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'FBI Friends' on Journalism

By William Claiborne

The Friends of the FBI [illegible] which [illegible] against [illegible] down [illegible] Hotel [illegible] unmis[illegible] commen[illegible] erosion [illegible]

The [illegible] yesterday [illegible] lent support [illegible] numbers [illegible] Sen. Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) complain[illegible] that too [illegible] banalities and rivalries are allowed to overwhelm the simple art of good writing" and that sensationalism had sup[illegible]planted discretion in U.S. journalism.

They heard Fulton Lewis [illegible] a [illegible] broadcast[illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] House [illegible] Committee [illegible] defend [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible]

The Friends [illegible] Pentagon Papers [illegible] asserted that [illegible]

The Friends also listened to allegations by NBC newsman Robert Goralski and Detroit News reporter Jerry terHorst that the government is guilty of overclassi[illegible] documents for self[illegible] reasons. Their [illegible] with less ap[illegible]

[illegible] for the cri[illegible] journal[illegible] session [illegible] conference on [illegible] and the [illegible] fresh[illegible] Friends of [illegible] Washington[illegible] goal is to [illegible] support [illegible] counter

[illegible] Col. 3

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FBI, From B1

adverse criticism from "the left."

The original Friends of the FBI was hastily disman[illegible]tled last fall in the wake of Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Postal Service investigations into possible violation of tax and postal laws.

Earlier this month it was disclosed that of the [illegible]000 in contributions collected by the original Friends at least $258,000 was paid out in fees and expenses to the founding partners with no public accounting to the contributors.

Hollywood actor Efrem Zimbalist Jr., who portrays Inspector Erskine on the television series "The FBI," testily withdrew as honorary chairman, claiming he was "used" by the partners.

The new president of the revamped Friends of the FBI Inc. is J. A. (Jay) Parker, 36, one of the few blacks active in Young Americans for Freedom [illegible] other conservative [illegible]

Parker said [illegible] that Friends [illegible] fect and [illegible] [illegible] study [illegible] Americans for [illegible] [illegible] FBI [illegible]

[illegible] yesterday [illegible] Senate [illegible] Byrd [illegible] who said that [illegible] often [illegible] embla[illegible] page and [illegible] every [illegible]

"Men and women have the privilege to write and to talk on public affairs and . . . have a tremendous responsibility to avoid abusing that privilege," Byrd said.

He termed as "shocking" the national press handling [illegible] Arthur Bre[illegible] [illegible] of at[illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] Gov. [illegible] moment, [illegible] neces[illegible] human [illegible] sanct[illegible] Byrd de[illegible] the press [illegible] in the [illegible] Bremer's back[illegible]

[illegible] complained of [illegible] called "an increas[illegible] toward shod[illegible] production" of [illegible] and news pro[illegible]

[illegible] "careless typos" [illegible] "lackadaisical editing." [illegible] "There has gone [illegible] a great [illegible] of the pride and a great deal of the loyalty that once were characteristic of the practitioners of the scriveners' art."

Byrd also complained of a lack of objectivity in reporting law enforcement stories, particularly in cases where demonstrators clash with the police.

"One day, we may return to an America where tolerance—not overtolerance—is a virtue," Byrd said. "Where a different point of view is to be sought and respected and is not the object of derision and contempt."

Today's conference session on "Surveillance and the Media" will include ABC news producer Steven Fleischman; Richard McCutcheon, of New York's WNET-TV; and Frank Carrington of Americans for Effective Law Enforcement.