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And Others.

Honorable Herbert V. Walker  
Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Los Angeles  
State of California  
c/o Hotel Del Coronado  
510 W. 6th  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Judge Walker:

I have received your request for an explanation of the mechanics of rotation in seating of the press.

A rotation system can be used to accommodate news organizations which for one reason or another will not have a man present at the trial each day.

Seats set aside for rotation can, for instance, be occupied by the representative of one organization in the morning and a representative of another in the afternoon.

The seat assignments can be made in advance or each day by lottery.

Another device is pool rotation in which news agencies get together and agree to have one report for all on alternate days.

Pooling and rotation are sometimes suggested as a panacea to solve the problem of mass coverage in a situation of numerically limited access.

They are not.

The thrust of our reports so far have emphasized the value of permanent seating.

The reporter who sits clear through a trial has a much better understanding of what's happening.

October 9, 1968

He knows better, for instance, the implications of questions and answers given in cross examination, redirect or recross as they relate to previous testimony.

Pooling also has severe drawbacks. Standards and purposes of the media vary greatly.

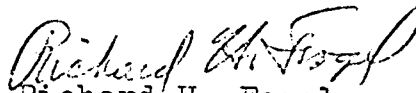
Put yourself in the position of a responsible editor. He relies through proved performance on a man he knows is conversant with his readership or audience. We are in the age of specialized communication serving diverse groups in specific ways.

Pooling can help but it isn't by any means the only answer.

In any event, we suggest the field be narrowed to those who have applied for accreditation in response to the court's advisory through the wire services. A check should be made to be sure the advisory went out worldwide in both cases.

If you require any further information on this subject please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

  
Richard H. Fogel  
Chairman

RHF/rc

bcc: Hal Jewett  
Ray Spangler  
Larry Sisk  
Ben Martin  
Howard Williams