

News Media
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November 3, 1973

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JA

Hon. James R. Jones
327 Cannon House Ofc. Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Sir:

Of all the chaotic and challenging conditions existant in our country today the worst is the void created by the onesided, irresponsible and scurilous news reporting as practiced by the staffs of the three national T.V. networks.

Life can only hope to have meaning where the individual has a choice as evidenced by the physical laws of the universe as hot and cold, light and darkness, drouth and flood, etc. Any one of which to the extreme can be most devastating and yet in proper proportion and order provide a veritable Utopia. And so the moral challenge to the mind of man; the exercise of choosing between good and evil and in the process experiencing and attaining truth.

We recognize that in a free and democratic society there are basic freedoms that must be maintained. Freedom of expression is vital to a society committed to individual worth. Yet there is, or should be, a great and grave responsibility attached to the disseminating of the news in a factual, and impartial manner in order that a literate society of individuals may sort the facts and arrive at their own conclusions.

The national air arm of the fourth estate have abrogated the trust and responsibility that was given in their care. By giving news irresponsibly, by their individual and selfish interpolation into the news, by insinuation and innuendo, by their individual and collective vendetta against the highest office of this nation they can no longer serve in this capacity objectively.

I deeply resented their ill concealed attempts to

make President Johnson the laughing stock of the world as I do their constant, rude, and vile thrusts at President Nixon.

I, as an average, literate and intelligent American resent after, having personally witnessed a talk or session, being told what I heard and what I saw. We only ask that we be given the privilege of choice.

To you who represent and are our agents to express the will of the people in matters of public trust, we present two suggestions to combat the evil and unregulated force that is rampant today.

First, by legislation, not to suppress or censor news but simply provide a channel of recourse for spurious and undocumented news reporting both in the first hand deliverance and in the second hand styled of reporting without naming its direct source. I recognize in this first choice there is an inherent danger of suppression in the implementing and enforcing if placed in the hands of ambitious and misguided people, unregulated.

The second suggestion, to me, offers the greatest hope as it places the enforcement in the hands of the people. Permit the establishment of a fourth major T.V. network committed to the giving of straight and undoctered news as it occurs. When this happens, we firmly believe, the majority of the American people will boycott companies advertising and subsidizing the present networks.

The luxury of indulging the whims of the sophisticated snobbery of the gents of the fourth estate could become too burdensome.

Mine is not an isolated attitude but is shared by almost 100% of those with whom I come in contact.

Yours for a balanced and free
society,

Donald A. Smith



DAS:jc

FCC

November 21, 1973

Mr. Donald A. Smith
Tulsa Artificial Limb
and Brace Company
315 East Ninth Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74120

Dear Mr. Smith:

Your communication arrived while Congressman Jones is out of the country. As you may know, Mr. Jones was appointed to a special subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee to gather facts about the Middle East with which to report back to the House of Representatives. The Congressman is presently in Egypt and Israel.

I am taking the liberty of acknowledging receipt of your communication, and I will bring your correspondence to Congressman Jones' personal attention immediately upon his return to the United States in late November.

Sincerely yours,

Stephen Kaplan
Legislative Assistant