

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

Mr. James D. White
35 Castle Rock Drive
Mill Valley, California

Dear Jim,

Thanks for your letter of 26 July. Unfortunately, I've been out of the country for the past six weeks on a much needed vacation, so please excuse the delay in answering. (It so happened that the P.O. Box key was lost in the maze of trash on my desk, so the other people couldn't find it.)

You are, of course, correct in observing my error. I had written a retraction to the Free Press as soon as someone pointed out to me that it was in print, but they did not, for some reason, print it.

The inconsistency, or what we thought was a consistency, was first uncovered by either Lillian Castellano or Maggie Field and was brought to my attention for distribution under the CCI banner. Because the Free Press deadline was at hand, I hurried and distributed releases throughout the city. About the sixth place I went was KHJ Radio News, where some of the newsmen have been of invaluable aid to us. There, I was informed the following reasons for the error:

- 1) In the World Book Encyclopedia, it is not noted that El Paso has a variance in its geographical time zone. This was the original source used.
- 2) A phone call to the El Paso Chamber of Commerce confirmed that, although El Paso is in the geographical Central Zone, they operate by custom and variance on Mountain Time.
- 3) The World Almanac confirms the C of C report.

Immediately, of course, I phoned all recipients of the release and ordered a kill. I was promised by Paul Eberle that this would be done. He said that the type was not yet set and there would be no problem.

But the Preep was the only news organ to ignore the kill order. I do not know why and I am quite upset with them, to say the least. I realize that, because my name was attached to the article, my reportorial integrity is involved.

It was very observant of you to notice and check out this error. I commend you for it.

Please feel free to call upon me at any time that I may be of assistance to you. It was good to hear from you.

Best wishes,


Steven J. Burton

- 28 August 1968