

FREE PRESS

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PRESS AND BROADCASTING FREEDOM
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INSIDE: ELECTION MONITORING REPORT

Setting the record straight



Maxine by David Austin (Journalist, June 92)

Private Members Bill makes correction of factual inaccuracies in the press a real possibility

Clive Soley MP is introducing a Private Members Bill on Freedom and Responsibility of the Press. Its second reading is on January 29 1993.

The CPBF has helped to write the Bill. Its main purpose will be to establish a right to the correction of factual inaccuracies in the press for people and organisations. It will establish a body which will help people obtain that right, and also conduct research and report to parliament on matters such as ownership and control, fairness and ethics in the press.

Clive Soley is well placed in the draw for Private Members Bills and stands a

real chance of getting this measure through. Both the 1987 Ann Clwyd Bill and the 1988 Tony Worthington Bill got massive cross party and public support. In the end the government killed both bills and set up the Calcutt Inquiry to divert attention away from the issues addressed by these two CPBF-written bills.

It is vital that the announcement by David Mellor, Minister for National Heritage, resurrecting the Calcutt Inquiry to consider the issue of privacy, is not allowed to divert attention from this practical reform.

No doubt pressure will be put on Conservative backbenchers to 'wait for Calcutt' rather than support Soley's Bill.

That is why CPBF members should act now. We need you to let us know of examples of inaccuracy which we could use in the campaign. We need you to contact your local MP and urge her or him to back the Soley Bill. We need your branch of your trade union or political party to pass motions in support of the Bill.

The CPBF will be happy to speak to meetings organised by local supporters. Contact the office for more details. The next issue of *Free Press* will carry greater details on the Bill and on the campaign around it.

Watch this space.

Tom O'Malley

The Loaded Dice: the Tory tabloids and the election

The reason for launching Electionwatch 92 in the North West and Yorkshire and Humberside was simple. We knew that the overwhelming bias in the Tory tabloids would be used to rubbish Labour, or the Liberal Democrats, if they eroded Conservative support.

We wanted to do something to counteract the bias by highlighting the reasons for it, and get people involved in challenging the Tory tabloids in particular, but all media, including the local and regional press, where bias was apparent.

Press launches took place in Manchester and Leeds with regional celebrities from the arts, academic and trade union fields. Both were successful and received coverage in regional papers, radio and television.

Simultaneously, tens of thousands of leaflets, *The Dice are Loaded*, were distributed. People were urged 'to do more than moan about media bias'. The Electionwatch 92 phone line provided practical advice, information, addresses and assistance for people who wanted to complain about media bias.

Monitoring the press, highlighting and challenging blatant examples of media bias was a key aspect of the campaign.

As the election unfolded, clear evidence of the collusion between Conservative Central Office and the Tory tabloids at proprietorial and editorial levels emerged. Letters were written and press releases issued — even a spoof one to match the *Sun's* 'interviews' with dead historical figures. We chose Shakespeare, who spoke from beyond the grave: 'Is this a newspaper I see before me? No, it's the *Sun*.'

We had a pea shooter to counteract the firepower of the press barons but even with the limited resources at our disposal we managed to raise issues and build wider support. The support of NALGO, TGWU, North West and Yorkshire and Humberside TUCs and the many individuals who helped us was invaluable.

Electionwatch 92 reinforced the the importance of reforming the media and preventing the abuse of media power which undermines accurate reporting and democratic debate.

Granville Williams

Why the PCC must go #95

The case of Jennifer Bennett

The shabby response of the Press Complaints Commission (PCC) to the media treatment of the Bennett family following Labour's NHS broadcast has put another nail in its own coffin.

Jennifer Bennett's father used perfectly valid means to complain about his daughter's agonising wait for treatment. He also agreed that the facts of Jennifer's case could be used in the Labour election broadcast with the proviso that she personally was not to be identified.

The *Daily Express* and *Independent*, in the heightened election atmosphere, both published inaccurate stories on the case and revealed Jennifer's identity. The justification was that it served the public interest. This was in clear breach of three clauses of the PCC's own Code of Practice: Clause 4 dealing with privacy and intrusion; Clause 5 Section (ii) on intrusion into hospital treatment, and Clause 11 on parental consent before publication of stories on children under 16.

Lord MacGregor's response for the PCC dismissed the family's complaint: 'Your action placed your daughter's treatment in the public domain where it became a proper subject of investigation by newspapers.'

So much for the code! The fundamental question is whether the PCC is an effective body for appraising and monitoring the press, and whether self-regulation of the press by editors works (nine out of the 16 places on the PCC go to the press). The PCC looks and is acting like the newspaper industry's protector, rather than an accessible watchdog for people concerned about press standards. The only family it intervenes to defend is the Windsors.

Jennifer's father is right. 'Surely it is time for the skids to be put under the PCC. The effete chairmanship of Lord MacGregor only serves to emphasise the feebleness of the organisation itself where issues of public interest are concerned.' (*The Guardian*, 20 April).

Granville Williams



Why the PCC must go #96

Transcript of interview with Lord MacGregor.

Hard News, Channel 4, 17 May 1992:

David Jessel: I am joined by the Chariman of the Press Complaints Commission, Lord MacGregor. Can I ask you first to sort out one of these charges of rather arbitrary inconsistency. Why is 'poofter' unacceptable in the *Daily Star* but quite acceptable in *The Sun*?

Lord MacGregor: It is not the paper that makes or does not make the acceptability. It

simply is the use of the word. Unless I have the actual text in front of me, I find it difficult to reply to that question.

DJ: Your report said that it was because 'poofter' was the sort of language that a *Sun* reader would use. But that is not the sort of benchmark you are going to use?

Lord M: Look, this is a very difficult issue. Newspapers are addressed to readerships. Different readerships from different occupational and social groups use different sorts of language.

DJ: It is nasty language, it is unacceptable language in any circumstances.

Lord M: It may very well be nasty language to you and me, but it may be perfectly ordinary and normal language to other people.

DJ: Surely it is a bit easier to adjudicate on 'wog', 'paki', 'chink'. You can say now that those are just unacceptable words in any context.

Lord M: I am not certain that they are unacceptable in all contexts. There are some in which they would be unacceptable and some in which they would be acceptable.

DJ: What would be an acceptable context for the use of the word 'wog'?

Lord M: Possibly there would not be an acceptable one for 'wog'. But it seems to me there are plenty of acceptable uses of the word 'paki'. If you are in Scotland, if you live in Edinburgh for example, if you say I am going round to buy my morning rolls from the paki, this is the language that everybody uses.

DJ: You would print that? While we are on the subject of perjorative words, how do you react to Paul Foot's suggesting that you are a lot of superannuated toffs and profs?...

Election Monitor: The Tory tabloids go to war



'The heroes of this campaign were Sir David English, Sir Nicholas Lloyd, Kelvin MacKenzie and the other editors of the grander Tory press. Never in the past nine elections have they come out so strongly in favour of the Conservatives. Never has their attack on the Labour Party been so comprehensive. They exposed, ridiculed and humiliated that party, doing each day in their pages the job that the politicians failed to do from their bright new platforms.'

Lord McAlpine, former Conservative Party Treasurer
Sunday Telegraph 12 April

Politics produces strange alliances. The paeon of praise to the Tory tabloid editors by former Conservative Party Treasurer, Lord McAlpine, was endorsed by Neil Kinnock when he announced he was stepping down as party leader in the wake of Labour's general election defeat. Kelvin MacKenzie, editor of *The Sun*, disagreed. He questioned the impact of the tabloids on the election result. *Socialist Worker* and *Living Marxism* agreed with him.

So where does the truth lie?

The CPBF carried out an exhaustive analysis of front page stories and editorial comment in the press during the election campaign. What emerges is a systematic and differentiated mobilisation of the Tory tabloids in pursuit of a Conservative victory.

The impact of this orchestrated effort on the final result can only be established by detailed field research. But what can be said with certainty is that the democratic process was debased. This must be of concern not only to those striving for a free and responsible media, but for all those concerned with the long term health of democratic politics in this country.

Exploration of issues was replaced by the extolling of party propaganda as fact. Vitriolic denunciation of individual personalities, especially Neil Kinnock, replaced political discussion. And the hysterical character of much of the tabloid coverage served to disguise the fact that competing ideas and arguments were neither fairly presented nor engaged with.



Daily Mail, 6 April

Daily Mail

Daily sale: 1,688,808
% share of daily circulation: 11.84
Owned by: Associated Newspapers

The *Daily Mail* slavishly followed the line of Conservative Central Office. However, in common with all the tabloids it devoted no less than one third of its front pages between 16 March and 9 April to the marital disputes of Britain's biggest pretend family — the Windsors. The familiar pattern of bread and circuses was common to all the tabloids.

Only one front page headline positively promoted the Tories, the fatuous propaganda claim: 'We'll bring down mortgages' (6 April). Every other election headline, 11 in all, was virulently anti-Labour. These played on people's economic insecurity, caused by the recession, and fear of higher taxes and mortgages to encourage them to stick with the Tories. John Smith's budget was derided: 'If



Daily Mail, 7 April

you make it, they'll take it' (17 March). The idea of an investment led recovery led to Smith being pilloried as 'Mr Rising Prices' (23 April). Consideration of controls on spiralling personal debt produced the wild claim: 'Labour to ration mortgages' (24 April). A huge front page 'Warning' (7 April) claimed mortgages would increase 'within days of a Labour Government entering office'.

Front page leads based on an 18 month old document by an academic economist, which formed no part of Labour's manifesto, led to claims of a sweetheart deal with the public sector unions: 'Plan to pay unions more' (31 March) and 'Labour will not deny it' (1 April).

Neil Kinnock and the Labour Party leadership were continually attacked as devious, liars and incompetent. 'The Kinnock mask slips' (16 March) was followed by 'No regard for a little girl' and 'Labour's new health fiasco' (26 and 27 March) during the Central Office inspired war of Jennifer's ear. Tory fears of a Kinnock-Ashdown deal on PR in the final week of the campaign led to 'Beware the tender trap' and 'Labour tries to seduce Ashdown' (2 and 3 April).



The Mail's London sister paper, the *Evening Standard* (25 March). Circulation: 528,718, adds its voice to the Tory cacophony

The Sun

Daily sale: 3,588,077
% share of daily circulation: 25.16
Owned by: News International

In 22 issues preceding polling day, *The Sun* led on the election only nine times. Again with the exception of a single valedictory for John Major, 'A man for all reasons' (3 April), every other lead story was a personalised attack on Kinnock.

The Sun opened with 'I was wrong, wrong, wrong. Kinnock owns up' (16 March). It unleashed vitriol on 26 March in a headline covering most of its front page: 'If Kinnock

will tell lies about a sick little girl, will he ever tell the truth about anything'. 'Nightmare on Kinnock street' (8 April) returned to the Tories favoured theme in a front page editorial 'A Question of Trust' followed by eight pages rubbishing Labour.

The Sun delivered its *coup de grace* on polling day: 'If Kinnock wins today will the last person to leave Britain please turn out the lights' ran the headline. In humorous self-deprecation it claimed not to want to influence voters judgement on who will be the next Prime Minister, 'but if it's a bald bloke with wispy red hair and two K's in his surname, we'll see you at the airport'. Ouch!



The Sun, 26 March

Daily sale: 495,405
% share of daily circulation: 3.47
Owned by: News International

There were horses for courses. *The Sun's* tabloid stablemate, *Today* promised 'Proper News not Propaganda' on its masthead. There was some justification in its claim of neutrality in its reporting of the campaign. On occasions it allowed party supporters to put their cases with equal space — a welcome development which would not have gone amiss elsewhere.

But in the final week, when, in the words of its own headline it was 'Down to the Wire' (7 April) the Tories favoured campaign theme, 'Who do we trust', came to the fore. And, naturally, it was that nice Mr Major.

There was a huge front page photograph of Major smiling after being hit with an egg. Inside the story was headlined: 'Splattered and bloodied but Major's unbowed'. No wonder Major was smiling. In this age of terrorism, no one asked how anyone could get through the crowds of police and party minders, leave alone the media pack, to throw an egg.



OUR VERDICT
Pages 6 & 7

Today, 8 April

It was a brilliant division of labour. If *The Sun* appeals to the values of the stereotypical 'Essex man', *Today's* image of its readership is of a concerned lower middle class, alienated from Thatcherism, but winnable to a 'nice' Mr Major against the 'brash' Mr Kinnock.



Daily Express, 26 March

Daily Express

Daily sale: 1,537,726
% share of daily circulation
Owned by: United Newspapers

Murdoch's tabloids were not the only ones to operate a convenient division of labour, so did United Newspapers. But their tactics were the same as the *Mail's*. They used the very economic insecurity created by the Tories recession to frighten alienated Conservative supporters back into the fold.

Other than three headline stories on opinion polls (two for the Tories, one for

Labour) all the Express front pages not given over to the royals attacked Labour: on tax, on its NHS broadcast, and its general competence. Most of these simply repeated Tory propaganda claims as fact, such as 'Labour's tax lies exposed' (23 March). 'The Big Lie' (26 March) did not even carry the *Mail's* half-hearted apology of inverted commas round 'lie' when dealing with Labour's NHS broadcast.

Broadcast media investigations of the Express's own role in this episode led to a predictable full length editorial ('Sad saga of a pink slip') attacking the BBC and ITN as pro-Labour pinkos. As with *The Sun's* efforts a week later, 'Nightmare on Kinnock Street' (31 March) was simply the repetition of Central Office propaganda.

When all else looked like failing the race card was played: 'Baker's Migrant Flood Warning' screamed the banner headline of 7 April. This was used to hammer the Liberal Democrats for supporting the right in principal of all Hong Kong British Passport holders to come to this country. The spectre of 4.5m Hong Kong Chinese was raised. The fact that there has been no surge in immigration even amongst Hong Kong residents the Conservatives would allow to come here, and in recent months a return flow, was conveniently forgotten.

The final message: 'Don't throw it all away' (8 April), concentrated yet again on readers' fears of losing what little some of them might have gained under the Tories.

A great ability of the *Express* is to pursue class war while denying one exists. Thus in the editorial column Smith's budget was tagged a 'Package for a class war' (17 March). Yet a week later the *Express* ran 'What kind of people are we' (23 March), a full page opinion column extolling the virtues of Conservatism, and a week after that 'What kind of people are they' (30 March), deprecating Labour in the crudest terms. Us and them. The final editorial in the *Express* encapsulated the Conservative campaign in its title 'Can you really afford not to vote Tory' (9 April).



Daily Express, 7 April



Daily Star, 26 March

Daily Star

Daily sale: 808,486
% share of circulation: 5.67
Owned by: United Newspapers

The *Express's* stablemate, the *Star*, played a crude but clever role in the Tory campaign. It offered its readers circuses without shame, leading on the election only four times in three and a half weeks. But this studied 'apolitical' approach buttresses the status quo, encouraging people not to think about their circumstances, to consider politics 'boring', somebody else's business.

But who was that nice man presenting a *Star* award to a brave girl in a picture which dominated the front page on 19 March — oh, it's nice Mr. Major. There was a sideswipe at Labour and the unions recalling the winter of discontent on 24 March.

Despite the fact that all Tory papers decry 'the politics of envy' when Labour proposes the mildest redistribution of wealth, if a Labour politician or his partner is running a successful business this is called hypocrisy. So the fact that Mrs. Meacher runs a private nursing agency — and there is not a state one — was headlined 'What Mrs. Meacher does in private' (26 March).

With considerably less humour than *The Sun*, the *Star* told its readers on 8 April 'It's up to you' then proceeded to say what was wrong with Labour, why the Liberal Democrats and PR were a dangerous waste of time, and then issued this final warning: 'This bring's us to another fear — the threat of unbridled immigration by people posing as refugees.'

The two major Conservative themes of the final week's campaign were, of course, that a vote for Ashdown was a vote to let Kinnock in and playing the racist card.



Daily Mirror, 6 April, with 3 three days to go.

Daily Mirror

Daily sale (inc. Record): 3,621,952
% share of circulation: 25.40
Owned by: Mirror Gp Newspapers

To counter the pro-Tory barrage Labour relied on Mirror Group Newspapers. Extraordinarily, the *Mirror* headlined no more on the election than *The Sun*, sharing its obsession with the royals, Jason Donovan and Graeme Souness.

Similarly, negative coverage of the Tories outweighed positive reasons for voting Labour. There is a greater excuse for opposition parties pointing to the record of the party that has been the government. Nevertheless, as a mirror image of Tory tabloids, if less hysterical, the *Mirror's* coverage was disappointing.

Even more surprisingly, neither the *People* nor the *Sunday Mirror* ever led on the election. Front page coverage was restricted to one small piece in the *Sunday Mirror* (22 March) attacking John Major as a 'wimp'. Highly progressive. Both papers carried editorials very critical of the Tories on 22 and 29 March but only put a positive editorial case for a Labour vote on 5 April.

Mirror Group Newspapers were no balance to the collective onslaught on Labour by the Tory tabloids. Each carefully targeted its market and the perceived self-interest of its readership. The *Mail* and *Express* played on the economic fears of disenchanted middle-class supporters over taxation and mortgage rates to herd them back into the Tory fold. *Today* addressed itself to a readership, including many women, it sees as more definitely anti-Thatcherite, socially concerned and fair minded. Gradually it nudged them into Major's camp.

The *Sun* presented its Tory ideas as the commonsense of individualised, achieving workers who did not want to be held back by bureaucratic restraints or collectivist carthorses such as trade unions.

And the *Star* played never mind the politics, allow the Tory status quo to continue. Running through all the Tory tabloids at differing times were attacks on the personality of Kinnock and the constant theme 'You can't trust Labour.' A steady undercurrent played on racist prejudices.

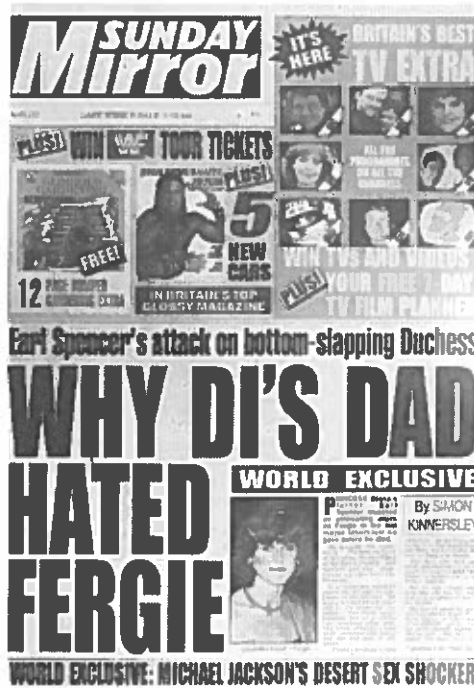
Few serious defences were made of the Tory record just the threat that under Labour things would be worse. Better the devil you know than the devil you don't. The nondescript Major, despite his track record as a loyal Thatcherite, ideally suited this purpose.

When Labour scored a telling hit, as it did with its NHS broadcast, the Tory tabloids summoned up their reserves of venom to divert attention away from the state of the NHS with synthetic moral outrage.

Democracy has been debased by the tabloid election coverage. Acres of newsprint did not give the electorate the comprehensive information or range of opinion on which to make a genuinely informed choice. Coverage was, in the words of Macbeth: 'a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing'. That is why it served the Tory's purposes so well.

But the content of tabloid news — or non-news — reporting, its bias, omissions and lies is a scandal 52 weeks a year, not just for three weeks every five years.

Mick Gosling



Sunday Mirror, 5 April, the last before polling day.

Stitching up the BBC

David Mellor, the Government's newest convert to a Privacy Bill, has no doubts about the effect of the Heritage Ministry's review of the BBC: 'It's not me you should worry about' he reportedly told a broadcasting executive anxious about the BBC's future, 'you should be watching the enemy within'.

Although the 'enemy within' phrase was originally coined to attack the NUM during the Miners' strike, Mellor was not thought to be referring to the broadcasting unions, weakened as they have, been by years of casualisation and repressive changes in labour law. If the quotation is true, the Minister was in fact talking about the BBC's top management.

Obscured by a welter of consultancy reports, sub-committees, and high-level reviews, the Director-General, Sir Michael Checkland, and Governors' Chair, Marmaduke Hussey, are presiding over an avalanche of frantic change which will reduce the BBC to a small, commercially-driven organisation by the end the decade.

Their strategy is to introduce changes formulated by second-guessing the Government's (unpublished) plans. In other words, the BBC is doing unto itself whatever it believes the Government might in the future undo to it. In the process, irreversible damage is being done to Britain's most significant public service broadcaster, ensuring that politicians and public are presented with fait-accompli when they attempt, later this year, to debate its role and structure post 1996.

Margaret Thatcher once described Hussey and Checkland as 'my two good men at the BBC', and must be well satisfied with what they have achieved.

The 'Lime Grove problem', a reference to the studios which outraged government's with programmes like 'Yesterday's Men' and 'Panorama' Carrickmore edition, was solved by closing the building and burying the Current Affairs department within John Birt's news empire — an intellectual police state.

Taunts about overstaffing from national newspapers with interests in satellite television were met by privatisation of support services and systematic staff cuts in programme making areas. Instead of complaining about the late-80s 'rate-capping' of its licence fee, the BBC rushed into innumerable commercial activities to make good the shortfall.

Despite having the NHS internal market as a paradigm of public service paralysis, the BBC is introducing without instructions from Whitehall, an identical market system which insiders predict will lead to most programmes being bought from other companies

Northern Ireland Human Rights Assembly

The broadcasting ban on Sinn Fein and other Irish organisations was raised at an international forum — the Northern Ireland Human Rights Assembly — held in London in April.

Organised by Liberty, the assembly drew more than 300 people, from countries including Ireland, Britain, France, Spain, Denmark, Italy, the United States and Palestine. More than 220 written submissions were made to the 12 commissions looking at different aspects of human rights in Northern Ireland.

A report from the Assembly is set to be published in the autumn. This will be used to take the issues to international human rights committees including those of the United Nations.

The CPBF was one of a number of organisations to submit material to the commission on freedom of expression. Others included the anti-censorship organisation Article 19, the Northern Ireland-based Committee for the Administration of Justice, and the Glasgow University Media Group.

These submissions looked at violations of two articles in international declarations — Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights. These both

state that 'Everyone has the right to freedom... to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers'. Article 10 adds that this right should not 'be interfered with by a public authority'.

Submissions warned that

- the broadcasting ban has effectively been extended to individuals and organisations not specified in the Home Secretary's restrictions. Confusion amongst broadcasters as to the precise scope of the ban, has led to an extension of the restrictions to individuals who are not members of the listed organisations and who do not support them. The ban has also been extended to cover explanations of the motivations of members of the listed organisations, making it difficult to account for the continued existence of the conflict in Ireland
- detention of individuals by security forces in Northern Ireland and the British police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act has prevented people from Northern Ireland visiting Britain to speak
- legal requirements under the Prevention of Terrorism Act that journalists hand over notes, films or tapes to the security forces reinforces paramilitary suspicions about journalists with the result that, according to Article 19, that the media

operate in a downward spiral of suspicion and danger

the right to receive information on the conflict in Ireland is severely limited by the dominance of a small number of well-funded and official sources in Northern Ireland.

The National Union of Journalists warned that the broadcasting ban transferred the responsibility for political censorship to people in broadcasting whose job is defined in statute as being to inform, educate, and entertain and to operate on an impartial basis.

The NUJ and CPBF believes the ban prevents journalists from operating impartially and is an act of political censorship.

Jeremy Gardner

BBC

continued from page 6.

The principal of public service broadcasting being available 'free of charge at point of consumption' has been eroded by the launch of a night-time subscription channel and a satellite service both funded by subscription. The removal of programmes from public access has been accelerated by the BBC's new habit of doing deals with BSkyB.

Complaints about 'lack of focus' have been inflamed by a proliferation of new projects and extra services which are underfunded and underused. Overall, there are less staff, smaller budgets for programmes and consequently fewer viewers and listeners.

In short, a small group of politically-appointed mandarins within one of the country's least accountable institutions have pushed through changes which have diminished the BBC's service to the public, made the organisation less popular and undermined the very reason for its existence. No improvement is expected when John Birt replaces Checkland as Director General in 1993.

The CPBF believes that the BBC should be subject to genuine public control and must be kept out of the climate of commercialisation and de-regulation which spawned the newspaper industry we have today. The philosophy will guide our campaigning work during the debate on the renewal of the BBC's Charter.

The CPBF will also be pointing out where the real battle in British broadcasting lies: between the public service tradition on one side, and the profiteering, often political, interests of new outlets like satellite, which must kill off their competition to survive. It is this that explains the continuing attacks on the BBC by the press and the free market lobby.

Sadly, the Corporation has done little to help itself, and the most difficult campaigning task will be persuading the BBC's many critics in the progressive movement that it is worth saving an organisation that has so effectively destroyed the arguments for its own survival.

Tony Lennon

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Bookings & further details from: BBC Conference,
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TUC Fringe Meetings

Monday 7 Sept 1 - 2 pm

Edward Suite, Claremont Hotel, Blackpool

NO TV — NO COMMENT?

The media and the marginalisation of the trade union movement.

Speakers include: *Andrew Puddephat (Liberty)*
Linda Quinn (NCU)
Mary Rosser (Morning Star)

Tuesday 8 Sept 1 - 2 pm

Crescent Room, Claremont Hotel, Blackpool

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

TUC launch for Mark Fisher's Right to Know Bill.

Speakers include: *Mark Fisher MP*

Labour Party Conference Fringe Meetings

Tuesday 29 Sept 1 - 2 pm

Crescent Room, Claremont Hotel, Blackpool

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION — WHO DECIDES?

Speakers include: *Mark Fisher MP*
Francesca Klug (Liberty)
Maurice Frankel (Campaign for Freedom of Information)

Tuesday 29 September 7.30 pm

Crescent Room, Claremont Hotel, Blackpool

ABSENT FACES, ABSENT VOICES

— the equal opportunities agenda and the media.

Speakers include: *Dawn Primarolo MP*
Diane Abbott MP

Wednesday 30 September 7.30 pm

Edward Suite, Claremont Hotel, Blackpool

CLEANING UP AFTER THE MEDIA

— Are the tabloids a danger to democracy? Plus how to get a right of reply.

Speakers include: *David Hill (Labour Party Director of Campaigns & Communications)*
Clive Soley MP
Andrew Puddephat (Liberty)
Wendy Moore (NUJ)

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FP69
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