of questioning reporters.

AIR FORCE PERSONNEL, of Fighter Squadron based at Duluth, forcibly confiscated photographs made on civilian property by the Cloquet Pine Knot Newspaper, with committee's aid, fought back.

Quoting the managing editor: "Thunder and lightning penetrated all the way down to enlisted people. They won't make that mistake again."

AIR FORCE CIVILIAN guards prevented Dayton Journal Herald reporter and photographer from approaching scene of fatal air crash near Wright-Patterson field. Protest to Air Base and Washington authorities entered.

General B. W. Chidlaw, commanding general of Air Materiel Command, WPAFB, announced: "There is no authority in existence which authorizes guards to restrain or otherwise interfere with members of the press in such cir-

cumstances (a crash off a military reservation)."

AIR FORCE AUTHORITIES at Carswell base turned back Fort Worth Press reporters at gate, apparently in punishment for the newspaper's coverage of an airplane crash. Protest registered, on ban on The Press, and also to a plan proposed by General Anderson of Carswell under which Air Force would send officer to each family that might be affected by an accident to screen what the bereaved might say to the newspapers.

Ban and plan both abandoned.

FHA "could not furnish" a list of 303 Veterans Emergency Housing projects which Tampa Tribune wanted to check. Sharp battle ensued.

List requested was forthcoming.

MUNITIONS BOARD, as reported at 1951 convention, kept on the classified list much information regarding military contracts, that in no way involved security. Appeal for more sensible regulations made by Freedom of Information Committee.

Liberalized rulings issued in June.

STATE-FEDERAL relief rolls kept secret by Congressional Resolution. Voluminous correspondence between Freedom of Information chairman and various Social Security officials and members of Congress carried on over the past year.

No solution in sight.

JOBLESS-INSURANCE fraud figures unavailable because Federal Bureau of Employment Security provides funds for tracking down chiselers but rest is up to states paying out the checks. Figures had been kept in separate State offices until, late last year, the Federal Bureau instituted a quarterly compilation of fraud statistics, but only for its own information. Associated Press and ASNE committee went to work on this one.

In May, figures were made public for the first time.

SELECTIVE SERVICE blacks out identity of drafted men by releasing names only, no addresses. Which James Jones or John Smith in the district was drafted? That's a secret. Why? Chief Information Officer says because boards are short-handed, creditors try to collect money owed by draftees, some don't want their addresses made

public, and anyway a Presidential regulation requires that personal records be kept confidential.

Yonkers Herald Statesman challenged these arguments in an editorial pointing out that:

In both World Wars and at the beginning of the Korean War, selectees' names were given:

Every list of names—including the telephone book—is a potential sucker list, and that the implication that selectees fear collection agencies and somehow are ashamed to have themselves identified in the paper when Uncle Sam commands is ridiculous; and that

Those who formulated the pres-

They Fight Their Own Battles in Dakota

• By FRED C. CHRISTOPHERSON
Editor, Sioux Falls Argus-Leader

I am amazed by the number of newspapers, both big and small, that run to mama (that is, the ASNE) when some local news source is closed to them.

Apparently they just wail instead of employing the rights that are theirs as a citizen of this great republic. It's simple. An editor—and it may come as a surprise to some of them judging by what I have read in the ASNE Bulletin—has the same rights as the man in the street. If a news source is illegally closed to his reporters, he should call his lawyer and take appropriate action.

The Argus-Leader has done that frequently and the results have been fast and thoroughly worth while. If I were a lawyer I would cite cases in detail. But it may be enough to give a few examples.

A county judge attempted to seal the records in a will case. As soon as the judge heard that our lawyers were preparing papers in a mandamus action to the South Dakota Supreme Court, he opened the records.

A U. S. district attorney refused to tell our reporters about the robbery of a safety deposit box in a bank. A lawyer's threat to take the matter to the Attorney General in Washington was sufficient to obtain action. The South Dakota Board of Charities and Corrections once refused to give us the names of men who have been recommended for parole from the state prison. Our lawyers prepared an action against the board but it wasn't necessary. As soon as the governor learned what we were doing, he instructed the board to open the records.

ent law never dreamed it would be used to keep the people of large communities from getting information about hometown boys going into armed service.

No change in law in prospect; experiences of other editors with local draft boards wanted.

STATE REGISTRARS of vital statistics, in national meeting, proposed a resolution recommending that states keep certain statistics secret.

Resolution defeated, but is expected to come up again, and editors are alerted to watch for moves in this direction in their own localities.

The South Dakota Public Utilities commission once—and only once—suppressed news of a hearing on increasing telephone rates. Our demands resulted in a legislative investigation, a hearing before the governor and a promise from the PUC that in the future it would thoroughly publicize such hearings in advance. A municipal court clerk attempted to withhold records because of a vague provision in the law. All that was necessary on our part was a call to the city attorney who immediately told the clerk what to do.

And the accompanying publicity for a newspaper—of course, you're enough of a press agent to know you should publicize with emphasis what you're doing—is invaluable. Your subscribers realize you are determined to get the news and you are safeguarding their right to know what public officials are doing.

Actually we have learned through the years to welcome an effort on the part of a public official to suppress the news. It gives us a priceless opportunity to blow our own horn. What we have done, others can do. It's easy—and profitable.

(Editor's Note: The ASNE committee on Freedom of Information has always urged individual action by newspapers as the only final answer to news-suppression. However, it stands ready to aid any editor who needs its help in fighting a stubborn case. Particularly, the committee wants to have full details of all action, even from those who, like Mr. Christopherson, crash through the news barriers on their own momentum.)

SELECTING LETTERS TO EDITOR

Philadelphia Evening Bulletin Never Underestimates
The Value of a Stray Kitten Story on Its Editorial Page

• By MELVILLE F. FERGUSON
Editor, The Philadelphia Bulletin

The departmentalizing of letters to the editor is a perennial theme in newspaper circles. Is such a department desirable in the daily newspaper's columns? Will it add to reader interest? How do you get it going? How do you keep it up? How do you prevent its misuse for personal and propaganda ends?

Considerable experience in the field convinces me that a letter column, preferably on the editorial page, gets widespread attention. Newspaper readers care quite as much for the opinions of persons like themselves as they do for the views of anonymous editorial writers. The letter column is a modern substitute for the free-for-all discussion over the cracker barrel in the country store.

Letter columns are usually of spontaneous origin. They may be sparked by complaints, in writing, about something that has appeared in the newspaper. I recently prescribed, facetiously, to an editorial group a sure-fire method of laying the foundations for a letter column: write yourself a letter denouncing dogs, or stating that all the girls you have observed in town are bow-legged. But I would not seriously recommend this method of stirring up the animals. Print the letters of subscribers who write intelligently, and others will be inspired to follow their example.

Many problems arise in the conduct of a well-ordered letter-column. It is necessary to lay down certain rules, and occasionally to elaborate upon the reasons for them. One will concern the length of desirable contributions. The genial Tom Wallace once showed me a pencil of about three-quarters standard length and said: "This is the maximum length of any editorial that can get into my paper. If it is longer, I cut it down to size." I suppose he was serious. But if you tell readers that letters should not exceed 200 words in length, some fellow will come along next week with a 500-word letter that can neither be condensed nor ignored. A letter runs to that length in the Bulletin only if it is of considerable importance to a large number of readers; and then it runs under a separate head.

The first rule—and it's inviolable—is that the correct name and address of the writer must be appended to every letter. We do not insist on its publication; but for our own protection we must be assured of the good faith of the correspondent. Efforts are made to evade this stipulation by the use of false names and addresses. There are means of detecting such chicanery. When we are in doubt about the authorship of a letter which it seems desirable to publish, we send a check-up letter to the address given, enclosing a postcard for reply.

Our rules exclude letters likely to arouse religious controversy; those couched in abusive terms; those written to evade the costs of advertising, and letters classifiable as propaganda. If a number of persons write simultaneously in advocacy of a prescribed course of governmental action it is not difficult to sense a common inspiration. One such letter may be printed; the duplicates or near-duplicates are barred.

We reserve the right—and say so—to edit and curtail any letter. Curtailment causes anguish, because in the view of the contributor it eliminates the best parts of the letter. But it is necessary.

The letter column is in part a vehicle for the airing of personal grievances, many of which involve injustices that merit public attention. Some of these complaints concern the operation of public utilities. If they concern general practices which seem to call for correction we refer a copy of the letter (unsigned) to the corporation involved and invite explanation or reply, to be appended to the letter if printed. Many letters are written about faults in service which the operating company will be glad to correct; in which case we advise the writers to address the operator.

We judge the acceptability of letters, within the rules, not on the basis of their public importance, but on an estimate of their public interest. More people may happen to be interested in the fate of a stray kitten than in Pro Bono Publico's views of the chances of European cooperation. Trivia are a part of every reader's daily life. They accordingly find place in the letter column.

Now, then, are there any questions?

Voice from the back of the room: "What do you do about the chronic letter-writers—the pests who like to see their names in print several times a week?"

We sit upon them politely, but firmly. When they develop into chronics, we explain to them that many excellent letters have to be excluded from every issue; that in fairness to writers whose communications have been omitted we must make a just distribution of the space. Thereafter we give the chronic an opportunity to appear but once in several weeks. Incidentally, it happens that some of the chronics write excellent and provocative letters.

Another voice: "Do you reply to every letter offered, explaining, if it is rejected, why?"

No sir. That has seemed to us at times the ideal practice. But experience has taught us that in undertaking to tell a writer frankly why his communication is unusable you involve yourself in an interminable argument, and are much more likely to make an enemy than if you confine yourself to an occasional printed statement of regret that many more letters are received than the available space will accommodate.

"How about letters of criticism of the paper itself?"

No letter is barred because the writer calls the Bulletin names. In fact, we allow the writer much more latitude in lambasting the Bulletin than in his arguments with other contributors—whom, incidentally, he is not permitted to address directly; all communications must be directed in content to the editor. Unfairness in criticism of the paper is quickly detected by other readers, and they are not slow to point it out.

Letters, by the way, are frequent sources of local news. They often convey tips which the city desk works up. Also, they are occasionally susceptible of illustration.

To sum up, the letter column is a help to the editorial page; it stands well the test of readership surveys; and its following status may be augmented by making it attractive typographically as well as in content.

One Resignation This Month

Arthur L. Hodges, Nassau (New York) Daily Review-Star has resigned because of ineligibility. Membership total now 508.

Editor Woodruff Suppresses Hero Tale And Readers Lose Best Story of Day

The heavy hand of the editor suppressed one of the best hero stories involving a civilian in Grand Rapids in many years—maybe the best ever. Jim McKenna, outdoor editor of Booth Newspapers, Inc., had the story and wanted to write it; but editor Lee Woodruff of the Grand Rapids Press, who had direct supervision over McKenna, said "No," and with emphasis!



LEE WOODRUFF

The reason: Lee was the hero of the story.

McKenna and Woodruff flew into the Algoma brush north and east of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, for a fishing trip. Their pilot was a Soo charter operator with a powerful seaplane. But when they had arrived at a large lake some 50 miles from the Soo, a guide took over with a small two-seat floatplane. There were no fish—that is, in the quantities the guide promised—in the big lake. So he flew first Jim and the duffle, then on a second trip, Lee, who weighs even more than is expected of a six foot, two inch man, to a nearby small lake.

They had a grand time—caught limits of speckled trout of exaggerated proportions, saw a bear and moose. Then they flew farther in to Bierce Lake to catch gray trout. They did. A storm threatened. The guide loaded Jim and the duffle into the plane and flew back to camp on the first lake. Then he returned for Lee. They took off. A pontoon had sprung a leak and partially filled with water. Instead of soaring above the spruce and cedar along the lake shore the plane headed for them. The pilot banked sharply to the left. The plane side-slipped and refused to pull out of the stall.

Lee was thrown through his safety belt and through the side of the plane into 25 feet of water, 300 feet from shore. The pilot went down with the plane, smashed his way out of the fuselage and reached the surface with hands and arms badly cut and bleeding.

Lee is a powerful swimmer. In a matter of a very few minutes the piece of fuselage which the two had first grasped for support sank under them. They struck out for shore. Shortly, the guide turned on his back to float and called to Lee, "Go on, I guess I can't make it." Editor Woodruff took the head of the husky Canadian under his right arm and swam. He went maybe 40 feet before giving up. Then they both floated. The guide struck out with Lee again after this brief rest. And again, after a brief spell, Woodruff was forced to tuck the Canadian's head under his husky arm. This was repeated three times before they reached driftwood along the shore.

Lee wanted to set up camp for the night but the guide said no, the black flies would be attracted by his bleeding, and they wouldn't live through the night. So Woodruff lifted the canoe, from which they had fished, onto the shoulders of the Canadian. Despite his years of fishing and hunting in Michigan, Canada and the Far West, Lee still didn't know the trick of carrying a canoe on his shoulders. They portaged with frequent rests to the next lake, then Lee paddled, etc.

In the meantime outdoor editor McKenna had chartered another plane to fly back and see what happened. The pilot dropped low over the lake and reported back, "They're both gone. The plane is on the bottom of the lake completely wrecked."

Just when McKenna was getting organized to fly to the Soo to telephone Mrs. Woodruff and the Press office of the tragedy, Lee and the guide stumbled into the camp to turn the wake into a celebration.

CARL M. SAUNDERS, Editor
Jackson Citizen Patriot

Big Play in Columbus

As a follow-up on last month's discussion of what editors do (or don't do) with news of their own Society, Don Weaver submits a copy of The Columbus Citizen.

Page one, eight-column head: "Demand Ban on Soviet News-men."

Editorial page, top of the column: Reprint of President Alexander F. Jones' statement.

This was followed by an editorial explaining why "Action in Oatis Case Necessary Now."

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No. 336 October 1, 1951

Society Joins in Tribute To Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz

On the initiative of Chicago and other Western members of ASNE, a testimonial dinner was given to Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz at the Stevens Hotel, on September 28, as a demonstration of the united support which all North American newspapermen give him in his fight for freedom of the press in Argentina. Dr. Gainza, in exile in Uruguay since the seizure of his newspaper by the Peron government, was in Chicago to receive an honorary degree of doctor of journalism from Northwestern University.

Sponsors of the dinner were the Chicago Newspaper Publishers' Association; American Newspaper Publishers' Association; Inland Daily Press Association; Headline Club (of Sigma Delta Chi); Chicago Newspaper Veterans' Association; Chicago Press Club; and Western members of ASNE.

Alexander F. Jones, ASNE president, was toastmaster and Tom Wallace, president of the Inter-American Press Association, was one of the speakers. Dr. Gainza was introduced by Col. Robert R. McCormick, Chicago Tribune, senior among the Chicago publishers.

Richard J. Finnegan, Chicago Sun-Times, was chairman of the dinner committee.

THE BULLETIN

OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER EDITORS

No. 337

November 1, 1951

What Your Board Accomplished at Mid-Year Meeting

Directors of the Society met in Washington, October 19 and 20 with all members present except Hamilton Owens, who is in Europe. In six sessions, a convention in miniature, the Board:

Elected 19 members, two for Distinguished Service.

Approved three constitutional amendments.

Increased the size of The Bulletin and authorized appointment of a supervising committee.

Continued, for one year, its membership in the International Federation of Newspaper Editors and Publishers (FIEJ).

Made its annual contribution to the American Council for Education in Journalism for the accreditation program.

Authorized a committee to investigate the best possibilities for publishing the book on access to information which Dr. Harold Cross has written at the Society's instigation.

Reaffirmed its opposition to President Truman's executive order on classification of information.

Passed a resolution commending to ASNE members membership in the International Press Institute.

Expressed its appreciation to David Lawrence for his continuing work in collating and indexing minutes of the Society and also the Proceedings.

Discussed fully, without taking action, the disparate views on Tass in the Press Gallery, as represented by President Jones and Past President B. M. McKelway in the October Bulletin.

Decided to invite, as it has in the past, several heads of journalism schools to the convention; also to invite representatives of Canadian newspapers.

(For details of major action see inside pages of this issue.)

Do You Monitor Radio?

By GIDEON SEYMOUR

Executive Editor, Minneapolis Star and Tribune

How many editors are monitoring outstanding local and other programs of news and comment on radio and television stations in their area? And how?—and with what objectives in view?

A waste of time? Too much work for scant returns? I'm not so sure.

Consider, if you haven't, several angles of radio-television competition to which we on the Star and Tribune have given a good deal of thought, and on which we don't yet pretend to be sure of the answers:

Radio hasn't been much of a local news competitor in most communities during its first 25 years, but it is becoming one. At least three Twin Cities stations now have small but alert and capable local news staffs. I presume the same is true in many cities. They come up now and then with a significant exclusive story.

Newspapermen still tend to think of radio as reliant on press associations, and on lifting from the dailies, for their local news coverage. Probably that is still preponderantly true. But the Minneapolis Morning Tribune got royally scooped recently on a hospital

strike by WCCO, local CBS station; the station got the tip shortly before 5 p.m. from a telephone caller, and developed it. It was on the air on a 5:15 news program with the news that a strike of service employees in a dozen local hospitals was scheduled for the morrow. I heard the broadcast on my car radio on the way from the office, and took it so much for granted that the Tribune would or did have the story that I didn't even call the office about it. But the next morning the strike was on, and the Morning Tribune on my doorstep didn't have a line about it. Sure, our labor reporter (or his substitute: he was in Europe on vacation) should have picked it up. But if the news desk had tuned in on any of at least four news broadcasts during the evening, the Tribune would have got the tip.

Maybe radio can score such a local beat only half a dozen times a year, but that's too often.

And even if it didn't happen once a year, ought not a city editor to know what local stories competitive radio stations are playing, and with what details and emphases? Even if the news editor concluded that radio was overplaying a story or was off the beam on some details, it is information he needs in order to be sure that the newspaper story is adequate and touches all bases.

Here's another angle to radio competition: If your newspaper is the only one in its field in its community (or even if it isn't), and if Fulton Lewis or Lowell Thomas or any of half a dozen other nightly newscasters or commentators heard over local stations whips even a thousand or so listeners into a lather or a glow with an impassioned expose or a stirring feature, and if the next morning's paper doesn't have a line about something that sounded pretty exciting or interesting or important

(In reply to many inquiries)

1952 CONVENTION

April 17-18-19 at Hotel Statler
Washington, D. C.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

Russell Wiggins, Managing Editor
Washington Post