

... from the desk of

ED DEMAR

12/24/69

Bob---

(Seltzner) - *(Exec ed Daily Column)*
Reading a skinbook (your column, 12/22/69) isn't my favorite pastime; I hate to see a fellow professional "tricked."

Yet the events about which you wrote were amply anticipated and conveyed by me to you, months in advance, in fact. I can only imagine the pressures which required publication of that column (but I can). Your faith in Skolnick is basically correct; he will be proved right in the long run. The Robson correspondence and the concurrent Leiner outdown were the results of an antithesis which had not other choice but break against Skolnick. But -- at the same time -- Skolnick has been walking into a trap ... one which unfortunately he refused to be warned about. With the springing of the trap, the public was presented with an entirely false and misleading -- not to mention inaccurate -- depiction of the long-range controversy involving the bar-judiciary and the public. Such a meal could not have been more disserving had it been spiced with LSD, which it may well have been.

To be "right" is not enough, one must be right at the right time in the right way. Sad, I know, but we didn't make the rules, the rules which, it appears, ~~we~~ regulate the the laws and ~~administration~~ administration of our laws. To the rules first, then, if we are to seek equity in the administration of our laws.

(over)

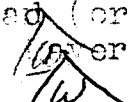
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If justice means to you as it does to me --
a straight shake for everyone -- the worthiness
of the cause within our existing fabric of
laws impels, or should impel, those of us
who would sanctify and make real our system
which has been subjected to ~~many~~ craven
abuses a dedication to authentic declarations...
an immutable regard for the law if not the
rules which govern them...the kind of
forthrightness which cannot be degraded.
When Skolnick resorts to even minor dishonesties,
to emotionalism, is he helping or hurting that
cause?

For your own sake as an honest journalist,
for the sake of of paper, please check out
whether or not Dixie Meyers of ~~the~~ Civic Gap
has told Agran that Skolnick has referred to
Agran as a "bounty hunter." Agran has told
me he isn't; /I don't know, you find out.

Also, I think you should read (or re-read)
p. 222 of "The Trouble With ~~the~~ Lawyers" by
Murray Teigh ~~and~~ Bloom: 

"In Chicago, Sherman H. Skolnick, a 38-year-old
paralegic, has been suing ~~the~~ Chicago Bar
Association ~~for~~ \$400,000, ~~and~~ Chief Judge
William J. ~~and~~ Campbell of the Federal District
Court for \$2 million, and the city of Chicago
and the State electoral board for lesser sums."

It doesn't ~~have~~ ^{square} with your oft-printed contention
that Skolnick is not money-oriented. I don't
know the truth or falsity of this; you check
it out, it's your contention.

Vow for 1970, though not necessarily original:

"I shall, I shall, I shall pay my just debts."

I'll be in touch when Ma Bell restores my
phones.

