

B17 (520)

NEW YORK, AUG. 12 (AP)-POINTING TO THE TELEVISION COVERAGE OF LEE HARVEY OSWALD, FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, DEAN ERWIN N. GRISWOLD OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL HAS RECOMMENDED THAT LAWYERS AND POLICE BE PROHIBITED FROM MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENT OR RELEASING EVIDENCE ABOUT A CRIMINAL CASE BEFORE OR DURING TRIAL.

AS FAR AS THE PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION ARE CONCERNED, GRISWOLD TOLD THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING YESTERDAY:

"IF THERE IS NOTHING AVAILABLE FOR THEM TO OBSERVE AND RECORD, THEY WILL NOT BE PRESENTED WITH PROBLEMS OF INTERFERING WITH A FAIR TRIAL."

GRISWOLD HAS SAID THAT HE DOESN'T THINK OSWALD COULD HAVE GOT A FAIR TRIAL ANYWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF THE TELEVISION COVERAGE.

IF THE NEWS MEDIA STEAL INFORMATION OR GET IT BY BRIBING A COURT OFFICER THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT, HE SAID.

BUT, HE STATED, IF THE RULES FOR LAWYERS AND POLICE WERE CLEAR THAT PUBLIC STATEMENTS WERE ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN, "MOST OF THE PROBLEMS IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BAR AND THE PRESS WOULD DISAPPEAR--WHICH IS AS IT SHOULD BE."

GRISWOLD SAID THE RULES GOVERNING LAWYERS SHOULD BE SPELLED OUT IN THE LAWYERS' OWN CANONS OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS, AND SHOULD BE ENFORCED WITHOUT FEAR OR FAVOR BY THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL BAR ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR GRIEVANCE COMMITTEES AND THE COURTS.

THE RULES FOR SHERIFFS, CONSTABLES, POLICE CHIEFS, POLICE OFFICERS AND OTHER EMPLOYES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SHOULD BE LAID DOWN BY THE FEDERAL AND STATE COURTS, OR, WHERE NECESSARY, BY STATE STATUTE, HE SAID. VIOLATORS SHOULD BE PROSECUTED FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT, HE ADDED.

MB18

"IT MAY BE THOUGHT, AT FIRST FLUSH, THAT AN ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY AND ALL PUBLICITY IN THESE MATTERS GOES TOO FAR," GRISWOLD SAID.

"BUT I SUGGEST THAT AN ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, IS CALLED FOR AND IS DESIRABLE. IT IS THE PRACTICE IN ENGLAND, WHERE IT WORKS WELL, AND IS NOT QUESTIONED."

"UNTIL WE DO TAKE THIS STEP," HE ADDED, "WE CANNOT REALLY CRITICIZE THE NEWS MEDIA VERY SEVERELY IF THEY PUBLISH THE INFORMATION WHICH LAWYERS GIVE THEM, OR IF THEY PUT ON RADIO OR TELEVISION PROGRAMS IN WHICH LAWYERS PRATICIPATE."

FELIX R. MCKNIGHT, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND EDITOR OF THE DALLAS TIMES HERALD, SAID THAT OFFICIALS WHO "LEAK" INFORMATION ARE AS RESPONSIBLE AS NEWS MEDIA FOR PRE-TRIAL PUBLICITY THAT MIGHT IMPAIR JUSTICE.

HE SAID THERE WERE DISTORTIONS AND INACCURACIES IN SOME NEWS MEDIA REPORTS DURING THE AFTERMATH OF KENNEDY'S ASSASSINATION AND DURING THE TRIAL OF JACK RUBY, SLAYER OF OSWALD, THE ALLEGED ASSASSIN.

BUT HE ADDED, "THE MAJORITY REPORTED FAITHFULLY TWO SICKENING EPISODES OF HISTORY..."

MCKNIGHT SAID: "COPY-RIGHTED STORIES BY THE DOZENS HAVE COME FROM THE SAD KENNEDY STORY. STEP BY STEP THE STORY HAS BEEN REVEALED TO THE PUBLIC...THE DRIBBLETS OF INFORMATION FROM INVESTIGATIVE BODIES, THE ENDLESS CONJECTURES, THE PREMATURE RELEASE OF EXPERT TESTIMONY AT THE RUBY TRIAL, THE CEASELESS DEGRADATION OF A CITY FROM BACKDOOR GOSSIP.

NB19

"WHERE DOES IT ALL COME FROM. LEAKS, GENTLEMEN, AND RATHER OFFICIAL LEAKS. IT IS A PROBLEM AS OLD AS GOVERNMENT ITSELF."

HE URGED THE BAR TO "FIGHT AS HARD FOR A FREE PRESS... AS WE MUST FIGHT FOR THE MOST ASTRINGENT PURITY OF FAIR TRIAL WITHIN OUR COURTS."

HE SAID THE PRESS HAS "SOUND PURPOSE IN RESISTING THE SHACKLES OF CENSORSHIP."

THE REMEDY, HE SAID, "IS NOT TO RETURN TO PROHIBITIONS AGAINST PUBLISHING, TO PRINTING ONLY BY LICENSE FROM THE COURT. RATHER, IT IS TO DEEPEN AND CARRY FORWARD THE TRADITION OF NEWSPAPER RESPONSIBILITY."

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