

Media and the Freedom Riders

Interviewer: How do you put a favorable light for the rest of the world on such news as the current race disturbances in Alabama?

Edward R. Murrow: The answer is that you don't. They happened. They are fully reported. For a period of two days, the difficulties in Alabama led to the European broadcast news bulletin and led the papers. They also led the voice of America broadcasts. The thing that we did do was one, to report what happened with, I hope, brevity and clarity, and also to put the emphasis on the speed and effectiveness on the action taken first by the federal government and then by the state authorities to restore order. Beyond that, we could not go and should not.

Murrow, Edward R. "Media and the Freedom Riders" in "Speech of May 24, 1961." Speech. Washington, DC, May 24, 1961. National Press Club. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/rr/record/pressclub/murrow.html>.