The original documents are located in Box 26, folder "June 1, 1973 - Associated Press Broadcasters Association" of the Stanley Scott Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS BROADCASTERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION ROYAL SONESTA HOTEL NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA JUNE 1, 1973

BY:

STANLEY S. SCOTT SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON, D.C. DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

IT IS A PRIVILEGE FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU THIS MORNING,

AND IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TO

YOU.

BEING A FORMER BROADCAST-JOURNALIST, YOU PROBABLY
KNOW THAT I WAS ONE OF YOUR COMPETITORS SINCE I WORKED FOR
UPI, AND LATER WESTINGHOUSE BROADCASTING CORPORATION.
NONETHELESS, WE DID SHARE CERTAIN COMMON BONDS WHICH ARE
SHARED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA. I THINK ITS SAFE TO
NOW ADMIT THAT I OFTEN READ THE AP WIRE COPY TO MAKE SURE
THAT I HAD NOT LEFT OUT ANY DETAILS OR TO CHECK YOUR
ACCURACY AS OPPOSED TO MINE. WHEN I REFLECT ON MY
YEARS WITH UPI AND THE MID-SIXTIES, I THINK OF THE
COMPETITION AND THE SCOOP ETHIC WHICH ALWAYS KEPT ME
ON MY TOES. AT THAT TIME I REALLY DIDN'T APPRECIATE THE



TRUE SPIRIT OF COMPETITIVENESS AMONG THE NEWS SERVICES;
HOWEVER, I NOW KNOW THAT IT KEPT NOT ONLY NEWSMEN ON
THEIR TOES, BUT IT ALSO PROMOTED THE PUBLIC'S CONFIDENCE
IN THE MEDIA.

I STILL REGARD THE MEDIA WITH THAT SAME RESPECT AND WITH GREAT CONFIDENCE. SOMETIMES I WISH THAT I WAS AGAIN ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THOSE QUESTIONS. HAVING BEEN THERE I CAN BETTER APPRECIATE THE NEED FOR MANY QUESTIONS, BUT I AM TODAY JUST AS I WAS AS A REPORTER, STILL ON MY TOES.... DESPITE CURRENT HEADLINES GROWING OUT OF WATERGATE.

WHEN I WAS ASKED TO SPEAK BEFORE YOU TODAY ON THE RATHER BROAD SUBJECT OF HOW I, AS A FORMER BROADCAST NEWSMAN, NOW REGARD THE INDUSTRY, ITS PERFORMANCE, AND ITS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, I WAS REMINDED OF ANOTHER



SPEAKER WHO WAS INVITED TO SPEAK BEFORE A CONVENTION ON A SIMILARLY BROAD SUBJECT. THE TELEGRAM HE RECEIVED FROM THE PROGRAM COMMITTEE READ AS FOLLOWS: "WE SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU ADDRESS OUR CONVENTION ON THE SUBJECT. 'THE WORLD, THE WAR, AND THE CHURCH." HE GAVE THE MATTER SOME CONSIDERATION AND FELT HE WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE CONVENTION, BUT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE SUBJECT BOTHERED HIM CONSIDERABLY. SO HE WIRED THEM AS FOLLOWS: "GENTLEMEN. I SHOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS YOUR GREAT CONVENTION. HOWEVER. I SHOULD NOT LIKE TO BE CRAMPED IN MY STYLE OR RESTRICTED IN MY REMARKS BY ANY SUCH NARROW SUBJECT AS 'THE WORLD, THE WAR, AND THE CHURCH. ' I SHOULD BE GLAD TO COME IF YOU WILL ADD TO IT. THE SUN, THE MOON, AND THE STARS."

COMMUNICATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CHALLENGE, BECAUSE

IF IT'S TO BE EFFECTIVE, IT CANNOT BE A ONE-WAY PROPOSITION.



THERE IS NOTHING MORE AGGRAVATING AND FRUSTRATING TO
THE HURRYING MOTORIST THAN FINDING HIMSELF ON THE
WRONG END OF A ONE-WAY STREET. LIKEWISE, IN TODAY'S
FAST-PACED SOCIETY, THERE IS NOTHING MORE AGONIZING TO
THE CURIOUS, QUESTIONING CITIZEN THAN A COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORK WITH ONLY ONE LINE OPEN.

WE HAVE TO HAVE EXCHANGE. WE HAVE TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND OPINIONS. WE HAVE TO HAVE AN AVENUE OF EXCHANGE FOR AIRING GRIEVANCES AND SHARING SUCCESSES.

AS I LOOK BACK ON THOSE DAYS DURING THE 60'S WHEN I
WORKED AT UPI IN NEW YORK AS THEIR FIRST FULL-TIME BLACK
NEWS REPORTER, THEN LATER AS RADIO NEWSMAN FOR WESTINGHOUSE
BROADCASTING CORPORATION, THE AIR WAS BRISTLING WITH
DISCONTENT WITHIN THE BLACK COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE
COUNTRY.



ALL AMERICA KNEW EXISTED TO SOME EXTENT, BUT IT WAS
TELEVISION AND RADIO THAT BROUGHT THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE
RIGHT INTO THE LIVING ROOM OF GEORGIA MANSIONS AND
URBAN GHETTOS ALIKE.

IN THE 40'S AND 50'S, IN MY VIEW, THE MEDIA AVOIDED ESPOUSING ANY POINT OF VIEW WHICH VIEWERS CONSIDERED DISTASTEFUL. THE PRIMARY JOB OF THE MEDIA WAS TO ENTERTAIN. GENERALLY, VIEWS WERE ADHERED TO THAT WERE UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED. CONTROVERSY WAS TO BE AVOIDED LIKE THE SEVEN-YEAR ITCH.

I WAS THERE, COVERING A BEAT, WHEN BROADCAST JOURNALISM ENTERED A NEW PHASE IN THE 60'S. IT SOON BECAME APPARENT, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS NOT GOING TO BE ENOUGH FOR THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY TO EXPOSE THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND DEGRADATION OF BLACKS AND OTHER MINORITIES THROUGH THE

IN TERMS OF WHAT ROLE IT WOULD PLAY IN ACCEPTING SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

I BELIEVE THAT COMMENDABLE STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE WITHIN THE INDUSTRY, BUT THERE IS MUCH STILL TO BE DONE. EXPOSING THE PLIGHT OF MINORITIES TURNED OUT TO BE THE FIRST SMALL STEP IN A SERIES OF LONG GLIDES THAT HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY.

WHEN THE DUST BEGAN TO SETTLE AFTER THE FIRST RACIAL UPHEAVALS, STATION MANAGERS AND NEWS DIRECTORS WERE OFTEN JOLTED OUT OF THEIR REVERIE BY BLACKS DISSATISFIED WITH THE KIND OF COVERAGE THEY WERE GETTING. MOSTLY, THEY WANTED TO SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, AND WERE OFTEN JUSTIFIABLY UNHAPPY AT THE INSENSITIVITY OF SOME PERSONNEL WITHIN THE INDUSTRY. IN SHORT, THEY WANTED COVERAGE FROM A BLACK PERSPECTIVE.

ALL OF THIS BRINGS US AROUND TO THE QUESTION OF

EMPLOYMENT. THE CURRENT ISSUE OF <u>COLUMBIA JOURNALISM</u>

REVIEW, CARRIES THE STORY OF WILLIAM DILDAY, THE MANAGER

OF WLBT TV IN MISSISSIPPI. DILDAY IS REPORTED TO BE THE

ONLY BLACK HOLDING SUCH A POSITION IN THE ENTIRE UNITED

STATES.

NOW THAT THE PRESS IS ON FOR MORE BLACK HIRING IN
POLICY-MAKING LEVELS OF THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY, BROADCASTERS ARE LEANING HARD ON THE EXCUSE THAT THERE ARE NO
QUALIFIED BLACKS IN THE FIELD.

THE MAGAZINE ARTICLE QUOTES DILDAY ON THIS QUESTION.

"UNTIL NOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A CHICKEN AND EGG SITUATION.

BLACKS HAVEN'T BEEN PREPARED FOR RADIO-TV WORK, BECAUSE

THEY KNEW THERE WOULDN'T BE A JOB FOR THEM ANYWAY."

MANY OF YOU ARE SITTING THERE WONDERING WHERE YOU

ARE GOING TO FIND THESE "QUALIFIED" MINORITIES. FRANKLY, YOU

MAY NOT BE ABLE TO FIND THEM EVEN AFTER EXHAUSTIVE RECRUITMENT

PROGRAMS. YOU MAY HAVE TO TRAIN THEM, JUST AS TELEVISION HAD TO TRAIN DAVID BRINKLEY AFTER HE DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, OR WALTER CRONKITE, OR HARRY REASONER. YOU MAY HAVE TO TRAIN THEM LIKE THE ASSOCIATED PRESS TRAINED PULITZER PRIZE WINNING PHOTOGRAPHER MAX DESFOR, OR LIKE LIFE MAGAZINE TRAINED GORDON PARKS.

NOT EVERY JOURNALIST WORKING ON DAILY NEWSPAPERS
GRADUATED FROM A SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, NOR IS EVERY
BROADCASTER COLLEGE TRAINED. BLACKS AND OTHER MINORITIES
WHO WERE INCLINED TO STUDY COMMUNICATIONS WERE OFTEN
DISCOURAGED OR HAD LITTLE, IF ANY, HOPE OF ENTERING THE
FIELD WITH A NATIONAL NEWS SERVICE.

ONCE YOU INSURE THAT YOUR FIELD HAS INCLUDED MINORITIES,

DON'T STOP THEM AT THE DOOR -- OPEN THE DOOR TO THE TOP

THROUGH TRAINING, PROMOTIONS, AND THROUGH THE CHANCE

TO PERFORM WELL.

MINORITIES NEED TO LEARN HOW TO RIP AND READ IN

EMERGENCIES, BUT THEY ALSO NEED TO KNOW HOW TO TRANSLATE

THEIR ABILITIES INTO BROADCAST SKILLS, TRANSLATE THEIR

KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR COMMUNITY INTO COMMUNICABLE TERMS,

AND HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. JUST AS

ANY OTHER GROUP, MINORITIES INSIST UPON YOUR COMMITMENT

TO EXCELLENCE AND NOT FALSE DEDICATION OR PATRONAGE.

I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, AND THE OTHER YARDSTICKS OF TODAY. I'D RATHER TELL YOU ABOUT "SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY" FROM MY VIEWPOINT.

RESPONSIBILITY. IT HAS TO COME FROM WITHIN -- YOU

MIGHT SAY FROM THE SOUL OR THE GUT. CONTRARY TO WHAT

YOU MIGHT BELIEVE, THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY ENJOYS A HIGH



DEGREE OF CREDIBILITY WITHIN MINORITY COMMUNITIES.

IN A VERY REAL SENSE THESE COMMUNITIES COUNT ON YOU TO UNDERSTAND THEIR PROBLEMS, AND TO HELP BRING ABOUT NEEDED CHANGES IN PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING AND ATTITUDE.

FOR YOU TO DO YOUR JOB PROPERLY, MINORITIES MUST ALSO
PARTICIPATE IN THE INDUSTRY. THIS DOESN'T MEAN THAT YOU
NEED TO DISCARD YOUR COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE. BUT YOU
CANNOT ABDICATE RESPONSIBILITY.

THE BURDENS PLACED ON YOU BY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN

THIS FAST CHANGING DECADE MIGHT BE FRUSTRATING, BUT I

HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT THIS OBLIGATION AS A

MORAL NECESSITY.

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT A FREE PRESS IS ESSENTIAL TO A

DEMOCRACY. IT SHOULD ALSO BE SAID THAT A FREE PRESS HAS

AN OBLIGATION TO A DEMOCRACY TO INSURE THAT IT REMAINS

FREE AND THAT ALL ITS PEOPLE PARTICIPATE IN THAT FREEDOM.

MANY OF YOU HAVE ALREADY FELT THE FRUSTRATIONS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES WHEN THEY VIEW YOUR NEWS REPORTS AS BEING FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN. SOME OF YOU HAVE HAD TO COME FACE TO FACE WITH WHAT IS VIEWED AS ACCOUNTABILITY -- OR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. TO BE PROFESSIONAL, SOME HAVE TRIED TO RETREAT TO THE SAFE HAVEN OF "NEWS JUDGMENT." I AM REMINDED OF BUD WOLFF'S RECENT EDITORIAL IN AFTRA MAGAZINE: "OUR TIMES ARE NEW AND TOUGHER, AND WE MUST FACE THEM." THAT TRANSLATES INTO RESPONSIBILITY AND PERFORMANCE.

PERFORMANCE LEAPS OUT AT YOU EVERY TIME YOU TURN ON A RADIO OR TELEVISION SET OR PICK UP A NEWSPAPER. YOU CAN'T ESCAPE IT.

THE BROADCAST MEDIA CANNOT AFFORD TO COVER THE INNER CITY ONLY WHEN THERE IS A FIRE OR A MURDER. TO DO SO

WOULD BE TO EVADE THE PRESSING ISSUES WITHIN AND UPON THE INNER CITY.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS ONCE

OBSERVED, "RADIO BROADCAST IS SUPPOSED TO BE RESPONSIBLE

TO THE PEOPLE, BUT SUCH IS NOT ALWAYS THE CASE, ESPECIALLY

WHERE BLACK AMERICANS ARE CONCERNED."

THE DECADE OF THE SIXTIES AT LEAST BROUGHT A PERIOD OF SELF-AWARENESS TO AN INDUSTRY THAT HAD FAILED TO REALIZE ITS OWN POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY.

THE TREMENDOUS CONCENTRATION OF BLACKS IN THE URBAN AREAS DRAMATICALLY SIGNALLED THE NECESSITY FOR CLOSER SCRUTINY OF THE PROGRAMS SERVING THE BLACK COMMUNITY.

THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY IS STILL UNDERGOING CLOSE
SCRUTINY BY THOSE WHO REALIZE THAT IT CAN NEVER BECOME
TOTALLY RELEVANT IN DEALING WITH MINORITIES UNLESS THESE
GROUPS ARE HIRED IN DECISION-MAKING POSITIONS WHERE
THEY CAN OFFER IDEAS AND INPUT.

THERE ARE 25 MILLION BLACK PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY WHOSE NEEDS ARE AS VARIED AS THE COLORS OF THEIR SKIN. THERE IS NO SINGLE BLACK PUBLIC. THERE IS NO SINGLE DREAM, HOPE OR AMBITION.

BETWEEN 1960 and 1970, THE BLACK POPULATION OF CENTRAL CITIES INCREASED BY 3.2 MILLION WHILE THE WHITE POPULATION OF SUCH AREAS DROPPED BY 600, 000. BUT FOR THE MOST PART,

THE IMAGES ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN HARDLY REFLECT
THE CHANGING PATTERN IN TODAY'S SOCIETY.

NATIONWIDE, ABOUT 58 PERCENT OF THE BLACKS NOW LIVE IN METROPOLITAN AREAS. THAT FIGURE WAS 44 PERCENT 20 YEARS AGO.

AS THE WORLD TURNS, WHO WILL DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS

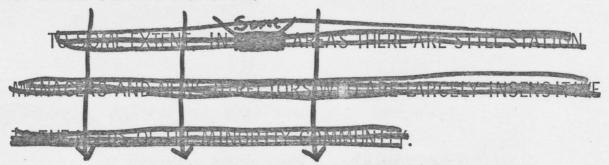
AND CONCERNS AND INTERESTS OF THESE PEOPLE? TO A LARGE

EXTENT, THE BURDEN FALLS ON YOU. THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY

NEEDS TO HAVE PROGRAMS OF AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TO ENSURE



THAT BLACK AND OTHER MINORITIES GAIN ENTRY TO THE WORLD OF MASS COMMUNICATION.



IT HAS BEEN SHOWN THAT SOURCES WHICH THE AUDIENCE
HOLDS IN HIGH ESTEEM APPEAR TO FACILITATE PERSUASION,
WHILE SOURCES WHICH THE AUDIENCE HOLDS IN LOW ESTEEM
APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE AT LEAST A TEMPORARY HANDICAP.
THIS BRINGS US DOWN TO THE CREDIBILITY GAP BETWEEN THOSE
WHO REPORT THE NEWS AND THOSE RECEIVING IT.

UNFAIR JUDGMENTS ARE OFTEN MADE BY THOSE IN CHARGE
BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

THEY OFTEN LACK TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ISSUES
THEY DO NOT THIS CONDITION WOULD NOT EXIST
IF THERE WERE MORE BLACK REPORTERS, MORE BLACKS IN POLICY
MAKING LEVELS WHO ARE AWARE OF THE CONCERNS AND FEARS
OF THE COMMUNITIES THEY REPRESENT.

ONE COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT REMARKED, "WHOEVER SAYS
THE FIRST WORD TO THE WORLD IS ALWAYS RIGHT". WHILE THIS
MAY BE SLIGHTLY EXAGGERATING A POINT, I THINK IT IS TRUE
THAT A PARTICULAR VIEWPOINT CAN REINFORCE SOCIALLY
PREVALENT ATTITUDES. WHAT WE NEED RATHER THAN REINFORCEMENT,
IN MOST CASES, IS A FRESH VIEWPOINT TO CHANGE CERTAIN
ATTITUDES.

AS BROADCASTERS, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO AFFECT SUCH CHANGE BY EDUCATING THE PUBLIC, THUS CREATING AND CONVERTING OLD ATTITUDES. IT IS ONLY NATURAL FOR PEOPLE TO FEAR THAT WHICH IS MYSTERIOUS -- THE UNKNOWN. YOU HAVE THE POWER TO SHATTER THE OLD IMAGES AND BRING NEW ONES INTO THE OPEN. WE NEED POSITIVE IMAGES WITHIN THE MINORITY COMMUNITY.

PEOPLE WANT TO BE INFORMED, AND MORE AND MORE THEY
RELY ON YOU FOR THAT INFORMATION. THEY WANT SOMETHING
OTHER THAN ENTERTAINMENT. THEY WANT ANSWERS.

I HAVE DEVOTED MOST OF MY LIFE TO THE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION, STARTING EARLY AS A CHILD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. AND, IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER, I HAVE PURSUED THAT COURSE THROUGHOUT MY ADULT YEARS. AS I CRISSCROSS THE COUNTRY REPRESENTING THIS ADMINISTRATION, MY JOB IS TO KEEP THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN BETWEEN THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT.

AS AMERICAN SOCIETY EVOLVES, WITH INCREASED DEMANDS
FOR A GREATER INFORMED PUBLIC, PEOPLE IN COMMUNICATIONS
WILL BE GIVEN A LARGER SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY. AS
THE EMPHASIS SHIFTS FROM THE MAKE BELIEVE TO THE HARD
REALITIES OF LIFE, THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY MAY WELL BECOME
THE NATION'S LEADING PROBLEM SOLVER.

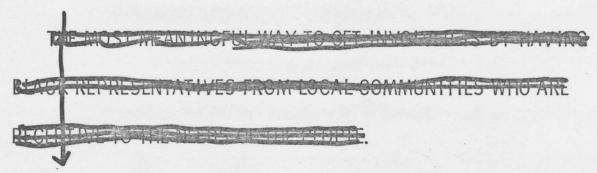
EDWARD MURROW BELIEVED THAT BROADCASTING COULD SERVE TWO MASTERS -- ADVERTISERS AND CITIZENS ALIKE.

HE ONCE SAID OF BROADCASTING, "THIS INSTRUMENT CAN TEACH, IT CAN ILLUMINATE: YES, IT CAN EVEN INSPIRE, BUT



TO USE IT TO THOSE ENDS. OTHERWISE, IT IS MERELY LIGHTS

AND WIRES IN A BOX!'.



IT IS NOT ENOUGH THAT WE HAVE THE LAWS ON THE BOOKS THAT GRANT EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL, IT IS UP TO YOU TO SEE THAT THESE LAWS ARE SET INTO MOTION.

AS A MINORITY MEMBER OF THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY, I AM FULLY AWARE OF THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE BUT WE HAVE MOVED INCHES WHERE WE MIGHT HAVE MOVED MILES.

SOMEONE HAS SAID, "BROADCASTING CAN'T ALL BE TO CHANGE SOCIETY OR TO IMPLEMENT SOCIAL GOALS", BUT MY REPLY TO THIS IS, "WHY NOT?"



AS THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY FACES UP TO ITS SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES, THE PEOPLE AND THE INDUSTRY BOTH STAND TO GAIN.

THE BROADCAST MEDIA'S RESPONSIBILITY IS NOT JUST IN
BEING RESPONSIVE, IT IS ALSO IN TAKING THE INITIATIVE. THE
MEDIA MUST CONTINUE AND IN SOME INSTANCES INTENSIFY ITS
EFFORT TO BE ATTUNED TO THE NEEDS AND INTEREST OF THE
COMMUNITY IT SERVES.

THE BROADCAST MEDIA MUST ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSION

OF CONFLICTING VIEWS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES. I KNOW

YOU WILL AGREE WITH ME WHEN I SAY THAT THE COMPLEXITIES

OF UNDERSTANDING ALL THE ISSUES WITHIN MINORITY COMMUNITIES

IS A GIANT UNDERTAKING. I THINK IT WOULD BE SAFE TO SAY

THAT YOU WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN FINDING OPPOSING

VIEWPOINTS.



THE ERA OF THE 70'S WILL NOT PERMIT THE BROADCAST INDUSTRY

TO JUST EXPOSE THE SOCIAL ILLS OF THE URBAN AREAS.

ALL SIGNS POINT TOWARD TOTAL INVOLVEMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY BY THE MEDIA.

AS NEVER BEFORE, ALL CITIZENS NOW ARE BECOMING AWARE
OF THEIR NEEDS AND OF THE POTENTIALS OF THE BROADCAST
INDUSTRY TO HELP PROMOTE GREATER UNDERSTANDING WITHIN
OUR SOCIETY.

THIS IS A CHALLENGE I AM PERSONALLY CONFIDENT YOU WILL

MEET -- BECAUSE YOU ARE -- IN A VERY REAL SENSE -- OUR

SOCIETY'S TRAILBLAZERS AND PACESETTERS.

THANK YOU.

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