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The private war of Sherman Skolnick

At last! A kind word for Emmett Dedmon (page 8)

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Next month

Lu Palmer quits

Truman's press

Nixon vs. PBS

Labour's Agnew

letters

Mau Mau

It is difficult for the average newspaper reader to understand John T. McCutcheon's outrage (Letters, CJR Jan. '73) at your quotation from his editorial in the October 17 *Tribune*. After all, the words you quoted are what thousands of Chicagoans read in their morning paper. Does Mr. McCutcheon expect his subscribers to go out and buy several editions of the *Tribune* in order to find out what he intended to say? Perhaps the *Tribune* should print a first edition which would be distributed only to editors, so they could make whatever changes they thought were necessary before the paper went out to the public. A libel that appears in only one edition is still a libel. I don't suppose Mr. McCutcheon felt it necessary to publish a retraction the next day.

In regard to the later editions, changing "even proved to have been involved" to "may even prove to have been involved" may protect the *Tribune* from a libel suit, but it hardly removes the sting from the accusation. I could truthfully say that John T. McCutcheon *may* prove to have been involved in the murders, but I doubt that he would like to see it printed in his newspaper.

HENRY A. KIERSTEAD
Lockport, Ill.

Skolnick

It is surprising how many false statements CJR can concoct to protect their own sacred cows — "The Chicago 7," CJR guru Don Rose, et al.

I did *not* produce the newspaper or the centerspread "The Web" referred to. I have long since pointed out the artist's error in drawing a line linking CJR to the Taconic Foundation. I even pointed this out a few months ago to Ron Dorfman.

In a typical news scribbler hang up, CJR would only accept as CIA conduits those described by "official sources." You refuse to recognize the manner in which Don Rose, as movement flack, controlled who was or wasn't described as a peace or civil rights activist. You leave out, naturally, all our detailed, documented references to the link between the "7" and Field Enterprises; the planting of a trial juror; the control of the "7" worldwide travel permission; their occupying space in a federally-owned building; what has happened to those who try to down the "7" on the air or in print. Anybody, except CJR,

knows how factually detailed our "7" fact sheet is.

Your most patent lie is that I have "frequent conversations with agents of the Justice Department." In a recent speech to a Circle Campus criminal justice class, I neatly downed U.S. Atty. James Thompson for failure to indict Kerner on the really heavy charges. Big Jim himself was supposed to be the guest speaker. On his no-show, the teacher, not realizing I came to torpedo Thompson from the audience or the podium, picked me to speak instead.

It would take several pages to itemize all your errors — and I promote eye-opening not paranoia.

"The problem that Skolnick poses for a number of people in Chicago" is that I dared put the finger on the invented darlings of the corrupt, monopoly, war box-score news media. Not being an "official source," I stepped on your corns. The only "free press" I know is the small offset press I own.

SHERMAN H. SKOLNICK
Chicago

Student Press

Seldom do I respond to articles that are inaccurate, but since you represent a journalism publication, I thought you should know that your article entitled "The Bill of Rights and the Student Press" in the January, 1973 edition of your publication contained at least the following inaccuracies:

1. The campus newspaper for the College of Lake County is called *The Chronicle* and not *The Clarion*.

Complaints about the article were not restricted to the period following the editorial in *The News Sun*. (Not *Waukegan News Sun*.)

3. The statement that after being questioned whether that move was legal, I replied that "I wasn't sure — and didn't care" is untrue.

Perhaps the reason we are having difficulty with publications is best exemplified by your article.

RICHARD ERZEN, President
College of Lake County,
Grayslake, Ill.

(Kathy Riley responds: My apologies. The paraphrase should have been attributed to a college trustee, not the college president.)