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The Fairness Doctrine of the Press.

Chi Daily News assigned one of its Wash staff to do a series on the Ray case, naturally because interest was started by a city-side reporter who had visited me. I spent much of a day with DC man, Bob Gruenberg, who was pressed to get the three-part job done and simultaneously given assignments that prevented it. Then they had him increase it to a fourth and finally insisted that a story on the Frank book be the fifth. Not only did they not tell him to compare the two sides, while he has to walk that tightrope called objectivity, but when he worked in reference to it they edited that out. And in the final one, on the Frank crap, and it is that (this guy is so disgusted he doesn't even want his copy of the book back), they even change the neutral head from the first edition to one saying Ray, one Assassin in later editions. I presume the series was fed the syndicate. This experienced reporter is so naive that when we spoke for more than an hour last night he asked me if anyone had asked me to review the Frank work. He was unhappy enough because he knew what he had to do and that to hold his job he'd better do it. He got a lot happier when the "Larry" of the carbons you have called him up to holler, "Bob, you got no balls!" and then had such a row with the national editor they do not even talk, telling him he and the whole damned paper were gutless and crooked. Pretty robust talk for a young reporter. And, may I add, one of the reasons he is a damned good one. He is also Guild negotiator and they are now asking for ad-page space for reportorial expressions of opinion. Inadequate as this series was, it still does some good and yielded us more knowledge.

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