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CAMPAIGN NEWS

Speaking in tongues?

The Wales CPBF formed a viewing group to watch the HTV series "The Dragon Has Two Tongues" in which historians Gwyn Williams and Wynford Vaughan-Thomas debated contrasting versions of Welsh history.

Members in the Cardiff area with views on the programmes should contact Trevor Wright on Cardiff 396409. Members elsewhere with something to say about it should write to Bethan Eales, Community Education Officer, HTV Wales, Culverhouse Cross, South Glamorgan.



CPBF London Women's Group

Now that the Campaign's AGM has given its seal of approval to our work so far, we have a new series of activities to plan and organise: — working for the adoption of the Code of Conduct on Sexism by the media unions; putting together the guideline pamphlet to accompany the Code; starting to plan our women's conference for later in the year.

All women are welcome at our meetings. The next is on Wednesday 17th April, at 6.30pm in 9, Poland Street (basement room A).

If you want to get involved or find out more, please ring Lesley Wood on 01-437 2795.

Merseyside group formed

As a result of a meeting for the North West area in Manchester last year, it was decided to form a group in Merseyside. A successful launch meeting was held in Liverpool on 26th January, attended by people with a wide spectrum of interests. A

co-ordinating group was formed to plan activities and set up a media monitoring group. Members and others interested in joining should contact Margery Hayward, 10 Stanley Road, Maghull, Liverpool L31 5JC or phone Angela Thew, Liverpool 523 5562

Welsh meetings

Wales CPBF are holding meetings on Sianel Pedwar Cymru in Swansea and Aberystwyth. Anyone willing to help, or interested in developing the Campaign's work in Wales should contact Trevor Wright, W-CPBF, 14 Conway Road, Canton, Cardiff, Tel 0222 396409.

Campaign Members are participating in a weekend conference on Television in Cardiff on April 6–7, organised by Chapter Film Workshop.

Speakers from tv companies, broadcasting union, community media groups, independent producers and the CPBF will debate regional representation, radical alternatives and the Welsh language fourth channel.

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JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR
PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM

No. 28 MARCH—APRIL 1985

AIDS SCARE

The disease that haunts Fleet Street

By Ted McFadyen
NUJ Lesbian & Gay Group

"AIDS baby nightmare"; "Gay plague kills priest"; "Club bans 2 gays in AIDS panic" — just a few of the tabloid front page headlines in February using AIDS as a pretext for an extraordinary and unprecedented wave of anti-gay prejudice.

An emergency motion at the CPBF AGM condemned the media's scare stories and called on the Campaign to assist gay organisations in combatting such dangerous misinformation, using the Right of Reply as a means of getting more accurate coverage of a serious health problem.

Concerned at the impact of media hysteria on the country's gay community, London gay activists swiftly formed an AIDS Liaison Group. Meeting early in March at London's recently-opened Lesbian & Gay Centre in Cowcross Street, the Group decided to take positive campaigning into the media, primarily through the print unions. Parents of NGA chapels are to be approached, and the Campaign's Right of Reply Unit will assist gay groups seeking redress.

Gay activists in London are also angry at the sensational approach of the ITV "London Programme" on AIDS shown on March 8. Nick Billingham of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) Executive said the programme had been in preparation for some weeks and that 50 hours of interviews had been recorded, mostly with gay activists.

In the event the programme included footage of "frenzied scenes" of men dancing, shot 3 years ago for ITV's "Gay Life" series according to Billingham.

"We are very disappointed that a programme that started out with the co-operation of the gay community should have changed direction

somewhere along the way and finished up giving such a sensational view," he said.

The AIDS Liaison Group is widely representative of London's gay community, including people from CHE, London Gay Switchboard, the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights (LCGR), the London Lesbian and Gay Centre, the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT — named after the first person to die of AIDS in Britain and set up to help others who have contracted the disease), the NUJ Lesbian and Gay Group and Gay Rights at Work (GRAW).

Both the Gay Centre and THT have been harassed by phone calls and visits from journalists, and both have frequently been misrepresented in the press. The CPBF is to assist the Group in organising workshops on how to deal with press enquiries, especially from the tabloids.

The AIDS Liaison Group feels that the media's inaccurate and prejudiced reporting of AIDS is damaging society as a whole. It obscures the true facts and triggers off panic reactions among gays and non-gays alike. The tabloid press has largely ignored the low-key and sensible information packs on AIDS which have been published by the THT and the NUJ's Equality Council.

The London Programme on AIDS did point out the government measures introduced since the disease was first recognised in this country have been directed at those least likely to be affected, but it went on to suggest that unless

the gay community utterly transforms its life-style it can expect total ostracism and even organised violence.

Tabloid statistics were used to imply that many hundreds of deaths can be expected every year in London alone, where the presence of a large gay community was represented as a threat to the health and safety of everyone else.

More BBC Secrets

Concerned that advertising for journalists exclusively in the Guardian might "automatically have the effect of limiting intake... of our new journalistic blood to readers of the newspaper, and, to a large extent, to those who go along with its editorial stance" (sic), the BBC may spread its net wider in future.

Apparently it is "most unusual for a news trainee applicant to present himself for interview without a copy of the Guardian", according to minutes of a News and Current Affairs meeting leaked to FREE PRESS.

They record, however, that "anyone with the courage to carry a well-thumbed Sun, Mirror or Star would do himself no harm at all!" Nonetheless, the Guardian remains the favoured medium thought "it ought to be within the capacity of the BBC to advertise posts in a decent spread of newspapers".

These fascinating insights into the workings of Britain's biggest broadcasting bureaucracy are of vital public interest. It would be helpful if media moles could feed us more up-to-date information. Copy deadline for FP29 is May 1.

BUMPER
16 page
ISSUE

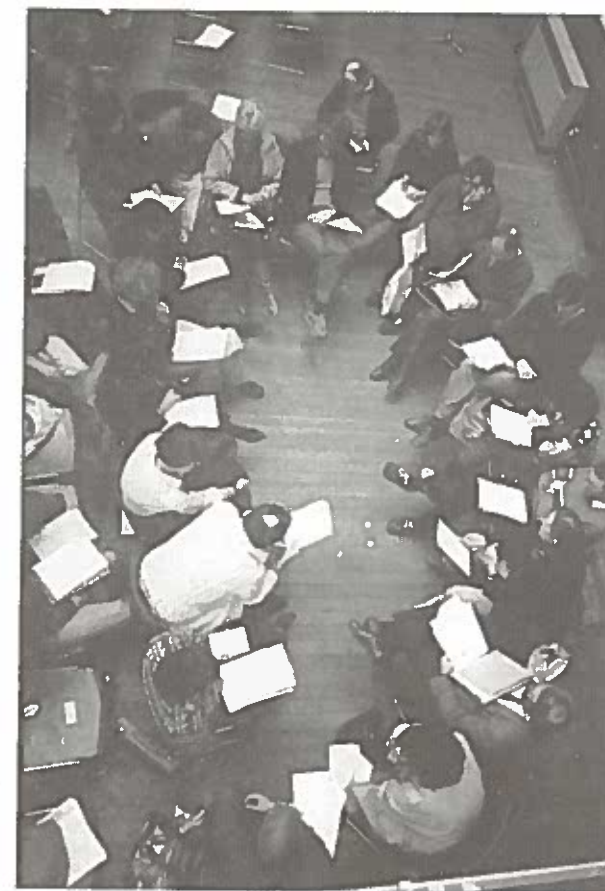
Delegates gather (left) to discuss sexism in the media at the CPBF AGM in Caxton Hall, London on March 2.

Full reports of debates, elections, and Rule changes in a 4 page supplement inside.

PLUS

Two page feature on Right of Reply success stories: p.12–13

Lots of readers letters p.14–15.



INSIDE: James Cameron remembered p.3 Alternatives p.5+6

Our Pits, Our Lives

Coverage of the miners' strike has demonstrated that the media, along with the police, the courts and the DHSS, is just another weapon used by the state in its attempt to crush the NUM and the rest of the trade union movement.

Reporting has consisted mainly of demanding a ballot, vilifying Arthur Scargill, sensationalising the events on picketlines and regurgitating Coal Board press releases on return to work figures.

Government/NCB propaganda has been given unwarranted credence by the uncritical adoption of their terminology: 'uneconomic pits', 'new faces returning to work', 'men abandoning the strike'. Scabs have been presented as brave and reasonable men, whilst striking miners have been categorised either as thugs or fools.

'Our pits, our lives', is a 30-minute radio programme produced by Local Radio Workshop with people from the mining communities of Kent and Frickley, West Yorkshire.

On the tape, they describe the communities and jobs which the NUM is fighting to defend. They speak of their own experience of investment in the pits, of mismanagement of resources, and of the arbitrary nature of labelling, a pit 'uneconomic'.

Kent miners give the background to the return-to-work campaign and describe an early-morning picket with police provocation and intimidation. In the final section a Yorkshire miners speaks of relations with management and scabs when the strike is over. And he talks of the Government's plans to decimate the coal industry, and of the spirit of resistance within mining communities.

It ends with the views of a Kent woman on the miner's right to work: 'It's our way of life, and we've got a right to live our lives... they won't close us, we won't allow them to.'

The programme has been produced for broadcast on local radio stations. A longer version is available from: Local Radio Workshop*

12 Praed Mews,
London W2 1QY

Price £2 for individuals or £5 to organisations. (50% goes to the NUM).

THE CASE FOR COAL

A 26-minute video produced by South Wales Miners' Video Project, and the Cardiff Community Video Workshop explains the need for long-term planning and investment in the coal industry.

Ultimately the definition of "uneconomic" is one of political priorities, the film argues, placing the miners' strike firmly in the context of the class struggle which includes the fight for control of the world's energy resources.

"The Case for Coal" costs £11 plus VAT, and is available from:
The Video Workshop, Market Road,
Canton, Cardiff. Tel 396061

NUJ Gay Group challenge to media lies

Guidelines for journalists on how to handle gay issues in the press have recently been published by the NUJ Lesbian & Gay Group, through the NUJ Equality Council.

Essentially the guidelines provide information for the non-gay journalist, rationally countering such myths as — for example — that gays who work with young people seek to "convert" them to homosexuality, or that gays who work in defence or military roles are by definition security risks, or that gays are mentally sick. In the current press hysteria about AIDS these guidelines are more than ever necessary.

More positively, the guidelines ask journalists to recognise that lesbians and gays want to be described in terms that acknowledge their full humanity, that gay life-styles, though different from those of heterosexuals, are just as valid; and that gays make just as useful a contribution to society, no more and no less.

Copies of the guidelines are available from: Rose Tapping, NUJ Equality Council, Acorn House, 314 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8DP.

The NUJ Lesbian & Gay Group recently affiliated to the CPBF.

Oxford start up?

Frank van Tinteren is keen to get an Oxford regional group set up. Members in the area are asked to contact him at 75 Eynsham Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9BU. Tel: Oxford 862315.

Regional Get-Together

Representatives from the National Committee, the North West, Merseyside and Wales gathered in Manchester on February 16th to discuss the workings of the Campaign nationwide. A good time was had by all, and a day of fruitful debate convinced all those present that such events should happen regularly.

One suggestion that found favour was for some National Committee members to 'pair up' with specific regional groups so that a constant flow of ideas and information can be maintained.

CPBF and GLEB

Following a series of meetings between National Committee members and executives at the Greater London Enterprise Board, the Campaign is to contribute to discussions about the investment needs of London's "cultural industries".

Set up by the GLC to create jobs and regenerate the London economy, the GLEB is devising investment strategies for various industrial sectors. It has just published its first, "Printing Matters" which deals with all aspects of the print trade in London.

The Campaign will also assist in generating debate among member organisations, particularly the media unions, around the GLC's "London Industrial Strategy", and issues which arise from GLEB's investment policies.

The Cultural Industries include music, film and video production as well as book, magazine and newspaper publishing and distribution. With the GLEB's emphasis on equal opportunities, industrial democracy and greater diversity in the media, the Campaign's involvement may be of mutual benefit.

'Political' DJ must face the music

Manchester's Left-Labour city councillors are making an official complaint to the IBA about Mike Sweeney, former rock star and Piccadilly Radio's cult hero presenter. He is accused of gross political bias.

It is an unusual case. Mike Sweeney's show is pop-music based and his opinions are slotted in between records and commercial breaks. He is a former miner, and his "sounding out" feature often criticizes government policy, especially the high level of unemployment and cuts in the National Health Service.

But city councillors are incensed by his scathing treatment of their equal opportunity policies, and his avowedly heterosexist approach.

When he reported that the council had funded the Gay Information Centre Switchboard he advised people to use a deep masculine voice when phoning the Town Hall.

The DJ has offered council leaders an "on-air" debate, but they have declined, saying that a pop show is not an appropriate forum and cannot be as politically balanced as a news or current affairs programme (sic).

MORE LETTERS

strates with great clarity that BBC News is presenting a systematically partial view of events, and interpreting them in terms sympathetic to the Establishment and the government. It seems to me to have grown more blatant since 1981.

'Put down' correspondence slots and programmes like 'Open Space' are hopelessly inadequate remedies for persistent bias. The BBC doesn't learn from these corrections, they are merely minuscule footnotes on the pages of the 'Truth Machine'.

Even more worrying is an increasing tendency to promote the Prime Minister as a 'Glorious Leader', a 'Great Woman' — out of four TV screens a portrait of the Great British Dictator is emerging to set alongside those gigantic images of Stalin, Mao and Adolf Hitler.

Channel 4's "Right of Reply" is no remedy for this kind of bias. Arthur Scargill needs 15 minutes a week; CND needs at least as much, and so does... And the remedy doesn't cure the bias, it merely corrects one example of it. Afterwards nothing is changed, and you only get one chance.

I'd like to suggest that we consider an additional objective — to press for a series of alternative news programmes, each under the independent editorial control of people who represent a sector of the non-parliamentary political spectrum in the U.K.

Most political events are highly complex, and all interested parties will seek to present a view advantageous to them. At the moment the picture we receive from the BBC is advantageous to the Establishment and the government. There is no reason to think this is in the interest of democracy or truth.

There is good reason to think that we might be better served by a diversity of analysis and perception from genuinely independent analysts and reporters.

D.G. Martin
Little Woldingfield
Sudbury, Suffolk.

More on that memo

In fairness to Mr Protheroe it should be said that the section headed 'Dealing with Complaints' is remarkably positive. On the specific question of internal complaints handling, Mr Protheroe's

approach is certainly very much more helpful than that of many other comparably large and powerful organisations. From a consumer point of view, due credit should be given to the BBC for that, at least on the basis of this evidence.

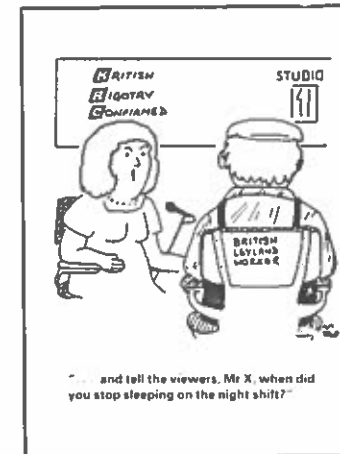
However, the Campaign is quite right in its comments on the Memo to draw attention to the unsatisfactory treatment of the arguments for a full independent system of redress in broadcasting including the role of the Broadcasting Complaints Commission. Mr Protheroe's dismissal of the Ombudsman principle is unacceptably cavalier.

This is an aspect of consumer affairs in which events and opinion have moved on a good deal since late 1981. It is now widely recognised that those who investigate complaints and who have power to award redress, in whatever sphere of activity, should be independent and separate from those who represent the interests of the "defendants".

This principle has been recognised, for example, by the insurance industry which has constituted an independent Insurance Ombudsman Bureau. Although insurance companies pay for this highly successful scheme, only three insurance representatives sit on its governing Council. The banking industry, at the instigation of the National Consumer Council, is about to set up a Banking Ombudsman on the same, independent lines. Complaints about advertising are handled by the Independent Advertising Standards Authority. Similar proposals have recently been advanced for the legal profession in relation to complaints against solicitors.

It is difficult to see how the BBC can justifiably continue to regard as somehow being above this growing consensus about the need for independence in complaints handling. Whether or not the Broadcasting Complaints Commission is the appropriate body, as presently constituted, to take on the role of dealing with requests for a right of reply, is for debate. The more general argument about principle, however, must surely now be conceded.

Martin Smith
Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AA



Making Traces

Thanks for mentioning our new magazine TRACES. It's a struggle setting up even a tiny magazine and every drop of publicity helps.

The problem with starting small is that in a market geared to mass production you are in a vicious circle of low sales, lack of advertising revenue, high unit production costs and a consequent lack of money for promotion, which is by no means a luxury.

It might seem easy at first sight to print 1,000 copies of virtually anything and find buyers, but the only type of retailer geared to make an economic success of selling periodicals is the commercial newsagent who will not stock an item which has not been expensively promoted in the mass media. And even if you can reach a significant section of the public, in the current depression people are unwilling to spend money on what they see as a luxury.

Economically it's much easier to launch at the 20,000 level than to start at the 1,000 level and grow. But only if you've got the money to bridge the long gap between paying the print bill and getting the first receipts from advertisers and distributors.

Our advice to anyone wishing to start a small magazine is — assume your

advertising revenues will be zero for at least five issues, don't expect to sell more than 500 copies unless you have people prepared to go out hawking them; and be ready to work hard and lose money for at least a year.

However there are major advantages in starting small. You are more intimately in touch with your market and you have the flexibility to adapt your editorial profile to the feedback as it comes in.

In our case, the plan is to run on a pilot basis and then solicit serious financial backing when we are confident of our 'product'.

One piece of positive news is that we are currently organising distribution to radical bookshops outside London. If enough of them are prepared to stock TRACES, a key distributor is likely to handle us, which will of course take a big workload off our hands.

Ian Henshall
Blenheim Court
Marlborough Road
London N19 4HR

IOJ honours

My attention has been drawn to the item "For services rendered" in which I have the honour to be mentioned.

May I first congratulate you on your proper contempt for such pernickety bourgeois practices as getting names and appointments right? But most of all I am impressed by the example of impartiality you have set for the rest of the media — whose lack of it you rightly deplore — in selecting the quotation you did to describe the Institute of Journalists.

I know its source and I fear you will be able to maintain the high standard you have set yourself only with great difficulty. In an attempt to help I suggest that next time you need a pithy description of the Jews you should take it from the speeches of Julius Streicher.

R.F. Farmer
General Secretary
Institute of Journalists
Bedford Chambers
Covent Garden
London, WC2E 8HA

Regional media guides

Publication of their guide to using the media has given a big boost to North West CPBF. 4,000 copies of 'Making News' have been printed and is selling well to individuals, union branches and community organizations.

The guide includes information on how to contact the press, how to write press releases and how to handle interviews. It has been smartly designed by Rochdale

Alternative Press, and is illustrated throughout with hilarious Lowry cartoons, (see this issue of FP).

It also contains a comprehensive list of media organizations throughout Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire, Lancs and Cumbria.

There is a section on how to complain, details of the NUJ Code of Conduct, the NUJ-NGA agreement on racism, and how to contact media unions to gain redress.

MAKING NEWS 50p
is available from N-W CPBF
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MAKING NEWS

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Campaign for Press and
Broadcasting Freedom

Guide to Using the Media

LETTERS

A bulging postbag — all the more reason to keep your letter SHORT. Unfortunately the blue pencil has had to be wielded — * marks the spot.

Foot Notes: 1

Paul Foot's article, reprinted from Socialist Worker, against the right of reply occupied about 440 column centimetres, not including headline and photograph (FP26).

Frank Allaun and Mike Power were then given around 680 column centimetres, a full page and a larger headline to attack him (FP27). "Equal length and equal prominence".

Frank Allaun seems to think that Socialist Worker and Militant are not newspapers but "journals of opinion". What, in Mr Allaun's view, are the Sun, Mail, Express and Telegraph?

Peter Lucas
Westcott Road
London SE17

FP replies: Paul Foot's article first saw the light of day in a paper with a longer print run than FP, and was reprinted specifically to generate comment. The first responses happened to disagree with Paul, who had after all attacked the Campaign, and were published together to save space and give others a chance later. Incidentally Paul got the bigger headline.

Foot Notes: 2

Paul Foot's article (FP26) against a legal Right of Reply places him in the same camp as Sir David English, the Conservative government, the Guild of British Newspaper Editors, the Press Council and just about every other reactionary figure in the British media.

They say the law should not touch the media because it is an assault on press freedom — their freedom, that is. Paul says the law should not be invoked because it is class law and will only provide a new bonanza for lawyers serving only wealthy clients.

He may be right, though a lot depends on how such a law is framed, put into operation and so on. If we are not to wait upon a revolutionary change in

Britain then fighting and campaigning for laws that open up and diversify the media seem to me to be a perfectly reasonable aim. We need a legal right of reply.

We need to look at laws to set up some of the institutions discussed by the CPBF. We need laws to strengthen the rights of workers in the industry and readers against those of proprietors.

We need much more beside, but the notion that the media are beyond the remit of changes in law has been made into an article of faith by the newspaper industry. Education, health, social services may all be discussed by political parties and legislated about. But hint that parliament might do something about the media and the editorials boom out to decry this scandalous interference with the age old rights of Sun reading Britons.

Gerald Kaufman presumably shares Paul's opinion. As editor of the Penguin special outlining Labour's programme just before the 1983 election Kaufman could not find space for a paragraph, let alone a chapter, setting out Labour's proposed reforms on the media. In fact, the Labour Party has shied away from resolutely committing itself to legislation about the media.

Labour prominent who raised the issue of the media in the early 1970's were silent once Labour was in power and though they have rediscovered their radicalism in opposition I have seen no firm commitment from Kinnock or Hattersley, or the rest of the shadow cabinet to effective media reform — whether timed first steps such as a legal right of reply or anything bolder. Perhaps they are all secret SWP members and agree with Paul that any media reform is hopelessly class-based and doomed to ineffectiveness.

For my part, anything that is so strongly resisted by *The Times*, the *Daily Mail*, the *Guardian*, the *Sun*, the *Daily Express*, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *BBC*, *ITN*, and the *Socialist Worker* can't be all bad.

Denis MacShane
rue des Ecoles
Ambilly, France

Right on! *

The legitimacy of the CPBF Right of Reply Campaign was never better illustrated than at the first Social Action Broadcasting Conference held last December.

Many of the 200-plus delegates from voluntary organisations and electronic media voiced concern about current programmes on vital issues, including sex, race and unemployment — the main theme of the Loughborough event staged by the Voluntary Centre's Media Project and the Centre for Mass Communication Research at Leicester university.

But as session after session heard that the need for more radical output was growing fast, few programme-makers showed much readiness to challenge their institutionalised strait-jacket. At least Nick Ross of BBC 2's Breakfast Time, admitted a large number of "shmucks" worked in broadcasting.

Standards left room for improvement — thought not for far greater production access by ordinary people, according to one broadcasting union representative.

Academics twice bogged down the conference debate and, despite his promontarist outlook, Peter Jay, journalist and chairman of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, was wasted in the chair.

Two workshops on equality raised the temperature, with women and black people attacking the stereotypes still projected on TV and radio. Some broadcasters conceded that ghetto slots away from peak mainstream screening marginalised the movement for equality. Low budgets and failure to recruit more women and blacks into broadcasting — in particular to senior positions — had to be tackled.

Omission of discussion on the coal dispute was criticised — Media Influence On the Ethiopian Emergency and Do White Men Still Call The Shots? being the two "matters of the moment".

But tokenism was unwanted — neither pop records without political

awareness of world hunger nor careerists jumping on the race and gender "bandwagon".

Paul Collins
Hackworth Point,
Rainhill Way, London E3

Managing BBC news

The BBC's memo deals with the right of reply issue in typical fashion: by staying self-righteously immune to serious criticism. But a lot of blood has flowed under the bridge since this report of December 1981. In May 1982 during the war in the South Atlantic the Corporation was in effect taken over by the Ministry of Defence, as was reported by Geoffrey Cannon in the *Sunday Times* on January 1983 ("BBC toed the official line on Falklands").

And it is hard to believe the same thing hasn't happened during the present crisis caused by the coal dispute. In fact it looks as though government pressure has been too much even for Mr. Protheroe. On 5 July 1984 during the BBC 2 programme "BBC TV news: the first 30 years" he said, "The greatest problem is the very dangerous assumption by authority that, at a time of crisis or difficulty, they have the power to tell the broadcaster what and what not to broadcast. I am occasionally quite horrified at overt attempts to manage the news".

Antony Easthope
Victoria Avenue
Didsbury
Manchester M20 8QX

Replying to the BBC *

Had Alan Protheroe's memo been available when it was written in 1981 it might have been a hopeful sign, but nothing that has happened since has given the slightest grounds for optimism about the BBC.

The FP description of its tone seems entirely adequate. The most appalling feature of the document is the total lack of awareness of the painstaking research done by organizations like the Glasgow Media Group, which demon-

OBITUARY

I had no formal training whatever in journalism, and indeed very little formal education, since I began as a newspaper office-boy at about fifteen. I was never at University, and although I have several Degrees, they are all unearned and honorary.

"This time they might find you out"

My personal experience after I became a correspondent is of little relevance today. In the 1940s and 50s national newspapers were booming; they counted their circulations in competitive millions. The *Daily Express* (in which I served during and shortly after the War) thought nothing of sending me round the world several times a year, often merely at the caprice of the proprietor.

I never paid the slightest attention to anyone's "policy", largely because I was unaware of it. For example, the *Express* sent me to

India to report on the Independence negotiations, for which I was enthusiastic. In those days one never saw the British Press. I was wholly unaware that Beaverbrook, following Churchill, was violently opposed to Indian Independence and detested Nehru. I consistently filed copy urging Independence and extolling Nehru. I learned later that he printed the

lot, probably gritting his teeth. Doubtless he counteracted in his leaders, but he used the stuff, he later told me, because it was entertaining and well-informed, and because he was paying my expenses and didn't want to waste that.

I must — perhaps regretfully — admit to you that I have never been under boss-pressure. When the least hint of that arose I quit. I rarely or never had rows (except of course for the enormous Hulton dispute that went into the journalistic legend with the crucifixion

of Tom Hopkinson and me and the death of *Picture Post*). Otherwise I went my own way, sometimes suffering thereby, but less than you might think.

I hope this doesn't sound pompous but I think the explanation of my survival has nothing whatever to do with politics. Physically and professionally I was very diligent. I never believed that my luck as a

foreign correspondent was anything but luck, and had to be held on to. My enduring motto was (and indeed still is): "This time they may find you out". I never once can remember thinking: "What do they want?" I wrote exactly what I wanted — as well as I could in

Above is JAMES CEMERON's contribution to a planned CPBF book on self-censorship. Below his friend GEOFFREY GOODMAN of the *Daily Mirror* remembers a remarkable journalist.

James Cameron was the journalists' ideal journalist. He set standards, indeed created new and higher ones for all of us. His epic-style of writing became a legend in its own time with qualities of sensitivity and descriptive power that made it, and him, the envy of every professional who cared for what he always called "the trade".

Yet that word "envy" is somehow misplaced. In no way can one say one "envied" The Master; any more than we could ever assume the likelihood of being able to emulate such craftsmanship, such insight and extraordinary facility to capture the spirit of any story, be it about war or peace.

In short Cameron was unique; a one-off; a tower of professional integrity offering all of us a beacon to follow. He was all that is best in British journalism. He helped all his disciples in the fight to keep alive the hopes that, despite the appalling fall in standards and professional ethics in recent years, there was still something worth salvaging from the wreckage.

For over thirty years I counted myself fortunate to be among the fairly small group of friends surrounding James — he was always frugal in his friendships, despite the exceptional range of his acquaintances. We first

began to pitch joint tents at the old *News Chronicle*, that strange haven of kindred souls which ought never to have been sunk without trace in 1960. Still, there it is. The NC went down and many more were to follow. The downhill slide seemed to continue and to erode a certain standard of journalism that we had all, mistakenly, taken for granted.

I sometimes wonder whether it would be possible in the Fleet Street climate of today, for a young James Cameron to emerge from the plastic columns of the popular press.

For it was, after all, on the *Daily Express* of Lord Beaverbrook that Cameron first flowered and flourished. His extraordinary description of the American A-Bomb test at Bikini in 1946 was printed, word for word as he wrote it, in the Beaverbrook *Express*. That event changed Cameron's life and indeed conditioned his entire journalistic ethos thereafter. It made him realise that nothing could ever be quite the same again. That remarkable experience not only turned him into a founding father of CND in the 1950's; it finally persuaded him that there was something even more important than "objective reporting" — to write the truth about the ugliness and the evil that sits around in our society frequently disguised as "fact".

It would do a contemporary reporter no harm to read, or to re-read, Cameron's memorable piece on the Inchon landing in the Korean war which he wrote for *Picture Post* (October 7, 1950) — a piece of absolutely stunning description, economy of phrase and brilliant evocation. It does all of us some good to reflect that British journalism could once boast of maga-

zines like *Picture Post* and of newspapers like the *News Chronicle* and even, damn it, the Beaverbrook *Express*, where a Cameron could operate, often as an irritant to the publishers, to enlighten a readership about what was really happening in our world.

I would like to believe it is still possible for this to be achieved. I would like to think that the Cameron legacy will not only live on, dancing along younger typewriters or word processors or whatever. But I am not too sure.

The answer can only rest with journalists themselves. They alone can prove that my own scepticism is ill-founded.

many trying circumstances — and someone always seemed to want it. And I never missed a deadline; that is important.

I am sorry if I seem to be totally denying your theme of the journalist under pressure. I have spent my life under pressure, but it has always been self-imposed. That may be the answer to your main question. The story must be as or more important to you than your editor. Much of the time I haven't known who the editor was.

However, it is no recipe for success. After forty-odd years, look at me now! Jobless, pension-less, unemployed, often strapped for a bottle, wondering every day: What next?

Still, I wouldn't have changed it



ANDREW WARD/REPORT

James Cameron Award?

James Cameron was an early sponsor of the CPBF, and the Campaign is examining the possibility of instituting an annual James Cameron Award for Outstanding Journalism, following an approach by *Labour Weekly*.

The *NUJ* and the *Guardian* are also interested, and the Campaign will work with them to ensure that a fitting tribute to his work is established.

Watch FREE PRESS for further details.

The issue of media freedom is important to everyone. The Campaign Office has a Speakers List of members willing to address local meetings, on a wide range of media topics.

Why not send for a copy, and help to get people interested in your area. The Campaign needs new members, and we all need to keep a watchful eye on the media.

Among the unions, representing people from all walks of life, which have affiliated are:

ABS, ACTT, AGSRO, ASLEF, ASTMS, BF&AW, COHSE, CSU, NATFHE, FTAT, FBU, GMBATU, MN&AOA, NALGO, NAPO, NATTKE, NGA'82, NUJ, NSMM, NUHKW, NUM, NUPE, NUSEaman, NUS, POEU, SOGAT'82, SCPS, STE, TWU, T&GWU, UCW, USDWA.

Contact the Campaign Office NOW and build the C.P.B.F. in your area.

CYFRYNGAU
YNG
NGHYMRU
Llawlyfr Ymgyrchu



£1

"In Wales, we are dominated — and largely ignored — by the Fleet Street press and the network TV and radio services."

The response of the Wales CPBF has been to publish a fact-packed bi-lingual media guide "The Media in Wales: campaigning handbook", from which this quote is taken.

Its contents include valuable information on writing press releases, Welsh language media, the unions and the media, and a run-down on who owns the Press in Wales.

"Cyfryngau yng nghymru" is sprinkled with cartoons (in English) and comes in a handy reversible format.

It is available for £1.30 (inc.p&p) from W-CPBF, 14 Conway Road, Canton, Cardiff. Bulk orders of 10 or more brings the price down to £1 (inc).

ALL THAT IS BEST IN BRITISH JOURNALISM

INTERNATIONAL

JOHN JENNINGS, founder member and former secretary of the CPBF is being sued for libel by the Freedom Association (Formerly NAFF) over an article in Free Press.



What is the case about?

In October 1983 the Freedom Association published an article on the Pinochet regime in Chile. It included comments like these:

"Pinochet's Chile has been the scene of one of the most interesting economic and constitutional experiments in the world today."

"Pinochet... is a statesman on the model of General Franco, whom he greatly admires."

John Jennings strongly criticised and condemned these opinions in an article in Free Press of November/December 1983.

What price free speech?

LIBEL actions can be astronomically expensive. There is no legal aid.

The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom fully supports John Jennings' stand. But it does not have the funds to finance court actions of this kind.

He is being sued in his personal capacity. If he loses it could cost £50,000 or more — and this does not include any actual damages which might be awarded against him.

A 'John Jennings Defence Fund' has been set up by the CPBF, but with a separate bank account and its own trustees. We need money now to be sure he can fight the case through to the end.

Please send a donation. Make cheques payable to the 'John Jennings Defence Fund' and send them c/o Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, 9 Poland Street, London W1 3DG. Fill in the form below.

I enclose a cheque/PO for..... as a donation to the John Jennings Defence Fund.

NAME.....
ORGANISATION (if any).....

ADDRESS.....

☐ Tick here if receipt required.

INSIDE ASIA OUT

The second edition of a new English-language magazine covering Asian affairs has just come out.

"Inside Asia" describes itself as a progressive, campaigning magazine dealing with issues that connect Asian countries and Britain and linking them to the interests and activities of Asians living in Britain.

Run as a collective by five workers with backgrounds in journalism, publishing, and the academic world, Inside Asia is to be a bi-monthly journal with an emphasis on subscriptions (at £10 p.a.) but Central

Books are handling distribution to bookshops through whom it can be ordered.

Its contents include sections on political, economic and labour affairs, women in Asia, society and culture, the environment and minority rights. Future issues will handle the impact of the nuclear industry throughout Asia, and first-time English publication of short stories by Asian writers.

The first 64-page issue was smartly produced and contained an attractive pull-out "Focus on China". The editorial collective is keen to hear from potential contributors, and is offering a £5 prize for "authentic, simple and relatively inexpensive" Asian recipes.

Inside Asia is based at 242 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UP, Tel: 01-278 3806.



Prisoner of conscience in Peru

Jaime Ayala Sulca

Jaime Ayala Sulca, 22, a journalist on the Lima daily La Republica and on Radio Huanta was last seen entering the navy's regional headquarters and detention centre at the Huanta Municipal Stadium at 10.00am on 2 August 1984. He had gone there to inquire into the killing the day before of six leaders of the Presbyterian church at Calqui, and to protest at a police raid on his home the previous night.



While Jaime Ayala went into the stadium, his wife and sister and the administrator of Radio Huanta waited outside. After two hours inquiries were made: naval officers denied that he had ever entered the stadium. At 3.00pm his family reported his unacknowledged detention to the Huanta Provincial Prosecutor.

Protests at Jaime Ayala's 'disappearance' resulted, on 12 August, in a communique issued by the navy acknowledging that he had, in fact, been in the Huanta headquarters on 2 August, but that he had voluntarily left after about 10 minutes to visit "the locality Calqui-Nisperoeniyocce, to investigate the appearance of six cadavers in that locality". This explanation was rejected by Ayala's family and others present at the stadium at the time of his 'disappearance'.

The attorney General, Dr Alvaro Rey de Castro, appointed a special investigator into the case. On 15 August, Dr Ray de Castro went to Huanta to meet naval officers there and examine the stadium. He found no prisoners in it. Jaime Ayala's whereabouts are still unknown.

Appeals requesting information on Jaime Ayala's whereabouts, or an investigation into his disappearance, should be sent to:

Gen. Wifredo Mori Orzo
Jefe Comando Politico-Militar
(Military Commander, Ayacucho Region)
Cuartel Los Cabitos
Ayacucho,
Peru

Senor General
Julian Julia Freyre
Ministro de Guerra
Ministerio de Guerra (Defence Minister)
s/n Av Boulevard
Lima, Peru.

RIGHT OF REPLY

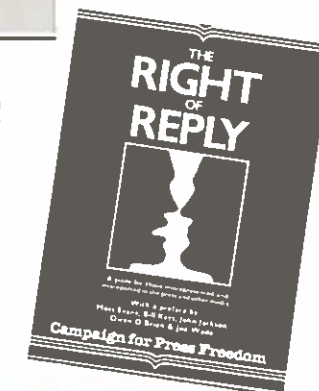
Keep up the pressure

In the first year the Right of Reply Unit has dealt with scores of requests for help from a broadening cross-section of groups and individuals on the receiving end of media distortion.

The articles by CAPA and Cynthia James illustrate the validity of the Right of Reply approach. They also show firstly that it isn't

only trade unionists who can get the Right of Reply, and, secondly, that, even in broadcasting, a direct and determined challenge can be highly effective.

These and other successes are soon to be fully documented in a new edition of our Right of Reply booklet which will mark the next stage in our Right of Reply Campaign.



Arms v. Food : the truth

By Cynthia James

East Anglian protest wins Right of Reply to political bias in Exhibition coverage

It was the scenes of famine in Africa last Spring which sparked off my resolve to mount an exhibition of posters in Ipswich, linking the cost of the arms race to the plight of the Third World. Its credibility would depend largely upon who sponsored it. I approached the local UNA Committee and they agreed to be the 'umbrella organisation'.

I could not have imagined that the result would be a major exhibition, 'People Need Water Not Weapons, Bread Not Bombs', embracing 16 organisations from UNICEF to CND. Each participating organisation was accepted only on condition that the message of its exhibit conformed to the general themes, and was consistent with the position of the UNA.

The centrepiece was a colourful diorama of an African village, professionally designed and lit: stalls were scattered around the hall, and a children's play area and space for film shows had been arranged. The well-planned, colourful and unique event took place on Oct. 22-3, 1984.

On the first morning, I was confronted by a reporter from the East Anglian Daily Times, who appeared to be convinced that the whole thing was merely a cover for CND and the Labour Party to spread 'left-wing' propaganda.

Despite being presented with detailed arguments to the contrary, his report, published next day under the headline 'Political Bias Alleged at Exhibition to Fight Famine' reflected his own 'conspiracy' theory and was itself blatantly biased. The allegation of bias had come from the local Conservative agent, whom the newspaper had asked to comment.

The reaction of the participants varied, some were extremely angry, others merely shrugged their shoulders philosophically!

A delegation visited the newspaper that afternoon and were met by a senior reporter, who gave the usual explanation — the press looks for controversy, etc and suggested that those offended should write letters of protest.

A 15 page report was prepared, covering every factual detail of the proceedings, expressing our displeasure and asking, not for an apology, but the 'Right of Reply'.

Some people felt that this should go to the Press Council: others, that we would only alienate ourselves from the local press and that the Press Council procedure was lengthy and limited in its powers.

We compromised and sent the report directly to the editor of the newspaper. As a result three of us were invited to meet the three senior editors.

We talked about why we did not receive the right coverage and were given advice on how to approach the newspaper in future.

Although we had decided to negotiate for a Right of Reply in the form of an article written ourselves, the editors suggested they allocate a feature writer to prepare a full page article.

We quickly accepted this offer and were subsequently contacted by the feature writer, Cathy Brown.



Cynthia James with local Labour MP at the Ipswich Exhibition

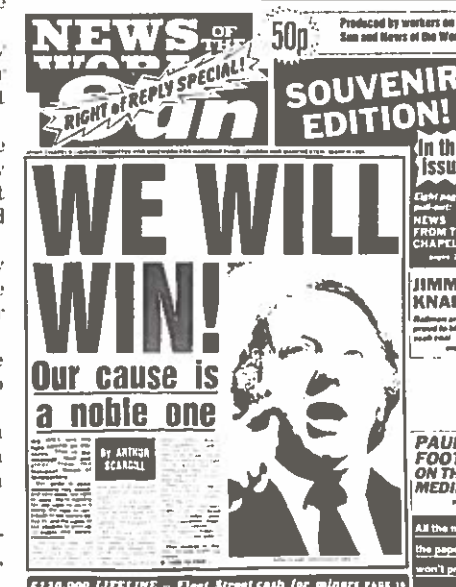
Miners in print

As the miners returned to press their case from inside the coalfields, printworkers on the Sun and the News of the World were raising much-needed cash for their cause with a second edition of the "Right of Reply Special."

Copies of the 48 page tabloid are still available at 50p each, cheques to 'NOW/Sun Miners' Hardship Fund' with order form (below), from:

J. Breen, DIFOC
c/o Composing Dept
News of the World
30 Bouverie Street
London EC4

Packed with great stories and features that tell the miner's side of the issue, it is a splendid souvenir of both their struggle and the efforts of printworkers to win them a Right of Reply against the bias and invective of Fleet Street.



Name/Organisation.....

Address.....

Contact Tel No.....
for despatch purposes

Number of copies.....

East End challenge to TV Eye view of racism

By Viki Carter & Tommy Sheppard of CAPA

As a campaigning organisation which runs a 24 hour emergency service for people who have problems with the police, we are a valuable resource for researchers and journalists who want information on the police and on racist attacks and harassment.

We were contacted by a production team from Thames Television working on the TV Eye programme shown in January called "Racial Outlaws". Their approach to research and the broadcast itself upset most community groups in Tower Hamlets concerned with opposing racism.

The problems started when, at the end of last year, they asked us to help 'set up' a racist attack for the cameras. We refused because we thought it irresponsible and morally indefensible to put people's lives in danger in order to make some dramatic TV film.

We then discovered that a freelance journalist who had told us she was working on a series of plays about Asian life in the East End, was in fact working for TV Eye. She deceived us and others into giving information. She also persuaded a Bengali family to be filmed by promising to rehouse them before the programme went out, a promise she could not fulfill.

The programme itself was staggeringly biased. Three times as much space was given to defending people accused of racist behaviour as to justifying legal action against them. Criminals convicted of violence and intimidation toward Asian people were allowed to put their view unchallenged. No explicit statement against racism was included in the programme.

Initially we attempted to get the programme stopped, and when we failed, did all we could do discredit it as a piece of journalism. The producer, Peter Gill, took the unusual step of going to the press and condemning those who objected to the broadcast. CAPA was singled out for denunciation and, accused of putting politics before the victims of racial harassment.

We are astounded at the lengths to which TV Eye has gone to vilify us, when all we did was lodge well-reasoned complaints through the appropriate channels. Together with many other community organisations and local church and political representatives, we had reported the arrogant and insensitive way in which the programme was made to the IBA. They allowed the programme to be shown.

The Community Alliance for Police Accountability was set up in May 1981, following a brutal police raid on a multi-racial playgroup party in Tower Hamlets.

Its management committee consists of elected representatives from Afro-Caribbean, Asian, church, community, education and youth groups in East London together with trade union, Labour Party, race relations and local Law Centre representatives.

Its aims are to monitor the activities, policies and behaviour of 'H' Division of the Metropolitan Police, particularly in relation to racial harassment, and to publicise its findings.

CAPA also offers a 24-hour helpline for those with complaints against police and can provide legal assistance.

CAPA are based at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, Bethnal Green E.2. Tel: 01-729 2652.

We then investigated the possibility of getting a High Court Injunction to prevent or delay broadcast, but lacked the 'locus standi' ourselves.

Eventually we supported an application for an Injunction made by the Bengali man whose family had been deceived into taking part. The application was heard the day before the scheduled broadcast. It failed, but the Judge requested the programme-makers to alter their film so that the man and his family were not identifiable. TV Eye made no alterations.

This legal move upset both Thames Television and the IBA since it required them to appear with their lawyers at short notice only 24 hours before the planned broadcast. It put them to considerable cost and trouble and meant that even before it was shown there were questions about the programme's credibility.

Once it went out reaction was so vociferous that Channel 4's "Right of Reply" immediately offered the community the opportunity to state its case. The Bishop of Stepney and Kumar Murshid of the Federation of Bangladeshi Youth Organisation were chosen by the community to confront producer, Peter Gill, in the studio discussion. Without doubt, the community's arguments won that skirmish.



The co-ordinating role that CAPA fulfilled meant that all complaints and responses reflected the views of as many people and organisations as possible, and enabled the community to respond quickly, and angrily, while the programme was still fresh in the public mind.

The next step was to construct a lengthy complaint to the IBA.

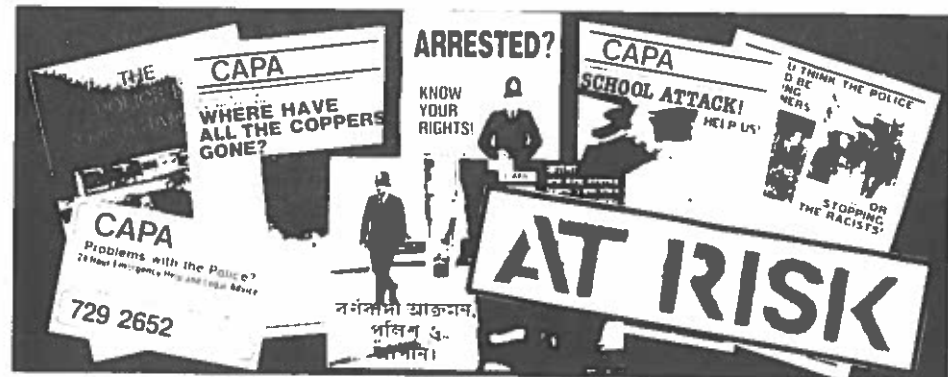
Two viewings of the programme were arranged so that representatives from community groups could agree on the content of the letter, which was signed by 14 organisations and backed up by letters from the Bishop of Stepney and local MP Ian Mikardo. The IBA assured Ian Mikardo that they would fully investigate the complaints.

Complaints about the behaviour of the producer and the freelance journalist were made to their respective unions. There are still being investigated. Several journalists contacted us because they refused to believe Peter Gill who was saying publicly that CAPA was "obstructive", "used people for their own purpose". Media interest led to articles in various newspapers, including a leader in the Guardian and much correspondence. Not all was entirely sympathetic, but the important thing was that this coverage totally discredited the programme. "Racial Outlaws" will never be credible evidence in the debate about how to combat racial harassment.

The way the community fought back has ensured that the harm done by the programme has to some extent been mitigated. We still firmly believe that it was a dangerous piece of propaganda which exacerbated racial tensions, gave a platform to fascists and encouraged racists to organise.

The despicable reaction of the programme makers when we dared to criticise them only strengthened our arguments. It does their case no good to imply that CAPA alone was responsible for jeopardising the programme and lodging the complaints.

To suggest that the many respected and respectable public figures who co-signed our complaint are all 'puppets' of CAPA is so ridiculous as to be laughable. It reveals that we have hit where it hurts. It's a pity more people don't do what we have done and more often.



REVIEW

In search of an alternative perspective.

THE FRENCH Minister of Culture commissioned this study of "Latin Audiovisual Space". Its main theme is the relationship of particular cultures and nations to the international media markets, especially cinema and video film distributions. I have elsewhere expressed the need for African 'space' in which people of African descent can express our ethos.

The French are afraid that the market is being swamped by Anglo-Saxon productions, especially from the U.S.A. But in the scramble for audio-visual space, mini-imperial conflicts develop. Spain tends to object that 'Latin Space' gets taken over by the French, and prefers Hispanic culture. Moreover, within 'Latin space', Morocco supplies Franco-phone Africa with American Westerns in French. Whilst modern audio-visual technology may break down barriers between countries, it

also tends to stifle with alien images the cultures of re-developing countries, those recuperating from the cultural ravages of the imperial epoch.

It is to the credit of the French authors that instead of writing a report about how to peddle more French images in 'Latin space' (i.e. the ex-

imports to admit. That suggestion put UNESCO in the firing line of the huge American film industry and Hollywood's own Mr Reagan. Would State control actually encourage cultural diversity? State regulation in Mexico and Brazil have helped the native film industry to survive

ZOLILE MBALI reviews INTERNATIONAL IMAGE MARKETS (Various authors) Comedia £4.95. CPBF price £4.25

French colonies) they have chosen to expose and analyze the threat to cultures of poorer countries posed by international trade in films and news.

Their study makes clearer the reasons for U.S. withdrawal of support from UNESCO, whose Mr. M'bow has declared the need to protect the masses from contamination by Western culture, suggesting that the State should decide what cultural

and thrive. The authors praise an African consortium for training consumers, distributors and film-makers for 'the mobilisation of resources against dependence'.

Although I expected more about news agencies and the debate about the New International Information Order, the writers rightly focus on the menace of global distribution of fiction-images like 'Dallas'.

There are revelations about how such films are tailored to

suit the demands of the advertising industry. Now I understand why my first experience of film was a bright little effort, screened in an African township, which extolled the powers of Sunlight Soap. The commercialization of culture across the world is depressing especially to those of us who came from invaded cultures.

After reading this book I ask, whither Africa? Since most people cannot afford the imports on offer, popular culture still has participation which makes each performance a communal celebration impossible to repeat or package for export. Western culture is exportable because it has lost its communal roots.

This report was originally and aptly entitled "Culture against Democracy". When the media merchants dominate the audio-visual space of the globe, it is not only the French who should be speaking up in favour of autonomous image-making by the people.

reporting on the activities of the established women's organisations as well as the new and more radical campaigns.

There have been problems. One distributor, was unwilling to carry the magazine until he knew what "line" it would be taking on the women's peace camp at Greenham Common.

"Everywoman" publishes monthly, price 60p. It is typeset by Lasso, the women's co-op that also handles Free Press.

Everywoman's dream?

by Samantha Hellawell

Everywoman hopes to be unique among women's magazines in terms of content: news, comment, ideas, interviews, the arts, style, books and sport.

Covers will reflect the magazine's approach: positive and confident. Political, social and economic developments will be covered in terms of how they affect women. To cross barriers between feminists and women generally, there will be systematic

The new current affairs magazine for women began life in a greasy-spoon cafe on the Caledonian Road, North London. Barbara Rogers and Candy Atherton wanted to reach women, cutting across divisions of age, occupation and social status.

The idea of producing an independent new magazine is a popular topic among enterprising journalists and writers. But the difference between thinking and doing is so daunting that few people are prepared to put their bright ideas to the test.

A small-ad was placed in the Guardian's Women's Page, and life was never quite the same. Over a hundred women telephoned or wrote. Suitable alterations were made for a makeshift office in what had been a bedroom.

A co-op was formed, and collective decision are now taken by the five women working full-time; membership is dependent on the skills and time invested. Many other women, employed and unemployed, have offered support and the list of voluntary workers is impressive. One woman wrote, "Basically I am quite a mundane, ordinary sort of woman but am always interested and keen to do things for women. How can I help?"

For more information contact **EVERYWOMAN at: The Galleries, Camden Passage, London N1 01-359 5496**

Spare Rib



"Hold the front page!!"



Q What do miners do when they are maligned by the media?

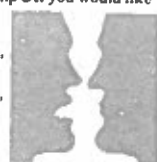
A Call the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom on 01-437 2795

If the campaign's Right of Reply Unit could help you. If you would like details of the campaign's policies, activities, and membership. If you would like to send a donation.

Call the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, or drop us a line:

CPBF, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG.

The media moguls will be sorry you did!



ALTERNATIVES

GEORGE JERROM of the NGA concludes our series on alternatives to the Press Council with a call to industrial action...

Hit them where it hurts!

The desire of workers at the point of production to have an impact upon the content of newspapers has been a relatively new phenomenon.

In an agreement reached after the General Strike in 1926, all the unions declared they would not interfere with the editorial content of publications.

There were isolated challenges to that position during the late 1960's and 1970's when individual print workers with a strong view about racism, anti-trade union activity, etc., took responsibility for closing down presses in a reactive fashion resulting in the loss of copies. They were subject to disciplinary procedures by the company and their union.

These actions did not assist the development of a positive campaign to place a brake on the excesses of the media, or to establish redress against bias.

Since the advent of the CPBF, with active print union participation, and the Right of Reply Campaign that, in part, seeks to utilise industrial pressure, print workers have sought to operate as individuals but without the threat of disciplinary action from their own union. They now act in concert with union policy, seeking redress by establishing disclaimers on behalf of the print workers or seeking a Right of Reply for those who feel aggrieved.

Many print workers are not persuaded of the need for the Right of Reply, except in those rare instances when they personally or their union is involved. Developing the principle on behalf of other groups remains a slow process. In my view it is of fundamental importance to win workers at the point of production to the view that something positive needs to be done about newspaper bias, and that they can do it.

So far the most notable efforts by print workers have been on behalf of other trade unionists' problems, especially in response to the mine workers and their need for a Right of Reply. I believe the effectiveness of this type of action is of great value and we must constantly emphasise its constructive nature.

Rather than leave the response to print workers on the night of production, organisations in a dispute that is reported nationally or locally should present in written form their view of the dispute and distribute it to other unions, particularly in the print, so that we have the facts as that organisation sees them. This would remove the argument that print workers are acting as censors whenever they challenge their editors for the Right of Reply.

In some cases we can ensure that an organisation will have on a set date in the future equal space and prominence to put their case. While this is not necessarily as satisfactory as a side-by-side presentation, it has the effect of moderating the approach of some papers.

If there are deficiencies in the Right of Reply Campaign they are that it is not yet broad enough either in the overall spontaneity of response in all newspapers to a particular issue on

a particular night, or in an understanding of the needs of other groups within society who are equally misrepresented — racism, women's issues, tenants, old age pensioners. Nevertheless I am of the firm view that the threat of action at the point of production is of fundamental importance to the success and development of the Right of Reply Campaign.

I would be very cautious of any Right of Reply legislation that prohibited industrial action. Legislation needs to be policed and what could be worse than a Press Council with statutory powers trundling towards a Right of Reply weeks after it was needed. Any legislation must recognise the need for an immediate Right of Reply. That can only be guaranteed by winning the workers at the point of production to an understanding of the need to respond if a Right of Reply is to be achieved.

Our policy at the moment means that when an editor exercises his freedom to determine what stories should appear, then we exercise our freedom to have a fairer presentation of that story. This never happens voluntarily; it does happen when we apply industrial power. Therefore, while I would not detract from efforts to achieve a legal Right of Reply, nor deny that economic changes are needed to give us a broader-based and more diverse media, I do believe we should encourage and develop industrial strength, particularly in the provinces, to win the Right of Reply.

NEWS ON SUNDAY

Work is already in progress on a feasibility study which could mean the launch of a new left-of-centre Sunday newspaper in 1986.

The dismal response of trade unions, in financial terms, to the MacCarthy Report commissioned by the TUC, made the chances of a new Labour daily look remote. Prominent members of the CPBF however have been saying for some years that the real market gap is for a weekend paper.

Now the News On Sunday group have won finance from the Transport and General Workers Union, the National Union of Public Employees, the Greater London Enterprise Board and others to undertake a comprehensive feasibility study including production of a dummy.

And the Campaign's AGM gave its support to the project following a National Committee decision to back the feasibility study. Mike Power and Loretta Loach, both National Committee members, have been appointed to the News On Sunday executive board which is to supervise the study. Former Mirror Group Newspaper chief Clive Thornton is also involved.

The plan is to pitch the paper somewhere between a Sunday Guardian and a left-of-centre Mail on Sunday — but a more precise profile should emerge from tests conducted around initial dummies.

FREE PRESS will keep Campaign members informed of progress and developments in the project from the perspective of our aims to encourage diversity, equal opportunities and new forms of ownership in the press.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Essex papers fight Council gag

By Liz Bellerby

Maldon District Council in Essex is attempting to 'gag' the press by requesting them not to publish council officer's recommendations in advance of committee meetings.

Their restrictions were introduced the day before Hornchurch MP, Robin Squires, won an unopposed second reading in the House of Commons for his Local Government (Access to Information) Bill.

The Colchester Evening Gazette, the Maldon and Burnham Standard and the Essex Chronicle received letters from the council's Chief Executive two days later asking them to comply with a "voluntary understanding" not to publish "opinions or recommendations" contained in officers reports until after council committee meetings.

This signalled a victory for local Tory leader Rodney Bass who argues that the press should not

anticipate decisions by reporting on council officers' views.

The reports are circulated to the press with the agendas of meetings. Local papers print advance

"No comment"

Sir Patrick Neill QC was the chief promoter of the proposal to confer an honorary doctorate of law on Mrs Thatcher.

Appointed Chair of the Press Council in 1978, he was knighted and retired in 1983 to become warden of All Souls College, Oxford.

He declined to comment when a Campaign member sought his response to the rebuff his fellow dons gave to his proposal.

stories based on the contents as a way of giving notice to the public of issues to be discussed.

Mr Bass said reports from officers were for members' eyes only and not the public or press.

He warned that if the press did not go along with the "voluntary" embargo it could be made compulsory.

In a front-page editorial one local paper called this "An Insult to the Public". Evening Gazette editor Peter Laurie made it clear the paper would have "no truck with such an undemocratic proposal."

"The Essex Chronicle sees this as a backward step for open local democracy and will fight any proposal to make this a permanent ruling," said assistant editor Eileen Poulton.

The Gazette's sister paper the Maldon and Burnham Standard also made it clear that it would not be going along with the voluntary embargo.



Shifting Secrets

If anyone had any doubt that the Campaign Freedom of Information would not be able to maintain its momentum after 1984, they can hardly have them now.

The campaign is well on the way to achieving its first legislation, following the Government's decision to support the Local Government (Access to Information) Bill being introduced under the Private Members' procedure by Robin Squire.

Unfortunately, progress has not been so good on the question of closed water authorities, but we intend to keep hammering at it.

In the meantime, the Ponting affair has of course placed Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act and excessive Whitehall secrecy generally back at the top of the political agenda.

The campaign condemned the prosecution of Clive Ponting and supported his defence fund for three reasons:

First, because whether or not he was justified in his action (and the campaign does not support indiscriminate breaches of confidence), it did not warrant a criminal prosecution. It is our view that leaks, unless they affect national security or are made for corrupt purposes, should be dealt with by internal disciplinary proceedings.

Second, it is in our view immoral for Ministers to employ repressive legislation that has been so widely condemned.

Third, the continued leaks after the prosecution on Sarah Tisdall and Clive Ponting further demonstrate that punitive measures do not enhance the cause of confidentiality.

We welcome the deserved humiliation for the Attorney General who cynically used an Act he had himself condemned when in Opposition and we find it difficult to believe that he or any of his successors would dare to attempt a similar prosecution now.

It is clearly of importance that everybody concerned with these issues applies the maximum pressure for reform, but we should all be careful that this does not lead to even more repressive legislation than we have at the moment.

It has to be stressed that reform of Section 2 without the introduction of freedom of information legislation will not do.

We have an exceptional opportunity to unite those on all sides of the debate behind a measure that could achieve both the objective of the State of better control of genuinely confidential material, and the objective of the citizen of much greater freedom of information.

Des Wilson

CFI membership costs £7.50 p.a. More details and copies of "Secrets" (50p) are available from: 2 Northdown St., London N1 9BG.

PRESS COUNCIL

COMPLAINTS



Last summer the SDP lodged a complaint with the Broadcasting Complaints Commission on the grounds of unjust and unfair treatment on television and news programmes broadcast by the BBC and the IBA. Our complaint was that even though the Alliance parties obtained 25.4% of the votes cast in the General Election, compared to the Labour Party's 27.6%, and in spite of the breakdown in voting in subsequent by-elections which has given us a 36% share of votes cast, the Conservatives 35% and Labour only 27%, television coverage of the Alliance has been a tiny fraction of that accorded to our two major rivals.

Our own monitoring of the BBC and ITV news showed that Conservative and Government spokesmen had a 70% overall share, Labour 25% and the two Alliance parties only 5%. Recent evidence on the coverage of the miners' strike shows a share-out of broadcasting time of even less coverage for the Alliance parties.

The Commission's response to our complaint was to reply that it had no jurisdiction to consider it. We decided, therefore, to challenge their decision in the High Court, for even if we achieved nothing else it would draw attention to our grievance. It would also answer the question as to whether there was any appeal mechanism or whether we have to rely on the

All Alliance view from SUE ROBERTSON, Secretary SDP Parliamentary Committee.

Government-appointed BBC Board of Governors and the IBA Board.

The judges upheld our case on jurisdiction but ruled that the Broadcasting Complaints Commission were within their rights to use their wide discretion and not consider our complaint. The judgement raises vital questions about the relationship between broadcasting, politics and the law. It shows that the Broadcasting Complaints Commission has no teeth and that there is no way that a substantial complaint of imbalance can be made about the way British politics are reported on the TV News.

The television companies are complacent in the face of criticism. Surely it is wrong that they, unelected and answerable to no-one, should be the sole arbiters on this most fundamental issue. There appears to be no alternative to directly suing the BBC for unfairness, based on them not complying with the Charter. We will carefully consider the chances and the costs of doing this. However, one thing is clear, we cannot go on with the appallingly unfair coverage that mirrors the number of MPs in the House of Commons and ignores the levels of support for the Alliance in the country.

NAME

Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom

OBJECTS

* To challenge the myths of 'impartiality' and 'balance' in broadcasting, and 'objectivity' in newspapers by campaigning for the genuine presentation of the diversity and plurality of society.

* To challenge the myth that only private ownership of the newspaper industry provides genuine freedom, diversity or access.

* To challenge the myth that the present forms of ownership and regulation of broadcasting guarantee editorial independence, democratic accountability or high programme standards.

* To carry out research and generate debate on alternative forms of ownership and control of newspapers and broadcasting in order to guarantee freedom from either state control or domination by business conglomerates, and encourage the creation of alternative media including those sympathetic to the labour movement.

* To work for press and broadcasting that are free of material detrimental to women and to homosexuals of both sexes.

* To seek equality of opportunity and achievement for women in the media.

* To encourage the development of industrial democracy in the newspaper and broadcasting industries.

RULES OF THE CAMPAIGN

In giving unanimous support to a National Committee proposal to amend the Rules of the Campaign, the AGM required the National Committee to reissue the Rules and Aims.

The revised Rules and Aims are set out below, with all changes agreed at the AGM in bold, including the two new aims moved by the CPBF Women's Group.

* To encourage debate on the implications of technology advances in the media to ensure that the public interest is safeguarded and that commercial interests do not override public accountability.

* To campaign on the general principles in the Minority Report of the 1977 Royal Commission on the Press, including proposals for a National Printing Corporation to provide a competitive public sector in the industry and a launch fund to assist new publications.

* To campaign for a reconstituted Press Council to promote basic standards of fairness and access to the press on behalf of the public. The Right of Reply is fundamental to redressing the imbalance in press bias.

* To campaign for a reduction in legal restrictions on freedom of publication and increased access to information through a Freedom of Information Bill and reform of the Official Secrets Act and similar restrictive legislation.

* To campaign for the legal right of access for publications to the distribution system, and a guarantee right of display.

(i) *individuals* — all individual members of the campaign to be eligible to attend and to vote;

(ii) *organisations* — all organisations affiliated to the campaign to be invited to send delegates, as shown below, in accordance with the number of members on which they are affiliated.

Number of Members	Number of Delegates to AGM
Below 1,000	1
1,000—10,000	2
10,000—50,000	3
50,000—100,000	5
100,000 over	10

All individual members and delegates attending shall be entitled to one vote.

(iii) *Supporting organisations* — any organisation which has carried a motion of support for the campaign and which has also provided practical and financial support may be admitted at the discretion of the national committee to a separate category of supporting organisation and shall be entitled to representation and voting rights at the AGM.

MOTIONS TO AGM

All members and organisations shall be invited to submit motions for debate at AGM. Notices of AGM shall be sent out not less than 13 weeks before the AGM. The last date for the receipt of motions shall be 6 weeks before the date of AGM. The last date for receipt of amendments to motions shall be 2 weeks before the date of AGM.

Ordinary motions shall be declared carried on receiving a simple majority of votes cast. Motions to change these rules shall require a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The national committee, consisting of 28 members, shall be elected at the AGM. The committee shall be elected in sections. Delegates may be nominated in only one section but may vote in all sections.

1. Individual members: 6 representatives.

2. Members of the NUJ: 4 representatives.

3. Workers in the printing and allied trades: 4 representatives.

4. Workers in broadcasting: 4 representatives.

5. Other trade unions: 4 representatives.

6. Other organisations: 6 representatives.

No member or delegate may stand for election in more than one section. Invitations to nominate shall be invited not less than 12 weeks before the AGM. Nominations may be taken at the AGM from within any group in which 2 weeks before the AGM insufficient nominations have been received.

The national committee shall have powers to co-opt.

The national committee shall elect from among its members a chairperson, secretary or convenor and treasurer and shall allocate such other responsibilities and duties as it decides are necessary for the running of the campaign.

REGIONAL COMMITTEES

The national committee shall be empowered to set up regional or local committees. Individuals and organisations supporting these committees shall pay membership subscriptions direct to the national committee, which shall be empowered to make grants to support the work of the campaign in the regions.

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REPORTBACK: Campaign AGM March 2 1985

Delegates preview banned Official Secrets documentary

Who's paranoid now?

An unexpected bonus at this year's AGM was the showing of 20/20 Vision's documentary "M15's Official Secrets". The film contains numerous alarming revelations about M15 from two former employees about clandestine operations against groups and individuals with dissident, but by no means illegal, views.

Specific accusations include: the infiltration of Friends of the Earth and CND; the opening of secret files on NCCL members and the designation of these as "communist sympathisers"; and the burglary and bugging of the home of Ken Gill, General Secretary of TASS and member of the TUC General Council.

If the issues raised in the programme weren't already serious enough the IBA then opened yet another can of worms by initially refusing to let a protesting Channel 4 transmit it.

However tempting, it would be quite wrong and unhelpful to regard the IBA as simply the government's lapdog. The IBA did not ban the programme to save the government's face — indeed, with the second reading of the Interception of Communications Bill just coming up, the Tories would probably have preferred transmission and a shortlived fuss to banning and a prolonged row.

The IBA was merely fearful that it might be breaking the much discredited Section Two of the Official Secrets Act if they allowed transmission. The Attorney-General, fearful that any attempted prosecution would lead to even more secrets being spilled in court and possibly another Ponting-style humiliation for the government at the hands of an independent-minded jury, gave the wink that no prosecutions would be forthcoming. Immediately the IBA allowed the film to be shown.

By Julian Petley

Meanwhile the Guardian had already printed an edited transcript, other papers had repeated its allegations in varying degrees of detail, the programme had begun to circulate widely on video and had been shown in several cinemas nationwide. All without any legal action being taken.

The IBA, however, has never been famous for its boldness.

In the wake of the infamous *Scum* judgement, when Lord Justice Watkins accused IBA director John Whitney of a "grave error of judgement" in not referring the film to the full board prior to its Channel 4 screening, the IBA has become even more craven and gutless.

The real problem, of course is that while the press can publish and be damned the Broadcasting Act puts the IBA in the anomalous position of being not simply the publisher of programme produced by ITV companies, but also the statutory regulator of what is, or isn't published.

If every potential "difficult" programme is referred to that staid collection of the "good and the great" which composes the IBA Board, as now seems likely, was may be witnessing "the reversal of at least a decade of investigative journalism" as 20/20 Visions's Geoffrey Seed puts it.

In the short term, the appeal against the *Scum* verdict must be fought with the utmost tenacity.

Over and above that the Broadcasting Act needs to be reformed to make Channel 4 and the independent television companies the publishers of their own programmes.

If there isn't a separation of the power to regulate and the power to publish, then all television journalism is liable to degenerate to the level of the IBA's apparent friend, TV-am.

NEW NATIONAL COMMITTEE**Individuals:**

Mark Hollingsworth, Kate Holman*, Mike Jempson*, John Jennings*, Julian Petley, Marc Wadsworth.

Broadcasting unions:

Deborah Arnott (ACTT); Harold Brookstone (ACTT); Simon Higman (ABS); Giles Oakley* (ABS)

NUJ:

Simon Collings, John Foster*, Ted McFadyen, David Thompson.

Print unions:

John Beck* (NGA); John Mitchell (SOGAT), Alf Parrish (NGA); Mike Power* (NGA)

Other unions:

Ross Forbes (NUM), Mark Lilly (NATFHE); John Monks (NALGO); Dave Shepherd* (CPSA)

Other organisations:

Jane Drinkwater (London Media Project); Andrew Hewitt (CND); Loretta Loach* (Spare Rib); Alan Richardson* (Hornsey & Wood Green CLP); Betty Rubinstein (Bournemouth NCCL); Geoff Sheridan* (New Socialist)

Officers will be elected at the first meeting of the new National Committee.

An asterisk * indicates those re-elected from last year's committee.

The AGM accepted a recommendation from the out-going National Committee that nominees from regional groups should be co-opted.

Caroline Grist and Angela Thew will share representation of the North-West, Mark Williams will represent the West Midlands and Trevor Wright the Welsh CPBF.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all individuals and organisation which support the objects of the campaign upon payment of an annual subscription or affiliation fee to be determined by the annual general meeting. The campaign's sponsors shall be individual honorary members with full voting rights.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An annual general meeting shall be held on a date to be determined by the national committee. Representation at the AGM shall be as follows:

FIGHTING RACISM IN THE MEDIA

The AGM unanimously endorsed the call from North-West CPBF regional



organiser Nancy Jaeger (below) for the Campaign to formulate a coherent policy on the reporting of racial issues in the media.

She cited the NUJ Code of Conduct and Guidelines in race reporting, and the NGA-NUJ agreement on racism but stressed that much more needs to be done if racial stereotyping and racist reporting are to be eradicated.

Mike Jempson pointed out that only two black people had ever been elected to the National Committee and called for more efforts to involve the black community in setting the agenda for change.

There is an urgent need for employers and media unions to encourage recruitment of black workers in all areas of the industry, added David Thompson.

Strengthening the Campaign



● On the platform (L-R) John Jennings, Loretta Loach, Mike Power, Jake Ecclestone, and Giles Oakley.

Pictures: JOHN BARRETT

Throughout the day great emphasis was placed on broadening the membership and the preoccupations of the Campaign.

"It must not be just a clique of media people," members argued. "Efforts must be made to attract and engage all sections of the community."

LOCAL RADIO POLICY

"There is no free press for black people," declared Ricky McCarthy of the Afro-Caribbean Radio Project (right) responding to a motion condemning de-regulation of the airwaves.

"If projects like ours did not exist, blacks in places like Brixton would have no means of communicating about their concerns," he said.

Janet Whyatt of Manchester's Piccadilly Radio moved an amended motion which called for strict public controls on the proposed "third sector" of community radio stations. Without regulation, she said, the multi-nationals would move in and create "super-market radio" under monopoly control with little local or community coverage on highly commercial broadcasting stations.

There was opposition too from Richard Barbrook of the Community Radio Project, who considered the motion irrelevant and called for "democratic accessible



stations". And Phil Cox of Gaywaves said the motion was appalling "sexist, racist and authoritarian."

But delegates and members took the view that without legal controls the airwaves would be lost forever to community and special interest groups, and they adopted the resolution overwhelmingly.

MIKE JEMPSON reports on AGM debates

Anti-Sexism Code Adopted

The painstaking process of devising a comprehensive Code of Conduct to combat all forms of sexism in the media was described by Kate Holman (right).

Introducing the Code for adoption by the Campaign she said "Stereotyping damages everyone in society."

"Images of the women's movement are as distorted by the media as the images portrayed of trade unions and blacks," she explained. The Code was designed, and had been through several draftings after extensive consultation, to ensure that women, gays, and children are not subjected to misrepresentation, trivialisation, or sensationalism by the media.

The Code promotes positive images of women and accurate representation of their contribution to society.

Mark Lilly added that gays have been "marginalised" by their treatment in the media, and asked that sexism and heterosexism (the assumption that hetero-sexuality is the only standpoint from which the world should be viewed) be handled in the same way.

Loretta Loach reminded the conference that "we are not in a postfeminist era — there is still a long way to go."

Unanimous adoption of the resolution (see FP26) means that the CPBF will now seek backing from trade unions and other organisations to promote the Code of Conduct.



In separate motions the AGM agreed to adopt two new aims dealing with this issue (see p.10) and to publish a pamphlet spelling out the Code and guidelines for its implementation.

OBJECTIONS OVER-RULED

Pressure from the IBA, commercial tv companies and advertisers caused a political switch away from radical independent programme-making at Channel 4 during its second year, said Aidan White.

He was replying to a motion from Freedom Association member Chris Alderton which condemned CPBF objections to anti-union items on "Diverse Reports".

She maintained that Diverse has good campaign credentials and had created a new tradition of right-wing news and current affairs.

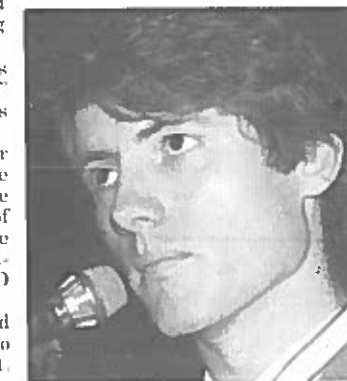
"They have elevated nutty views with no thought for the victims" countered White, and the motion was overwhelmingly rejected.

Ms Alderton suffered another defeat when she proposed a censure motion on the editor of Tribune. She alleged that he had refused a Right of Reply following "a highly inaccurate and distorted report" of the inaugural meeting of Conservative CND last September.

CPBF worker, Lesley Wood said that no approach had been made to the Campaign's Right of Reply Unit.

The complainants had not provided the substance of their objections nor had they taken similar action against the Daily Telegraph when it printed a similar story.

Andrew Fox, Secretary of Cons. CND (below), explained that when he sought a Right of Reply from Tribune's then editor, Chris Mullin had offered to publish a rebuttal in the form of a letter of equal length to the offending article.



Thanks

There was applause for Notts miner Malcolm Howard, one of two retiring NUM members of the National Committee, and congratulations for Nik Oakley who left to become marketing director of the Labour Party. She was formerly an editor of Free Press. And there were thanks to Bob Birkitt, Geoff Dixon, George Jerrom, Charles Tremayne, and Aidan White for their contributions as National Committee members.

Special thanks went to Jake Ecclestone (below), one of the longest-serving members and a joint secretary of the Campaign who is currently Deputy General Secretary of the NUJ.

Presenting his report Jake paid tribute to the assistance he has received from staff at the NUJ and the three full-time staff in the Campaign headquarters.

"They have made a tremendous difference to the efficiency of our work, and the range of our activities," he said.



Right of Reply: printworkers praised



Alf Parrish (left) National Newspaper Officer of the NGA and newly elected member of the CPBF National Committee, moved a motion congratulating printworkers on their sterling work in support of the Right of Reply campaign, especially during the miners' strike.

But he warned, "the advent of new technology is being used to undermine trade unions — including the ability of unions to

obtain the Right of Reply." The only answer is "cohesive industrial pressure by media unions", he said.

His theme was taken up by two other NGA members including union vice-president Alec Speed.

NUJ Broadcasting Officer John Foster pointed out that members of the journalists' union too had been in close contact with the NUM and attempted to curb the excesses of media bias in a principled way. He called for "one united media union", and

warned against inter-union wrangling.

NUJ NEC member David Thompson echoed this view and said "Not all journalists are socialists. This is not an excuse, but a reason for some of the things that appear in print. Some of them believe in what they're writing."

The motion won unanimous approval.

The AGM also agreed that an updated version of the Right of Reply booklet should be published.

NEWS ON SUNDAY

An enthusiastic welcome was given to plans for a new national left-of-centre Sunday newspaper. National Committee members are to serve on the executive team conducting a feasibility study with finance from several national unions and the GLEB. Clive Thornton, ex-of Mirror Group Newspapers, is also involved and is confident that cash can be raised for a launch in 1986.

The new-look Free Press is to take adverts, expand to a regular 12-pages, and seek fresh outlets to increase Campaign membership.

More attention should be paid to attracting non-media readers, members insisted, and there were calls for bulk-buying arrangements to increase sales through local groups. FP goes up in price with this issue and will offer free books to successful recruitment efforts by members.

CAMPAIGN NEEDS MONEY

Book and video sales and stocks are up, reports Treasurer Geoff Sheridan. Membership needs a boost. More attention should be paid to attracting non-media readers, members insisted, and there were calls for bulk-buying arrangements to increase sales through local groups. FP goes up in price with this issue and will offer free books to successful recruitment efforts by members.

Pressure of business meant that several motions were remitted to the new National Committee for consideration. They included two on the GLC, two on financial planning, and another on the Nottingham Evening Post.

JENNINGS GETS OVATION

There was applause and pledges of support for John Jennings when he reported on progress in his libel defence campaign against the Freedom Association. He thanked members for their help and announced that appeal literature is to be circulated nationally.

MOTIONS REMITTED