

CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS & BROADCASTING FREEDOM

Incorporating the Campaign Against Racism in the Media & the Television Users Group

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BRISTOL MEETING

The next meeting of the National Council will be held in Bristol on 21 November as part of a weekend of events organised in conjunction with Bristol NUJ and the Watershed. Events will include the screening of a number of films and videos on the Saturday afternoon with a public meeting on the Sunday on the subject 'What price media

Publications . . .

Bending Reality—The State of the Media, edited by James Curran, Jake Ecclestone, Giles Oakley and Alan Richardson, Pluto Press in association with the CPBF, £5.95 pbk.

Women in Focus—Guidelines for eliminating media sexism, by Julienne Dickey and CPBF London Women's Group, £1.50.

Altered Images—Media, myths and misunderstanding, Links No. 28 published by Third World First, £1.95

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JOURNAL OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM

No 43 October 1987

News on Sunday – what went wrong?

Mike Power one of the original founders of News on Sunday, discusses the reasons behind the radical tabloids demise. – See pages 4 & 5

IBA 'bans' record

CPBF's first ever record, *Ballad of a Spycatcher*, is the subject of a 'ban' by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The ballad, written and recorded by Leon Rosselson with Billy Bragg and The Oyster Band, incorporates the main allegations from Peter Wright's memoirs, *Spycatcher*.

The record has not been broadcast on Independent local stations as the IBA will not give it legal clearance. They have told local stations that if they wish to play it they will have to get their own legal advice from a barrister.

Two ILR stations, Red Rose in Lancashire and Picadilly Radio in Manchester were all set to play the record but have delayed doing so because of the IBA decision. Red Rose had hoped to play the record during the Tory Conference in near-by Blackpool.

The BBC's legal department in contrast has given the record the go ahead and DJ Simon Bates began playing the song on Wednesday 7 October. Radio 1 switchboard was jammed for the next two days with calls from listeners wanting to know where to get the record

The song has continued to get intermittent play on Radio 1 and on local BBC stations. Sales took off at a fast rate – 238 the first day it was in the shops. Four thousand copies have been cleared and the record was placed twelfth in the Independent charts for 7 November.

In addition to the UK distribution copies of the record have been sent to Sweden, Canada and the US.



freedom?' Speakers include Darcus Howe and Clare Short MP.

The meeting is in line with the AGM decision two years ago that at least one meeting of the National Council should be held out of London each year.

For further details contact the office.

TASS RESOLUTION

The Technical Administrative and Supervisory Section of the AUEW (TASS) passed the following resolution at their 1987 Annual Conference in April.

'This Conference condemns the recent Tory interference which takes Government action to use the special branch to make decisive changes in public service broadcasting of the BBC. This Corporation must be free from any political party and we urge BBC journalists to continue reporting the news in an objective way.'

LOCAL RADICAL MEDIA

A Conference is to be held in Sheffield on Saturday 31 October on the subject of local radical media. The conference idea came out of the News on Sunday experience and will be looking not only at the lessons to be learned but also at the possibilities for new initiatives.

The conference will take place between 2 and 6pm at Sheffield's Afro-Caribbean Centre. For more details contact Ben Lowe 0742 664542.

ACTT TRAINING COURSES

Training courses for ACTT members who wish to become more active in their union are being offered on 23-27 November and 7-11 December 1987 and on 7-11 March and 13-17 June 1988 at the Polytechnic of Central London.

Each course is five days long and covers trade union law, negotiating, procedures and agreements, equal opportunities and media bias.

ACTT members who are interested should contact Andy Eagan or Sadie Robarts for an application form.

EDUCATION NETWORK

The Campaign has been invited to participate in a new media working group being set up under the umbrella of Sussex University's Educational Network Project. The initiative arose in response to the narrowing of formal educational opportunities under the Tories.

The project will focus on informal sources of learning including the media. The aim of the media working group will be to develop a critique of British media identifying strengths and weaknesses. The result of research will be published by the University as a series of monographs and in book form.

The first meeting of the media working group will take place on 16 December.

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Press inaction condemned



Rick Mayall reading extracts from Spycatcher.

Scarlet McGuire calling for Editors to act.



The Spycatcher reading held at Conway Hall on 10 August was one of the CPBF's best every attended meetings with more than 400 people turning out to hear comics Michael Palin, Terry Jones and Rick Mayall, novelist Patrick Adams and Campaign members Ann Poynton, Denise Searle, Teresa Stratford and Julianne Dickey read selected extracts from the Wright memoirs.

Passages which were read out ranged from the absurd account of Wright's vetting—'Ever been a queer by any chance?'—and, what one reader termed, the 'boy scout' tales of cold war espionage to the allegations about the planned destabilisation of the Wilson Government in 1974.

The high point for many, though, was the 'unexpected' arrival of Maggie herself, in the shape of the Spitting Image puppet, who joined in by reading her own extract from the banned book.

The readings were preceded by Leon Rossleson singing 'Song of the Free Press' and his newly composed 'Ballad of a Spycatcher'.

In the second half of the meeting a number of invited speakers addressed different aspects of the Spycatcher ban. Scarlet McGuire, joint vice-president of the NUJ, called for journalists to refuse to cover the Prime Ministers speech at the Conservative Party Conference as a protest at the gag on press coverage of Wright's claims.

She criticised Fleet Street editors for the lack of resolute action against the ban.

Martin Smith of Campaign for Freedom of Information reminded the audience of the Tory Government's planned secrecy legislation just after they came to power in 1979. These were knocked off course at the time by the revelation that Anthony Blunt had been a spy.

He warned that tougher secrecy legislation was on the way.

Other speakers included Malcolm Herwitt of the NCCL and Duncan Campbell. The auction of a copy of the banned publication raised several hundred pounds for the Campaign.

Other meetings

A reading of Spycatcher in Hereford organised in conjunction with John Bales of the local NCCL group attracted 150 people at the end of August. The meeting was reported on the front page of the Guardian and in the Times Diary.

Two hundred people attended a meeting in Bristol to hear local MP Dawn Primarola, Meg Beresford of CND, Paddy Hilliard of NCCL Bernie Corbett and Tim Gopsill, NUJ and local rant poet Dougal Templeton read from the banned book. A copy of Spycatcher was raffled making £53 profit for CPBF.

In Maggie's home town of Grantham local political figures gave a public reading on 8 August. Chris Burke the former Labour Candidate and ex-Mayor Councillor Paul Johnson were amongst the readers. Earlier in the day Chris Burke organised similar readings in nearby Stamford and Oakham.

In Richmond on Saturday 19 September Judith Hart, Lord Ardwick and John Nettleton of Yes Minister read outside the Little Green Public Library.

Harrow Labour Party organised a reading which attracted local press coverage in early September. Keith Toms, Deputy Leader of Harrow Labour Group was involved in the reading.

Croydon NUJ Branch held a public reading on 13 October.

Health Authority intervenes

Plans to broadcast Ballad of a Spycatcher had to be dropped by a hospital radio service in West Yorks when the local health authority ruled the song illegal.

In place of the ballad patients in Batley, Dewsbury and Staincliffe hospitals heard CPBF speaker Simon Collings and programme producer Chris Aldred discuss the implications of the Spycatcher ban.

The song recorded live at a performance near Huddersfield, was to have gone out on the Monday Magazine pro-

gramme on 28 September but Dewsbury Health Authority decided the ballad should not be broadcast after consultation with the Hospital Broadcasts Association.

Chris Aldred said: 'Like Leon Rossleson, we believe that the banning of this book is totally ludicrous. The thousands of pounds of tax payers' money that has been wasted on all the legal costs surrounding the book should have been spent on something that would benefit all members of the community—how about investing more in the health service.'

Next issue

Counter Media—
Indian journalists
form media lobby
Group
Peace and the
Media—a
sourcebook from
Canada
Report of Edinburgh
TV festival

Video in Trade Union Communication

Speak Up! By Joel Cayford, Comedia, £1.00 (1985). **Say it with Video,** By Dave Peers and Beryl Richards, Comedia, £2.50 (1986).

These two booklets aim to introduce video to Trade Union and community groups, concentrating on different political and practical areas.

Speak Up! emphasizes the way in which video has provided 'populist' managements with the means to bypass union communication channels, and, by focussing on 'worker-involvement', has implemented policies damaging to the real interests of workers. The booklet makes these powers clear, and also gives examples of the ways in which some unions, such as NALGO, have taken up the challenge and used video to completely regenerate communication and social contacts among their members.

Not only does it become a vehicle for improved daily contacts, but this process can turn a union into a much more efficient fighting machine during disputes, and lead to far reaching changes in the structure of union decision-making.

The latter outcome, as the book points out, is often to the dismay of those shop-stewards jealous of their ability to exercise union, or in some cases, management power.

Such contentious issues are not faced at all in the second booklet, reflecting the interests of its authors, who are directors of a private company: Smith-

Bundy Video. As long-standing partners in video making with the UCW, their approach nevertheless remains pragmatic and manipulative.

Thus they say of TV, (p. 13): 'people are fascinated, and like its sense of intimacy'; on p. 16: 'a well-trained workforce needs to be well-motivated to maintain productivity'; and on p.24: 'activist resistance (within a union) also needs to be overcome (if the union is) to make effective use of video'.

Thus unions are clearly perceived as clients, who have to respond to new management methods, by organising 'their workers'. Nowhere are issues of choice taken seriously, but are seen only as problems for union officials to avoid or iron-out using the same PR techniques as management.

Reading the two booklets together is the most effective reminder that video can be used against you just as effectively as you can use it to reveal and reanimate the life and interests of a union.

Video is a powerful tool and the issues of political control it raises, both in and outside the union, must be addressed effectively, if members are not to be subjected to a second line of hype and manipulation in-their-own-best-interests.

Having said that, the second book is valuable for its extended discussion of practical issues in video-making, and for the amazing account of union mobilisation during the airline pilots dispute in America in 1985. The chapter on video use by US unions shows how very restricted access to the media is in Britain, and likely to become more so.

Graham Douglas

Travellers—dispelling the myths

Moving On, a photopack on Travellers in Britain, By Lynne Gerlach, Stella Hillier, Julia Bennett and Danny Hearty, Minority Rights Group, £5.95 (1987).

'Many people believe Travelling People are their own worst enemies,' says Bill Forrester, author of *The Travellers Handbook*, in the Preface to *Moving On*. 'But if you ask any of these people why they believe (this)... they may well not know.'

Minority Rights Group have produced *Moving On* with the aim of challenging

some of the widely believed myths about Travellers.

Designed for use in schools, the pack covers a range of issues including the media. In particular it looks at newspapers which say the authors, are 'the main source of information and misinformation on Travellers.'

Examples of both good and bad journalism are reproduced with a series of questions and practical exercises to guide discussion of how the media reinforce perceptions and prejudice.

Other sections of the pack cover Traveller history, the law and 'minority experience'. It contains a variety of activities as well as a bibliography and contact addresses.

This is a very useful pack for teachers whether of primary or secondary school children.

Available from Minority Rights Group, 29 Craven Street, London WC2N 5NT

Noticeboard

CIRCLES NEW DISTRIBUTION CATALOGUE

CIRCLES is a feminist film and video distribution network which was set up in 1980.

The new catalogue is a valuable resource containing reviews and detailed information on more than 200 films and videos—work which spans over 80 years of women's production representing work from a diverse range of cultural and political backgrounds.

Designed like a ring binder the catalogue can be regularly updated with additional information and new releases which can be inserted by subject heading (at present 228 pages).

Included are sections on History/Memory, Health, Science and Technology, The Law, Violence Against Women, Racism, Drama, Animation, Sexual Politics, Religion, Struggle and Resistance.

Also there is a section on film and video packages including themes such as—Black Women and Invisibility, Women and Mental Health, Women and Employment...

Available from: 113 Roman Road, London E2.

NORTHERN NEWSREEL

Northern Newsreel, the regular magazine videotape for trade unions and the labour movement has just released its latest bulletin.

This issue contains two main features and an edited extract from 'We Make Ships' by Siren Film and Video, which looks at shipbuilding on the Wear, through the eyes of the workers at Austin and Pickersgill Shipyard in Sunderland.

The two features are 'Clutching at Straws' a look at the former steel town of Consett and 'Up Against the Law' a story about trade union law in action.

Other items in the Bulletin include news of battles which have been won but ignored by the mainstream media and 'Songs with a Message' from Barry Vegetable Autonomous Collective.

Available from: 36 Bottle Bank, Gateshead, NE8 2AR.

Edited for the National Council by SIMON COLLINGS
Copy for Free Press 44 should be sent to the CPBF office by 16 November.

Broadcasting Campaign stepped up

Moves to establish a media lobby group to campaign for a 'public service' commitment from the Government as part of future plans for broadcasting took another step forward last month with agreement on a set of aims.

A third meeting of interested parties is now being convened to discuss three proposed areas of activity. The aims, approved by the National Council at its September meeting, are as follows.

1. To resist the increasing number of threats to the quality of the media in the form of growing monopoly ownership in print and publishing, and the government's plans to lift public controls from broadcasting.
2. To improve the quality and range of media available to the public.
3. To develop existing and new media so they reflect the diversity of the cultural and political life in this country.

4. To give consumers and workers a real say in the running of the media by establishing elected regional and national bodies to oversee the development of broadcasting and print.
5. To develop a mix of financing for the media with excess profits from the commercial media being used to fund new media.
6. To increase consumer choice by limiting the growth of monopoly ownership in the media and by supporting a wider range of media operating within publicly agreed standards for content, balance, representation and employment.
7. To work positively with other European countries to ensure full democratic regulation of new technologies.
8. To work for an integrated Ministry of Arts and Communications.

Using the CPBF as the umbrella organisation, it is hoped that member organisations of the group will agree to:

- a) Co-fund an A4 leaflet to alert the public to the threat to broadcasting.
- b) Co-ordinate information about lobbying of MPs and of progress of government legislation, with a view to publishing a joint response to the White Paper on Broadcasting.
- c) Co-fund meetings around the country on the issue.

Over the coming months CPBF intends to build as broad a base of support as possible for this campaign. If you're organisation is interested in joining the lobby group or otherwise sharing in its activities contact Tom O'Malley at CPBF, 9 Poland Street.

Use the model resolution on page 5 to establish a progressive media policy in your organisation.

The third meeting of the Media Lobby Group will take place on Wednesday 25 November at 6.30 at BETA, 181-185 Wardour Street, London W1V 3AA



Malawian writer detained

Jack Mapanje, 43-year-old poet and a teacher at the University of Malawi, was detained on 28 September. He was not charged with any crime.

Mapanje is a well-known poet and teacher of linguistics. His book of poems *Of Chameleons and Gods* (Heinemann African Writers Series, 1981) has reportedly been formally banned. This is the first time Mapanje has been detained, and the first time his poems have been made illegal. Hitherto the book was legal, but not cleared for general sale through bookshops.

It is not clear why these steps have been taken at this moment. Speculation centres on the struggle between those hoping to succeed Dr Hastings Banda. Mapanje's poems sometimes address political issues and it is possible that some of the actors in the succession struggle have taken offence at what they regard as criticism of the policies. (Source: *Index on Censorship*).

Unlikely evidence of racist bias

The Police Review is not perhaps the first place one would think of looking for evidence of racist bias in media reporting. The latest issue, however, carries an interesting article by Robert Kilroy-Silk entitled 'Why are White Rioters Being Ignored'. But why is Police Review concerned?

Kilroy-Silk and the Police Federation, it seems, are worried by the scale of white rioting which is now taking place across the country. Sleepy country towns have become regular battlegrounds where gangs of armed, drunken youths are on the rampage seeking confrontation with the police.

The forces of law and order feel let down. Why doesn't the media report any of this? Why isn't it debated by politicians? Why is there such an air of complacency about the whole thing? Why is it, and this is where the racism issue comes in, that only riots involving black people get covered?

Having detailed a string of 'white' riots which attracted little or no media coverage, Kilroy-Silk complains: 'There would have been screaming newspaper headlines of the most lurid sort had the culprits been black. One has merely to note that disturbances at the recent Notting Hill Carnival attracted more television and general media coverage than all this years white riots put together.'

What could be the reason for this imbalance? Perhaps we are too familiar with the causes of white rioting, Kilroy-Silk speculates. Perhaps it is all just too familiar?

What he doesn't ask is whether this might be due to an endemic racism in British society. But then racism isn't what concerns him. His purpose in writing is to make a plea for greater coverage of white rioting and its causes which, it would appear, are not the same as for the 'black' variety.

Kilroy-Silk dismisses the explanations of sociologists, the excuses about deprivation, unemployment, the inner city environment etc. These won't wash he tells us. There can be no 'excuses'.

The Police Review article offers no remedies for the alleged increase in white rioting. One cannot help but be suspicious, however, at this concern over the inordinate amount of time devoted to 'black' riots as opposed to white ones.

'Hooliganism' has been with us for centuries. It may be that violence is on the increase but Kilroy-Silk offers no evidence of this.

One of the 'riots' he cites took place in Oxford where there has been a long history of 'town and gown' riots in which people were actually killed. These are now, thankfully, a thing of the past. Following the event Kilroy-Silk refers to the Guardian claimed, quite inaccurately, that the centre of Oxford had become a no go area.

One dreads to think what kind of 'solutions' would be likely to emerge from a debate based on more of this kind of reporting. No doubt something in the shape of strengthened police powers and tighter controls on TV violence.

Before we set off down that road however we may like to consider the implications for our civil liberties.

STOP PRESS

Ann Clwyd MP (Cynon Valley) has introduced a Private Members Bill on Unfair Reporting and the Right of Reply.

The Bill will give members of the public the Right to Reply to allegations made against them or to misreporting or misrepresentations about them in the press or in broadcasting by establishing a Media Complaints Commission. It also extends, for the first time, legal aid to actions for defamation.

ANN CLWYD said: 'The Bill if made law would bring the possibility of redress to people who, through lack of money and inadequacies of existing procedures have suffered damaging and unjustified attacks from the media.'

College censors Amnesty story

Amnesty International is dismayed that College authorities are censoring a story in a student newspaper about a Turkish prisoner of conscience. Richmond College, a private American College with over 1000 students, has taken the action because, they say, the article could cause unrest on the campus.

The story being censored concerns the editor of the newspaper of a progressive youth organisation in Turkey, Erhan Tuskan, who was arrested six weeks after the military coup in 1980. He was tried by a military court on charges of making 'communist propaganda' in his newspaper and was sentenced to 48 years and 10 months imprisonment.

His sentence is in violation of Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights which has been signed by Turkey. Tuskan has not been accused or convicted of any violent offence.

He is in the C anakkale political prison and is one of some

half dozen newspaper editors in Turkey who have been adopted as Amnesty Prisoners of Conscience who are serving long term sentences for the expression of their views.

Amnesty is very concerned that the College authorities have insisted that the editorial board of the Richmond College Student newspaper 'Sidelines' delete the story from its regular prisoner of conscience column.

The case is a well known story that has been widely publicised in the Amnesty journal and taken up by Amnesty supporters all over the world.

Students believe pressure may have been put on the College authorities by the Turkish Embassy.

Amnesty is aware of a number of measures that have been taken by the Turkish authorities to threaten Turkish people abroad who criticise its human rights record, including a penal code that provides for up to 10 years of imprisonment on their return for 'Anti-Turkish Propaganda'

Letter to the Editor

Dear Comrade,

On Saturday September 28, the Sun, Star and Mail all devoted the whole of their front pages to a brutal crime. About one third of the space was given to a photograph of the convicted man. He was black.

I am quite certain that if he had been a white man the case would not have received this inordinate coverage. It will have an inflammatory effect, and many innocent families will suffer.

I wish to express my disgust at this disregard of the National Union of Journalists' code of conduct, and indeed of our country's laws, on incitement to racial hatred, by the editors of these tabloids and their proprietors.

Yours sincerely
Frank Allaun,
Life member NUJ

Can gays and lesbians expect a fair press?

This year's Lesbian and Gay Pride Carnival attracted 20,000 people and they marched from Hyde Park to the South Bank. But you wouldn't know that because it wasn't in the papers or on the telly. It was totally ignored because gays are only news when they are dead, dying or on trial.

On Thursday 24 June, the Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom organised a public meeting at Manchester's Cornerhouse Arts Centre called Posing the Alternative: Can Gays and Lesbians Expect a Fairer Press?

It was addressed by Peter Tatchell, a man almost broken on Fleet Street's anti-gay wheel; professional homophobe and Manchester Evening News columnist Andrew Grimes, and Jane Doblin of the New Statesman.

Andrew Grimes was supposed to be debating the issue. Unfortunately, he and his ilk are the issue. Heterosexual men own, edit and staff the media and, sadly, the short answer to the question of the evening is no.

The tabloids are only interested in scandal and negative images whilst the quality press and the broadcast media see gay issues as peripheral and thus ignore them. Queer-bashing is on the increase, but you wouldn't know that unless you are gay and have been bashed recently.

Changing things is going to take a long time and may never happen. Jane Doblin and Peter Tatchell agreed that a strong, organised gay lobby must keep bashing away at the media but until people like Mr. Grimes retire and until openly gay journalists are promoted to positions of authority and influence rather than sacked, gay people will have to rely on their own media (Gay Life, Capital Gay and so on).

Tatchell was particularly scathing of News On Sunday and its 'Spanker Procter' headline. Good intentions were as much use as a chocolate teapot if they only remained as such. Three days later, News On Sunday ignored the Gay Pride march.

Mike Hill

Mike Power, one of the original founders of News on Sunday, discusses the reasons behind the radical tabloids demise.

News on Sunday – what went wrong?

News on Sunday plc went into receivership eight weeks after it was launched. Its circulation was only half the number required to have been able to draw on bank overdraft facilities needed to continue publishing. The bank was not prepared to take any risk. The paper was then taken over by Growfar Ltd. an off-the-shelf company that is financed mainly by an 'apolitical' millionaire who supports Labour.

Following the take over only half the number of staff remain and most of the original employees and founders have been replaced or pushed out. Editors came and went at the rate of one per month for the

first four months, and as a result the editorial policy zig zags have been bewildering. News on Sunday was not originally conceived as a journalists project – it was first and foremost a political project. The charter established the editorial policy of the paper and outlined a structure of industrial democracy. Industrial democracy was to be established through the board of directors, which included three founder directors and three worker directors who were to be elected by their appropriate trades unions. The founding aims that were drawn up by its originators were incorporated into a charter which along with certain financial rights was to be protected by an independent founders trust, who were appointed for their political commitment.

The project also had a commitment to build effective regional groups around the country. These groups were to be the 'eyes and ears' of the paper, they would ensure access to NoS for those groups in Britain that supported the paper and had for years expressed a need for it. 'News on Sunday was not originally conceived as a journalists project – it was first and foremost a political project.'

These groups included individuals from community organisations, shop stewards committees, ethnic and women's groups, tenants and unemployed organisations and the many left progressive forces in Britain. They were to have produced copy and sources for the paper and eventually to produce their own regional supplements but this potential also died after eight weeks.

Initially a 64 page dummy issue was produced by a group of people who were both professionals and amateurs but who

were also politically committed to the project. This was followed by intensive market research, carried out by a highly respected company RSGB, which revealed the possibility of a circulation of between 800,000 and 1 million copies. At this point the project took off in another direction—towards raising over £6 million the largest amount of money ever attempted by a left radical group.

Newsagents asked to 'Shelve it'

Women campaigning against Sunday Sport are to launch a drive aimed at placing the tabloid on the top shelf in newsagents – along with other pornographic material. The initiative – 'Shelve it!' – emerged from a meeting organised by the CPBF's women's group to discuss ways of combatting the declining standards in the Star after its take-over by porn millionaire David Sullivan (since sacked) and the continuing lack of standards of Sunday Sport. The campaign is also supported by the women's committee of the NUJ's magazine

branch. Organisers hope to enlist the help of a broad alliance of organisations to lobby the National Federation of Retail Newsagents which is responsible for the voluntary agreement limiting pornographic publications to top shelves in shops. Any groups or organisations wishing to affiliate to Shelve It! or anyone wanting more information should write to the joint secretaries Denise Searle and Pauline Isley c/o the CPBF 9 Poland Street, London W1 telephone Wendy Moore on 01 836 6633.



One of the original dummies of News on Sunday.

political and commercial aims of the paper with the lack of political cohesion among the editorial staff led to some fundamental mistakes being made. In particular the launch advertising campaign has been publicly acknowledged as one of the main reasons for the failure of the original paper, although the first few editions came nowhere up to the expectations of the founders. However these problems do not take into account the entrenched conservative reactions that the paper faced. Although an enormous amount of goodwill existed both inside and outside the labour movement, this was not the case with funding bodies, advertisers or organisations

like the Newspaper Publishers Association distribution committee. The BBC and the tabloid press were also reluctant to give News on Sunday any coverage which made the task of launching the paper doubly difficult. The failure of the original NoS project is due to many factors some of which were: the power of incorporation in what became a typical commercial enterprise; the failure to resolve the contradictions between politics and business; the lack of financial fallbacks; underestimating powerful vested interests and putting too much emphasis on experience before political commitment as a criterion in recruitment. However it should be noted

that an entrepreneurial spirit arose on the left, and that the attempt to establish a left expertise in all aspects of newspaper production did take place and still exists. The project established close links with the unions in print and journalism and showed the deunionising and deskilling were not necessarily part of the move towards new technology in newspapers. Much valuable work was done to develop a left public relations with progressive artists and musicians involved. Hopefully the ideas that originated during the short life of News on Sunday will show themselves again and be passed on to greater advantage elsewhere.

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Use this framework, incorporating all or some of its clauses to suit the occasion, to encourage support for a progressive media policy within any organisation/political party/trades union branch to which you belong.

'This... welcomes the initiative of the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom in stimulating public debate about the unrepresentative nature of the communications industries, the urgent need for Freedom of Information legislation, and the threat to democracy posed by the growth of unaccountable trans-national multi-media corporations.

'It deplores government plans for the greater commercialisation of broadcasting and the suppression of Spycatcher as further threats to media freedom in Britain; and resolves to campaign for a programme of reform to ensure greater access to and democratic accountability in the media, including:

- a) Freedom of Information legislation; the repeal 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 in broadcasting; and the abolition of the D-notice and Parliamentary Lobby systems;
- b) legislation to restrict the number of publications and media outlets owned by any one company or group of companies, and to halt the concentration of ownership in the electronic media;
- c) the establishment of an integrated Ministry of Broadcasting, Arts and Telecommunications;
- d) revision of broadcasting legislation to ensure elected, representative bodies replace the existing system of appointment to the IBA and the BBC Board of Governors, and the creation of accountable regional Media Councils responsible for the allocation and supervision of TV, radio, cable and satellite franchises;
- e) the provision of accessible media facilities through the establishment of a National Printing Corporation and regional Media Enterprise Boards able to invest in new publishing and broadcasting projects and promote training, funded from a levy on all media advertising, taxation and local authority grant;
- f) bringing British Telecom back under public control and establishing an elected National Telecommunications Council with power to ensure that new technologies (including satellite and cable) are developed first and foremost as a public service, and to regulate international satellite transmissions in co-operation with other countries.
- g) an obligation on all media institutions to publicise and uphold a Code of Conduct covering professional ethics and to guarantee space for a broad range of opinions on matters of industrial, social and political importance; and the creation of advisory bodies to monitor matters of representation relating to class, sexuality, race and disability in terms of both output and employment;
- h) a Statutory Right of Reply;
- i) legislation to guarantee distribution and display of all legitimate publications;
- j) the introduction of forms of industrial democracy that allow media workers direct involvement in editorial and managerial decision-making.'

LET THE CAMPAIGN OFFICE KNOW HOW YOU GET ON – WHAT VERSION GETS PASSED BY YOUR ORGANISATION – WHAT ARGUMENTS ARE PUT FOR AND AGAINST THE RESOLUTION – WHAT FURTHER ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN – WHAT HELP THE CAMPAIGN CAN GIVE.

1987 STAFF APPEAL

The Campaign desperately needs another £7,000 to sustain its expanding workload over the coming year. Without the resources to employ staff the range of our activities will be seriously curtailed. If you are in work – why not make a monthly donation to assist the Campaign. Every little helps.

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A/c _____

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Please pay the Co-operative Bank plc, 1, Islington High Street, London N1 9TR (Code 08-09-33) for the account of The Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom (A/c No 50508701/50) the sum of: £ _____ (amount in figures) _____ (amount in words) on the _____ day of each month, from _____ (date) _____ month 1987, until countermanded by me.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to CPBF, 9 Poland St, London W1V 3DG