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For the Record . . .

**The Subpoena to CBS
And Freedom of the Press**

From remarks of Rep. Edward P. Boland (D-Mass.) in House debate on Tuesday:

Several Supreme Court and Appeals Court rulings make clear that the First Amendment covers all news media—broadcasting as well as print. It applies with even-handed uniformity. Even Attorney General John Mitchell, a man hardly enraptured with news broadcasting, has pointed out that the heedless use of subpoenas may sap “the vigor of our press institutions.”

The subpoena issued to CBS news, and the contempt citation stemming from it, pose the very same threat . . .

The accuracy of “The Selling of the Pentagon” is not at stake here. That remains an eminently debatable item. What is not debatable—indeed, what is plain beyond dispute—is House Resolution 170’s threat to the freedom of the press.

If the Congress can censure CBS for one program, it can censure any news medium for any presentation it considers unpalatable . . .

Should we jeopardize our most cherished tradition, freedom of the press, just to slap the wrist of CBS? Should we establish a precedent that might inhibit every news medium, however responsible, from dealing in controversy or looking into government activities?

I do not think so, Mr. Speaker. It is not worth it.

A free marketplace in ideas—a forum that encourages everyone to speak his mind—will yield the “truth” far more readily than a meek and intimidated press under government yoke.

The press has made mistakes in the past, and it will make mistakes in the future.

Let the people make their own judgment. The Constitution grants them that trust. The Congress must not presume to take it away.