

SAC 01-1 Cox Newspapers
P-KRASLOW, DAVID

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

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Washington bureau

By Luther Huston

COX NEWSPAPERS

The Washington bureau of the Cox newspapers is the newest major news bureau in the national capital. It serves the five afternoon and four morning dailies and four Sunday papers published by Cox Enterprises, Inc., in Ohio, Georgia and Florida.

Cox papers in Atlanta and Dayton have had correspondents in Washington for many years. But it was only recently that Cox Enterprises established a coordinated Washington operation serving all the newspapers. The regional papers still have their individual correspondents but they operate in conjunction with a national staff.

The bureau chief is David Kraslow. He heads a staff composed of national correspondents Eugene V. Risher, Andrew J. Glass and Jean Heller, and regional correspondents Don Winter and Maurice Fleiss of the *Atlanta Journal*, Beau Cutts of the *Atlanta Constitution*, Andrew Mollison of the *Dayton Daily News*, and



David Kraslow, bureau chief, and Jean Heller, investigative reporter, scan a story prepared for transmission to Cox newspapers.

Charles Osolin of the *West Palm Beach* and *Miami News*. The regional correspondents work under Kraslow's general supervision but are responsible directly to their editors on local and regional stories.

Helen McMaster is the librarian and office manager, and is assisted by Cheri Revell.

Kraslow's functions are those of a coordinator. He is not the hardboiled Czar of a city room such as was portrayed in Ben Hecht and Charley MacArthur's play "The Front Page." His job calls for considerable tact in dealing not only with the bureau staff but also with a bevy of competing editors.

The Cox system differs from that of many other groups in that it has no overall editorial executive. The senior editor in the group is Jim Fain, editor of the *Dayton Daily News* and the *Miami News* and the executive responsible for the Washington operation. Kraslow reports directly to Fain.

Although the Washington correspondents are in two categories—national and regional—they can be and often are flexible in producing an integrated news re-

port. A regional correspondent, for instance, scouting the Capitol for news of his state delegation may dig up a story that is of wider interest than just the area he represents. Or an investigative national correspondent may run across a story or develop a feature that the editor of a regional paper would play up.

In that case Kraslow sees to it that the story or feature goes to the desk of the appropriate editors. If it was an exclusive, he would decide whether it would go to the morning papers or the afternoons. If it was a story that would hold for Sunday release it would be filed for the Sunday papers.

The Cox morning and afternoon papers in Atlanta, Dayton, and West Palm Beach are intensely competitive. Kraslow must not only be discreet with information about the activities of competing regional correspondents, but he also must strive to achieve equity in serving up stories for the morning, afternoon and Sunday cycles. Fain is inclined to let Kraslow decide the cycle flow, but Kraslow has been given general guidelines and they do consult on major news breaks. So far, at least, there have been no serious complaints of unfair treatment from Cox editors.

Kraslow has been a member of the Washington press corps since 1956. He came to the Capitol as correspondent for the *Miami Herald*, a Knight newspaper, and spent eight years in Knight's Washington bureau. Then he went to the Washington bureau of the *Los Angeles Times*, serving there nine years, the last several of them as bureau chief. A little more than two years ago he left the Times and became assistant managing editor of the *Washington Star-News*. In March 1974, he left the Star-News and organized the Cox bureau.

The bureau transmits its stories via automatic Zerox telecopier and a Telex network linking the major Cox papers. Kraslow says they are looking for an even more sophisticated system and will install it whenever it is available.