10 December 1968

Mr. Harold G. Buell
News Photo Editor
The Associated Press
50 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, N. Y. 10017

Mr. Frank Tremaine
News Photo Editor
United Press International
220 E. 42nd. Street
New York, N. Y. 10017

Gentlemen:

Please believe me when I tell you I write this letter from the bottom of my heart and with all sincerity in my desire to combat the constant charges thrown to the major news services, the Associated Press, United Press International and the member newspapers of these great organizations. Please believe me when I say I cannot help but want to rise up and object when I hear the wire services, the newspapers and all other means of communication blankly accused of deliberately misrepresenting and erroneously presenting the news of the racial disorders and troubles that are making news in many of our universities and cities in which these universities are located.

At a recent meeting constituting an official group to comply with the federal omnibus crime in the streets bill, I heard accusations made against the major newspapers in the United States, the major television networks serving the public through their system of owned and affiliated stations and most of the newspapers of the United States accused of deliberately falsifying the situation which has existed on the campus of San Francisco State University.

These charges were placed primarily against the picture coverage offered by the networks with the assistance of the major news services, namely the Associated Press and the United Press International.

These charges were placed by people that are holding responsible positions in the state of Tennessee and are doing outstanding jobs in trying to combat the problems which exist in our state. In making the charges they had proof that pictures, primarily, but intimated stories were also being falsified, set up and taken of conditions existing in racial torn cities which were not true.

They cited examples which I personally know there is an existing film clip, files and statements stating that certain pictures made in certain Tennessee cities were prearranged and photographed after the arrangements were made.

In addition, these same people claimed all of the pictures transmitted from the campus of San Francisco State University deliberately depicted the members of the law enforcement agencies in the ~~Los Angeles~~ San Francisco area using billy clubs, chemicals and other anti-riot and anti-demonstration weapons against the students.

These same people maintained and claimed that there was no effort to show or outline and explain that the students on the campus at San Francisco State University were in possession of weapons which made it necessary for law enforcement people to use the weapons available to them for self protection ~~of~~ the protection of the public.

In other words, these people in responsible positions in our cities and our government in the state of Tennessee felt that the wire services and the newspapers as well as the electronic media were deliberately falsifying the situation which existed at San Francisco State University by failure to show the students in the same light as enforcement officers were shown using weapons available to them.

Unfortunately, it is not possible for us to review the picture files of both services, in fact it is not possible for us to review the picture files of the one service to which we subscribe, to ascertain if this is a good and substantial accusiation. Frankly, we do not feel that it is.

On the other hand, I hasten to point out that none of the pictures filed to us are available to refute these charges.

Because of my constant concern over my profession and our industry being falsely and maliciously charged I ask you to objectively review this letter and give me some information to refute these charges.

If you deem the situation sufficiently important I shall be most happy to discuss with you in detail my presence at the meeting in which these charges were made.

Please understand I do not have the time, the resources or the ability to take on unassisted a battle to defend and protect our industry. I simply feel like the time has come when we all should make some effort to take the offensive in refuting these charges and objecting to the constantly growing disrespect for our business.

Your frank and open comments or discussions will be welcome.

Sincerely,

Carl A. Jones

Carl A. Jones
Publisher
CAJ/bl