

# SCHORR, IN DISCORD, QUITS CBS NEWS JOB

NYTimes SEP 29 1976  
Correspondent, Accused in Passing  
of Secret Document, Will Stay  
on the Payroll 2¼ Years

By LES BROWN

Daniel Schorr, who was frequently at the center of journalistic controversies in his 23 years as a CBS News correspondent, ended his latest episode of strife yesterday by resigning from the network.

Mr. Schorr, who had been accused of allowing a fellow correspondent to be suspected of an action he himself had performed—that of passing a secret house intelligence report to *The Village Voice*, a weekly newspaper, for publication—said that under the circumstances he saw no alternative but to resign.

"Aware of the polarizing effects within CBS News of the controversy involving me," Mr. Schorr wrote in his letter of resignation, "I would doubt my ability to function effectively if reinstated."

He said also that his reinstatement would be "a source of tension" within the organization.

## Stays on Payroll

Under an agreement with CBS News, apparently entered into at the time of his suspension on Feb. 23, Mr. Schorr, who is 60 years old, is to remain on the network's payroll for the remaining two and quarter years of his contract and is to receive all company benefits for that period.

"I recognize that it seems strange for me to have such handsome terms if I was the one who initiated the resignation, but this all happened before our discussions this week," he said. "I'm not at liberty to explain how it came about."

Although the agreement permits Mr. Schorr to work for other broadcast organizations, he said he doubted that he would return to commercial broadcasting.

"I don't think I'd find at another network what I didn't find at CBS News," he remarked.

He indicated that he planned to lecture, write a book and perhaps accept an offer as a visiting professor for 10 weeks at a university in the Middlewest, which he said he could not yet identify.

## Called in by Salant

Richard S. Salant, president of CBS News, had called Mr. Schorr to New York for a meeting on his future with the company. Mr. Salant would not say whether he had intended to reinstate the correspondent.

"We never got to that point," he said. "Dan spared me having to make any decision. He came in, and resigned."

Outside CBS, Mr. Schorr's suspension had seemed entirely related to his role in arranging publication of the classified House report and to the Congressional investigation into the way he acquired it.

His presentation before the House ethics committee—a stirring defense of a reporter's right to protect his source—was so impressive that high-ranking CBS officials believed the public might misunderstand the network's motives if he was not reinstated.

That problem was eased for the network Sunday night when Mr. Schorr agreed to be interviewed by Mike Wallace on the "60 Minutes" program. Mr. Wallace, a fellow correspondent, dwelt on the issue of Mr. Schorr's behavior on the day the House report appeared in *The Village Voice*.

## Began With Denial

The case against Mr. Schorr at CBS News began with his initial denial of having played a role in providing *The Voice* with the classified document. His copy of it was believed to have been the only one outside the Government.

Other members of the Washington bureau said Mr. Schorr allowed suspicion to fall on Lesley Stahl, another CBS correspondent in Washington.

Members of the bureau knew that Miss Stahl had a close friendship with Aaron Latham, *The Voice* editor who wrote the preface to the published transcript of the House report.

According to bureau members, Mr. Schorr raised the question of how the document came into Mr. Latham's possession, thereby focussing suspicion on Miss Stahl. Bureau sources contended that Mr. Schorr allowed his colleagues to believe that Miss Stahl had removed the document from his desk and copied it for Mr. Latham and then admitted the following day that he had provided the copy to *The Voice*.

Asked about these charges in the interview with Mr. Wallace, Mr. Schorr dismissed them as "a piece of office gossip" and "basically trivia."

He said he had acted from confusion and had not dispelled the rumor "for a few tongue-tied hours" because he felt it might give an added layer of protection to his own source of the document.