

CENTER *for* JUDICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, INC.

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Box 69, Gedney Station

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BY HAND

October 21, 1996

*The New York Times*  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, New York 10036

ATT: Nancy Chan, Project Coordinator  
Corporate Communications

RE: Complaint of Times' Suppression and Black-Balling

Dear Ms. Chan:

Transmitted herewith is a copy of our submission to Project Censored, which focuses our nomination of media censorship of major news stories on the censorship of *The New York Times*.

We ask that this submission be considered as a formal complaint against *The Times* in general and, in particular, against the following *Times* reporters: Joyce Purnick, Jan Hoffman, Jane Fritch, Joseph Berger, James Feron, and Bill Glaberson. Based on our direct, first-hand experience with them, as recounted in our submission and documented by the seven supporting evidentiary Compendia<sup>1</sup>, they have not only engaged in censorship and suppression of objectively significant major news stories, but in knowing and deliberate black-balling of us.

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<sup>1</sup> As reflected by footnote 2 (p. 8), we have provided Project Censored a further folder of documents consisting of the Critique "material" we supplied former Executive Editor Max Frankel under our June 14, 1992 coverletter to him (Compendium II, Ex. "L"). Because of the expense to us of replicating yet another copy of our 1992 Critique and the Compendium of exhibits that accompanied it, we ask that you obtain such documents from Mr. Frankel's office or, alternatively, from the reporters and editors to whom we provided at least four additional copies-- and who never returned them to us. These include: Joseph Berger, to whom a copy was personally given in March 1993 (See Compendium II, Ex. "OO", p. 2), as well as Jack McKenzie, who--since June 1992--has two copies (See Compendium II, Ex. "I", "N", "V"): Indeed, I met Mr. McKenzie on March 10, 1996 at a conference on "*Legal Ethics: The Core Issues*" and he acknowledged to me -- without my even asking -- that he still had the Critique. He practically recoiled in horror when I asked him whether he wouldn't consider pursuing a story about it.

Of course, should you be unsuccessful in obtaining the Critique and Compendium from them, we will provide you with a copy.

Ex "A-1"

We specifically draw your attention to the last paragraph of our submission:

"Because of the on-going cataclysmic consequences to the public resulting from *The Times* betrayal of the public trust and breach of its 'fundamental contract' with its readers, a copy of this recitation, including the substantiating Compendia, is being sent to *The Times* as a complaint so that curative measures may be immediately taken. These would include a meeting with the Publisher and Executive Editor of *The Times* -- or their representatives -- as requested by us so very long ago in our 1992 and 1994 letters." (at p. 23)

As discussed in our October 11th telephone conversation, we request that you bring this profoundly serious complaint to the attention of *Times* Publisher, Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., *Times* Executive Editor, Joseph Lelyveld, *Times* Managing Editor, Gene Roberts, and *Times* Metro Editor, Michael Oreskes.

You may be assured of our fullest assistance and cooperation.

Thank you very much.

Yours for a quality judiciary  
and responsible journalism,



ELENA RUTH SASSOWER, Coordinator  
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc.

Enclosures

cc: Project Censored  
Ralph Nader