

APR 18 1973

In Pursuit of the Truth

To the Editor:

On the Op-Ed page (April 4) you published excerpts of a speech by Senator Charles McC. Mathias Jr. in which the Maryland Republican spoke proudly of his devotion to truth. Among his self-righteous boasts were:

"Not the least of these actions we must observe is the fact that loyalty to the law is an inherent principle that every man is bound with he is sworn. Otherwise, our accusations can no more be taken as unjust actions can be taken."

When he declared "Some of us are the official spokesman for the Department of Defense. A spokesman for the Department of Defense," as Mr. Sylvester attempted to legitimize the practice in which the Department had presumably had someone been engaged "lying to the people of the United States in the name of their Government."

It is not only in the name of the Department of Defense, but in the name of knowledge, that actually, as the Senator in his reference to me is a stranger to truth. I agree with him that "pursuit of the truth is the only attraction in which we can go in search of the way to preserve our loyalty to the Constitution and the law."

As of now, Mr. Mathias is behind in that pursuit. But as he keeps up the search, some day even the Senator might learn to recognize the difference between falsehood and truth and then speak only the truth.

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Arthur Sylvester's NYTimes 4/18 letter, "In Pursuit of Truth", the actual head added "was" "lies" in its way appropriate that Sylvester wrote this to coincide with the Jewellian zigzagism of "inoperative" as a replacement for "lies". Sylvester's attack on Clark is unchallenged, although Clark understated what Sylvester actually said about what he described as the right and obligation of the government to lie. Too bad the Times didn't add a quote to or quotation from Sylvester's piece; or that doing this would be foreign to that tough fighter Clark. 4/27/73