

former *Village Voice-New York Magazine* editor Clay Felker, and those publications are now run by "British" press magnate Rupert Murdoch.)

Saffir claimed he would not relinquish editorial control and therefore turned down the purchase offer from Harmsworth for the Buckley family offer instead.

— Fay Sober

U.S. Publisher Warns Against British-Style Press Censorship

The publisher of the Panax newspapers, John McGoff, has publicly identified the National News Council, which has recently singled out conservative U.S. press for alleged media misconduct, as a "British"-modelled press-policing agency. "I know of no court in the land which would engage in some of the precipitous activities the (National News) Council has," McGoff stated in an interview with *Editor and Publisher* magazine. Referring to the News Council, a self-appointed media "watchdogs" agency that elects its own members from the "media community," McGoff warned against introducing the British system of press censorship here. "From what little I know, the British system is not working too well," he quipped.

McGoff also demanded to know "who is behind the

Council?" and identified a partial list of funders which included Institute for Policy Studies conduits, the John and Mary Markle Foundation; the Twentieth Century Fund; the Ford Foundation; the American Telephone and Telegraph Co.; Bethlehem Steel, and others.

Last year the News Council censured McGoff's press chain for criticizing the Carter White House in a series of articles McGoff describes as reflecting the apprehension with Europeans regard the unorthodox Carter White House. McGoff, who toured Europe last year, had written that Europeans questioned the advisability of delegating the First Lady, Rosalyn Carter, to carry out diplomatic missions of strategic importance such as her 1977 trip to Latin America.