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Overtones of McCarthyism

As someone who in 1952, as Senator William Benton's legislative assistant, helped draft a resolution to remove Senator McCarthy from the Senate at a time when it was highly unpolitic to do so, I am deeply disturbed by the Joe McCarthy overtones of Professor John Kenneth Galbraith's letter of June 5 regarding corporations and responsibility. The thrust of Professor Galbraith's letter is that while no evil or lawbreaking has been charged against IT&T, much less proved, he is not personally satisfied and thus seeks the reversal of the basic precepts that a man is innocent until proven guilty.

Prior to writing his letter to The Post, Professor Galbraith might better have discussed his opinions with his colleague, Archibald Cox former Special Prosecutor in the Watergate proceedings, and now professor at Harvard Law School. Professor Cox on June 16 at Stanford University, made the point that during the McCarthy era the intellectual world, including the press, was properly outspoken about the danger of ex-parte accusations **and** pointed out the liberal concern at **that** time about the unfairness of planting stories in the press, and the lack of true adversary proceedings. He reminded the graduating class, who were literally babes in arms during the Wisconsin senator's heyday, that newspapers at that time ran, as fact, "leaked" information which damaged both the efforts of prosecution and defense before the trials had even started.

Professor Galbraith also charges that IT&T stocks today have declined on the market because of mismanagement. In fact, the price of IT&T stocks has declined at a rate roughly the same as that of the market generally, which suggests that it reflects the state of the economy and the stock market rather than something peculiar to IT&T.

The more basic question of increased public control of corporations which Professor Galbraith raises is a matter worthy of wide discussion, but it should be discussed on its merits—not on the basis of false or unproven statements and inuendo.

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