Veteran Newsman Ed Murrow Receives '64 Paul White Award

Bill Monroe, Director of News,
NBC Washington

I am privileged to make this presentation tonight on behalf of the Paul White Award committee consisting of past Presidents Bill Garry, Dick Cheverton, and myself.

Judging by the reaction of a few people who have known about it in advance, I suspect that this year's award, unanimously agreed on by the committee, will be the most popular in the history of this highest RTNDA honor. The 1964 Paul White Award goes to Edward R. Murrow.

Ed Murrow was born near Greensboro, North Carolina, 56 years ago. When he was four, his family moved to Blanchard, Washington, where his father changed his occupation from farmer to railroad engineer. He went to the Blanchard grade school and to the Edison High School. He became a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Washington State College, majoring in history and speech.

Looking back from the vantage point of today, it's hard to imagine the voice of Edward R. Murrow coming out of a skinny college kid of twenty. Apparently it did. We know, in any event, that people were listening to him even then.

As a junior, he was president of his class; as a senior, president of the student body. During vacations he worked on timber survey crews swaying an axe. For two years in his early twenties he was President of the National Student Federation and traveled extensively in this country and Europe. For three years he worked with the Institute of International Education helping anti-Nazi intellectuals get out of Germany.

In 1934 he married Janet Brewster, whom he had met when both of them were on a trip to a student federation meeting. They have one son, Charles Casey.

In 1935 he was hired by CBS as Director of Talks and Education. Two years later CBS sent him to Europe, not to broadcast, but to serve as European director lining up informational, educational, and musical programs.

In March 1938, Hitler marched into Austria. Ed Murrow, not quite thirty years old, was in Warsaw arranging for a children's program. William Shirer of CBS telephoned the news to Murrow from Vienna. Then Shirer left Vienna and flew to London to broadcast the story of the Anschluss.

Murrow decided to head for Vienna. He flew to Berlin, chartered the only plane available there, a 27-seat transport, and went on to Vienna. He got into the city by streetcar in time for the arrival of the German troops. He managed to get on the air and stayed on the air broadcasting the story for the next ten days. From that time on Edward R. Murrow was a reporter.

The rest of the Murrow story does not need a detailed recital. Most of us in this room can hear it now—

The wartime reports: "This . . . is London."

After the war, the 7:45 p.m. radio program: "This . . . is the news." That program broke new ground for radio news. For most of us the memory of it still crackles with the electricity of turbulent events.

There were the record albums: "I Can Hear It Now."

The "Hear It Now" radio series.

The "See It Now" television programs. Programs that brought a new use of actuality into radio-TV journalism. The documentary on Senator McCarthy—an act of courage that brought common sense to an agitated country.

There was Ed Murrow, the sympathetic interviewer of "Person to Person." And Ed Murrow, the journalist of international stature, questioning great figures on the "Small World" program.

Paul White had a part in hiring Ed Murrow. Murrow in turn hired people like Seward Collins, Collingwood, LeSueur, Downs, Smith, Hottelet, Burdett and others. He worked with Fred Friendly to bring the impact of actuality to radio and TV documentaries.

He has known as friends poets and presidents. He has received nine honorary degrees, seven awards of the Overseas Press Club and five Peabody awards.

(Continued on page 11)

NBC Newsman Clay Buried In Congo

NBC News correspondent George Clay, who was killed while marching with government troops toward Stanleyville, was buried November 29 in a simple military ceremony in a small neglected cemetery near Stanleyville that is rapidly reverting to its original jungle growth.

Clay's body, and that of a South African mercenary who also had been killed in the ambush, was left in an abandoned truck by the advancing column. A helicopter finally was sent November 29, with two airplanes for cover against rebel sniper fire, to retrieve the bodies.

Because a coffin was unavailable, Clay's body was wrapped in a sheet that had his name written on it with a handful pen. Attending the burial ceremonies were a Belgian priest; Major Michael Hearne, who commands the mercenary troops; and a platoon of Congolese paracommandos.

NBC'S NORTHFIELD VISITS AFRICA

Robert Northfield, g. m., of NBC News, has spent two weeks in Africa studying the continent's news-making areas with a view to future coverage. Leaving December 8, he visited the Congo, Kenya and the Union of South Africa.

Northfield's trip included a visit to the grave of NBC correspondent George Clay, who was killed November 24 when he was shot down in ambush near Stanleyville in the Congo.

NBC President Kintner Winner Of Distinguished Service Award

Remarks by Bill Garry, WBKB-TV Chicago
Former President, RTNDA

Over the past years, the Radio Television News Directors Association has recognized worthy achievements in behalf of broadcast news by the presentation of its Distinguished Service Award.

In 1959, the first such award was made to Dr. Frank Stanton, the president of the Columbia Broadcasting System for his determined and continuing efforts to free broadcast news of the restrictive effects of Section 315 of the Federal Communications Act.

In 1962, RTNDA honored Brig. Gen. Sarneff, Chairman of the Board of the Radio Corporation of America, for recognizing and advancing over a period of 50 years the true informational role of broadcasting.

Last year, Professor Mitchell Charmley of the University of Minnesota received the award for his many and varied contributions in the field of education for broadcast journalism.

Now, in 1964, RTNDA pays recognition to the role responsible and dedicated management does and must play if we are to elevate broadcast news to even greater heights of public service. We recognize all those enlightened leaders in broadcast management by bestowing the Distinguished Service Award on one of their number . . . the President of the National Broadcasting Company, Mr. Robert E. Kintner.

In all of his years in broadcasting, Mr. Kintner has left his personal stamp upon radio and television news. He has labored long, and well, to enlarge the scope and responsibilities of the news function, and he has succeeded. He has succeeded, because he is a newsman. He shares that devotion to news exemplified by all of you present.

Mr. Kintner regrets that he is unable to be here today to accept this award. He is on an overseas assignment. But as soon as he returns to this country, the RTNDA Distinguished Service Award for 1964 will be presented to Mr. Robert E. Kintner, the President of the National Broadcasting Company.
Roberts Discusses N.J. Supreme Court Decision, Why No FOI Committee Protest To Limitation


Chairman, RTNDA Freedom of Information Committee

The New Jersey Supreme Court handed down a decision on November 16 which may foreshadow actions by other courts and bar associations across the country in limiting statements police and attorneys can make to newsmen in cases awaiting trial. Because the case is important, and because there may be similar action by courts or bar associations in other states which may affect you, close examination of the decision seems essential.

The case concerned Louis Van Duyne, who was sentenced to life imprisonment after a jury convicted him of beating his wife to death. His attorney appealed the case partly on the grounds that a fair trial was impossible because of "improper and prejudicial" stories which appeared in the local newspapers while the jury was being chosen.

The New Jersey Supreme Court said there was not enough evidence to indicate that the newspaper stories prevented a fair trial or seriously infected the minds of the jurors. But—and importantly for us—the court went on to say that it was sympathetic to the argument of the defense attorney that anyone who read the articles couldn't possibly remove their effects from his mind no matter how hard he tried. The court said it felt that unfair and prejudicial newspaper stories before and during trial of criminal cases are becoming more prevalent.

So the court declared that it interpreted Professional Ethics Canons #5 and #20 as having the effect of forbidding statements to news media by prosecutors or their staffs, or by police officers, about alleged confessions or admissions by the accused, or about the defendant's previous criminal record. The court also said a similar ban should apply to similar statements by defense attorneys.

A UPI radio wire story filed the day after the court decision called the court's ruling "sweeping." Yet the New Jersey Supreme Court maintained that its ruling in no way interferes with the operation of a free press in legal proceedings.

"The courtroom is the place to settle the issue," said the court, adding, "Comments before or during the trial which have the capacity to influence jurors are ... impermissible." When evidence is introduced before the jury, then and not until then can it be reported, the court maintained.

If you consider the two newspaper stories which were cited in the Van Duyne case, you can see why the court ruled as it did. Both stories quoted unidentified "police" as their source. One quoted police as saying the defendant told them when he was arrested, "You've got me for murder. I don't desire to tell you anything." The second story quoted police as claiming that Van Duyne had been arrested at least ten times and had once threatened to kill a cop.

Juron Read, Not in Court

But, neither of these statements was introduced as evidence during the trial. Yet some of the jurors had read them. The New Jersey Supreme Court therefore concluded that stricter enforcement of Judicial Canons #5 and #20 was needed in New Jersey to help insure a fair trial.

Now there may be someone who will say, why didn't RTNDA protest this limitation on freedom of information?

RTNDA View

For several reasons, first, the limitations placed by the New Jersey Supreme Court applied to one area where RTNDA had already limited itself. In the original pre-television code adopted by the old National Association of Radio News Directors there was a pledge to avoid reporting previous convictions of anyone arrested. The New Jersey Court was only asking police and attorneys to avoid giving newsmen information which a good RTNDA member wouldn't report anyway.

Second, the New Jersey Court ruling did not affect newspaper or radio-TV reporting of such information. The court did not say you cannot publish certain harmful information if you got it. It simply advised attorneys and police not to give it to you. Anyone is still free to get and use the information, harmful or not, if he can.

Third, one of the most frequent courts to complaints of news coverage of the Kennedy assassination that we (the news media) were simply passing along the information given us. We couldn't be judges as to what is or is not prejudicial to a fair trial. Anyone who followed that line can hardly fault the New Jersey Supreme Court for being the judge on what prejudices a fair trial.

Fourth, we, while insisting on the right of a free press, must also respect the equally vital right of any accused person to have a fair trial. Both are guaranteed by our Constitution. We don't have the unlimited right to say anything about a person arrested for a crime. But we do have a right to access to the trial of that person, and to report fully all the evidence brought out in the court in that trial.

For these reasons, no protest was made. But, this was just one ruling in one state. There may be similar actions elsewhere. We hope to keep track of these and make regular reports throughout the year.

Mark Stacey, newscaster at KIAC Los Angeles, joins KFMB San Diego as newscaster.

Murrow —
(Continued from page 3)

From 1961 to this year he was director of the United States Information Agency, in which capacity he was as close to President Kennedy as were the Cabinet members.

His successor at USIA, Carl Rowan, has written that Ed Murrow "transformed the USIA into a forceful, flexible, and responsive instrument of foreign policy, rendering counsel at the highest level of government. His insistence on quality brought USIA to unprecedented level of excellence in production and of professionalism in performance."

The citation for this year's Paul White award is as follows:

"The Radio-Television News Directors Association presents the Paul White Award for 1964 to Edward R. Murrow."

"By the force and quality of his reporting over 26 years, he has set the standards of professionalism in broadcast journalism."

"He has invested news on the air with the excitement and urgency of real history."

"He has written the news and reported it with a responsibility and an integrity that have built increasing trust in the broadcast media."

"He has developed new journalistic techniques and used them to examine the problems of our civilization with intelligence and compassion."

"He has been the single most powerful influence in advancing the broadcast journalists to a position of stature alongside the newspaperman."

"In crises of war and peace he has confronted his country with the facts in a voice of disciplined vigor, a voice that always seemed to convey the courage born of profound faith in the democratic process. It is a measure of his impact that, to those who heard it, this voice itself has become a vital element of remembered history."

"In recent years he has invigorated the entire information arm of the United States government and made it a more fitting and effective instrument of national policy."

"For all these things, his fellow broadcast newsmen honor Ed Murrow."

1965 Conference

TAMPA — NOVEMBER 10-13

Copy — Photos

Go to—
RTNDA BULLETIN
Communications Center
Iowa City, Iowa 52240