

Judge Battle

Charles Holmes

Consideration of additional press seating

February 17, 1969

A review of the 38 seats reserved for an international, inter-media press corps shows that two seats are now available for re-allocation. The seat allocated to The Saturday Evening Post (No. 34) can be re-issued since that magazine ceased publication. Seat No. 10, held by the Memphis World newspaper, is available since the editor said he will not be using it continuously and does not mind being placed on the rotating seats roster.

In a meeting Dec. 4, 1968, it was suggested that additional seats be given to the press to allow reservations for newspapers with justified reasons for covering the trial. The suggestion was to extend the press seating across the entire back row, adding seven seats to the 44 in the North press section.

The most ardent requests for further consideration of seating has come from: The New York Post (largest afternoon paper in the Nation); the New York Daily News & Wire Service (largest daily paper); the Washington Post; the Baltimore Sun; The Chicago Tribune; Newhouse National News Service; Mutual Broadcasting System; and the Washington Evening Star.

Other appeals for re-consideration have come from Newsday, Le Figaro of Paris, the St. Louis Globe-Democrat; Harper & Row, Publishers, The Nation, Westinghouse Broadcasting Co., Inc., Southam News Service of Canada, and France-soir of Paris.

I suggest that first consideration be given to the eight media outlets mentioned in the one paragraph, although all make sincere cases for themselves.

Of those publications mentioned, the New York Daily News and the Chicago Tribune are sister newspapers and, I am sure, could comfortably share a seat and thereby serve two great publics. The New York Post should be considered alone. The Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun are two very influential newspapers, two of the few remaining newspapers with national staffs. The Newhouse National News Service serves the Birmingham News and, I have learned, has had two Newhouse

reporters accredited as Birmingham News reporters. I believe they can use the Birmingham News seat. (Mr. Jack Landau, incidentally, has taken a job as public information specialist with the Justice Department) Mutual Broadcasting System is one organization that should receive very careful consideration since it is a very large radio news service and very close to the three major networks in scope and coverage.

There have been other letters, of course, from media outlets not accredited, but they have generally been simply protestations rather than appeals for further consideration.