

the eds say . .

Freedom of the press is more than the right of newspapers to publish news without government restraint, Kansas editors have said in many editorials during recent weeks. They declare that the most essential point is that the public has a "right to know."

Here are some pointed paragraphs from Kansas editorial columns:

Garden City Telegram: "You don't have to go to a dictator nation to find censorship . . . we have a secrecy cloak for areas of government on all levels—federal, state and local. Little iron curtains are dropped because your local officials oftentimes think it would be wiser for everybody's sake if the public wasn't thoroughly informed. And let us say, here and now, that they arrive at such decisions in the best of good faith. They have the best intentions in the world."

"Many local governmental decisions cannot by their nature be cleancut. Oftentimes a course must be taken which has almost as many bad points as good points. Naturally such decisions bring criticisms from many quarters as well as praise from others."

"It's a common practice to minimize such decisions in the press and by giving them as little notice as possible to avoid thereby as much criticism as possible."

"That's the point they make. Of course they are wrong. When people find out that an action which they dislike has been purposely buried, they are more incensed than ever. That starts rumors, and rumors are far more dangerous than the facts which are news."

Great Bend Press: "As I see it, our main threat to freedom of the press is not the officials who withhold information but those reporters and editors who distort the facts to fit their way of thinking or the dictates of political or financial leaders."

"Lazy reporting and prejudiced news stories are not confined solely to small towns but are ailments which can be found in every branch of newsreporting, regardless of the level."

"A newspaper that consistently attacks or supports government authorities is not doing an honest job of fairly presenting the news. No one person or group of people, politicians or otherwise, is right all the time or wrong every time. Can an honest reporter then consistently criticize or condone the actions of either political party or any one politician? I don't believe so."

The Pittsburg Headlight: "As said here a good many times, freedom of the press is not primarily for the benefit of those who publish the newspapers. It is intended for the benefit of the public. "Freedom of the press" was the term that was used by the writers of the Bill of Rights. It is the expression that is generally used. But the more truthful term would be the "right to know." This means the right of the public to know. Freedom of the press is of value only as it is used to put in effect the right of the public to know—to know what is going on. It is the public that suffers when freedom of the press disappears. Always when dictators bloom, it is after the opportunity of the newspapers to inform the public has been destroyed. All over the country are dictators, some of them big ones in federal government and other little ones in local government. Wherever they are, their first efforts are to prevent things from "getting into the newspapers."

Scott City News Chronicle: "We ran into something last week that is paradoxical, to say the least—peace officers who are trying to suppress the news. They cook up a little deal with the defendant, promising him that the story won't be in the paper; then instruct the judge not to give us the news."

"This is about the third time that we know of that such a thing has happened—and that's just three times too often. From now we'll be the judge of what news goes in our paper, and any little deals the county prosecutors care to make with the defendants will be strictly unofficial."

"It will either be that way, or we'll get some new officials."

The Lyons News: "One of the eternal mysteries around a newspaper in a town of 4,500 is why people will insist that a story be withheld for a time after their repetition of it to their friends means 4,490 people are already talking about it. That leaves only the newspaper and nine illiterates to appear unconscious of what is going on."

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PRINTERS' CENTURY

American printers, the men who set type and otherwise process the printing in newspaper shops and other printing places have just observed the 100th anniversary of the International Typographical Union. Thus the printers have the oldest trade union in the world, the international organization sets forth. Today it has nearly 90,000 members with local unions all over the country and with union members manning the typesetting machinery of all sorts, the "floors" of the print shops and the makeup banks for the assembling of type into forms for the printed pages. The union has maintained its apprentice program for the education of men seeking to become printers. Sixty years ago it authorized the establishment of a printers' home in Colorado, now a famous institution. It has maintained various welfare measures of its own supplementary to the home.

Through the years it established itself as a union which held strictly to its agreements and preferred cooperation with employers to controversies.

The history of the typographical union has been full of interesting developments reflecting able and honest leadership, almost universally.—**Pittsburg Sun.**

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In case you find a mistake in the News-Star, please consider that it was put there for somebody's benefit. We try to get something in the paper for everybody, and some of our readers always are looking for mistakes.—**Shawnee (Okla.) News-Star.**

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The zenith of gall: The request by a local person to place an advertising handbill in your window for a local enterprise, conducted by a local group—and printed by an out-of-town printer.—**Chase Index.**

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Ima Washout — It must have been the refining influence of the fourth district editors in El Dorado Saturday. This news note appeared in the Ed Dorado Times yesterday—For the first time in the memory of the oldest police officer no arrests were made and no accidents reported over the weekend.—**Augusta Gazette.**

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A new low in journalism is confessed by the Hutchinson News-Herald, when one edition came out with the name of its own editor spelled wrong. Jack Harris suggests a revision of the Kansas state motto: "Ad asteriks per accuracy."