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Subject: Edward McCarthy
FINDING TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO KNEW OR KNEW OF EDWARD MCCARTHY'S WORK FOR UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL. BILL REILLY of UPI in New York said that he knew and worked with Mr. McCarthy in the New York City International headquarters of UPI during the 1960s before Mr. McCarthy left the wire service to work for the Bronx, NY District Attorney. Mr. Reilly said that Mr. McCarthy was a good reporter who was promoted to day editor and, in that prestigious position, directed 30 reporters in daily news coverage. Mr. Reilly said that he believed Mr. McCarthy began his career at UPI as a copy boy in Chicago. He said that Mr. McCarthy had a good reputation as a reporter and was a respected journalist. He noted that he was greatly surprised when Mr. McCarthy left UPI, saying that he expected him to remain a part of the wire service until Mr. McCarthy retired. Mr. Reilly said that there was an even chance UPI would have dropped a story at the government's request in the 1960s. "We would have swept it under the carpet in the name of National Security," said Mr. Reilly. I also spoke with Grant Dillman, the former Washington Manager and Vice President of UPI. Mr. Dillman described his position as that of a Bureau Chief. Mr. Dillman said that he knew Mr. McCarthy, but did not know him personally. He said that he did not remember or have any knowledge of a 1962 story that Castro had sent "murder squads" to assassinate President Kennedy and that any investigation of the story would have included the Washington Bureau. Mr. Dillman said that any work on such a story would have included the State Department and White House reporters and he would have known about their efforts. Mr. Dillman said that "I doubt if that would have got by me." He said that Mr. McCarthy didn't come to the Washington Bureau to work on the story. Mr. Dillman said that he had no personal feelings about Mr. McCarthy, but knew him by his excellent reputation as a reporter and editor. "I would have known if he was a rascal," said Mr. Dillman, meaning an unethical reporter. Mr. Dillman said that Mr. McCarthy, as a reporter and editor on the UPI national staff, was highly regarded and held a coveted position. He said that the UPI staff in New York during that period was made of "very good people." Mr. Dillman said that he had heard nothing adverse about Mr. McCarthy's skill and reputation. Finally, Mr. Dillman explained that during the 60s there was an atmosphere of both formality and informality at UPI. He said that any time the government got involved in a story (viz. asking that a story be dropped because of national security or a threat to the President), "there was a close liaison between New York and Washington (UPI bureaus)." However, Mr. Dillman said that the informality could have allowed Mr. McCarthy to work on the story without his knowledge and without other editors contacting him. "I can't say it didn't happen," said Mr. Dillman. Mr. Reilly's phone number is (212) 560-1100, Mr. Dillman is retired and lives in Alexandria, VA. His phone number is (703) 823-8735. Respectfully, Thomas L. Wilborn
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