

**THE NATIONAL OBSERVER** DOW JONES & COMPANY, INC.

*Publishers*

11501 COLUMBIA PIKE, SILVER SPRING, MD. 20910

TEL: 301-622-2900

April 20, 1970

Dear Judge and Mrs. Blackmun,

Just a brief note to thank you for your many kindnesses to me last week in Rochester. It was so very pleasant--and it made my job so much easier--to be greeted as a decent person trying to do a job, rather than an ogre.

With this in mind, I am more than a little embarrassed to send you the article I wrote, since it contains several errors. You see, your telex set up in Rochester (the Western Union press wire) turned out to be, shall we say, less than adequate. That, I think, is as generous as I can get. Six hours after I had submitted my copy, it still hadn't been telegraphed to Washington. My bosses, by then climbing the walls, decided to have me dictate all 18 pages of it over the telephone--which I did. Thus, apparently, your comment on judicial labels--"deceiving"--was heard, and printed, as "defeating."

But worse than that, because there was so little time left, the editors cut the ~~xx~~ story to fit "the news ~~xxx~~ hole"--and in their frantic hurry to meet the deadline, made at least ~~xxxx~~ three mistakes I see offhand. Most grievously, in cutting the section about your thwarted medical ambitions, they also cut out your connection with the Mayo Clinic. I know most people won't miss that, but I know you will, and for this, I really do apologize. Second, by eliminating the anecdote about your courtship resuming after a year, the line about your ~~not~~ marrying for three years suddenly is a year shy. And third, you may notice, near the end that a couple of quotes are run into each other.

This is the only newspaper I know of--besides our sister paper, the Wall Street Journal--where mistakes are really very rarely made. I only know of three others in my stories of the last two years. Thus, I am particularly distressed about this. I hope you will understand that when man's imperfectness is coupled with a telegraphic disaster, one is left with little control and is just left to do the best he can. I am also sorry that we lost a good deal of the article because of space limitations. Nonetheless, I hope you find the 80 per cent that saw print interesting and--with the exceptions I have noted--accurate.

continued

Reproduced from the Collections of the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

**THE NATIONAL OBSERVER** DOW JONES & COMPANY, INC.

Publishers

11501 COLUMBIA PIKE, SILVER SPRING, MD. 20910

TEL: 301-622-2900

With my apologies behind me, I might add that my bosses were very impressed with what I wrote of your qualifications and background. Mrs. Blackman, you might like to know that two of the guys in my office commented on how pretty you are and added that you sound like "quite a chick." And our art editor noted that the picture of you two ~~xxxx~~ is one of "those rare portraits of honest affection."

I am enclosing for you a complimentary subscription to the Observer. If you'll just fill out the form enclosed and send it off in the enclosed envelope, you will receive the paper until such time as you may want to discontinue it. If you have any trouble receiving the damn thing, please let me know, since occasionally our computers get fouled up and need a little prod from an interested party.

Lastly, I would like to extend an invitation to both of you. The Women's National Press Club is having its 50th anniversary dinner June 5, and I believe the President will be the speaker. I have invited ~~three or four guests~~ three or four guests, including Chief Justice and Mrs. Burger. I don't know yet whether the ~~Chief Justice~~ Chief Justice will be able to come, but I hope so.

In any event, I would be most honored if you also would be my guests. It is a formal dinner, but the tables are set up in a small, informal way. The program is usually pretty amusing. And if nothing else, it's fun to VIP watch. I really think you would enjoy yourself, and I would love to have you. Please let me know if you can come. That way I can make our reservations, and if anything comes up, I can always cancel them.

In parting, let me offer to help you any way I can when--and if--(not and/or, please note, Mr. Frankfurter) you move to Washington. Please, if you need some househunting help, or even just an extra pair of hands to help ~~xxxx~~ wash dishes, give me a call. I'd love to help. And Mrs. B., if you need a place for a quick change near the Capitol during the hearings, my house is just a few blocks away, and I'd be glad to give you a key. My home number is 202-543-6873. Work is 301-622-2900.

I hope you'll forgive my ~~xxxxxxx~~ lousy typing--see what I mean. If I would do the proper thing, and try to write you a "clean" letter, I'd be here all night. Again, thanks so much for everything.

Sincerely,

*Nina Totenberg*  
Nina Totenberg