

Personal and not for publication.

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY  
LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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Mr. James H. Moore  
Executive Vice President  
Shenandoah Life Stations, Inc.  
Roanoke 7, Virginia

Mr. Milton Freier  
National Chairman  
Freedom of Information Committee  
National Press Photographers Association, Inc.  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Since both of you have written to me upon an identical topic and I should like to say the same thing in return to both of you, I hope you will forgive a joint letter. Perhaps I should have written earlier but a slight hospital experience has thrown me off schedule.

Incidentally, I gave no orders whatever. I was out of the room, using a telephone in a frantic effort to get a doctor, when the episode occurred. Later a colleague told me that while the audience stood in hushed and respectful silence, a photographer wanted to take a picture of Senator Barkley. I was also told that Mrs. Barkley was tearfully pleading, "No pictures, please."

It never occurred to me that anybody would want to take that picture. The spectacle was not pleasant. In falling, the Senator had kicked off his left shoe and his left trouser leg was up to his knee. Somebody had opened his shirt. His features were horribly distorted as he gasped for the breath that failed and his eyes were staring.

If such a picture had gone out under a Lexington by-line, the American people would almost unanimously assume that it had gone with our sanction. I should be unhappy to have to accept that responsibility.

I do not see that this matter involved freedoms, which we completely and consistently respect. To me the question resolves itself into a matter of taste. We have a mandate, and I suppose it comes down from primeval times, that there should be no desecration of the dead.

Again I assure you that I regret the whole incident.

Cordially yours,

Francis P. Gaines  
President