

# Black Journalists' Ad Denies Role as 'White World's Spy'

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An unusual advertisement, signed by more than a score of black journalists, appears today in the two major Negro weeklies in New York.

The advertisement declares: "We are not the white world's spies in the black community. We are not the undercover agents for federal, state or local law enforcement agencies."

The signers include eight Negroes on the staff of The New York Times, three television newsmen and two editors of Look magazine.

The full page advertisement in the New York Amsterdam News and the New York Courier came as a response to action last week by the U.S. Department of Justice in San Francisco.

## Reporter Subpoenaed

In the midst of a grand jury investigation there of the Black Panther Party, headquarters in Berkeley, the Justice Department issued a subpoena for Earl Caldwell, a black correspondent in The

New York Times' San Francisco bureau.

Inviting Caldwell to bring along his notebooks and tape recorded interviews, the subpoena called for his appearance last Wednesday.

Through his lawyers, Caldwell refused. He argued that by entering a grand jury room, he would ruin for all time the confidence of the black community in his integrity. His case is before the federal courts in San Francisco.

The advertisement spells out in detail the reasoning behind the Caldwell position.

"We feel," the advertisement said of Caldwell, "he was subpoenaed because it was felt that as a black man he had special access to information in the black community. Thus the role of every black newsman and woman has been put into question—Are we government agents? Will we reveal confidential sources if subpoenaed? Can our employers turn over files or notes if we object?"

## Protection of Sources

Noting that several news-gathering organizations had turned over files and film to grand juries, the black newsmen said they would prevent materials obtained by them in the black community from being submitted to law enforcement and investigative agencies.

"We will protect our confidential sources by using every means at our disposal," the reporters said in the advertisement inserted by Black Perspective, a two-year-old group of Negro writers.

The signers, not all of them

members of Black Perspective, chided the American Newspaper Guild in which many journalists hold membership, and Sigma Delta Chi, the professional journalism fraternity, for taking no vigorous stand on the recent spate of subpoenas served on newsmen and news gathering organizations.

Among the signers are Thomas A. Johnson and Charlayne Hunter of The New York Times; Ernest Dunbar of Look magazine; Charles Hobson of American Broadcasting Company; Ted Poston of the New York Post; Ernest Holdendolph of Fortune magazine; Charles Childs of Life magazine and Ed Bradley of CBS-News.