



KUPCINET

KUP'S COLUMN

Daffynition of bravery: Singing "This Land Is Your Land" at a testimonial dinner for Ald. Thomas Keane (31st). Hugh Hefner, through his foundation, is supporting Ralph Nader with a \$10,000 grant to pursue two lawsuits to compel the government to disclose public information to the press, scholars and other interested citizens under the federal Freedom of Information Act. Nader's campaign also has the support of the National Press Club and the Center for the Study of Responsive Law. One of the suits involves NBC reporter Carl Stern vs. U.S. Atty. Richard Kleindienst.

Kupcinet, in his Chicago Sun-Times column of 4/4/73, reports a Nader grant of \$10,000 for the pursuit of two Freedom of Information law suits, one to Carl Stern of NBC News Washington. Carl is their legal reporter. My book on the King assassination was assigned to him. I reported my own FOI suits to him personally. He would do nothing about either. When I got the unheard of summary judgement against the Department of Justice, that was not news to Carl, a lawyer and NBC's legal reporter. Others at NBC were interested in my FOI suits and arranged for NBC's staff counsel, Monderer, to speak to me about them to see if there was any way in which he might help. He knew so little about the law I loaned him files for him to copy for his information. Carl's dedication to the law and freedom of information (for others) is such that when I gave him a copy of an official transcript in a sensational criminal case, a hearing in which there was no representative of the defendant, and the judge said he was depending upon Nixon's changes in the Supreme court - before nomination - to sustain him, Carl failed to report it. I left a copy of the court of appeals decision in my Spectro suit at NBC last month. Neither Carl nor anyone else has mentioned it, although it will be and is specifically described as precedent on the investigatory-files exemption of the law. Description as precedent by DJ to those who ask for public information. HW 4/6/73