

We live in an age of miracles, yet we live in a world in which so much is taken for granted. Photography itself is by way of being a miracle, perhaps even a series of miraculous accomplishments harnessed to a single purpose.

Photography, in everything we do, serves as a vital force in our daily lives. It is, all at one and the same time: teacher, persuader, seller, informer, shaper of images and opinion, a recorder of history.

Photography plays an invaluable role in crime prevention and detection, in medical diagnosis and healing, in the study of the extremes of outer space and the ocean floor, in unveiling the mystery of growing things, in revealing the secrets of the food and water that gives us life.

Photography is a reformer of mankind's industrial, economic, and social mode of living.

Through pictures we can better understand an overall scene, an event of happiness, a tragedy; yes, we can even understand people better if we are able to see them. Obviously then, in the field of communication, pictures are indispensable companions to the written word whether the event is a tragedy, a religious or political ceremony, a court scene, a scientific or technological breakthrough—or, as I said, just plain people.

Every President for the past 40 years has reiterated his belief in the importance of an informed electorate. Every public servant running for office, at some time or other in his career, inevitably dedicates himself to the importance of an informed people. Yet we are constantly faced with efforts of people in government, and in many other aspects of public life, who exert their every effort to deprive the public of information to which they are entitled.

At this very time we are experiencing perhaps the greatest turmoil in our Nation's history regarding the people's right to vote. Of what possible use is the right to vote if the electorate does not have the information on which to base intelligent decisions?

Surely no one can deny that we live in the most complex age in the history of the world. If our people are to be adequately informed, they must be completely informed through every means available to us with today's technology.

Scientists tell us that most of the things we learn, we learn through our eyes. Educators have found that they can teach students of every level, including the Armed Forces, faster, more efficiently, and completely, with visual teaching aids. Doesn't it stand to reason that we can inform our people about the world about them better, more completely, and more accurately if our news reports are a combination of words and pictures, rather than words alone?

Yet, although there are efforts being made at every level to restrict public information, there is far more discrimination against the visual report than there is against any other form of reporting.

Therefore, for all the reasons given in this statement, we respectfully urge the committee to do everything in its power that will help to eliminate the double standard in reporting information to which the people are entitled.

Gentlemen, I would be failing in my duty if I were not forthright in asking why, even here in a congressional investigation, word reporters are permitted to observe, interpret and report proceedings,