

The lesson is the new military age in the States would have stopped Ernie Pyle cold. Yet the media has not given away the game plan. Many of us knew weeks ahead of time about plans for the Seventh Corps to sweep deep into Iraq. I learned only today from General Sidle's talk of the printing by one publication of that game plan a week prior to the invasion on the ground, and I accept his word at that. I suspect, though, that there is no way Iraq could have learned of it at that time, because they were isolated from the rest of the world. Still and all, that's no excuse for that printing.

In surveys taken after the war, the public favoured three to one a press corps and not cheerleaders. The US public said it wanted the stories told straight. The evidence you have heard is anecdotal, the experiences and observations are real. We don't know where it all will lead. One of the experiences revolutionaries had was being hung in a town square. And that may happen. There are some things that do appear to be known and certain. We will have more news and not less in the decade ahead. It will come to us in different forms. Shapes already on some of your television sets from legal news in the form of say courtroom trials from the court TV channel, just as one example, to closed circuit health and medicine reports in your doctor's office, courtesy of Whittle Communications. You may very well see an explosion of local news, city council and traffic court as was pioneered by Channel 12 Long Island, New York. Almost certainly, CNN will find global competitors and regional competitors formed by international consortiums such as the BBC and NHK. The technology is not going to be disinvented. It is not going to go away.

The question then is will we be smart enough to use the technology wisely. Will we be astute and honest as programmers and as editors of this journalism. It will be expensive and it will be difficult, but given the track record of the free world's journalist, I believe the answer is yes. We are cranky and we are impertinent and not infrequently wrong in this elusive search for truth. But taken as a whole, the answer is yes.

The burden for reporting accurately and well will continue to grow as will the expectations of the viewers. Viewers who serve in governments, and men and women who simply want to know. This week in *Insight Magazine*, Arnold Beichman, of the Hoover