

Editor Nixon, Justice Cronkite

Editor Richard Nixon? President A. M. Rosenthal? Chief Justice Walter Cronkite? FBI director Jack Anderson? Secretary of State Marvin Kalb?

Senator Henry Bellmon (Rep-Okla.) in his weekly newsletter to constituents, suggests with "admittedly farfetched" examples that role reversal may be a "way to achieve peace between the press and the President."

Bellmon, in his "fantasy," suggests that Mr. Nixon might swap jobs for a week with the managing editor of The New York Times, that the editor of the Washington Post be vice president, that CBS reporter Kalb sit in Henry Kissinger's chair, that columnist Jack Anderson become temporary director of the FBI and that CBS News Managing Editor Cronkite become chief justice or administrator of the space program.

The senator sees two possible worthy outcomes:

- "Maybe Editor Nixon would understand why news

reporters have the duty to constantly dig for facts . . . and . . . would become more accessible and not so guarded in making information available to the public."

- "By assuming the responsibilities of government leaders, perhaps representatives of the news media could more readily understand why the President must concentrate on major decision and rely on staff members to make many of the minor decisions."

In this kind of trade-out, the new editor-turned-president might also find it difficult to understand the justice of heaping high praise . . . upon one staff-member (Kissinger's Nobel Prize) for the administration's successes, while much of the press is attempting to force the President from office because of the acts and mistakes of other staff members."

Bellmon said the nation "sorely needs . . . a brief armistice on the home front."

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