

Mr. COSTA. No, sir; for the bill as far as it goes.

Mr. GRIFFIN. I see.

Mr. COSTA. For example, the General Services Administration bans cameramen from all Federal property all over the whole country, and you must realize that there are bound to be many important news stories to which the pictures can add a great deal of information, that the public is deprived of.

Mr. GRIFFIN. I am not being argumentative but in order to get into a discussion on the merits of your request let us consider the fact that a picture is often assumed to be proof positive of an event; yet it occurs to me that sometimes pictures can be very deceiving, depending upon the purpose that the photographer or editor wants to achieve.

I can recall a personal experience for example. In 1959 I cosponsored a piece of labor legislation, and in the eyes of many people I was supposed to be some sort of a demon. I recall making a speech at a banquet in Detroit. In advance of the banquet there was a press conference and a number of photographers took a great many pictures. The only one used caught me scowling—I looked about as mean as I have ever looked in my life. That was the image that they wanted to portray of me.

That picture was used over and over again by that particular newspaper.

I suppose in House committee hearings there is concern as to whether the photographs will portray a balanced picture of what goes on in a committee hearing or will they show only the empty chairs or the Congressman when he happens to be reading a paper? If that is what the photographers or editors want to show, that is what they can show. What is your answer to this concern?

Mr. COSTA. My answer is a very forthright one. Pictures can be made to distort and not tell the truth. But we are dedicated to a free press and the principle that the news media editors try to give a balanced report. Words can distort every bit as much or more so than pictures.

It stands to reason, it seems to me, that if we are going to rely on public information reaching the people in the public interest, the more sources that the people have of getting that information, sir, the more accurate it is probably going to add up to just as Learned Hand said. While there are exceptions, just as in the legal profession, there are the ambulance chasers, and in the medical profession there are people who do things that are not right, I would be degrading myself if I stood before you and said that every editor in the country always does exactly the right thing.

Human nature is frail, to be certain, but I maintain, and we maintain, if the public can get the word report and see the pictures of the event or people to which they refer, in the majority of all the cases, they will come up with a more accurate understanding of the news event or the people, than they can by one or the other alone. That is the reason I showed here, in connection with the Indianapolis Speedway crash, that the picture could not tell information that the words did provide.

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. Costa, I am inclined to agree with you. I think it is well that your explanation and your point of view are in the record.