

FREE PRESS

TUC meeting

From Broadwater Farm to South-east Asia, via Wapping, this year's TUC fringe meeting covered a lot of ground.

There were excellent contributions from all four speakers, at the formal launch of the Media Manifesto.

Martha Osamore, a Haringey councillor, linked what was happening on Broadwater Farm to what was happening nationally.

The media, she said, had a lot to answer for, particularly in its coverage of events last October, when it totally ignored "the history of the concrete jungle", and failed to pick up the history of confrontation between the police and the community.

She said that Wapping had made the question of press ownership, access and accountability an important issue for the black community on Broadwater Farm.

Paul Routledge, former Labour Editor of the Times, and latterly South-east Asia correspondent in Singapore had refused to file copy into Wapping since the beginning of the dispute. He said that journalistic freedom and the freedom to belong to a trade union, to organise and negotiate were inextricably linked. "The lack of freedom at Wapping reflects and buttresses the lack of freedom in society at large. Where workers in the media are not free, I do not believe people in that society are free".

Another forner News International employee, John Bailey said he did not see himself as a victim, and while he looked at the issues surrounding Wapping in the context of his job, there were other things to consider. What, for instance, were we doing in producing a paper like the Sun? "From page one to the imprint it is an insult to people."

NUJ Gen Sec Harry Conroy asked "How do you equate a free press with the pursuit of profit?" Selling the product and making money were the driving forces behind the Sun, not the provision of information.

After nearly ten years it was time to revive the Minority Report of the 1977 Royal Commission on the Press for a National Printing Corporation he said, to encourage the growth of diversity among newspapers and in particular to offer financial assistance for new publications.

ESSENTIAL READING FOR CAMPAIGN MEMBERS



Double Discount
on two important books
from Pluto Press!

ORDER YOUR COPIES NOW
and save over £2



The Press & Political Dissent
£6.96 CPBF price £5.95p

Bending Reality
£5.95 CPBF price £4.95

Order both together for only £10.50 (inc postage & packing!)
Cheques/POs to CPBF, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG

Media Research Trust

A charitable trust has been established by supporters of the Campaign to carry out research, produce educational material and disseminate information about the media.

It could be a useful resource for students of the media, media workers and members of the Campaign.

The Trustees are Beverley Anderson, Bernie Bunsee, James Curran, John Jennings, Mike Power and Lesley Wood.

Their first meeting will take place in November when plans for a fund-raising launch in the New Year will be discussed.

CPBF Black group

The Black Group tries to meet every month, and is currently working on an educational pack and a conference on Racism in the Media.

Among the sub-groups working on this project are one on anti-semitism and the media and another on anti-Irish bias. Contributions and participation from Campaign members, black and white, are welcomed.

The Campaign is considering the appointment of a second, part-time Black worker.

If you would like to be involved, in these issues or in the development of Black perspectives on media issues, contact Perminder on 01-437 2795.

Keith of Sunday

Keith Sutton, Editor of strike paper Wapping Post, has won the coveted top job at News on Sunday. He starts work this month, and the paper is now scheduled to appear early next Spring.

It will be based in Manchester and adverts for editorial staff should appear soon.

LONDON WOMEN'S GROUP WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 29th

Developing anti-racist policies in feminist magazine and book publishing. Phone CPBF office for details.

LESBIAN AND GAY GROUP now meets regularly on the first Monday of every month at NALGO, HQ near Kings Cross. 6.30 p.m.

Urgent

Lobby Channel 4 and TV Times to demand more information about the under-publicised Lesbian and Gay Film season, and to counter Mary Whitehouse's attempts to ban future gay programmes.

The CPBF is to meet Jeremy Isaacs during October to discuss these issues — give him the benefit of your opinions now.

For more details phone Julieanne on 01-437 2795.

Over matter!

Some bewildered members received more copies of FP36 than they were expecting. Others got less than they were entitled to. This was the result of a human error at our distribution house — where computer reference numbers were mis-read.

By now the shortfall should have been rectified, but our apologies to those who received FREE PREE late. Hopefully those who got too many have used them to spread the word and gain new members for the Campaign.

FREE PRESS is edited for the National Council by MIKE JEMPSON. Copy for FP38 to the Campaign Office by Nov 1, please.

CAMPAIGN NEWS

FREE PRESS 30p

JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR
PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM
No. 37 OCTOBER 1986

Get stuck in — make the media an election issue . . .

Launched at the TUC in Brighton, the Campaign's Media Manifesto is now up for grabs.

It outlines the issues that have been the core of Campaign activities over the last seven years, and suggests ways of making the media more accessible and accountable.

But the idea is to generate a nationwide debate about the role and responsibilities of the media. And it is up to Campaign members to start the ball rolling...

Discuss the Manifesto in your neighbourhood, at work, in your union branch and any other organisation you belong to. Raise it in the local media. Organise public meetings.

Write to your MP, your MEP, and local councillors telling them what you think of the media, and asking them to make clear what their position is.

Most important of all, keep the Campaign informed about the results of your endeavours to make the media an election issue.

— Full text of the Media Manifesto INSIDE —

MEDIA MANIFESTO

CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM
Can we tell them what we want or do they tell us what to think?

The unacceptable face of the British media

The razor wire around Rupert Murdoch's Wapping printworks is the symbol of press freedom in Thatcher's Britain — the freedom of proprietors to do what they want with their workforce, and determine what we should read.

Few people can now doubt what the "technological revolution" means when the media are in the hands of powerful magnates.

OUR DEMANDS ★ THE RIGHT TO KNOW

THE RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE

EVERYONE should have the right to information, news and opinion, and the right of access to the printed word and to the airwaves, so long as such rights are not abused to incite violence, race hatred or sexual discrimination.

Those who control the media should be publicly accountable. News, information and communication systems should be considered a public service not a

the main political parties to explain publicly what steps they are prepared to take to increase press and broadcasting freedom, regulate the media, and bring the communications industry under democratic control.

The redrafted Manifesto will spell out in greater detail both the issues and a programme of regulation and reform. It will be compiled from the responses gathered in what promises to be the CPBF's most ambitious campaign so far.

Over to you...

BOOK NOW

Campaign Christmas Spectacular

at London's Piccadilly Theatre
Sunday 7th December

A biased revue of media distortion and official secrecy directed by John Turner

LIVE ON STAGE: Beverley Anderson, Ben Elton, Vincent Hanna, Ken Livingstone, Des Wilson and a host of top entertainers.

Tickets from £7.50 to £50
(plus some UB40/OAP seats at £3)

Proceeds to joint sponsors: CPBF and Campaign for Freedom of Information.

For more details contact Davy Jones at the Campaign Office.

If you had visited Chernobyl
on Friday 25 April, you
would have seen a clean, safe
nuclear plant.

After Saturday 26 April, if
you lived up to 100 miles from
Chernobyl you would have
been evacuated, or worse.

What does a visit to Sellafield
really prove?

GREENPEACE
36 Graham Street
London
N1 8LL

Banned by the IBA

While the government has sponsored a £2m TV advertising campaign with our money to persuade us that nuclear power is safe and vital to the economy, Greenpeace were refused permission to broadcast this simple counter attack.

Greenpeace has launched an appeal to lobby for the closedown of the nuclear industry.

Meanwhile the IBA has banned an anti-apartheid TV advert made by the TUC.

PLEASE TICK APPROPRIATE BOX

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| a) Individual membership | £7 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Unwaged | £2 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Household (2 copies of FREE PRESS) | £10 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Supporting membership
(includes FREE CPBF publications) | £15 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Institutional membership
(includes 10 copies of FREE PRESS,
plus FREE CPBF publications) | £15 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |

Affiliation by organisation

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| f) Less than 1,000 members | £12 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g) 1,000 to 10,000 members | £30 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h) 10,000 to 50,000 members | £60 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| i) 50,000 to 100,000 members | £120 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| j) Over 100,000 members | £300 p.a. <input type="checkbox"/> |

(I/We want to join the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom and enclose a cheque/PO for £

Name/s:

Organisation (if applicable):

Secretary (if different from above):

Address:

Postcode: Tel:

Where did you obtain your copy of FREE PRESS?

JOIN CPBF HERE

FILL IN
& SEND OFF
TO CPBF,
9, Poland Street
London W1 3DG

ACCESS FOR ALL

NALGO knows more than most about media bias.

We've seen our fight to save jobs and services, against cuts and abolition portrayed as a threat to democracy.

We've seen social workers we represent pilloried for alleged mistakes that no one could have foreseen or prevented.

We've seen our gay and lesbian members caricatured and mocked.

And there's 750,000 of us.

What chance do smaller groups have, let alone individuals?

Not only against media, particularly newspapers, that will smear and distort anyone or anything just to make quick profits.

But also against the even less accountable handful of companies who distribute these media, and whose policies effectively censor and silence all but the most powerful and established.

This can't go on. We need the right of reply to those who misrepresent us, and guaranteed access to distribution systems to ensure our voice is heard.

The CPBF Media Manifesto is a massive step in the right direction. NALGO wholeheartedly supports it — and we urge you to use it to get a better deal for all from the media.

NALGO

National and Local Government Officers Association, 1 Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9AJ.
Telephone 01-388 2366.

The Peacock Report may have been shelved, but it is certainly not picking up dust, Tom O'Malley explains.

Putting Peacock in its place

A Home Office and Department of Trade and Industry working group are reviewing broadcasting in the light of the good professor's report.

Sympathy for Peacock's view that Channel 4 should sell its own advertising exists amongst C4 board members. The idea that the percentage of 'independent' programmes transmitted by the BBC and IBA should be increased and that the IBA should 'roll', rather than readvertise, ITV contracts are being pushed hard.

All of these proposals threaten accountability, diversity and jobs in the media.

In September the Home Office, commercial radio bosses, advertising agencies and a representative of the Community Radio Association met near Basingstoke to discuss the Green Paper on radio, due out in November. Neither the BBC nor broadcasting unions were invited.

The Green Paper is widely expected to recommend the further privatisation of

radio in line with Peacock's proposals. The ground-work for a break up of public service broadcasting is being laid — and the Peacock Report is playing a major part.

Changes are unlikely to come until after the next election. But the need to provide a coherent overview of what the broadcasting future should hold is more urgent than ever. In October the Campaign will publish its response to Peacock.

It will look at who is behind the moves to privatise broadcasting and the arguments they use.

And it will examine areas of media reform ignored by Peacock and which are central to any progressive democratic policy in broadcasting: access, accountability, resources, representation and workers participation.

Along with the Media Manifesto it will help us make sure that Peacock sits on its shelf gathering dust where it belongs!!

By PERMINDER DHILLON-KASHYAP

Speak out on apartheid

"Speak out or be damned" announced CPBF National Council member Mark Wadsworth at the start of the Campaign's London meeting in July, Press Censorship in South Africa ; Media Bias in Britain.

The speakers took him at his word. David Goldberg of the African National Congress spoke of the 100 plus laws defining legal censorship in S. Africa. For him it had meant 16 years in prison with access only to a censored version of a local Afrikaaner magazine.

"We have voices but no-one listens," he said, accusing the British media of using police information as news and ignoring the issues behind the events they report. He criticised their attitude to the ANC — all the phones ringing at once when Oliver Tambo is in town — and for undermining the sanctions issue.

Ronnie Moodley of the Azania Trust and Black Consciousness Movement was scathing about journalists who file stories from five-star hotels, and paid tribute to members of the Media Workers Association of S. Africa (MWASA) — journalists, boys and girls who sell papers, cleaners and printworkers — who live in constant danger and are imprisoned, tortured and killed.

And he made the connection between the struggle in S. Africa and racism in Britain — from deportations to lack of action by the NUJ.

Other speakers included Laura Vincent (BETA), Adian White of the Guardian and NUJ International Committee, and Alan Sapper (ACTT Gen Sec) who spoke of efforts being made by union members to counter media racism and raise support for the liberation struggle in S. Africa.

● The Campaign is to link up with a special committee of the NUJ, which is planning to assist black media workers in S. Africa and has invited Dr Alan Boesak and representatives of MWASA on a speaking tour of Britain.

Letters in by Nov. 1 please. Let us know what you think of the Media Manifesto.

Get it right*

John Whalley's report (FP36) on my paper at CPBF's Conference on Broadcasting is materially and seriously inaccurate.

At no stage did I say, or even imply, that the Peacock Committee "subtly rigged its polling methods to bias respondents towards advertising on the BBC". Apart from being discourteous to me in its distorted representation of what I said, such an allegation is insulting to the Committee. The insult is compounded by the suggestion that the Committee "creatively edited" the data for inclusion in their report.

My position was, and is, simple. The market research type methods, instituted by the advertising bodies and adopted by NOP on behalf of the Committee, is simplistic and thereby inadequate as a means of establishing what viewers and listeners want.

As an entirely separate body, I drew attention to the way the two advertising bodies edited their public opinion questions when reproducing them in evidence to the Peacock Committee and in publicity leaflets. I thought that the slides I used to illustrate how this editing was misleading made it perfectly clear who was to blame.
Steven Barnett
Broadcasting Research Unit
127 Charing Cross Road
London WC2H 0EA

What's in a name*

Reading the latest issue of FREE PRESS, I was struck yet again by the inadequacy of the title of our Campaign and of the paltry (non-existent) coverage you give to censorship issues in book publishing.

When are we going to change the name to Campaign for Media Freedom, which has the added advantage of being a title people can remember?

Your chart (FP35) of who owns what in the media multi-nationals makes it clear that much of book publishing is in the hands of the same business interests

as the rest of the media. The recent experience of Gays the Word with the courts and the Customs and Excise shows how book publishing is subject to equivalent amounts of government interference and reactionary attitudes to the rest of the media.

I can think of a number of issues around book publishing which should be of concern to an industry-wide campaign for a liberated media. I take the cooption of Ruthie Borthwick, who works in book distribution, as a hopeful sign.

So how about it comrades?

Gail Chester
Horsell Road, London N5

FP Editor replies: I could not agree more about the name change, especially with the launch of our Media Manifesto, and the incorporation of other campaigns. Why not a put up a motion to the next AGM?

Articles about censorship or other media freedom issues in book publishing are welcomed.

A regular column on censorship starts in this issue (see p4)

Welcome*

I'm happy to be able to write that as of 25 July the Television Users Group (TUG) has amalgamated with the CPBF.

Begun as the Channel Four Group lobbying for a presence on the then upcoming channel for grant-aided work, it became the Channel Four Users Group after C4 went on air, allying producers and audiences around the fledgling broadcaster.

In the build up to the Video Recordings Act and the Cable & Broadcasting Act, we became the Television Users Group dedicated to promoting democratic access to the control of television media.

TUG then came under the wing of the Society for Education in Film & Television (SEFT), who provided a base, office back up and half a worker. We held regular meetings on policy issues and

issues of representation — topics like censorship, coverage of the north of Ireland, three years of C4, coverage of the Heysel Stadium disaster.

By this point it became clear both that SEFT staff were hard put to keep up with the interest and activity of members, and that we had broadened our brief so much that we were moving closer to the CPBF with whom we already had close links.

A postal ballot and the July meeting brought unanimous support for joining the Campaign, thus at once adding to our expertise in broadcast and other moving-image media, and drawing on the Campaign's excellent cover of the print media.

SEFT in particular is keen to develop CPBF education policy, an area in which we have been active since 1949.

We look forward to a happy and fruitful involvement in all aspects of the Campaign's work. Onwards for democratic and progressive media!

Sean Cubitt
National Organiser, SEFT
Old Compton St, London W1

Bienvenue!

I have recently joined CPBF and received my first copy of FREE PRESS, which was of great interest. I have two

main interests in the Campaign, one of them being my long-lasting passion for radio in a truly free form.

One of my involvements in radio is with French local stations, and I am increasingly providing programme material for some of them.

I recently received a fascinating book (FM — The Mad Story of the Free Radio Stations) which gives a fascinating insight into what has happened there and the many lessons to be learned indirectly here. It is in French, and provides a picture that initially encourages any true believer in freedom of expression in that medium, but ends with a somewhat disappointing view of the present situation.

If any other members are interested in the French broadcasting system, they might like to get in touch with me via the Campaign.

Richard Vidler
Birbeck Road
Sidcup, Kent

FP Editor replies: Richard's review of the book on French Free Radio will appear in the next issue (FP38).

*An asterisk * indicates that a letter has been edited, usually for space reasons.



DEFEND PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Bruce Anderson
President

Alan Sapper
General Secretary

Association of Cinematograph,
Television & Allied Technicians
111 Wardour Street,
London W1V 4AY

WHAT FUTURE FOR US?

Women in the Pit Strike 1984-85

A group of women from the Sunderland area in the North East talk about the 1984/85 coal strike and their local pit communities.

35 minutes, colour

Co-produced by CAPS and A19 Film and Video

Available for sale, VHS or U-matic, price negotiable from:

COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS SUNDERLAND
4 ST IGNATIUS CLOSE,
HENDON, SUNDERLAND SR2 7LT
Tel: (0783) 654948

NCCL Sunday Sport



"The launch of Sunday Sport on September 14 has plunged the British press to new depths of bad journalism based on the exploitation of women."

That was how the National Council for Civil Liberties and the CPBF, greeted the latest hi-tech Sunday paper.

Both organisations supported the IBA's and ICTA's right not to carry advertising for Sunday Sport that either misrepresents the product or is offensive to standards of decency.

Corinne Sweet, NCCL women's rights officer said "We assert our right to protest about this kind of salacious publication. Women's interests are badly served by a paper that simply sets out to insult and degrade them. Sunday Sport is not about sports news, it is rather an incitement to sexual hatred."

The sole purpose of Sunday Sport is to peddle soft pornography. David Sullivan had made his fortune from a pornography empire and can afford to launch a frivolous and offensive paper.

Julienne Dickey, CPBF women's officer commented "The term 'sport' is clearly meant to indicate mistreatment of women. Sunday Sport shows that when ownership of the media is concentrated in the hands of wealthy males, little high standard journalism will appear and the distinction between fact and fiction will be increasingly blurred. The use of new technology doesn't mean greater press diversity, just more, and worse, of the same."

NCCL and CPBF have written to the NUJ's Ethics Council, and other unions involved, to protest about the nature of the new 'adult' publication, and have complained to Sunday Sport's publisher about its nature and content.

In a joint statement the NCCL and CPBF said: "The implications of Sunday Sport for women and for journalism are extremely worrying. The paper may be read in thousands of households on Sunday and will be insulting to most women and young people. It portrays women as sport and playthings for men in a dehumanising and ultimately woman-hating way. This can only increase violent attitudes towards women in our society today."

INDEX ON CENSORSHIP

SUBSCRIPTIONS
UK £14 USA\$25 OVERSEAS £16
STUDENTS £8/\$16 (WORLDWIDE)

I would like to subscribe for one year (10 issues) to Index on Censorship

☐ I enclose cheque/money order for £/\$

☐ I have instructed my bank to send £ to your bank account 0208955 at Lloyds Bank, 62 Brook St, London W1

☐ I have sent off £ to your Post Office National Giro account 574-5357 (Britain)

Write to: Index on Censorship
BRITAIN: 39c Highbury Place, London
N5 1QP (Telephone (01) 359 0161)

NAME

ADDRESS

WHAT LIES BEHIND THE BIAS

CPBF National Council member Mark Hollingsworth has written the ideal companion volume to *Bending Reality*.

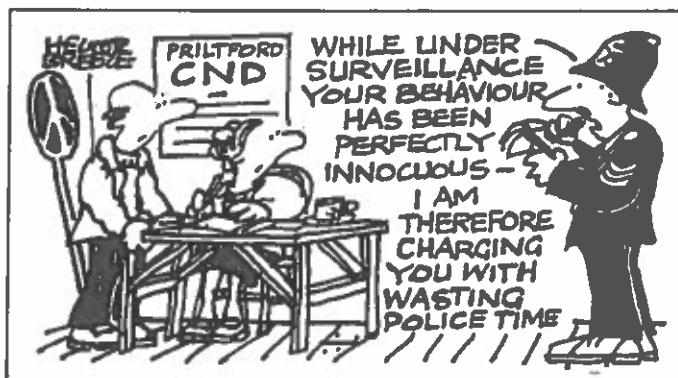
Subtitled 'A Question of Censorship', Mark's weighty tome painstakingly reveals how proprietorial bias and self-censorship operate in the national press.

Case studies of Fleet Street's favourite bogies (Tony Benn, the GLC and Ken Livingstone, Peter Tatchell, black people, the peace women, the miners, and Labour at the last election) provide a fund of quotable quotes and lively anecdotes to pepper your promotion of the Media Manifesto.

Useful appendices spell out the business interests of Fleet Street proprietors, and reference notes tell you where to look for offending copy.

An easy if slow red, some sloppy proofing ('censorship' instead of 'ownership' on p. 298) does cause irritation — but Pluto addicts should be used to this by now.

The Press and Political Dissent — A Question of Censorship Mark Hollingsworth, Pluto Press £6.96. CPBF price £5.95



Silly Buggers

In "Offence of the Realm" describes the insidious activities of official snoopers who watch and listen to those who work for an end to nuclear weaponry.

Evidence comes from former MI5 officer Cathy Massiter, and CND activists who have suffered break-ins, telephone tapping, interference with their mail, and unwarranted calls the police and security services.

Apart from giving cheer to the paranoid, the slim but thorough volume makes you wonder how much of our taxes are spent shadowing legitimate protest. And why the media has been so slow to expose the whole ridiculous charade.

In his foreword, ex-police chief John Alderson comments "In my experience police behaviour is greatly affected by the rhetoric and conduct of those who hold the reins of power and influence. It is for people outside the ranks of either to exert adequate and continuing corrective pressure."

Such worthy sentiments make him a likely subject of security surveillance.

Offence of the Realm By Gillian Reeve & Joan Smith CND £1.50.

Dirty doings

Zelda Curtis reviews "Understains — the sense and seduction of advertising." By Kathy Myers. Comedia £5.95.

If you're in the business of politics, of influencing people, of selling your Utopia — Kathy Myers thinks you ignore the "expertise and marketing analysis of advertising" at your peril.

She considers the history and economic function of advertising, surveys the Left's criticisms from Marx and Paul Sweezy to the present day feminist critique, tries to show both the connections and differences between advertising and propaganda, and records her own recommendations.

For my money the arguments and conclusions are too oft repeated, but perhaps she thinks, like advertisers, that repetition sells.

Picture book

Photographic Practices: Towards A Different Image Stevie Bezenenat & Philip Corrigan Comedia £4.95.

For anyone interested in what's been happening to photography at the grass root in Britain since the 60s, *Photographic Practices* is more than just a good read.

And not for photographers alone — for anyone who feels that visual literacy, and all that implies, can and should be an important tool in helping us to understand and thus improve the world we live in.

Four distinctive sections detail some of the developments in particular areas, through which one really gets the feel of the rich world of community/alternative photography.

Twelve pages of addresses, also make the book a valuable source of information. Chi Chan

TRIBUNE IS PROUD TO HAVE BEEN REPORTING 50 YEARS OF STRUGGLE ON THE LEFT

1937-87

BUT... If you don't support our struggle to survive, we can't continue to tell you about everyone else's

IT'S EASIER WITH A SUBSCRIPTION

It is as cheap to have TRIBUNE posted direct to your home as to order from your newsagent.

Use the form below to take out a subscription to TRIBUNE. We bear all the postal costs and will ensure that TRIBUNE arrives through your letterbox every Friday.

Subscription rates: 3 months £6.50, 6 months £13.00, 12 months £25.00

To: Subscription Dept., TRIBUNE, 308 Gray's Inn Rd., London WC1X 8DY

Please send TRIBUNE for months for which I enclose cheque/postal order for

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Peace & Liberation — women show the way

An excellent campaign by Merseyside Women for Peace links protests against uranium enrichment in Britain with the struggle for freedom in Namibia.

By joining forces with women from SWAPO, they have formed a chain of hope and solidarity to counter the chain of deception and terror that binds Namibia to the western nuclear arms race through Rio Tinto Zinc's exploitation and its mineral resources.

The Capenhurst Connection may not be the best-made video you have ever seen, but it is one you really ought to see. It tells a compelling story, and illustrates how peace and liberation movements can and should be working together.

It is unlikely to be on TV, so order a copy and make sure as many people as possible get the message. RTZ will not be pleased.

● Merseyside Community Productions Group hire their videos at a daily rate of £1 (community groups), £2 (institutions) plus £5 deposit. Purchase prices and more details from MCPG, 90-92 Whitechapel, Liverpool L1 6EN, 051-709-9460.

The Capenhurst Connection 21 mins VHS Community Productions Merseyside

Not the normal news

Less a news programme, more a gentle reminder of the issues behind major news events, the second edition of Northern Newsreel shows what can be done to illustrate government plans to privatise water, organising the unemployed or the human effect of racism in employment (47% of white workers join unions, 11% hold union office; 56% of black workers join unions, 4% hold office).

A wry piece of editing, with neat graphics — though some would be improved if more thought were given to their likely impact on viewers. Worth subscribing to if you are a northern video owner.

Northern Newsreel 2 from 36 Bottle Bank, Gateshead NE8 2AR

The Rough Justice debate was bereft of 'official' BBC participation because Anne Fitzpatrick, the witness allegedly 'pressurised' by the programme makers, is suing the BBC in the American courts. Both the corporation and Martin Young, suspended and banned from investigative reporting for two years after an internal inquiry, were anxious not to prejudice the outcome of the case.

Lord Paget argued that Lord Lane at the appeal hearing of Tony Mycock (imprisoned on Fitzpatrick's evidence and released after the programme broadcast her retraction) had

Even Rougher Justice

no "right or privilege to vent his spite on the journalists". He clearly implied that Lord Lane was motivated by his dislike of the programme and its success in unmasking gross miscarriages of justice.

Castigating his fellow peer for "quite monstrous judicial behaviour", he also criticised the BBC enquiry as 'absolutely outrageous'. Its brutal treatment of the two journalists had effectively torpedoed the BBC's

case in the forthcoming trial.

World in Action's Ray Fitzwalter accused the BBC of 'rushing to judgment' and not supporting its own employees, and criticised the BBC for allowing the journalists to find themselves out on a limb.

Taking up the same point, Alex Graham from Diverse Productions accused the BBC of 'a disgraceful lack of framework for internal discussion' — their 'enquiry' looked more like a

public hanging.

Ex-BBC staffer Roger Bolton, now at Thames TV, agreed that there is not enough discussion and referral during the course of programme production, and laid the blame on BBC managers and governors.

Steve Hayward, one of the actual programme researchers, now also at Thames, accused the BBC of a 'craven, knee-jerk response to the appeal court'.

The whole affair had cried out for calm, informed debate, the complete absence of which was the symptom of a serious failure in the structure of the Corporation.

Squeezed out or squeezed in?

"Confrontational and totally unproductive" was how Verity Lambert described the atmosphere at the session called 'Are Independents Working?'

After an unproductive argument about the distinction between independent and freelance producers, the session became more bogged down as both unions and the "comfortable duopoly" dug in their heels on quotas for the independent sector.

Paul Fox for ITV companies said they were not prepared to be "jostled out of the way", and accused independents of wanting "all the fun programmes leaving the companies with the factory stuff".

Bill Cotton of the BBC thought a 40% quota would spell doom for the whole system. His metaphor of the BBC as a large house that the independents wanted to burn down before decamping into separate pre-fab bungalows, did not go down too well.

On the union side, Tony Hearn of BETA argued that the 40% quota was neither desirable nor inevitable. The excesses of the free market, and especially the labour market, need to be contained in the interest of stable, continuous employment in decent conditions.

Over-rapid entry of the independents would not be to the unions' advantage he said, but if they can "guarantee stable and reasonable terms and conditions then we will deal with them." BETA was not opposed to the independents but wanted regulated expansion.

Reports by Julian Pelley & Sean Cubitt

Roy Lockett's union (ACTT) already works well and has good agreements with the independent sector, but he pointed to the film industry as a dire warning against Peacock-style deregulation. He was not prepared to watch "the heart being ripped out of the permanent employment system", the core and base of British television.

The "indies" didn't counter with a good show, too often falling back on sen-

timental, small-is-beautiful fantasies of artisanal production.

Although Verity Lambert argued sincerely that no-one wanted to take away jobs, no-one really explained how job losses could be avoided, nor addressed the question of the possible fragmentation of the entire public service broadcasting system.

SITES FOR SORE EYES

Lack of preparation, technical hitches and a Utopian idea that mainstream TV executives would turn up to a fringe event, marred the independent video and film sessions.

Showing clips from "Winnie" (Steelbank Films, Sheffield) and "Seacoal" (Amber Films, Newcastle), Jennie Woodley of ACTT explained the genesis and format of her union's Workshop Declaration — probably the most progressive attempt to draw grant-aided sector workers into continuity of employment.

Martine Attille discussed the stunning new work "Passion of Remembrance" (Sankofa Film & Video, London), previewed at the Festival, addressing the specific needs and practices of Black film-makers and positioning them firmly within a strategy of intervention in the broadcast mainstream media, rather than bantustans of specialist slots.

Penny Bartlett (Triplevision, London) argued forcefully for the passion that "indies" can bring to their work, the links with local communities and communities of interest.

Discussion covered the special posi-

tion of Scottish workshops deprived of BFI or Arts Council monies; union positions on freelance work; and a fascinating question from John Wyver as to whether the commercial and grant-aided position was such that innovation in formal characteristics was a dying art — we agreed that it wasn't, citing numerous examples.

The independents did hold open a corner of the Festival, but we didn't open any doors.

Next year we should hold out for representation on equal footing with the rest of the industry on key public panel discussions. Work of broadcast quality (often work that is broadcast) and of such commitment and passion should not exclude itself or be excluded from the industry it forms a part of.

● A showreel of independent video and film is available on free hire, to groups only, from SEFT, 29 Old Compton St, London W1V 5PL.

TRAIDCRAFT — an alternative to boring mail order catalogues . . . and much more!

The 1986/87 free 60 page Traidcraft Catalogue (containing several hundred products) is now available.

But Traidcraft is more than just a Mail Order Company. Over 1,300 Voluntary Representatives and our linked charity the Traidcraft Exchange share in our work for a fairer world. So can you. Interested? Write today to the address below for a free Traidcraft information pack.

Information Pack, Traidcraft, Dept TA12, Kingsway, Gateshead, NE11 0NE — or ring 091-487 3191 and ask for Catherine Smith.

Introducing a new regular column, **GEORGE THEINER**, Editor of **INDEX ON CENSORSHIP**, explains the magazine's purpose

Exposing the censors

Index on Censorship has now been published in London for 15 years.

It began life in 1972 as the publication of a new human rights organisation, Writers & Scholars International, founded the previous year with the aim of helping banned and otherwise persecuted writers and journalists, artists and academics.

It was to act as a watchdog of all kinds of censorship anywhere in the world, and to promote artistic and intellectual freedom.

The main — though by no means the only — area of Index's concern is the

written word, providing a platform for writers unable to get into print in their own country.

Short stories and poems, extracts from novels and plays have appeared in Index from every quarter of the globe — Argentina as well as Zaire, China as well as Taiwan, South Africa and South Korea, the Soviet Union and Somalia, Chile and Czechoslovakia, Poland and Pakistan.

Many pages have been filled with the personal accounts of poets, novelists, playwrights and journalists who have suffered and survived police persecution, imprisonment and torture. But there have also been many stories of those who have been less lucky: journalists murdered in Thailand and the Philippines, a left-wing publisher killed by the military in Turkey, the 'disappeared' of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay...

When Index turns its attention closer to home, the nature of the problems is usually different. Here in Britain, fortunately, we do not have blacklisted writers unable to publish anything they write; journalists who go in fear of their lives because they dare to criticise the government or some other vested interests; 'dissidents' assassinated or abducted, never to be heard of again.

Instead, Index has over the years dealt with such topics as media coverage of Northern Ireland, outdated legislation such as the 'Incitement to Disaffection Act', the laws on blasphemy, and, in particular, Section Two of the Official Secrets Act.

The latest of a large number of articles on this subject was an 'Opinion' piece by Peter Hennessy in June this year. Calling Section Two 'a cancer in a democratic society in peacetime', the author came to the pessimistic conclusion that 'the secrecy virus still courses through the national bloodstream' and that therefore 'a dose of freedom of information is far from universally acceptable as an antidote'.

Section 31: an Irish scandal

"The Minister may direct the Authority in writing to refrain from broadcasting any particular matter of any particular class, and the Authority shall comply with the direction." Section 31 of the Irish Broadcasting Authority Act 1960.

In August last year a Tipperary newspaper, The Nationalist, laid into Radio Telefis Eireann staff for "childishly aping BBC journalists" (who struck over the Real Lives banning) by taking strike action when Director of News Wesley Boyd refused to broadcast an interview with Martin Galvin of NORAI.

The leader said their "sinister" strike was "alarming in its naivete and reckless in its irresponsibility", describing the journalists as "underlings" who had "set a precedent which most appallingly threatens the vital concept of editorial independence and the very structure of Press freedom" (sic).

Ironically the same issue contained a letter from Sinn Fein, something prohibited to RTE under Section 31.

In November 1972 the Irish Broadcasting Authority was sacked for defending RTE journalist Kevin O'Kelly who had interviewed Sean MacStiofain.

The IRA man was arrested leaving O'Kelly's house and the journalist was jailed for 3 months for refusing to identify him in court.

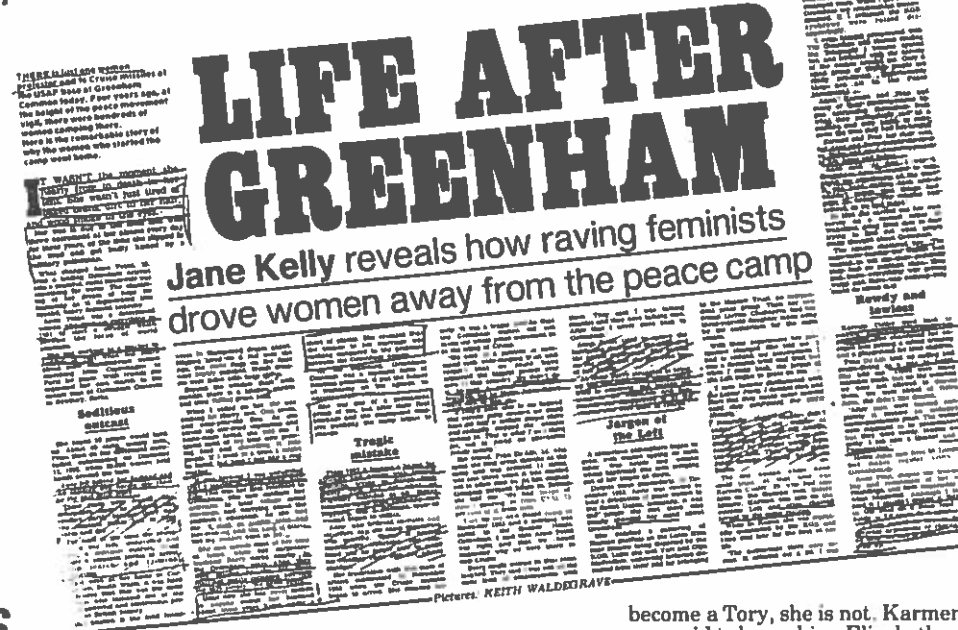
In 1973 a Coalition government amended S31 to allow suppression of items which, in the opinion of the Minister, might "promote or incite to crime or would tend to undermine the authority of the State".

Since then the British government has been allowed to determine who should have access to the Irish airwaves, because organisations banned under the Emergency Provisions Act (Northern Ireland) were automatically banned from appearing on RTE.

In 1982 a court ruled that Sinn Fein cannot make political broadcasts. Even those elected to local councils or Westminster may not be interviewed. Transmission of Robert Kee's History of Ireland (a joint RTE/BBC production) required special dispensation because it contained republican interviews.

Earlier this year a campaign was launched to demand an end to such blatant state interference in Irish broadcasting, with strong labour movement support. You can get more detailed information from the Repeal Section 31 Committee, 16 Merrion Row, Dublin 2.

FREE PRESS reveals how Mail journalists drove a peace campaigner to desperation...



LIES ON SUNDAY

"I desperately regret my naivety in trusting this reporter to accurately report my words. It never occurred to me that if the things I said did not fit with the impression she wanted to create then she would simply invent words and facts."

Ann Pettit, an organiser of the first peace march to Greenham, reflecting on the scurrilous treatment she received from the Mail on Sunday after agreeing to be interviewed by Jane Kelly.

With the help of the CPBF, Ann has been seeking a Right of Reply. She supported her claim that Kelly's story was a "grotesque piece of fiction" with a detailed refutation of the distortions and inventions it contained.

But the Editor of the "Newspaper of the Year" replied that she was "seriously over-reacting".

In his lengthy justification, Stewart Steven, admitted two errors and several unfortunate impressions created by the article, and offered a right of reply in the Letters column — "but I expect this to be rational and to take into account what I have written." (sic)

In her first letter to Steven, Ann wrote "Almost every statement I'm quoted as saying is either the exact opposite of what I did say, or else completely invented or scrambled so as to distort the meaning."

Two other Greenham peace campaigners, Karmen Cutler and Fran De'Ath, were also misquoted and misrepresented in the article, which suggested that all three women had been converted to comfortable middle-class activities as a result of their experiences in the peace camp.

Two of them had never lived at Greenham. Fran was said to have

become a Tory, she is not. Karmen was said to be making Elizabethan stringed instruments, something she had not done for 12 years. She is secretary of her local Trades Council and helped set up an unemployed centre.

In a letter published two weeks after the offending article they declared "Contrary to the impression given...all three of us are still supporters of CND, still working for a safer, saner and fairer world, and are keen to see a Labour victory at the next election."

Their complaints are now being pursued by the NUJ's Ethics Council.

Ann ended her first letter to the MOS Editor: "Perhaps your reporter has taught me a lesson I needed to learn."

Her experience may provide a useful lesson to others about the cynical way some Fleet Street journalists operate, especially when it comes to rubbishing the peace movement.

Savage tales from the East

The Chinese Association of Tower Hamlets have taken the East London Advertiser to the NUJ Ethics Council and the Press Council over a disgraceful front page story early this summer.

The ELA claimed that pets were being snatched from local streets, cruelly slaughtered, and served up as delicacies by the Chinese caterers of Limehouse. Police were said to be investigating the story, which was illustrated by a photograph of a dog being hanged.

The photo had been taken in Korea and supplied, with relevant background information, by an animal rights organisation. Police had told the ELA that they found no evidence to support the lone allegation made to the paper.

The next issue reported complaints from the police, the animal rights group and the Chinese Association, who claim trade has been badly hit. But an editorial defended the decision to publish, as a matter of press freedom.

Meanwhile, the ELA front page on Sept 5 carried a headline 'Wendy Savage supporters threaten baby unit doctors' under the banner 'DOCTORS HARASSED'.

It tells of a series of frightening incidents during the inquiry that cleared Wendy Savage of incompetence, and carries an interview with one of her opponents, a senior obstetrician at the London Hospital.

The only evidence offered to support the potentially libellous second headline is his supposition of a link between the threats and assaults and the pro-Savage campaign.

society

of civil & public servants

Backs the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom, and its demand for a right of reply.

Mike Perkins
President

Leslie Christie
General Secretary

NEW SOCIALIST

POLITICS WITH
A DIFFERENCE

New Socialist 90p monthly or
£8.80 for a year's subscription
(11 issues).

**THE BOTTOM LINE
IS CHANGE**

Cladestine employment

The situation in the industrialised marked economy countries

By Raffaele de Grazia

ISBN 92-2-103355-4 £6.40

Into the twenty-first century: The development of social security

A report to the Director-General of the International Labour Office on the response of the social security system in industrial countries to economic and social change

ISBN 92-2-103631-6

A list of ILO publications is available on request

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Branch Office, 96/98 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4LY. Tel: 01-828 6401



CPBF PUBLICATIONS

Send cheques with your name and address to CPBF, 9 Poland St., London W1V 3DG.

BENDING REALITY — analysis of the current state of British media by various authors. Pluto Press £5.95 CPBF price £4.95

RIGHT OF REPLY PACK — the complete guide to a central issue for all campaigners. £2.95

WOMEN IN FOCUS — guidelines for eliminating media sexism. By Julianne Dickey. £1.50

MEDIA HITS THE PITS — best selling analysis of media coverage of the 1984/5 coal dispute. £1.50

POWER WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY — a critical history of British media by Jean Seaton & James Curran. Methuen £6.95 CPBF £5.50

PEOPLE AGAINST THE PRESS — devastating critique of the Press Council by Geoffrey Robertson. Quartet £7.95 CPBF price £2.50

IT AIN'T HALF RACIST, MUM — Media racism. Comedia £2.95 CPBF price £2.25

Videos — Videos approx. 30 mins. U-matic £45 VHS £35

WAPPING LIES — agitprop account of the News International dispute. 10 mins. VHS £10.00

WHY THEIR NEWS IS BAD NEWS — Julie Christie & Julie Walters examine media bias. U-matic/VHS

IT AIN'T HALF RACIST, MUM — classic video made by Campaign Against Racism in the media. U-matic/VHS

MAKING NEWS — media coverage of the 1982 health workers' dispute. U-matic/VHS

Who is behind the CPBF?

The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom was launched in 1979 and is now one of Britain's largest pressure groups, with members from a wide spectrum of political and other interest groups.

Over 30 national unions are affiliated, representing more than 7 million people, along with several hundred trades union, Labour and Liberal Party branches; civil liberties, peace and animal rights groups; academic institutions, community arts and media projects, and a variety of community organisations.

Our supporters include all the media unions, CND, the Ecology Party, Plaid Cymru and leading members of the Labour Party.

Among our sponsors are Melvyn Bragg, Brenda Dean, Jeyaben Desai, Jonathan Dimbleby, Margaret Drabble, Julie Christie, Elvis Costello, John Fowles, Eric Hobsbawm, Terry Jones, Bruce Kent, Ken Loach, Lionel Morrison, Geoffrey Robertson, Pamela Stephenson, UB40, Hilary Wainwright, and Julie Walters.

The CPBF has five staff and conducts research, publishes books, videos and a bi-monthly journal *FREE PRESS*, and organises conferences on media freedom issues. One of our most successful campaigns has been around the Right of Reply, and we continue to provide advice and assistance to those seeking redress against abuses of media power.

Specialist sections dealing with Black, Disability, Lesbian and Gay, Media Education and Women's issues are all represented on the National Council, along with regional groups. The North-West has its own full-time worker.

Pluto Press have recently published an updated and expanded version of the Campaign's founding document.

BENDING REALITY rehearses the arguments behind the Media Manifesto in essays by leading figures in the press, broadcasting, the trades union movement and the academic world.

It is available from the Campaign Office, at the reduced rate of £4.95, along with our Mail Order Catalogue of books and videos on all aspects of the British media.

MAKE THE MEDIA AN ELECTION ISSUE

Use the Media Manifesto to generate debate about the role and responsibilities of the communications and cultural industries.

Organise discussion at trades union, tenants association or political meetings and in any other group you belong to. The Campaign can help with speakers, literature and videos.

Ask your local MP, MEP and local councillors to comment on it, and send us a copy of their replies.

Challenge journalists and media workers about their views. Raise it in your local paper or on phone-in programmes.

Most important of all, let us know what you, your friends and your colleagues think about the Manifesto so that we can produce a revised and more comprehensive document in 1987 and extend the campaign for press and broadcasting freedom in Britain.

CAMPAIGN 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 any individual or group on the grounds of gender, race, class, religion, sexual preference, age or physical or mental ability; and to seek equality of opportunity and achievement in the media for disadvantaged groups.

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

* To encourage debate on the implications of technology advances in the media to ensure that the public interest is safe-guarded 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 guaranteed right of display.

MEDIA MANIFESTO

CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS AND

BROADCASTING FREEDOM

Can we tell them what we want or do they tell us what to think?

The unacceptable face of the British media

THE RIGHT TO COMMUNICATE

The CPBF believes that EVERYONE should have the right to information, news and opinion, and the right of access to the printed word and to the airwaves, so long as such rights are not abused to incite violence, race hatred or sexual discrimination.

Those who control the media should be publicly accountable. News, information and communication systems should be considered a public service not a means of amassing huge private profits.

That means ending the media monopolies; introducing direct democratic control over the BBC and other broadcasting bodies; encouraging diversity and equal opportunities in all aspects of the media and at all levels; and making the media more accessible and responsive to the needs and interests of consumers.

Traditional notions of democracy have been profoundly changed by the present government. We need to reassert our democratic rights, and push forward our right to know, respond and participate.

In the run up to the next election the CPBF hopes to provoke public debate around the present crisis in the media.

Our Manifesto incorporates ideas raised in the four Royal Commissions on the Press since 1947 and a series of official Reports on Broadcasting, along with others developed by the Campaign since it was set up.

We shall be holding conferences and public meetings throughout the country to collect responses and challenge all political parties on their attitude towards the unacceptable face of the British media.

*Copies of the Manifesto are available to organisations willing to distribute it to their members.

*The CPBF is happy to provide speakers, and information to any organisation, that wants to challenge the power and privilege of the media and take forward the debate about what sort of media we deserve.

*We are keen to receive YOUR responses to this draft document, and what YOU think should appear in the final revised version. Fill in the tear off slip inside and send it to:

CPBF Media Manifesto,
9 Poland Street,
London W1 3DG

OUR DEMANDS

- ★ THE RIGHT TO KNOW
- ★ THE RIGHT TO FAIR REPRESENTATION
- ★ ACCESS & ACCOUNTABILITY
- ★ WORKERS' PARTICIPATION
- ★ THE RIGHT TO MAKE CONTACT
- ★ FREEDOM OF THE AIRWAVES
- ★ FACILITIES FOR ALL
- ★ THE RIGHT OF REPLY

The razor wire around Rupert Murdoch's Wapping printworks is the symbol of press freedom in Thatcher's Britain — the freedom of proprietors to do what they want with their workforce, and determine what we should read.

Few people can now doubt what the "technological revolution" means when the media are in the hands of powerful magnates whose main concern is making money. It enslaves us all to their whims.

5,500 people lost their jobs with News International after years of service, because one man decided he could make more money that way and expand his international media empire. The police put an entire community under siege to ensure that Sun Bingo, and its sensationalised sex, violence and racism, reached the newagents.

The rest of the media did little to sound the alarm bells for democracy.

In a scramble to win readers and advertisers, newspaper proprietors responded to the "unfair" advantage stolen by Eddie Shah and Murdoch's brutal tactics with mass redundancies and the introduction of "new" technology (which has been around for years) to reduce overheads.

All were prepared to form new companies and tear up existing agreements with the unions, who were cited as the real threat to press freedom as if printers have more power than proprietors, the courts or the government.

Meanwhile the government, intent on stripping us of public assets, had sold off an essential service — our main communications system, British Telecom.

The Home Office, which supposedly controls the airwaves on our behalf, is keen to see local broadcasting entirely in commercial hands. And if the government does sell off parts of the BBC, where 4,000 redundancies were announced last year, advertisers will soon have sole rights to determine what we hear on the radio and see on TV.

Rupert Murdoch, who has campaigned against the BBC's "monopoly" and its licence fee,

and Robert Maxwell who, like him, has extensive cable and satellite TV interests, and are among the most likely to profit from its break up.

Channel 4, set up with a brief to give airtime to "minority" interests, has abandoned its lofty ideals in the face of commercial pressure and may soon be cut adrift to fend for itself.

All these moves have frightening implications for democracy. If our sources of information are in the hands of multi-national media corporations who manage communication according to their own vested interests, we can expect to be treated simply as consumers with no rights.

Our daily dose of what the media tells us has convinced many that there are no alternatives. Yet more and more people are dissatisfied if not downright

angry at the way the media operate.

Media treatment of women, the peace movement, black people and trades unionists, lesbians and gay men, people with disabilities, or anyone who dissents from the free market notion of how society should be run, is a scandalous affront to our democratic rights. Small wonder that journalists are held in such low esteem.

The CPBF, backed by the trades union movement, believes that there are alternatives.

Our Media Manifesto highlights some of the main issues that should be debated publicly in the run up to the next election, and sets out legislative changes for press and broadcasting freedom in Britain.

THE RIGHT TO KNOW

We can only enjoy democracy if we are free to make up our own minds. That requires a free flow of information and the right to demand accurate answers of those in positions of responsibility and power.

They are riddled with the "British Disease" of obsessive secrecy, and invoke commercial confidentiality and national security to avoid scrutiny and smother criticism.

More and more information is being compiled on computers controlled by private firms, the police and other government agencies. We need Freedom of Information legislation covering policy issues and personal files, to ensure that public and private sectors

are obliged explain the decisions they take on our behalf as voters and consumers.

Such legislation must be linked to the repeal of Section 2 of the Official Secrets Act and the Prevention of Terrorism Act; reform of the Contempt of Court Act to allow full coverage of the administration of justice; an end to security vetting of broadcasting staff; and the abolition of the notorious D-notice and Parliamentary Lobby systems.

Too often the vested interests of proprietors and politicians forbid coverage of "sensitive" issues.

Journalists should have to the right to investigate stories on our behalf and make public their findings. In return we have the right to demand that they are accountable for their actions within the terms of a well publicised Code of Conduct.

ACCESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We have no rights access to the media, nor is it in any direct sense accountable to the public.

Our rights are supposed to be protected by the "great and the good" on the BBC Board of Governors, the Independent Broadcasting Authority, the Press Council, the Advertising Standards Authority, and the British Board of Film Censors.

Their world is a far cry from the poverty of the inner cities, the experience of most women, the varied culture of Britain's black communities, the isolation of the unemployed or the alienation of many young people, just as being based in a few large cities limits the perspectives of the media.

Present arrangements must be replaced by democratic, systems of regulation to combine the functions of the Press Council and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

Media monopolies must be broken up, and government plans to deregulate broadcasting and sell off licences must be scrapped.

Locally elected bodies with powers to ensure that all sections of the community have access and the right to fair representation in the media could be co-ordinated at national level.

Media organisations must recognise their special responsibility and ensure that consumers are guaranteed redress if they are unfairly abused.

THE RIGHT TO MAKE CONTACT

Electronic communication systems give the appearance of an exclusive and expensive business-oriented technology. Yet to gain access to them all people need is the facility to plug in a phone or a TV set.

The present government has allowed the development of telecommunications to be determined by market forces. An integrated approach based on public need rather than private greed is required, under a Ministry responsible for the press, broadcasting, the arts and telecommunications.

The latest technologies have the potential to extend and enhance the democratic process. They could provide easy two-way access to public

services for pensioners, the house-bound, people with disabilities and the geographically isolated.

Tower blocks lend themselves to communal aerials and satellite dish transmission, telephone lines and cable links can be automatically installed in new housing — but local authorities are hesitant and British Telecom is restructuring towards commercial not public service goals.

The right to make contact involves extending the public call box system; ensuring that all households have a

A MANIFESTO FOR THE MEDIA

Fundamental to any democracy is the right to know and the right to self-expression. Consequently the few wealthy individuals, multi-national media conglomerates and unaccountable public corporations that own and control our communications systems have tremendous power.

Their business is to represent our lives as a means of supplying us with information and entertainment. In doing so they profoundly influence our ideas and opinions.

In an age of instant world-wide communication, those who control the flow of information, and the images and interpretations used in its communication, can enslave every society to which they have access. There is little correlation between the bias in their analysis of world affairs towards the technologically more advanced, capitalist nations, and the cultural diversity of their markets, including contemporary Britain.

Nor do their commercial aims encompass the varied aspirations of the electorate. Racism, sexism and other forms of stereotyping in the media further obscure the contribution that large sections of the community make to society.

The invisibility of those who do not conform to the world-view of multi-national media companies adds a special kind of censorship to the more obvious forms that surround nuclear power, the arms race and the security services, or the situation in the north of Ireland.

In this country, despite the recommendations of several Royal Commissions and Parliamentary Reports, the public still has few rights in respect of the media, unless people can afford to go to court. Yet our ability to communicate, to learn and to organise freely, is a test of the openness of our democracy. Anti-trades union legislation, the Public Order Act, the sale of British Telecom and other privatisation measures introduced by the present government, along with interference with the BBC and plans to deregulate the airwaves have reduced these rights dramatically.

This Manifesto has been devised to stimulate public discussion about the crucial role the media plays in a democracy, and to influence policy-makers. The CPBF is keen to receive comments, and suggestions about policies and legislation that will make the media more accessible and accountable to the people it is meant to serve.

Advisory bodies representing and accountable to those groups worst served by the media would assist this process but a broader range of publications and programmes is also vital.

The creation of greater diversity cannot be left to market forces.

VAT on newspaper and magazine advertising could be invested in equipment, cheap loan finance and direct subsidy to help give a voice to those whose lives currently remain hidden, managed by regional Media Enterprise Boards.

protect the strong.

Media unions should establish procedures through which aggrieved parties can approach them to seek redress, and work for a single media union.

Existing anti-union legislation should be repealed. There should be greater emphasis on industrial democracy within the media, with opportunities for workers to elect representatives onto editorial boards and boards of management to counter commercial influence on editorial decisions and monitor employers' practices, as an added safeguard against illicit activities by multi-nationals.

phone installed free; cheap rental and call charges; and increased access to cable and satellite transmission.

It means bringing British Telecom under public control, continuing state ownership of postal services, and the creation of a Communications Councils to plan, monitor and regulate uses of electronic communications.

International co-operation, firm domestic legislation and public investment are the only way to ensure that the new technologies benefit the widest number of people.

FACILITIES FOR ALL

If communications are to be in any sense representative, restrictions on monopoly control of the media must go hand in hand with the provision of publishing facilities open to everyone and under democratic control.

Publishing brings with it the opportunity to amass huge profits, and directly influence others. This linkage of commercial and political aims is unlikely to work in favour of the poor, the oppressed or those whose politics challenge the status quo.

The occasional opportunity to express an opinion by marking a cross on a ballot paper is no substitute for the ability to broadcast ideas.

The cost of publishing, distributing and promoting newspapers, magazines, or TV programmes is a major reason why the media remains in the hands of a elite. The cost of a national printing corporation and a network of broadcasting facilities could be met from a levy on advertising revenue or

THE RIGHT OF REPLY

Since we have no rights of redress unless we can afford to go to law, we are entirely at the mercy of the media. That is why we need a legal Right of Reply.

Everyone has a favourite example of abuses of media power — sensationalising stories, trivialising events, intruding on people's private grief, misrepresentation and plain lies.

The Press Council, financed by newspaper proprietors and largely ignored by Editors, with its cumbersome procedures and lack-lustre record is shunned by the journalists'

FREEDOM OF THE AIRWAVES

Radio and TV currently offer a narrow range of options in terms of entertainment, information and opinion. Opportunities to air alternative views are rare.

Small wonder there are calls for freedom of the airwaves.

For some this means freedom to broadcast legitimate views and aspirations without having to battle with unaccountable organisations.

For others it means running radio and TV on "free market" principles, and lifting public controls — the thinking behind the government's Peacock Inquiry into BBC funding, the ill-fated Community Radio "experiment", and its Green Paper to review the structure of broadcasting.

American and European experiences show that the commercial approach further limits consumer choice and access, through cost cutting and the pursuit of profits. Community stations would be squeezed out of existence as they competed for audiences and advertising with the conglomerates that already dominate Fleet Street.

A democratically accountable agency able to allocate TV, radio, cable and satellite franchises with commitment to public service broadcasting, would ensure diversity in the media.

As a first step towards consumer participation and choice, it would need to be supplemented at local level by bodies with powers to share out airtime in a way that reflects the communities to be served.

Freedom of the airwaves does not mean a free for all — it means ensuring that all sections of society and all shades of legitimate opinion have the right of expression on air.

profits. Local management, in conjunction with Media Enterprise Boards must be linked to improved training in communication technologies at school and non-vocational level to encourage greater media literacy.

Media distribution systems are also controlled by a handful of companies whose policies act as a form of censorship. We need the legislation that exists in France, to guarantee all lawful publications the right to distribution and display.

union as a "toothless watchdog". The Broadcasting Complaints Commission is little better.

Only through organised campaigns, often supported by the CPBF and backed by the print unions, have people been able to gain adequate redress.

A legally enforceable Right of Reply, administered by an independent able to respond rapidly to complaints about media errors, excesses and bias, and with the power to impose sanctions against offending companies should not interfere with the option of industrial action to obtain redress against recalcitrant editors or proprietors.

Send us your comments on the Media Manifesto:

Which demands should take priority for the Campaign?

What other issues should the final version address?

Do you wish to receive:

- Extra copies of the Manifesto? No
- CPBF Speakers List? YES/NO
- CPBF Mail Order Catalogue YES/NO

Are you

- a CPBF member? YES/NO
- willing to organise a public meeting/discussion group? YES/NO

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____ Tel: _____

Please cut out and return to
CPBF Media Manifesto
9 Poland Street
London W1V 3DG