

NATIONAL

*PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS* ASSOCIATION, INC.

11533 Nemours Building  
Wilmington 98, Delaware

May 29, 1956

Dr. Francis P. Gaines, President  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia

Dear Dr. Gaines:

I have seen a copy of your May 12th reply to Messrs. James H. Moore, executive vice-president, Shenandoah Life Stations, Inc., and Milton Freier, chairman, Freedom of Information Committee, NPPA.

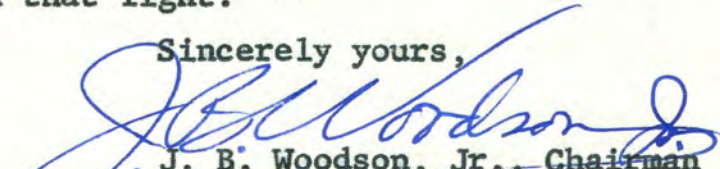
Answers to questions which you may have regarding the rights and duties of news cameramen have been answered by the courts, Dr. Gaines. Enclosed is a summary (EDITOR & PUBLISHER, 5/26/56) of points which have been made. The decisions of the courts fully support the news cameraman, even in cases such as the one you have described.

Inasmuch as you do not admit that the interference which took place on your campus when WSLC-TV Cameraman John Gilbert attempted to take news pictures of an historical event was improper, are we to assume that such action was (and, in the future, will be) condoned or perhaps even sanctioned by the President of the University?

In my letter of May 4 to Mr. Frank Parsons, director of the Washington and Lee Publicity Office, I requested in behalf of Region Three, NPPA, that you inform your student body that the interference which occurred was a serious and improper course of action. I renew this request and offer to arrange for an NPPA representative to present the newsman's point of view at such a meeting and to cite court decisions which back it to the fullest.

You undoubtedly believe, Dr. Gaines, in the United States Constitution, its support and defense. The First Amendment establishes and guarantees "the people's right to know," which includes the right to know via both words and pictures. May I suggest you reconsider the matter in that light.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. B. Woodson, Jr., Chairman  
Public Relations Committee, Region Three, NPPA