

# Wisconsin State Journal

Frank Denton, Editor

June 26, 1989

Bill Lueders  
News Editor  
Isthmus  
14 West Mifflin Street  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Bill:

I appreciate your letter and want to respond to your concerns about our story last week.

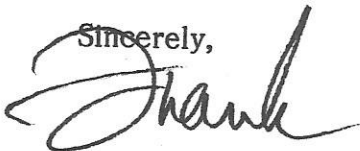
I don't think our story said, or implied, that the Isthmus story claimed that a buyout was in the works. The first mention of that notion came in Bob Meloon's quote, which grew out of the point of the story, that Lee had bought some shares of the Cap Times Co. The story then says Isthmus reported the "overtures" to buy stock, and Jim Burgess is quoted as saying Lee is not trying to acquire the Capital Times. Both Bob and Jim were responding to what they presumably felt were possible inferences that the offers to buy stock might be a buyout attempt.

I'll grant you that, in hindsight, the story should have made clear the conditional nature of your estimate of MNI profits. Since I read that story before it was published, I'll take some of the responsibility for overlooking that omission, which I am sure was made accidentally, in an attempt to make the sentence work. We should have included your qualifier.

As for allowing Jim Burgess to dispute your figures without supplying his own, I think that's the way we would treat anyone. We allowed him to deny your figures, and when our reporter asked for his own earnings estimate, he declined to give one -- and our story said that. His exercising his right to decline to make public some private information should not prevent our using the other part of his statement. What would you have done, not let him be quoted in the story because he wouldn't answer all our questions?

Let's stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Frank Denton

FD/jn