

Vol. 1

The United States Senate

Report of Proceedings

Hearing held before

Committee on Rules and Administration

HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF LOUIS R. LAUTIER
FOR ADMISSION TO SENATE PRESS GALLERY
and

HEARING ON REPORTS OF DISCRIMINATION IN ADMISSION
TO SENATE RESTAURANTS AND CAFETERIAS

March 18, 1947

Washington, D. C.

WARD & PAUL

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HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF LOUIS R. LAUTIER
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TO SENATE RESTAURANTS AND CAFETERIAS

Tuesday, March 18, 1947

United States Senate,
Committee on Rules and Administration,
Washington, D. C.

The committee met, pursuant to call, at 2:00 p.m., in
room 104-B, Senate Office Building, Senator C. Wayland Brooks
(chairman), presiding.

Present: Senators Brooks (chairman), Wherry, Hickenlooper,
Knowland, Lodge, Jenner, Bricker, Ives, Hayden, Green, Myers,
and Holland.

The Chairman: The committee will come to order.

Gentlemen, the first order of business today is the con-
sideration of the application by Mr. Louis R. Lautier, Cor-
respondent, Atlanta Daily World, and Chief of the Negro News-
paper Publishers Association News Service, for admission to
the Senate Press Gallery.

To bring you up to date, the chair would like to state
that I received a letter from Mr. Lautier the early part of
this year in reference to this matter, which was referred, as
the chair believes proper, to the Standing Committee of

Correspondents that controls the Gallery under the rules set down by the Committee on Rules and Administration. In pursuance of that they held hearings, and the application was rejected.

On March 7 I received a second letter from Mr. Lautier, and I again asked the committee to consider it; and they did, and rejected it. Mr. Lautier has asked now that the committee hear his complaint.

I will ask that Mr. Lautier's letter of March 7 be included in the record at this point.

(Mr. Lautier's letter is as follows:)

"NEGRO NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

News Service Bureau
2007 Fifteenth Street, N. W.
Washington 1, D. C.

March 7, 1947

Senator C. Wayland Brooks, Chairman,
Senate Rules Committee,
Senate Office Building,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Brooks:

Reference is made to your letter of February 11, 1947, in which you informed me that you were resubmitting my application for admission to the Congressional Press Galleries to the Standing Committee of Correspondents.

A hearing was given me by the Standing Committee of Correspondents on Thursday afternoon, February 27. The hearing

was exhaustive and cordial. Under date of March 4, 1947, however, Mr. William Theis, the secretary of the committee, wrote me as follows:

'At a recent meeting of the Standing Committee of Correspondents, your application for admission to the Congressional Press Galleries was considered. After exhaustive deliberations and a personal hearing, your application was rejected as not coming within the rules governing admission to the press galleries.'

This is certainly an extraordinary finding, and I can reach no other conclusion than that race was the decisive factor. There was not a scintilla of evidence before the committee even tending to show that I do not come within Rule IV of the Rules for the Regulation of the Senate Wing of the Capitol. This rule requires that the occupation of the press gallery be 'confined to bona fide telegraphic correspondents of reputable standing' and that 'persons engaged in other occupations whose chief attention is not given to newspaper correspondence (underscoring supplied) shall not be entitled to admission.' I submit that I meet these qualifications.

The interpretation given the rules by the Standing Committee of Correspondents is outrageous and is designed to bar correspondents of Negro newspapers. Under the provisions which the committee reads into the rules governing the press galleries, no Negro correspondent can qualify for admission

into the daily press gallery. Under the interpretation of the rules governing the periodicals gallery, Negro correspondents are barred because they do not represent weekly magazines.

I do not believe that it was the intent of the Senate and House to exclude Negro correspondents from the press and periodicals galleries solely because of their race or color, but that is the practical effect of the interpretation given the rules by the Standing Committee of Correspondents.

In your letter of February 11, 1947, you state that 'As the rules stand, however, all applications must be approved by the Standing Committee of Correspondents.' I am obliged to except to this statement. Rule XXXIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate gives the Senate Rules Committee the authority to 'make such regulations respecting the reporters' galleries of the Senate, together with the adjoining rooms and facilities, as will confine their occupancy to bona fide reporters for daily newspapers, to bona fide reporters of news or press associations requiring telegraphic service to their membership * * *.'

Since the Standing Committee of Correspondents has acted arbitrarily in refusing me admission to the press galleries, and since under the interpretation of the rules Negro correspondents are barred solely because of their race or color, it appears that the Senate Rules Committee has the responsibility and duty to see that this gross discrimination against

the Negro press is removed.

I, therefore, am renewing my request that this matter be submitted to the Rules Committee for corrective action.

I enclose herewith clippings from The New York Herald Tribune and The Chicago Sun of March 6, and a clipping from PM of March 7.

Yours very truly,

/s/ LOUIS R. LAUTIER

Correspondent, Atlanta Daily World
Chief, NNPA News Service"

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The Chairman: For your convenience I have had typed up Rule 34 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, entitled "Regulation of Senate Wing of Capitol", in which it states:

"It shall be the duty of the Committee on Rules to make all rules and regulations respecting such parts of the Capitol, its passages and galleries, including the restaurant and the Senate Office Building, as are or may be set apart for the use of the Senate and its officers, to be enforced under the direction of the Presiding Officer. They shall make such regulations respecting the reporters' galleries of the Senate, together with the adjoining rooms and facilities, as will confine their occupancy and use to bona fide reporters for daily newspapers, to bona fide reporters of news or press associations requiring telegraph service to

their membership, and to bona fide reporters for daily news dissemination through radio, wire, wireless, and similar media of transmission. These regulations shall so provide for the use of such space and facilities as fairly to distribute their use to all such media of news dissemination."

Pursuant to Rule 34 of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a rule governing the Press Galleries was promulgated. Rule 4 of the Rules for the regulation of the Senate Wing of the Capitol entitled "Galleries" provides under the subheading "Press Galleries":

"The Gallery in the rear of the Vice President's chair shall be set apart for reporters of daily newspapers.

"Persons desiring admission to the Press Gallery shall make application to the Committee on Rules (as required by Rule IV for the regulation of the Senate Wing of the United States Capitol); and shall also state, in writing, for what paper or papers they are employed; and shall further state that they are not engaged in the prosecution of claims pending before Congress or the departments, and will not become so engaged while allowed admission to the gallery; and that they are not in any sense the agents or representatives of persons or corporations having legislation before Congress, and will not become such agents or representatives while retaining their right to places in the gallery. Visiting journalists who may be allowed temporary admission to the

gallery must conform to the restrictions of this rule.

"The applications required by above rule (blank forms for which can be obtained from the Doorkeeper of the Press Gallery) shall be authenticated in a manner that shall be satisfactory to the Standing Committee of Correspondents, who shall see that the occupation of the gallery is confined to bona fide telegraphic correspondents of reputable standing in their business, who represent daily newspapers; but not exceeding one seat shall be assigned to each paper; and it shall be the duty of the said Standing Committee, at their discretion, to report violations of the privileges of the gallery to the Senate Committee on Rules, and pending action thereon the offending correspondent shall be suspended.

"Persons employed in the Executive or Legislative Departments of the Government, and persons engaged in other occupations whose chief attention is not given to newspaper correspondence, shall not be entitled to admission to the Press Gallery; and the press list in the Congressional Directory shall be a list only of persons whose chief attention is given to telegraphic correspondence for daily newspapers. Correspondents entitled to the privileges of the Press Gallery may be admitted to the Marble Room under such regulations as may be prescribed by the Committee on Rules.

"Members of the families of correspondents are not entitled to admission to the Press Gallery.

"The Press Gallery, subject to the supervision and control of the Committee on Rules, shall be under the direction of the Standing Committee of Correspondents."

I think the first witness we properly should call is the man who has made the application, Mr. Lautier. Is he here?

Mr. Lautier: Yes, sir.

The Chairman: Will you take a seat adjoining the reporter, sir, and state your name and your occupation, and give us such information as you think is pertinent to your request.

STATEMENT OF LOUIS R. LAUTIER,
Washington Correspondent, Atlanta Daily
World; Chief, Negro Newspaper Publishers
Association News Service, 2007 Fifteenth
Street, N. W., Washington 1, D. C.

Mr. Lautier: My name is Louis R. Lautier. I am Washington Correspondent for the Atlanta Daily World, and Chief of the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association News Service. My address is 2007 Fifteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you in regard to my application for admission to the Senate Press Gallery.

The question involved here is one of equal access to sources of public information. Negro correspondents have been excluded from the press gallery on the ground that they did not devote their chief attention to telegraphic correspondence. They also have been excluded from the periodicals gallery on

the ground that that gallery is for correspondents of weekly magazines and not of weekly newspapers.

At the outset, let me say that I do not advocate any change in existing rules governing the press gallery. I do contend, however, that under a reasonable interpretation of those rules I am entitled to admission.

I represent both the Atlanta Daily World and the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association news service.

The Atlanta Daily World is the only Negro daily in the United States at present using telegraphic service. It is published six times a week and has a circulation of 28,190, according to the Editor and Publisher 1947 International Year Book. The Atlanta Daily World also publishes the Birmingham World, a semi-weekly paper; the Memphis World, and the Arkansas World, weekly newspapers.

The Negro Newspaper Publishers Association is a non-profit organization. It set up its news bureau here to meet a news vacuum. Thirty-six member newspapers subscribe for the service. The cost of its maintenance is prorated among those papers on the basis of their circulation. The combined circulation of its subscribing members is around one and one-half million.

The news service seeks to give to the Negro newspapers news of particular interest to Negroes that develops in the Executive Departments, the Supreme Court and the Congress. As

the representative of the Atlanta Daily World and the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, I am an accredited White House correspondent, and regularly attend the President's press and radio conferences.

As evidence of the type of service that is rendered to the Atlanta Daily World and the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, I refer to the recent hearings before a subcommittee of this committee on amending the Senate cloture rule. Those hearings involved fundamental principles of democratic government. Yet, from the viewpoint of Negroes, they were inadequately reported by the white daily press. For example, I saw in no white daily any reference to the profound statement of Senator Overton that "The Democratic South stands for white supremacy." An effective cloture rule and the attitudes of both the Democratic and Republican parties are matters which deeply interest Negroes.

Another example of the type of service rendered the Atlanta Daily World and the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association involves an incident before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. Mr. Clarence Mitchell, labor secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, appeared before that committee recently in opposition to all pending labor legislation. At the close of his testimony, Senator Wayne Morse delivered a rebuke to representatives of labor organizations who had appeared before

the committee and opposed all pending labor bills but had not offered any suggestions as to the type of legislation they thought the Congress ought to enact. The white daily papers carried the comment of Senator Morse but not the views of Mr. Mitchell. If Negroes are to be intelligently informed of what is going on in the Congress, it is essential that they get the views of representatives of Negro organizations as well as of members of the Congress.

The instances cited involved no difficulty in coverage because committee hearings are open to all reporters except that correspondents accredited to the press gallery get first consideration and if all seats at press tables are taken by them or if facilities are limited, Negro reporters may be forced to occupy seats in the audience, as they must occupy seats in the visitors' galleries in the Senate and House.

I come now to some difficulties encountered in covering the proceedings of the Senate itself. On the opening day of the Eightieth Congress, it was impossible to get into the Senate galleries, although Negroes were vitally interested in the action taken on the credentials of Senator-elect Theodore G. Bilbo. When the Senate acted late the next day on the compromise agreement laying the credentials of Mr. Bilbo on the table, Negro correspondents had to get the news the best way they could, although there were vacant seats in

the press gallery.

During the personal hearing given me by the Standing Committee of Correspondents, it was suggested that I could follow Congressional proceedings through the Congressional Record. Let's see how that works. The vote on cloture on fair employment practice legislation occurred late on Saturday afternoon, February 9, 1946. That vote had to be sent out that night if it were to reach Negro papers in time for publication. Because there was no Negro correspondent in the Senate press gallery, the roll-call vote had to be secured from a news service. Admission to the press gallery would overcome these difficulties. It also would make available notices of news conferences, advance copies of reports, speeches and other matters.

As to my qualifications, I represent both a daily paper and a news service, some of whose members require telegraphic service. I send telegraphic correspondence to the Atlanta Daily World. In addition, the larger Negro weeklies, some of which publish editions daily, also require telegraphic service. These include the Amsterdam News, the Afro-American Newspapers, the Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the Norfolk Journal and Guide, and the Kansas City Call. Recently, on two Saturday nights, I sent the Norfolk Journal and Guide several thousand words.

During the strike at the Kansas City Star, the Kansas City Call, which ordinarily publishes two editions weekly,

decided to get out daily editions to meet the dearth of news in Kansas City, by reason of the suspension of the Kansas City Star. A telegram was sent to me to send all news of importance without regard to racial angles. To comply, it was necessary for me to visit the Senate press gallery and ask Mr. Harold R. Beckley, the superintendent, for all available releases. He told me to take my choice of releases. On the House side, however, I was told there was nothing in which I would be interested.

I believe that I comply with the rules, if reasonably interpreted, by whatever yardstick that may be used. If "chief attention" is considered from the viewpoint of time spent in gathering news, I believe that I comply because daily I gather news for the Atlanta Daily World. If quantity is the yardstick, I believe I comply because I send the Atlanta Daily World the same stories which are later incorporated into mimeographed releases and sent to all subscribing papers on Wednesdays and Saturdays and sometimes on Mondays. If pay is the yardstick, I believe that I comply because 55 percent of my income comes from the Atlanta Daily World and 45 percent from the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association.

I respectfully request this committee to approve my application for admission to the Senate press gallery.

The Chairman: Are there any questions?

Senator Knowland: You base your application upon your

connection with the Atlanta Daily World and not with the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association?

Mr. Lautier: That is right.

Senator Knowland: As I understand it, the Publishers Association represents just weeklies?

Mr. Lautier: It represents weeklies.

Senator Knowland: There is no controversy on that point, I take it?

Mr. Lautier: That is right.

Senator Knowland: Might I ask, what is the salary as between the daily paper and the association?

Mr. Lautier: I get \$55 from the Daily World and \$45 from the Publishers Association.

Senator Knowland: How long has that continued?

Mr. Lautier: That has continued since sometime in January. In 1946 I received \$50 from each.

Senator Hickenlooper: Mr. Lautier, in your reporting activities, do I understand correctly that you give especial or almost exclusive attention to news of interest to Negroes?

Mr. Lautier: Chiefly. It is news in which Negroes would be particularly interested. Now Negroes would be interested, by reason of their numbers, in labor legislation. They would be interested in educational legislation.

Senator Hickenlooper: Well, what I am trying to get at is just this, as to whether or not you have a restricted or

restrictive news coverage, or whether you are operating as a newspaper reporter that covers all news impartially --

Mr. Lautier: It is restrictive.

Senator Lodge: Selective?

Mr. Lautier: That is it.

The Chairman: Are there any further questions?

Mr. Lautier, you asked me if we might hear an additional witness that you have with you.

Mr. Lautier: Right, sir; Dean George M. Johnson of the Howard University Law School.

The Chairman: Dean, will you give us your name, and then proceed?

STATEMENT OF GEORGE M. JOHNSON,
Dean of the Howard University School of Law,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

My name is George M. Johnson. I am the Dean of the Howard University School of Law.

With your permission I should like to read a statement prepared by Mr. Charles H. Houston, an attorney, who had hoped to be here but was called out of town by virtue of previous commitments. I wish to say, however, that I have a deep personal interest in this appeal, and if this body wishes, I would be happy to prepare such brief or briefs on any questions that might come up, as this body might desire.

Mr. Houston's statement is as follows:

"The Honorable, the Members of the Senate Committee on Rules:

Louis R. Lautier appeals from the decision of the Standing Committee of Senate Press Gallery Correspondents denying him admission to the gallery. He is a correspondent for the Atlanta Daily World, which has a daily circulation of 28,190, and the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, which includes and covers the main Negro newspapers of this country with combined weekly circulation of over 1,000,000.

In the two days I have had to consider this matter, faced with prior commitments, which had to be met, I have not been able to prepare an exhaustive brief. If time permits, I ask leave to file a brief in support of the appeal.

Herein I wish to discuss the appeal from four angles:

1. Does Mr. Lautier qualify for admission to the Senate Press Gallery under existing rules?

2. Do the existing white services and correspondents adequately report that news of the Senate in which Negroes are specially interested?

3. Is the Negro press competing with the white press, so that the effect of making it impossible for a Negro correspondent to get the Senate news operates as an unfair restraint of trade?

4. What are the broader implications of banning Negroes access to first hand knowledge of Senate proceedings?

A.

Mr. Lautier meets the requirements of the existing rules. Prior to the amendment of 1939, the Standing Rules of the Senate restricted the press gallery to 'bona fide reporters for daily newspapers' (Rule 34, Senate Manual 1921). There was considerable criticism at the narrowness of the rules, and Associated Press, United Press correspondents and columnists were admitted to the Senate Press Gallery by sufferance (Cong. Record, 76th Cong., 1st Sess. pp. 4721 et seq.). Mr. Gillette and Mr. Barbour introduced a resolution (S. 117, 76th Cong., 1st Sess.) which passed with a minor amendment, striking out the limitation of gallery privileges to 'bona fide reporters for daily newspapers' and broadening the privilege to cover correspondents for press associations, radio commentators, and so forth. Concerning the intent of and spirit of the amendment, the last sentence of same is particularly significant:

'These regulations shall so provide for the use of such space and facilities as fairly to distribute their use to all such media of news dissemination.'

Mr. Lautier is a bona fide reporter for a bona fide, unique daily newspaper -- The Atlanta World, the only daily Negro newspaper in the country. He is also a bona fide reporter of a news service organized by the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, which requires telegraphic service,

as well as reports by mail, to its members. He gives all his time to this work -- the major part of his time to the daily. The very nature of news coverage for a daily newspaper is such that the more access to spot news, the more telegraphic dispatches; so it is a vicious circle to deny him access to the most important spot news in this country and then to complain about the lack of volume of his telegraphic dispatches.

Mr. Lautier is personally unobjectionable under the tests set forth in Rule 4 of the Rules for Regulation of the Senate Wing. There is no way to object to his application unless the Standing Rules are construed to require that Mr. Lautier devote his time exclusively to reporting for a daily newspaper. That would be to import in the rule what is not there, and it is respectfully submitted Mr. Lautier's time is wholly taken up with two reporting jobs, both of which are acceptable under the Rules.

B.

The existing white newspapers and the white correspondents do not cover the Senate adequately for angles or news of interest to Negro readers. The major circulation of the white newspapers is white; their Senate reporters see and hear what their readers are interested in. They ignore or else reject news Negro readers are interested in.

For example, the debates on the anti-lynching bill, the Fair Employment Practices Bill, are instances of inadequate

Senate coverage from the Negro citizens' angle. Much of the debate over the seating of Senator-elect Bilbo looked entirely different to Negroes when they read it in their daily newspapers as compared with the Congressional Record. When it is remembered that the Atlanta Daily World is a Southern newspaper with Southern circulation, and that on political issues Southern Negroes are usually in disagreement with the dominant attitudes of most Southern white dailies, it is apparent that in the nature of things the reporters now admitted to the Senate Press Gallery neither sense nor report the news most important to Negro readers. Leave out the important aspect of freedom of the press, the existing facilities unwittingly present Negroes with a restricted and often unsympathetic report of Senate events.

C.

The Negro press is now in competition with the white daily newspapers for the Negro market and Negro readers. The Negro press came into being over 100 years ago as a protest press, protesting against slavery. After the Civil War it remained a protest press on a different basis. It reported and emphasized Negro achievement and progress as contrasted with the white press emphasizing Negro crime and shortcomings. If the Negro press at times has exaggerated Negro achievements, it has been prodded into doing so as a counter measure to the white press exaggerating Negro crime.

The Negro press now moves into a third stage: a reporting press and a press of criticism of national and local events. Its circulation has grown so that the larger Negro newspapers print four or five editions a week for different groups of readers. It would be a short step -- depending chiefly on greater reporter facilities -- for at least four or five of the larger newspapers to move into the true daily fields. For example, the Amsterdam News has a concentrated Harlem circulation over 100,000 per week.

The national advertisers are recognizing the Negro press now and buying space. Again the cycle of more advertising, more news, more advertising appears. Negro newspapers can be found for sale at points of general circulation in all borderlines, as well as Negro neighborhoods. Increasingly as the Negro newspaper gains prestige and reflects an important point of view, it is attracting white readers. Even Westbrook Pegler reads the Negro press.

If the Negro press is to develop as a free, important organ of public opinion, it must have the same access to news as the rest of the press. Rules banning the Negro press to equal access to news with the white press operate in unfair restraint of trade.

D.

Events are so stirring in the world, the situation of the United States in international affairs is so delicate, that

this country needs the informed support of every citizen. It is a sad commentary that intelligent Negro veterans feel less at home, more shut out of things, more of a stranger at home than in foreign countries. This is a plea to bring them closer to their government by increasing their access to and understanding of government. The Senate is the greatest Parliamentary body in the world. Its proceedings need to be reported for Negroes as well as other citizens. Failure to make this possible may some day, in connection with other discriminations, present us a bill we will not like to pay.

We ask the Committee on Rules to admit Mr. Lautier to the Senate Press Gallery in order that the space and facilities may be more fairly distributed, and so that they may provide for an important segment of the population which will be called upon to bear an ever-increasing responsibility for the defense and progress of the country.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles H. Houston."

The Chairman: Will you give us the qualifications of the gentleman whose brief you have just read?

Mr. Johnson: Mr. Charles H. Houston is a practicing attorney in the City of Washington. He happens to be the General Counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and connected with the American Council on Race Relations, the Rosenwald Fund, former Dean of

Howard University Law School, and present Professor Emeritus of Howard University Law School.

The Chairman: You asked if he might file an additional brief. I don't know how fast the committee will choose to act on this, but if they don't act on it immediately, unless there is objection - and I hear none - the brief may be filed.

Do you have anything further that you would like to present?

Mr. Johnson: Other than to indicate my willingness to join with him in a brief, if the committee has any particular issue; if any particular issue has been raised by this presentation, I would be happy to hear it so that we might address a brief to that issue.

The Chairman: May I ask about one statement that I think I heard you read in the brief. Did you say this Atlanta paper represented by Mr. Lautier is the only daily colored paper in the country?

Mr. Johnson: That is the statement.

The Chairman: Is that a true statement, Mr. Lautier, do you know?

Mr. Lautier: It is true to this extent, Senator. You have got one or two very small sheets that are called dailies, but they aren't anything more than handbills. They use no telegraphic service, and contain very little news as a matter of fact.

I brought along with me a copy of Editor and Publisher 1947 International Year Book, because at the hearing I was asked what was the circulation of the Atlanta Daily World. At that time I didn't know, and one of the members of the committee said he had seen in Editor and Publisher that it was 2400. But this edition gives it as 28,190.

The Chairman: Will you give us the page and the reference to the article?

Mr. Lautier: It is "Leading Negro Publications of the United States", page 242.

The Chairman: And what is the edition that you are reading from?

Mr. Lautier: 1947 International Year Book number of Editor and Publisher.

The Chairman: Thank you.

Have you anything further to offer at this time, Mr. Lautier?

Mr. Lautier: Not a thing, Senator. Thank you.

The Chairman: I have a request here, dated March 18, 1947, made by Harry S. McAlpin, Editor of Manuscript, a National Newspazine, asking that his two-page statement be made a part of the record. If there is no objection, that will be done.

(Mr. McAlpin's statement is as follows:)

"STATEMENT of Harry S. McAlpin

Editor of MANUSCRIPT, a National Newspazine

(Submitted for the Record of the Public Hearings
of the Senate Rules Committee on the Admission
of Negroes to the Senate Press Galleries.)

Gentlemen:

My name is Harry S. McAlpin. I am one of the publishers and co-editors of the National NEWSPAZINE, MANUSCRIPT, a weekly publication devoted to giving the background of the news as it affects the welfare of Negroes and America.

During the years 1944 and 1945, I was the White House Correspondent and Washington News Bureau Chief for the Atlanta Daily World and the Negro Newspaper Publishers' Association. I am a product of the School of Journalism of the University of Wisconsin and have been in newspaper and public relations work in Washington for the past 20 years.

In both 1944 and 1945, I submitted my application for admission to the Congressional press Galleries and was rejected on the ground that the Standing Committee of Correspondents believed I devoted my major time to servicing weekly newspapers (because of their number in the Association) rather than to servicing the one daily newspaper I represented. As in the case of Mr. Louis Lautier, the present Washington representative of the Atlanta Daily World and the Negro Newspaper Publishers' Association, I believe the action of the Standing Committee was influenced by my racial identity rather than by the flimsy technicality publicly stated.

Mr. Lautier, however, has or will adequately cover this

matter in his testimony before you. It is my desire to present to you a broader view as it affects the majority of the Negro press -- primarily weekly publications. While Mr. Lantier's case is a worthy one and should be favorably resolved, his admission alone would subject the action to the 'so-often-correct' criticism of it being merely a token gesture.

The Negro Press is an important segment of American life. Because of the taboos against publication of news in the metropolitan dailies other than crime-participation and characterizations, it is the sole information source to one-tenth of the population of America. To bar the representatives of that press from the news sources at the fountain-head of our government is so diametrically opposed to our clamor for freedom of the press throughout the world as to make America look ridiculous in the eyes of those to whom we are trying to sell 'democracy'.

Only last night at a dinner in the Waldorf-Astoria in New York, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, speaking before the dinner of the American Jewish Congress in honor of the 73rd anniversary of Dr. Stephen Wise, declared:

'Our program abroad must be as genuinely and sincerely democratic as it is at home. The causes we espouse elsewhere must be as true to our ideals and character as those we sponsor here. For we become identified with what we champion at home or abroad. And in the long run, our deeds are apt to be more

persuasive of our aims than our professions. We will be judged not alone by what we champion, but by what we neglect'.

To try to alleviate the problem by a 'token gesture' would be equally ridiculous.

The solution is to open the Press Galleries to the representative of the Atlanta Daily World, as it deservedly should be; and to open also the Periodical Press Galleries to the bona-fide resident correspondents of the Negro weekly press. Both these galleries in the Senate, as you gentlemen are aware, are under the supervision of the Chairman of the Rules Committee.

In making this statement, I am aware of the argument that physical limitations will not permit flooding the Galleries with representatives of all the weekly sheets in the country. As a matter of fact, neither will the physical limitations provide for representatives of all the daily papers in the country. But that has not been used as an excuse for refusing to accredit the Washington correspondents of daily papers -- provided the paper and the representative is white.

It would be inconceivable to think that every rural weekly newspaper would descend upon the Executive Committee of the Periodical Gallery for admission if the Galleries were opened. The rules of the Congress provide that applicants must be bona fide resident correspondents. Not a handful of weekly publications can afford to have resident correspondents

in Washington.

The same holds true concerning the Negro Press. Not every Negro paper can afford to have a bona fide resident correspondent in Washington. Today, there are only three such papers with Washington correspondents -- the Afro-American, the Pittsburgh Courier, and the Chicago Defender. In addition, there are but two news services supplying the Negro Press -- the Associated Negro Press and the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association's Washington News Bureau. We intend to file an application for MANUSCRIPT, which we believe will qualify on the same basis as present periodical gallery members such as NEWSWEEK, TIME and the Kiplinger Newsletters.

While I am a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia, I think it requires no legal training to fit the Negro Press into the wording of the Rule governing admission to the Periodical Press Galleries. That rule states that the 'Executive Committee for the Periodical Press Galleries shall see that occupation of the galleries is confined to bona fide and accredited resident correspondents, news gatherers, or reporters of reputable standing who represent one or more periodicals which regularly publish a substantial volume of news material of either general or of an economic, industrial, technical, or trade character, published for profit and supported chiefly by advertising, and owned and operated independently of any industry, business, association, or institu-

tion.'

Nothing is said about the size of the publication -- that it shall be called a magazine or that it shall not be called a newspaper. The term periodical apparently refers to frequency of publication on other than a daily basis.

I trust that this Committee, in taking up this matter with the courage and promptness it has shown, will not fall into the error of making a mere 'token gesture'. There can be no freedom while unwarranted restrictions are permitted to circumvent the exercise of that freedom.

While I submit this statement to the Committee, I shall be present at the hearings and shall be pleased to testify orally and answer such questions as the Committee may wish to ask."

Senator Lodge: Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Senator Lodge.

Senator Lodge: The statement is true, then, that substantially speaking, you represent the only daily Negro newspaper in the country?

Mr. Lautier: That is correct.

Senator Knowland: Having telegraphic service?

Mr. Lautier: That is correct.

Senator Lodge: A real newspaper.

Mr. Lautier: That is right.

The Chairman: Mr. Lautier, you stated that you are

regularly admitted with the White House correspondents?

Mr. Lautier: That is correct, sir.

The Chairman: Did I read recently that you had received some special mention at the hands of the President of the United States?

Mr. Lautier: I was the runner-up for objective reporting in the Wendell L. Willkie Awards for Negro Journalism.

The Chairman: Presented by whom?

Mr. Lautier: By the President.

The Chairman: To whom?

Mr. Lautier: The first award went to Mr. Ralph Matthews of the Afro-American Newspapers, and I received honorable mention as the runner-up.

The Chairman: Thank you, sir.

Mr. Lautier: Thank you, sir.

The Chairman: The Standing Committee of Correspondents has submitted a statement. Who is here to testify for the Standing Committee?

Mr. Bancroft: I am, Senator.

The Chairman: Will you take the witness chair, please? Will you give us your name?

STATEMENT OF GRIFFING BANCROFT,
Chairman, Standing Committee of Correspondents,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Bancroft: My name is Griffing Bancroft. I am correspondent for the Chicago Sun, and Chairman of the Standing

Committee of Correspondents.

We have here a statement which I would very much like to read, which is signed by all members of our committee, five members.

Senator Bricker: Is that this statement that I have here?

Mr. Bancroft: Yes.

The Standing Committee of Correspondents welcomes this opportunity to make a public statement on the case of Mr. Louis R. Lautier, correspondent for the Atlanta Daily World and the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, an association of weekly newspaper publishers. Mr. Lautier's application for membership in the Congressional Press Galleries was rejected by a four to one vote of the committee on March 4, 1947.

As the Rules Committee is well aware, the Standing Committee is charged by Congress with control of the House and Senate press galleries, subject to approval and supervision of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and your committee. A principal function of our committee is to pass upon applications for membership in the two press galleries, under rules of Congress published in the Congressional Directory.

These rules clearly limit membership in the press galleries to correspondents whose chief attention is given to daily newspapers. The Rules speak for themselves. But that this

was and is the intent of Congress we believe there can be no doubt. In recognition of that situation, Congress created the separate radio and periodical correspondent's galleries.

We emphasize this point for two reasons:

1. There has been much misunderstanding, even among newspapermen, of the simple fact that the press galleries historically have been maintained to provide facilities for the daily - not the weekly - press.

2. Today, more than ever, working space for daily correspondents is acutely limited. The press galleries are faced with the same space problem which troubles Congress. Our problem is greater in the sense that any added gallery space would have to be found within the Capitol itself, rather than in an adjoining building. And the problem is growing every day. When the present rules were adopted, the galleries had approximately 200 members. Today that list totals more than 700. This is the compelling reason for the committee's adherence to the rules.

As to the specific case of Mr. Lautier:

We regret that a charge of color discrimination has been raised.

It is, of course, not true.

The present Standing Committee, which took office in January, made a conscientious effort to obtain all the available facts in Mr. Lautier's case. The applicant was given a

personal hearing which he has stated was "exhaustive and confidential."

His application appeared to be a renewal of a case rejected by two previous Standing Committees in the past four years. But the present committee wished to check for conclusive new information which might entitle him to admission.

After this hearing and a careful consideration of all the facts which could be obtained, the committee by a majority vote of four to one rejected Mr. Lautier's application.

The decision was based upon the evidence and was in fulfillment of the responsibility vested in the Committee by Congress. The committee makes no apology for that decision. Neither would it contend that it is an all-time answer to the problem suggested by the fact that to date no Negro newspaper correspondent has been admitted to the Congressional press galleries.

The present Standing Committee wishes to emphasize that it, too, is opposed to discrimination against any correspondent for any reason. It is unfortunate that the only colored applicants for admission to the daily galleries have been correspondents whose applications were denied on the ground that their chief attention was devoted to weekly newspapers.

If any one of the daily newspapers employing colored correspondents should seek admission of such men, it is a safe assumption that they would be accredited.

Perhaps that would be a fairer test of this committee's sincerity on the question of color discrimination, if any is needed.

Four members of the committee of five voted to reject Mr. Lautier's application because they were convinced from the applicant's own testimony and other evidence that his chief attention is devoted to the group of large, weekly colored newspapers in the NNPA, rather than to the Atlanta Daily World.

Chairman Bancroft, who dissented from this view, voted to admit Mr. Lautier. The chairman held that Mr. Lautier was a bona fide correspondent of the Atlanta Daily World and therefore was entitled to admission. He also contended that since Mr. Lautier himself testified that the majority of his income came from the daily newspaper this should establish that under the rules his chief attention was devoted to that paper. Mr. Bancroft also held that because the Negro press is predominantly weekly rather than daily, it should not be denied access to the Senate and House press galleries. He took the position that the committee would be justified in stretching its rules, if necessary, to meet the special problem of the colored press.

The question was debated at length. The resultant decision represents an honest difference of opinion.

Briefly the majority conclusion was based largely on these

points:

1. Mr. Lautier said he was head of the NNPA bureau in Washington, serving approximately 16 metropolitan weeklies with an estimated total circulation approaching three million, and the single daily, the Atlanta Daily World. Mr. Lautier said he did not know the circulation of the Daily World. The committee understands its circulation is between 2,000 and 3,000.

2. Copies of the Daily World submitted by Mr. Lautier and carrying his by-line stories from Washington identified him in every instance as the NNPA correspondent -- not as correspondent for the Daily World.

3. Mr. Lautier told the committee that in January this year his salary from the two sources was rearranged without any overall increase. He said he now receives 55 percent of his weekly salary from the Daily World and 45 percent from the NNPA, instead of the previous 50 percent from each. He explained this resulted from staff changes in the NNPA office in Washington. These changes left Mr. Lautier, the bureau head, receiving less compensation from NNPA than a subordinate on his staff. The majority decision did not turn on the question of income, although this was considered, but on the fundamental question of chief attention.

The committee majority could not escape the conclusion that Mr. Lautier's chief attention was being given to the

weekly newspapers.

In the light of this information and the NNPA's own direct efforts in the past to obtain press gallery admission, it appeared to the majority that the Lautier application was, in fact, another effort to obtain recognition for the weeklies.

The majority did not feel that it could sanction circumvention of the gallery rules in this case any more than in any other.

The committee decision was not intended to prejudice or reflect upon the right of weekly newspapers to seek facilities for the coverage of Congress. It agrees that under existing rules proper facilities for the coverage of Congress are denied to representatives of an important medium of public information -- the weekly press.

At the same time, the committee realized that due to physical space limitations, gallery facilities cannot and should not be thrown open to all comers. It seems to the committee impossible to attempt to provide facilities for weekly newspapers on an individual basis. It believes, however, that some facilities should be provided for bona fide representatives of associations of the weekly press who actually need these facilities. It believes that this number should be small, and in no event should their admission in any way interfere with facilities required by the daily press.

It suggests that rules could provide for the admission

to some gallery facilities for one or two representatives each of bona fide associations regularly servicing Congressional news to groups of weekly newspapers with large aggregate circulations.

The committee feels that some such limitations are necessary in order to prevent the possible influx of masses of correspondents who really do not need gallery facilities, but it feels that within such limitations, all of those actually in need of facilities to cover Congress should be provided for.

Whether the above suggested changes in rules should be applicable to the press gallery, the periodical gallery, or, possibly to a new gallery exclusively for the weekly press, pose questions which would have to be determined.

With this in mind, and with it also in mind that care should be taken to see that those needing coverage facilities are included and those not needing them are not, the committee recommends that a special committee consisting of one member of the Senate Rules Committee, two members of the Standing Committee of Correspondents, and two members of the Executive Committee of the Periodical Press Galleries be named and instructed to report in not to exceed one month with a draft for changes in the rules as suggested above.

This is signed by the Standing Committee of Correspondents, Griffing Bancroft, Chairman; William Theis, Secretary; Don Warren, Herman Lovo, and William D. Sisson.

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Senator Lodge: Mr. Chairman.

The Chairman: Senator Lodge.

Senator Lodge: Referring to the statement on page 3 of your prepared remarks, concerning the circulation of the Atlanta Daily World, did you hear Mr. Lautier's testimony?

Mr. Bancroft: Yes I did, Senator. This was based on our records for the hearing that we had with Mr. Lautier.

Senator Lodge: Do you accept that figure he gave from Editor and Publisher?

Mr. Bancroft: I haven't seen it, I have heard only his testimony. Yes; I would suggest that the Editor and Publisher was the best authority on circulation, although that, I understand, also includes weekly circulation. I am not sure, though, I haven't seen it. (Copy handed to Mr. Bancroft)

Mr. Lautier: That is the daily circulation.

Mr. Bancroft: Yes, I would certainly say that that is the best evidence of circulation. We did not have that evidence when this statement was prepared.

Senator Lodge: Thank you.

The Chairman: Mr. Bancroft, in your statement you said: "The chairman (which is yourself) held that Mr. Lautier was a bona fide correspondent of the Atlanta Daily World and therefore was entitled to admission." Have you changed your view on that?

Mr. Bancroft: No, I have not, Senator. I believe he is

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entitled to admission. But I would like to say, although I was outvoted by the Committee, that I believed then and still believe that Mr. Lautier should be admitted as a representative of a daily paper, but that regardless of what might be done in that case, that would still not solve the problem which, in my opinion, is to get facilities for the Negro press, and the Negro press is chiefly weekly, and Mr. Lautier's admission as a representative of only one daily would provide facilities only for that one daily and the particular weeklies that he represents. It would not by any means, it seems to me, provide facilities for all of the Negro press which I believe should be provided, and the Committee was unanimous in its recommendation that a draft of the rules be worked up to change the rules so that facilities could be provided for the weekly papers.

The Chairman: Since Mr. Latier does represent the only daily colored paper with telegraphic service, it would certainly answer that question to have him admitted, would it not?

Mr. Bancroft: It would answer the question for that one newspaper.

The Chairman: And there is only one daily Negro paper?

Mr. Bancroft: Only one daily. But it would not answer the question of the bulk of circulation of the Negro press, which is weekly.

Senator Knowland: You wouldn't feel, would you Mr.

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Bancroft, that you could admit the representatives of one part of the weekly press without making the facilities available for the rest of the weekly press, if you started taking them in in the Senate Press Gallery?

Mr. Bancroft: As suggested here, I think we would be justified in writing in limitations so as not to admit the representatives of individual weekly papers. That, I believe, would be disastrous.

Senator Knowland: But if you opened it up for weekly papers you would have to open it up for associations of all types of weekly papers, I take it?

Mr. Bancroft: It seems to me - I am not a legislative counsel - but it seems to me that a rule could be so drawn to cover legitimate, bona fide papers needing telegraphic coverage, or needing news coverage of Congress, and that the rule could be written in such a way that it would limit it. That was the reason for trying to delay it a month, and getting the Periodical Galleries and ourselves and somebody from your Committee who would probably have to act as a moderator, to work out a rule that would cover these people who we feel really need it, and at the same time would not open the doors to a lot that wouldn't need it.

Senator Knowland: Let me ask you this question. I take it that Mr. Lautier is not the only person who has applied for admission to the Press Gallery, who has been turned down?

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Mr. Bancroft: Well, he is the only one whose application got along far enough before our committee - which took office only in January - to be turned down. He is the only one that our committee has acted upon. There is an application that was not complete and was sent back, of another Negro association servicing weekly papers - the Associated Negro Press, is it not?

Mr. Lautier: That is right. The application you had the evening I was with you was from Mr. Ernest Johnson, who is no longer --

Mr. Bancroft (Interposing): We have one now from Miss Alice Donnelly. I believe that is an organization similar to the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association - Mr. Lautier can correct me if I am wrong - and it is my feeling that they are both entitled to representation in the Press Galleries, and that by admitting Mr. Lautier while we might cover one of them because he works in a dual capacity, we would not solve the problem of the other.

Senator Knowland: I am not referring to the time only since your committee took office, but during the 79th Congress, for instance, did you have applicants - I am not speaking now just of Negro applicants - but other applicants who were turned down because they did not comply with the rules of the Senate or of the Press Gallery?

Mr. Bancroft: Yes indeed.

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Senator Knowland: Could you give us an indication of some of those, and on what basis they were turned down?

Mr. Bancroft: Well, of course when the Periodical Galleries were set up, all of those people whose chief attention was devoted to magazine work were excluded from the Press Galleries, and the old committee adopted, and our committee reaffirmed, a rule against any dual membership. That is to say, if a man worked for a magazine and a daily newspaper he could not be in both galleries.

Senator Knowland: Have you had cases where they have applied for membership in both galleries?

Mr. Bancroft: Yes, we have.

Senator Knowland: And they have been turned down?

Mr. Bancroft: Yes.

The Chairman: In both instances, on both grounds?

Mr. Bancroft: No, we have turned down those who have gone into the Periodical Galleries. In Mr. Lautier's case he was not admitted to the Periodical Galleries.

The Chairman: Are there any colored correspondents admitted to the Periodical Galleries now?

Mr. Bancroft: The Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Periodical Galleries is here.

The Chairman: Will you give your name and position for the record?

Mr. McNaughton: Frank McNaughton, Chairman of the Ex-

6hg Executive Committee of the Periodical Correspondents Association.

This is a little bit embarrassing to me, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. Our committee voted last week - we don't ordinarily announce admissions - but we voted last week to admit the Washington representative of Our World, a colored magazine published in New York, with a circulation of 250,000, and he is duly accredited now.

The Chairman: And he is the first colored man who has ever been admitted to the Press Gallery in any capacity, is that true?

Mr. Bancroft: To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Chairman. We have followed a policy of not announcing either acceptance or rejection of applicants, so we have made no announcement.

Senator Wherry: May I ask a question?

The Chairman: Yes.

Senator Wherry: So that I can understand the mechanics of this thing, how large is the Press Gallery and how many will it seat? I am talking about daily newspapers.

Mr. Bancroft: The daily newspaper Press Gallery now has a membership of approximately 700, a little more than 700. That doesn't mean to say that all 700 are ever there at any one time. I don't know what we would do under such circumstances.

Senator Wherry: How many can you seat in that Press Gallery today?

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Mr. Bancroft: Mr. Beckley, the Superintendent of the Senate Press Gallery, can answer that.

Mr. Harold R. Beckley: About 93, Senator.

Senator Wherry: They are all representatives of daily newspapers?

Mr. Bancroft: Representing daily newspapers, yes. Of course the wire associations have a good many men representing each wire association.

Senator Wherry: Such as the Associated Press, United Press and others?

Mr. Bancroft: That is correct.

Senator Wherry: What about these columnists, are they admitted?

Mr. Bancroft: If their columns are sold to a daily newspaper.

Senator Wherry: I don't quite get that. You mean that they are admitted if their column goes out in a daily newspaper?

Mr. Bancroft: Well, most of the columns are syndicated to daily newspapers and the columnists are accredited as representatives of the syndicate which is --

Senator Wherry (Interposing): Which is admitted?

Mr. Bancroft: Yes.

Senator Wherry: Do you think that that is more important than a good weekly newspaper?

Mr. Bancroft: I think they should both be admitted.

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Senator Wherry: That wasn't my question. Which do you think is more important, some of these columns we get or a good weekly newspaper?

Mr. Bancroft: I have friends in this business, Senator.

(Laughter)

Senator Wherry: Have you recently turned down any applicant representing a daily paper?

Mr. Bancroft: No; no one has been turned down that clearly represents a daily paper.

Senator Wherry: You take them in whether you have room for them or not?

Mr. Bancroft: If it is a bona fide daily paper.

Senator Wherry: And they take their chance of getting a seat in the Press Gallery.

Mr. Bancroft: But we have taken precautions to see that they are really editorial workers, that is to say, that the applicant isn't the boss' secretary or someone like that who merely wants to get a free copy of the Directory.

Senator Wherry: I understand that. If you did broaden this thing and permit weekly papers to come in --

Mr. Bancroft (Interposing): That is what we are suggesting.

Senator Wherry: Would they then come into the same Press Gallery or would you want additional space, or a separate gallery?

Mr. Bancroft: Those three alternatives are mentioned in

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my statement as something to be worked out. It would depend on the number of them, but I think we would probably be after you for additional space if the number turned out to be considerable. But our feeling is that a rule could be written to get those in who really need it, and that that number would be small.

The Chairman: Well, it is your belief, isn't it Mr. Bancroft, that this man is a bona fide representative of a daily paper, and if he was admitted that would not demand increased space of any kind?

Mr. Bancroft: That is my position on this particular case.

The Chairman: Now are there any exceptions to your rule in the 700 that you have got there?

Mr. Bancroft: You mean are there any who don't qualify under the rule?

The Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Bancroft: Well, in my opinion no, although I will say that our committee took over in January; we inherited the list, so to speak, and we have not had a chance or really haven't undertaken to go through and comb the list of all those that were regular repeating members.

Senator Jenner: May I ask a question, Mr. Chairman?

The Chairman: Certainly.

Senator Jenner: Is circulation any limitation to admission?

Mr. Bancroft: No.

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Senator Jenner: In other words, a daily newspaper with a circulation of 28,000 would be considered as eligible?

Mr. Bancroft: Yes sir. There is no limitation on circulation at present, although when we come to admitting weeklies, as suggested here I believe we would be justified in writing in some limitation. For daily papers it has not been done.

The Chairman: If your contention were adopted, and this one man representing the only one colored daily newspaper in the United States was admitted, it would not necessitate the changing of the rules, or additional space, isn't that true?

Mr. Bancroft: It would cover the one colored daily newspaper, yes.

The Chairman: And there is only one.

Mr. Bancroft: That is correct.

The Chairman: That would answer that problem.

Mr. Bancroft: Yes, but it would still leave you with the problem of the weekly newspapers.

The Chairman: One of the columns indicated that you had stretched the rule in behalf of favorites among the men who have friends in the business. Do you know of any case where the rule has been stretched for older members?

Mr. Bancroft: Not to my knowledge; I don't know of any.

The Chairman: For the information of the committee, who may not have seen this, this controversy has provoked a considerable editorial comment, and I would like permission to put

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into the record three editorials on this subject - one of March 12th, from the Washington Star; one of March 11th from the Washington Post; and one from the New York Herald Tribune of March 7th. I would like to make them a part of the record and I would also like to introduce for the record a telegram from the Chicago Defender, signed by John H. Sengstack who is publisher of that paper and also Chairman of Negro Newspaper Publishers Association Committee on Accreditation of Negro Correspondents to the Congressional Press Galleries. I will ask that they be made a part of the record at this point.

(The editorial from the Washington Evening Star of March 12, 1947, is as follows:)

WHY NOT CHANGE THE RULE? The Standing Committee of Correspondents, which applies the rules of Congress governing the admission of reporters to the House and Senate press galleries has been made the target of criticism for refusing to "stretch the rule" to permit the admission to the galleries of a Negro correspondent, Louis R. Lautier.

The tenor of this criticism, buttressed by a specific accusation from Mr. Lautier, is that he was barred, not because he is ineligible under a fair interpretation of the rules, but because he is a Negro. Whatever the merits or otherwise of this contention - and the question is one which cannot be answered without knowing what was in the minds of the members of the committee - the fact remains that a strict application

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of the pertinent rule would seem to justify the committee decision.

Mr. Lautier is a correspondent for both the Atlanta Daily World, one of three daily Negro papers in the country, and the Negro Newspaper Publishers' Association, which services weekly papers. The applicable section of the rule governing admission to the galleries is that the eligible list shall be composed "only of persons whose chief attention is given to telegraphic correspondence for daily newspapers or newspaper associations requiring telegraphic service." A majority of the committee found, and the facts would seem to support them, that, strictly speaking, Mr. Lautier did not meet these requirements.

Having reached that conclusion, however, the committee was not restricted to a choice between rejecting Mr. Lautier's application or "stretching" the rule in his behalf.

Problems of this sort are not solved to any one's satisfaction by stretching rules. And the problem is a real one, for there are compelling reasons why the Negro press, no less than the white press, should have adequate access to the sources of news in this country. Consequently, The Star believes that the standing committee, instead of having been content merely to veto the application, should have granted Mr. Lautier a temporary card of admission, and then should have taken the initiative in asking Congress to revise the rules so that Mr. Lautier and others situated like him can be admitted.

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to the galleries as a clear matter of right and not under the shadow of what would appear to be a sort of special dispensation. It is not yet too late to do this, and it is to be hoped that the committee members will be persuaded that this is the wise course and the fair one.

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(The editorial of March 11, 1947, from The Washington Post, is as follows:)

The rule governing admission to the congressional press galleries, as interpreted by the standing committee of correspondents, operates in practice to exclude all Negro newspapermen. The rule declares that "occupation of the galleries is confined to bona fide correspondents of reputable standing in their business, who represent daily newspapers or newspaper associations requiring telegraphic service" and that "persons engaged in other occupations whose chief attention is not given to newspaper correspondence or to newspaper associations requiring telegraphic service shall not be entitled to admission to the Press Galleries." Last week the standing committee of correspondents by a vote of four to one decided that Louis R. Lautier, a Negro correspondent for The Atlanta Daily World and for the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association, did not fulfill these requirements.

We think there is much justification for the complaint which Mr. Lautier has taken to the chairman of the Senate Com-

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mittee on Rules and Administration. "I can reach no other conclusion," he protested, "than that race was the decisive factor." Certainly Mr. Lautier possessed the qualification of "reputable standing"; only a few days ago President Truman cited him for honorable mention in presenting the Wendell L. Willkie awards for outstanding Negro journalism in 1946. Although the Negro Newspaper Publishers Association represented by Mr. Lautier serves only weekly papers, his earnings are derived in major part from The Atlanta Daily World, so that he seems to come clearly within the category of those "who represent daily newspapers or newspaper associations requiring telegraphic service." Certainly his "chief attention" is given to such service in at least the same degree as a number of white correspondents whose admission to the press galleries goes unquestioned.

It is unnecessary, however, to impute racial bias to the standing committee of correspondents to see the injustice of the rule itself. No Negro has ever qualified under it. And very few Negroes could qualify even under a more liberal interpretation. For there are only three Negro newspapers which publish daily. The bulk of the Negro press, devoted to publication of news of special interest to Negroes, is issued weekly or semiweekly. The present rule denies these newspapers any representation in the galleries and thus makes extremely difficult for them the "courageous, constructive reporting"

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for which the President praised them in making the Willkie awards. This is a denial of opportunity which is not only undemocratic but inimical to democracy.

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(The editorial of March 7, 1947, from the New York Herald Tribune is as follows:)

NEGROES IN THE PRESS GALLERY. The Press Correspondents' Committee in Washington has barred by a vote of 4 to 1 the application of Louis R. Lautier, a Negro reporter, for admission to the Congressional press galleries. Mr. Lautier has been barred from the Congressional press galleries on the ground that his application failed to meet the rules. The facts are somewhat involved, but Mr. Lautier's income derives from corresponding for "The Atlanta Daily World" and for the National Negro Press Association, which serves news to the important Negro weeklies.

In this case the standing committee representing 700 correspondents decided that the reporter's "chief attention" was devoted to the second job, which presumably does not fit under the restricting qualification that "occupation of the galleries is confined to bona fide correspondents of reputable standing in their business, who represent daily newspapers or newspaper associations requiring telegraphic service." And so Mr. Lautier, like all previous Negro applicants, is still on the outside because he does not fit the rules. Interesting

16hg enough, the committee chairman, Mr. Griffing Bancroft, of "The Chicago Sun," although in a minority of one, voted to admit Mr. Lautier. At least one man on the committee of five had his doubts.

Only last week President Truman praised the "courageous and constructive" Negro press as he presented the Wendell L. Willkie awards for outstanding Negro journalism, among them one to Mr. Lautier for objective reporting. One must wonder at the curious contrast between these two events.

The steadily improving Negro newspapers are eager to get the news in Washington, and they ought to be welcomed. If the rules don't fit, then perhaps the rules should be changed.

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(The telegram referred to is as follows:)

CHICAGO ILL MAR 11 1947

HON C WAYLAND BROOKS

WASHINGTON DC

JOHN H SENGSTACK PUBLISHER CHICAGO DEFENDER AND CHAIRMAN OF NEGRO NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE ON ACCREDITATION OF NEGRO CORRESPONDENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESS GALERIES IN A STATEMENT TODAY SAID: QUOTE ALL NEGRO NEWSPAPERS WILL PUSH RELENTLESS OUR JOINT EFFORTS TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE ADITTANCE FOR OUR CORRESPONDENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESS GALERIES. THIS DEPLORABLE BLACKLISTING OF THE NEGRO PRESS

IN THE CONGRESSIONAL PRESS GALLERIES IS A BLOT ON THE FREEDOM OF THE AMERICAN PRESS AND WE (NEGRO PUBLISHERS) ARE TAKING EFFECTIVE STEPS TO OBTAIN FREE ACCESS TO THE NEWS WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE COOPERATION OF ALL NEWSPAPERS IN HELPING US TO OBTAIN FAIR PLAY MAINTAINING THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

JOHN H. SENGSTACK.

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The Chairman: Are there any further questions?

Senator Ives: There is one question I would like to raise. I took it from the information that you had there as to the reasons why you did not admit Mr. Lautier, that it was originally because you thought that the preponderance of his work was with periodicals or publications other than daily publications, is that correct?

Mr. Bancroft: That is the position taken by the other four members of the committee.

Senator Ives: That is what I meant; I didn't mean you personally.

Mr. Bancroft: I wanted to say that the other four members of the committee, in view of the unusual situation where I am here appearing as chairman and a minority of one, that the other four members have designated a spokesman for their point of view and any such questions as that I believe should be answered by him.

Senator Ives: I would like to clear up that question because

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I am going to follow it with another one.

Senator Holland: I would like to ask one question while you are here. You spoke of the fact that there was just one daily Negro paper. You mean that there was just one daily Negro paper which has requested these facilities?

Mr. Bancroft: That is correct, and Mr. Lautier testified before our committee, as he did here, that it was the only bona fide daily Negro newspaper requiring telegraphic service, the only one in the country.

STATEMENT OF WILLIAM THEIS,

Secretary, Standing Committee of Correspondents.

Mr. Theis: Will you repeat your question, Senator Ives?

Senator Ives: The question I asked is this: Was one of the fundamental reasons, in fact the basic reason, why you declined to admit Mr. Lautier, the fact that you believed that the preponderance of the work he is doing here is not with a daily newspaper, but with other periodicals and publications for which he writes?

Mr. Theis: That was the fundamental reason so far as the final majority conclusion is concerned.

Senator Ives: You didn't deny the fact that he was writing for a daily publication?

Mr. Theis: Not at all.

Senator Ives: Here is my next question. If he were not writing for any of these other publications, but were writing

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for the daily one, would you then admit him?

Mr. Theis: If the circumstances and the facts were the same, and I had to give a curbstone opinion, I think I would vote in the affirmative.

Senator Ives: I mean assuming he was doing just what he is doing now for this daily paper, and nothing else, then you would admit him?

Mr. Theis: That is right. The whole question turned on "chief attention" to weeklies as against daily, and the majority of the committee came to one conclusion, that we felt by the facts and all the indications, that his "chief attention" inevitably had to be devoted to this large string of weekly newspapers with rather prominent circulation, rather than to one daily whose circulation frankly we couldn't establish finally.

I went to add to the testimony on that point, that the N. W. Ayer Yearbook does not list any circulation for the Atlanta Daily World. However, I would certainly be the last one to question the figures in Editor and Publisher. The only thing I did note, when I saw those figures myself in their new Year Book, was that the 28,190 figure is listed also for their Saturday edition. Now it could be that that is a joint figure; I frankly don't know.

Senator Holland: Might I ask you - is there something in the rule that makes you feel justified in making the thing

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stand or fall on this question of "principal attention"?

Mr. Theis: Yes, the rule directly refers to "chief attention". Section 3 of the Rules Governing Press Galleries reads: --

Senator Holland (Interposing): What rule is that?

Mr. Theis: That is Section 3 of Rules Governing Press Galleries, found on page 769 of the Congressional Directory, and it states:

"3. Persons engaged in other occupations whose chief attention is not given to newspaper correspondence or to newspaper associations requiring telegraphic service" and so forth.

I might add that historically, if precedent means anything, and we didn't conclude that it was final in this particular case because we are a new committee with our own responsibilities, but historically these rules over the years have been interpreted in that way, and have applied across the board to all cases, and when I say "historically", weekly newspaper representatives have been excluded from the daily Press Galleries. As our statement pointed out, the obvious result of this fact was the creation of the Periodicals Galleries, and a separate Radio Press Gallery, to meet the special needs of other than daily newspapers.

The Chairman: May I say for the benefit of the committee that the standing rules of the Senate do not so provide. The

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witness is talking now about the rule promulgated upon the rules of the Senate, and in the rules of the Senate themselves there is the provision, "They shall make such regulations respecting the reporters' galleries of the Senate, together with the adjoining rooms and facilities, as will confine their occupancy and use to bona fide reporters for daily newspapers, to bona fide reporters of news or press associations requiring telegraph service to their membership."

So there is no rule in the Standing Rules of the Senate requiring that the daily newspaper have telegraphic service; it is an interpretation by the committee that made and promulgated the rule based upon the original rule that has no such reference.

Mr. Theis: Mr. Chairman, I would only like to suggest that what you refer to as the "promulgated rule" apparently is the rule which applies to both the House and the Senate. This is not strictly a Senate matter. Our action in the Lautier case denied him access to the House Press Gallery as well as to the Senate, and the rules listed in the Congressional Directory are those signed by both the Speaker of the House and approved by the Senate Rules Committee. So we are bound to follow the combined rules covering the two press galleries because any man admitted has access to both galleries.

The Chairman: Are there any further questions? If not will the Chairman of the Periodical Press Galleries, for the

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purpose of the record, give us the name of the man he talked about as being recently admitted?

Mr. McNaughton: The correspondent was Percival S. Sprattis, Washington representative of Our World, a magazine. The decision was unanimous.

I would like to clear up one other thing. Just as a matter of physical facilities, we have a small workroom on the Senate side which was provided only this year. We have eight seats on the Senate side. We have a small workroom on the House side which was formerly used by the House Radio Gallery. We have six seats there. There are some 160 members accredited to the Gallery to claim those six seats. So we have our problems. On special days we have to ration tickets severely and make an arbitrary decision to let only those publications which are the most entitled claim the tickets.

The Chairman: Thank you, sir.

Mr. McNaughton: May I add one other thing, Senator Brooks?

The Chairman: Yes indeed.

Mr. McNaughton: I think that the Periodical committee would like to join with the Daily Press committee in recommending that some study of this be made because it really is a job to find facilities for everyone, and at the same time insure complete justice all the way round. We are willing to serve on such a committee if it is the desire of the Rules Committee

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that that be done.

The Chairman: I would like to make this observation to both the committees, that now that you are so generous in wanting to conduct a hearing to admit various applicants from a totally different segment of the press, would you also be willing to share a part of the workroom we have provided for you, and a portion of the seats you now occupy, if we take up more space for them? You see that is my problem.

Mr. Theis: That is our problem too, Senator.

The Chairman: What you are asking to do now is to bring in a totally different problem that you could avoid very easily by admitting one man who represents a bona fide daily Negro paper, even though he does engage in representing some weekly papers - but it is all dissemination of news.

Mr. Bancroft: That wouldn't be the final answer, would it Senator?

The Chairman: It still isn't the final answer, but if you had the space to provide that the periodicals were anxious for me to find for them - there isn't physical space in this Capitol building to provide all the facilities for everybody if you keep on extending it. I am saying to you gentlemen again that you can very easily answer this question by admitting one man until the other question comes up, and that will come up in the remodelling of the Senate Chamber and whatnot.

Mr. Bancroft: I am in agreement with you, I was for ad-

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mitting that one man, but I should think that would still leave the other problem which should be studied, and which is what we suggest, that it be studied jointly by your committee and our two committees.

The Chairman: I understand your contention, and I hope you understand mine.

Mr. McNaughton: May I suggest this, Senator Brooks, that if the daily committee thinks a shorter time would be preferable, we ought to be able to reach some agreement and then report back in two weeks.

Mr. Bancroft: Our committee agreed to a time limit of a month.

The Chairman: Is there anything further to be added?

If not, is the Architect of the Capitol, Mr. Lynn present?

Mr. Lynn: Yes sir.

The Chairman: Will those who wish to leave at this time please do so in order that we may proceed.

Mr. Lynn, it has been brought to the attention of the Chairman, and through him to members of the committee, that there has been evidence of discrimination in the use of restaurants in the Capitol provided for employees of the Senate, or individual Senators. I wish you would give us your understanding of what the rules are in reference to that.

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STATEMENT OF DAVID LYNN,
Architect of the Capitol,
accompanied by
D. W. DARLING,
Superintendent of Restaurants.

Mr. Lynn: I have a short statement which I would like to make for the record.

The law has required the Architect of the Capitol to operate the Senate Restaurants for the United States Senate since September 16, 1942.

The law further requires that the Architect operate the restaurants under policies approved by the Senate Committee on Rules.

During the war, due to limited help, food and dining accommodations, the Rules Committee adopted the policy that the use of the Senate Restaurants be restricted to Senators and Representatives and their guests, officers and employees of Congress, persons summoned to appear before committees of Congress requiring their presence in the Capitol or Senate Office Buildings, and the Press.

There have been no restrictions imposed with respect to color, race, or creed.

Due to the scattered physical layout of the Senate Restaurants and the excessive turnover in help under labor conditions that have existed for the past four or five years, it has been difficult to enforce these regulations 100 per cent; but every effort has been made to do so, and the Architect

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has attempted to correct any infractions called to his attention.

Congressman Powell of New York and his guests have dined on a number of occasions in the Senate Restaurant.

There have been instances when both white and colored persons have been denied admission to the restaurants contrary to these regulations, but this has generally been due to lack of proper employee or guest identification, or other misunderstanding.

The Chairman: Have you taken any steps to correct the cause of those misunderstandings, such as instructing all of your employees that there is to be no discrimination between employees of the Senate, or the Senators, in facilities provided for their eating?

Mr. Lynn: I think I have instructed our manager to that effect.

The Chairman: Then if I understand it, there is no rule denying a person, because of his color, his race or his creed, admission, if he is an employee of the Senate or an employee of a Senator, or comes within the categories outlined by you in your statement?

Mr. Lynn: That is correct.

The Chairman: You used the expression "lack of proper employee or guest identification, or other misunderstanding" in such instances have you taken any steps to see that the cause of that misunderstanding was corrected?

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Mr. Lynn: I have talked with the Superintendent of Restaurants on numerous occasions about the few instances where people have been denied admission, and I think that he has corrected that.

The Chairman: The Superintendent of the Restaurants is Mr. Darling?

Mr. Lynn: Mr. Darling, yes sir.

The Chairman: Mr. Darling is here. Mr. Darling, may I ask you what steps you have taken to see that such instances do not occur as would cause misunderstanding?

Senator Myers: Mr. Chairman, might I interrupt?

The Chairman: Yes.

Senator Myers: Have there been complaints? I wondered if there had been specific complaints, and what was the reason for this interrogation.

The Chairman: Yes, there have been.

Senator Myers: Have they been brought to the attention of the full committee, together with the nature of the complaint? I am totally unaware of the reasons for this interrogation.

The Chairman: The most recent one that was brought to my attention was the instance where an employee who was brought to Washington by myself, a colored war veteran, a boy who was a graduate not only of high school but of two years of college, a boy who had three years in the service, who went into not the Senate Cafeteria, but the little luncheonette, and the waitress

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told him he shouldn't eat there. He asked to be served, and was, and when he left I thought that this was the time to clarify these rules now so that we don't have instances that might cause embarrassment.

Senator Myers: Mr. Chairman, I am in total accord with your view that there should be no such discrimination, but has that act resulted in this hearing, the attempt to discriminate against this one individual; has that resulted in this hearing?

The Chairman: This part of the hearing has resulted from that as a precaution that we don't have something more drastic occur.

Senator Myers: When that incident occurred did you discuss it with the Architect and these other gentleman, and was the matter brought to their attention, and did they explain to you --

The Chairman: The restaurant brought it to the attention of my office, if I recall correctly, and for that reason I thought we had better have an understanding now, for the committee to decide the matter.

Senator Myers: There was no conversation between yourself and the Architect or the Superintendent of the Restaurants as to this incident, but upon the happening of that incident this committee was convened to investigate that case and determine whether other such cases have occurred in the restaurants?

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The Chairman: Not only that, but since we are on this question of the admission of Mr. Lautier, and this committee is convened, I thought it proper to bring it to your attention.

Senator Myers: I again pursue my original question. Had you, Mr. Chairman, discussed it with Mr. Lynn before this hearing?

The Chairman: No, I had not.

Senator Myers: Or with the Superintendent of Restaurants before this hearing?

The Chairman: No, I had not.

Senator Myers: That is all, I just wanted to acquaint myself with the background.

Senator Holland: I would like to ask a question if I might. Does the Architect of the Capitol have jurisdiction over the cafeteria in the Senate Office Building the same as with respect to the restaurant in the Capitol?

Mr. Lynn: That is correct.

Senator Holland: Over both?

Mr. Lynn: Yes, but the Committee on Rules retains the policy making with respect to both the cafeterias and the restaurants.

Senator Holland: Has there been any other instance called to your attention since this Congress met than the one that Senator Brooks just mentioned?

Mr. Lynn: I remember one instance where we had a letter

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from Senator Mead on February 24, 1945 --

Senator Holland (Interposing): Then your answer to my question would be no?

Mr. Lynn: Yes.

Senator Holland: There has been no complaint other than this since this new Congress convened?

Mr. Lynn: No sir, not since the new Congress.

The Chairman: Are there any further questions?

Senator Myers: I think you were about to question the Superintendent of Restaurants, Mr. Chairman, when I interrupted you.

The Chairman: I wondered if he had instructed the employees of the various restaurants that there should be no discrimination.

Mr. Darling: Yes sir, I have.

The Chairman: Are there any other questions?

Mr. Darling: I would like to add something if I may. When this incident happened it was purely a misunderstanding on the part of a new employee or it would never have happened. She was unaccustomed to seeing the colored people come in and when this man came into the luncheonette she was under the impression, as most of them come in because they happen to be doing work, that they wouldn't like to sit down or be there, and she thought that he wanted coffee to take out. At that time it was hard to secure paper goods and we had no containers to

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take out, and she was confused and very busy at the time. As I say, she wasn't experienced, hadn't been there long, and it was purely a misunderstanding.

Senator Holland: Where did this take place?

Mr. Darling: In the luncheonette in the Senate Office Building.

The Chairman: Well, you have instructed your employees now so that they are aware of the existing rules?

Mr. Darling: Yes sir.

The Chairman: Thank you very much.

Senator Myers: Can you give assurance to the committee that such incidents will not happen again as far as you are able to control them?

Mr. Darling: Yes sir, that is positively true.

Mr. Lynn: Mr. Chairman, we have signs on the restaurant doors to the effect that the restaurants are for the Senators and employees of the Senate only.

Senator Knowland: They are not meant to be for the general public.

Mr. Lynn: We decided on that policy during the war because of the shortage of food and the difficulty in getting the proper help, and we just couldn't feed everybody that would come in, we have such a small space in the restaurants.

The Chairman: It is still true, isn't it that you are crowded every day in every restaurant in the building?

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Mr. Darling: Yes sir, greatly overtaxed. We are doing about three times the business we were doing when we took over the restaurants.

The Chairman: I might say for the benefit of the members of the committee that that is one of the reasons why I recently introduced a bill which might create more Senate space, not only to have more office space but to save the time of the staff who stand in line waiting to get proper food, and especially when there is the least bit of discomforting weather outside it is almost impossible for some of them to get served in the building. I shall make the proper arguments at the time, but that is another reason why we should have larger facilities for the Senate and their staffs and the employees of the Senate.

Senator Myers: I think every member of the Senate will be happy to join with you on that.

Senator Bricker: Does the proposed plan for repair of the Senate Chamber give any possibility for increased space for the press?

The Chairman: The Architect can give you first-hand information on that. He is in charge of that. You might give us the benefit of your survey, Mr. Lynn.

Mr. Lynn: The improvements will be confined to the present Chamber.

Senator Bricker: There will be no added seats under the

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present plans?

Mr. Lynn: No.

Senator Holland: Mr. Chairman, do I understand that this Negro who had the trouble that you speak of is your employee?

The Chairman: He is an employee of the Senate, appointed by me.

Senator Holland: Speaking only for myself I just want to say one thing very briefly, and I hope it will not be misunderstood. I think that the two questions brought up here are two absolutely separate and independent questions, not at all alike.

The first question, the question of the reporter, I think is a business question pure and simple, and that any person who fills that position and occupies that profession and business, who is qualified under the rules to have the facilities that are made available in the gallery, should be admitted. I don't think there is any question at all about that.

This other question I think is a question of an entirely different character, having to do with the admixture of the races at an eating place, and I don't agree at all that it is a question of the same kind or quality. I just wanted to make that statement, without any implications other than appear in the words. In other words, I do not agree that the two matters are of the same sort or could be considered at all as the same question.

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The Chairman: The chairman would like to say that he didn't say that they were of like nature, but while one question was being considered I thought this other ought to be brought up, and I did it with the intention that in the Capitol of the greatest free country in the world there should not be demonstrations of discrimination, there should be no discrimination, and I wanted it brought before this committee at this time so that we wouldn't have any demonstrations, we would avoid them by establishing what the rule is. Does the Senator from Florida object to the rule?

Senator Holland: My feeling is that if there are enough members of the other race, the minority race, here to justify it and to require eating facilities, that we ought to make eating facilities available to them; I think they ought to be of an equal kind and character to those made available to the members of our race. I think that the most of the members of the Negro race would appreciate that treatment and not consider it discrimination. As far as I am concerned I wouldn't for a moment want to trespass upon their eating places or their social gatherings or any other meeting in which they socially met, except by invitation for some particular purpose. Likewise I think it is sound policy in a city and in an area where the policy of separation of the races in social matters is observed, for us to make available equal facilities, but separate facilities.

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I am not going to make anything except just a statement of my own position on it. I do feel that that is the sounder method of approach, and I do want to make it very clear that the two questions are, in my judgment, entirely different questions, different in kind and quality, and I think would be recognized as different by anyone who regards their intrinsic character.

Senator Hayden: To get back to the original matter, Mr. Chairman --

The Chairman (Interposing): Before you get to that may I say that the Chair does not agree with the philosophy expressed by the Senator from Florida, and I repeat that in the Capitol of the greatest free country in the world we certainly should have no discrimination in the Capitol or its surrounding buildings.

Senator Hayden: To get back to the press gallery situation, I have been around here some time and my observation has been that in recent years the press galleries of the House and Senate have been used as a training ground for young reporters sent down here for a comparatively short time to learn about Washington, and then they go back and work on their papers. The result is that the quality of their reporting is nothing to compare with that of men who are familiar with legislative bodies, and legislative procedures, and a great deal of misrepresentation of Congress has occurred on that account. I

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would suggest that one remedy for the overcrowded condition of the galleries would be that there be some requirement on the part of the press associations that a man have some years of experience in the business before he is assigned as a reporter in Washington. That would thin it down so that instead of it being a training ground you would have better reporting, based upon newspaper experience.

The Chairman: That is also an expression of the personal view of the Senator from Arizona.

Senator Hayden: Certainly, I am entirely responsible for that statement.

Senator Holland: I wonder if the Senator from Arizona has any opinion on this matter of making separate facilities available to employees who need to be accommodated here in the Capitol Building, of another race?

Senator Hayden: That is one of those questions which depends upon the volume of traffic. If it is enough to make it worth while you would provide separate facilities; if it wasn't, you wouldn't. That is the practical situation throughout the United States.

Senator Knowland: Of course the practical situation, Mr. Chairman, is that the rule states certain things, that any employee of the Senate is entitled to use the facilities. So I take it that if any proposal was made to change the existing rule it would have to be an amendment to the rule, but that

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under the rule as it now stands the position of the Chairman is well taken.

The Chairman: That is my understanding.

Senator Myers: Apparently the purpose of the meeting was to determine whether there was a violation of the Standing Rule; that is the whole purpose of the meeting.

The Chairman: I wanted to find out the rules, and if the employees knew and understood what the rules were.

We will now go into executive session.

(Whereupon, at 3:30 p.m. the committee went into executive session, which was not reported).