

Unwarranted Intrusion? Nope, We Got a Warrant

By Art Buchwald -

"Knock, knock."
"Who's there?"
"The police."
"The police who?"
"The police with a warrant to go through your files and notes and photos to see if you have any evidence that might help us catch a criminal."
"I don't believe it."
"Oh, you don't, huh? Well, just read the Supreme Court ruling written by

Capitol Punishment

Justice Byron Wite in a 5-to-3 decision. It says you newspaper people have no more protection than anyone else."

"What are you looking for?"
"A little of this, a little of that. You never know what you can find in a newspaper office."

"But if you can go through our files and notes, nobody will be willing to blow the whistle on crooked politicians, waste in government and violations of the Constitution."

"That's right. So open the door before we break it down."

"Wait. It goes deeper than that. Many of our sources are willing to talk to us about crimes that have been committed, if they realize their identities can be revealed they'll clam up, and then you people will never be able to arrest the guilty parties."

"Maybe so. But you guys have getting a free ride on the First Amendment for too long. This will stop you meddling in the government's business, once and for all."

"What are you throwing all those photos on the floor for?"

"We want to see if you have any

pictures of cops beating up demonstrators."

"Why?"
"Because we want the pictures of the demonstrators. A lot of them got away when we were beating up the ones who didn't."

But people are allowed to demonstrate. It's in the Constitution."

"Tell that to the Supreme Court. After we get through these photos we want every reporter to turn over his notebook. We want to know who he or she talked to and when."

"But that's a fishing expedition. Tell us what you're looking for."

"We must know who told you people that the judge was taking bribes from the mob."

"What judge?"
"The judge who issued this warrant, dummy. Once we find the guy who was singing he'll be held in contempt of court."

"But that judge is part of the political machine in this town."

"That's right, and we want to see everything you have on the machine, and addresses, too."

"What else do you want?"
"You know the bridge that collapsed last week? Somebody told your paper that the contractor had put in cheap cement which made it collapse."

"You want the name of the contractor?"

"No, we want the name of the guy who ratted on the company that built the bridge."

"Why don't you find out for yourselves?"

"We don't have to, when we can come here."

"Knock, knock."
"Who's there?"

"The FBI."
"What do you guys want?"

"What have you got?"

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