

Supreme Court of the United States
Washington, D. C. 20543

CHAMBERS OF
JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA

April 9, 2004

Ms. Lucy A. Dalglish
The Reporters Committee
for Freedom of the Press
1815 North Fort Myer Drive #900
Arlington, Virginia 22209-1817

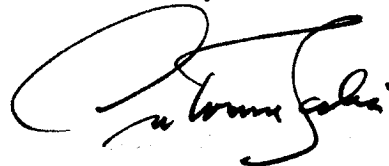
Dear Ms. Dalglish:

Thank you for your fax of April 8, expressing well justified concern over the incident at Presbyterian Christian School in Hattiesburg last Wednesday.

You are correct that the action was not taken at my direction; I was as upset as you were. I have written to the reporters involved, extending my apology and undertaking to revise my policy so as to permit recording for use of the print media. (That policy will, as you say, promote accurate reporting, so that no one will quote me as having said that “[p]eople just don’t revere [the Constitution] like they used to.”)

With regard to your further suggestion that I direct security personnel not to confiscate recordings—presumably even those made in violation of clearly announced rules: Security personnel, both those of the institutions at which I speak, and the United States Marshals, do not operate at my direction, but I shall certainly express that as my preference. The electronic media have in the past respected my First Amendment right not to speak on radio or television when I do not wish to do so, and I am sure that courtesy will continue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonin Scalia". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "A" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.