

how she could give him better and fairer coverage. Jones's staff sent Smith thirty letters asking for fair treatment. When the final story ran, another innocuous and complimentary account, the reporter was showered with three hundred letters that filled boxes on her *Chronicle* desk.

Between 1972 and 1977 the only stories that appeared in the press about Peoples Temple were reports on the generosity of the church and Jim Jones. Journalists who were admitted to the Geary Boulevard headquarters were shown only what the church wanted them to see, nothing more.

Like many of the liberal Democratic politicians to whom Jones catered, reporters and editors were given special attention.

One woman journalist who declined to be named explained how it felt to go to the Temple on assignment and leave as a strong supporter of Jones and his activities.

"He invited me into his office after the service and we talked until 3:00 a.m. about a number of social problems and broad spiritual topics," the reporter said. "I was very excited by what they were doing at Peoples Temple. It was radical Christianity."

Like several other journalists, the reporter was captivated by the Temple's efforts to fight poverty, drug abuse, alcoholism, and racism. After the first visit, there were more visits and phone calls—many, many phone calls.

"Jim would call late at night and want to talk. He didn't sleep much and we'd talk for hours and hours. It was very energizing for me," she said.