

29 December 1954

Mr. Alfred Friendly  
Assistant Managing Editor  
The Washington Post and Times Herald  
1515 L Street, N.W.  
Washington 5, D. C.

Dear Al:

Receipt of yours of 28 December, with its enclosure from Pvt. Matthew P. Mitchell, is acknowledged.

I'm turning the case over to our personnel people and they may be able to do something toward getting the lad into some phase of intelligence. His having worked for Pearson for a short spell should not constitute a bar, in my opinion. It seems to me I know at least a couple of chaps who worked and still work for a certain newspaper and who have thus far demonstrated conclusively where they stand when it comes to publishing or not publishing certain items which would be of highest interest to the readership of an up-to-date newspaper but would also be against the general weal of the country.

Yes, we are all very glad that we don't have to go before the public in an open trial -- but we still have one hurdle ahead. The judge wants to know how to evaluate the offense -- he needs information as to how serious the leakage was. And that, I understand, can't be imparted in chambers; it must be done in public. But that won't be so bad as the alternative, in an open court before a jury.

New subject, and maybe you can help. Is there any chance that there is kicking around in your office or in the Post's library an extra copy of the pamphlet the title page of which I enclose? It's altogether unavailable at GPO now and I want to add it to my other things on the "Oppy" hearings.

By the way, I imagine that in your new quarters you have a fine library. Some day I would be happy to have you ask me to come and look it over.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM F. FRIEDMAN

Encl:  
a/s