

SUPPING WITH THE DEVIL...

GRANVILLE WILLIAMS

THERE it was in the Financial Times (6 July) – the kind of headline that was part of a fantasy world, impossible to imagine even up to a year ago: 'Blair to give key speech to News Corp conference'.

Tony Blair, by the time you read this, will have travelled, courtesy of News International, to an island off Australia to address Murdoch's management conference, and returned to open Labour's 21st Century Communications conference at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London, where one of the sessions will include Sir David English, Chairman and Editor in Chief, Associated Newspapers.

Now these details should give us pause for thought. Firstly, they follow rapidly on the sacking of Dave Wilson, formerly FoC at the Daily Mail for, according to his dismissal letter, "been openly critical of the company, its profits, its dividend policies and the remuneration of various individuals."

Dave Wilson fought a long and high profile campaign through the courts over the company's tactics of union derecognition when five years ago the company denied a 4.5 per cent pay rise to staff who refused on principle to sign personal contracts accepting derecognition. In the intervening year's the profits of Associated Newspapers have tripled and, as he rightly points out, if the benefits of this success are not shared more widely, it's appropriate to take an interest in the company's business policies.

People like Lord Rothermere (owner of Associated Newspapers) and Rupert

PLATFORM



Murdoch trumpet their defence of press freedom, Lord Rothermere, on one of his rare visits to Britain recently – he's a tax exile – spoke on this very topic at the Media Society shortly after Dave Wilson's dismissal. "Without free speech, which means free criticism as well as free thought and expression of new ideas, our institutions would stagnate like those of ancient China or Marxist Russia. If disclosure is the stuff of

news, then suppression is the mask of power," he proclaimed.

Fine words, but the treatment for people at the Daily Mail who dare to dissent isn't consistent with the sentiments expressed by the noble lord. And what about Rupert Murdoch speaking in Edinburgh on 25 August, 1989: "Government control will become increasingly impossible in the new age of television. The multiplicity of channels means that the government thought-police, in whatever form, whether it is the benign good and great in Britain or the jackboot in the night elsewhere, will find it hard to control more and more channels."

Fine words again. But in practice Murdoch quickly abandoned his stance when it was a choice between his Asian TV satellite being blocked in China and cutting him off from a lucrative market, or reaching an accommodation with the Chinese regime by taking the offending BBC World News off Star TV.

Mr Murdoch, according to the FT report, is being encouraged by his closest advisers to reach an entente with Labour in the run-up to the next general election, and Sir David English has told colleagues that he forecasts the Daily Mail supporting John Major at the next election, but with a much more balanced coverage than last time.

When media proprietors and editors seek such rapprochement with Labour

→ continued page 6

WITHOUT COMMENT

Beyond a scintilla of doubt the press is wholly responsible for securing Private Lee Clegg's freedom. When he was charged in September 1991 there was little national paper coverage. His trial in June 1993 attracted even less. His appeal in March 1994 passed without press comment...

The success of such a campaign offers a fascinating glimpse into both the power and the ideological agenda of newspapers. It illustrates the way a propagandising populist press is able to magnify an injustice to the point where it can overturn the decision of the highest court in the land. But it also reveals how other injustices, such as the cases of the Birmingham Six and the Guildford Four were marginalised, forgotten or ignored by the press and television.

Roy Greenslade

The Times, 5 July 1995

If I was still working in a newspaper office – particularly a Murdoch newspaper office – I might well in present circumstances join the NUJ... Employers are beginning once again to think they can get away with murder, or can't afford not to if they are to remain competitive. Possibly seen from the boardroom there is indeed no alternative. But before being laid off I should like to feel that my fate did not entirely depend on a lot of abstractions put together on a computer by a team of managerial high-flyers.

Peregrine Worsthorne's Week

Sunday Telegraph, 7 May 1995

Andrew Jaspas has now been editing the Observer for three months, long enough for the first end of term report. He's going to have to try harder...

The Observer's defenders say, with justice, that he is at a difficult half-way stage: a relaunch takes many months to plot, and in the Observer's case it is not expected until September.

They point to the peculiar local difficulties of actually sacking or dislodging writers (the Guardian and Observer are strongly unionised). Andrew Neil brutally refashioned the Sunday Times in the 1980s, destroying the Harry Evans model: that is not the GMG's way.

Maggie Brown

Media editor of The Independent, writing in PR Week, 30 June 1995

[Maggie Brown was one of over 40 editorial jobs cut at The Independent the following week to reduce trading losses.]

A big trial ...and hold the jury

ALICE DONALD

JUNE 28 marked the first anniversary of the opening of this century's longest running libel case. It pits the American fastfood chain McDonald's – whose annual sales total \$26 billion – against two unwaged environmental activists, Helen Steel and Dave Morris.

Legal journalist Marcel Berlins cannot think of a case in which the legal cards have been "so spectacularly stacked against one party". There's no jury. Mr Justice Bell ruled at the outset that one of the most controversial elements in the case – the link between diet and cancer – was "too complex" to be assessed by the public.

At issue is a leaflet produced by a small group called London Greenpeace (not the international group). It accused McDonald's of damaging the environment, promoting unhealthy diet and exploiting workers.

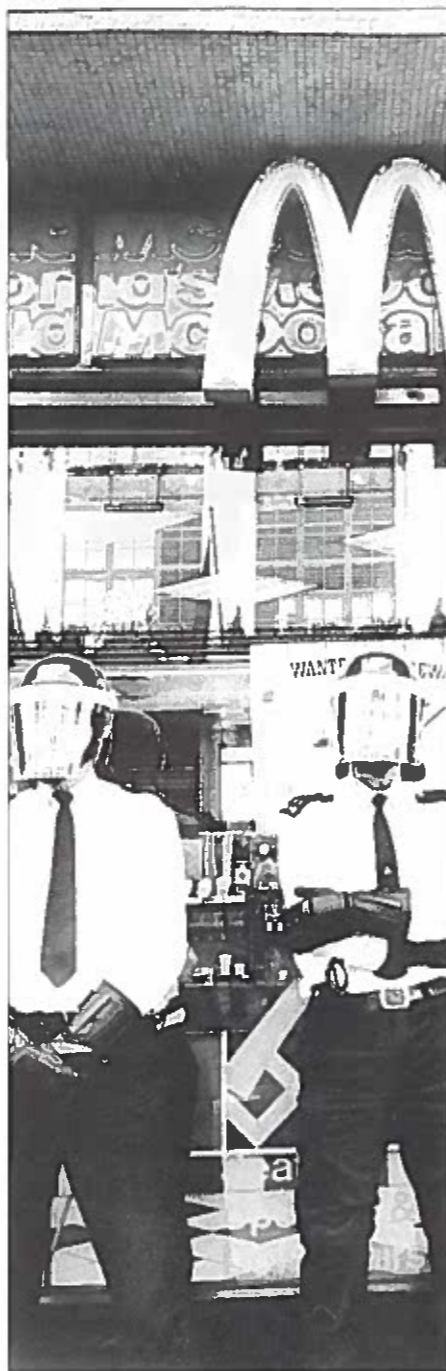
McDonald's spends \$1.4 billion a year on advertising. Alistair Fairgrieve, UK Marketing Services Manager, said in court: "It is our objective to dominate the communications area ... because we are competing for a share of the customer's mind."

The trial has turned into a PR nightmare. Damaging allegations about the company's ethics and the unhealthiness of its food have been disseminated worldwide.

For the "McLibel Two", it is not just the company but the libel laws which are on trial. "Thousands of people have pledged to continue to hand out leaflets critical of McDonald's," Dave Morris says. "The whole McDonald's effort has been about silencing critics and campaigners – and they have failed."

For further information or to send donations, please contact the McLibel Support Campaign, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX. Tel/fax: 0171-713 1269.

If you can offer legal help, please contact Brendon Delaney at Liberty, 21 Tabard St, London SE1 4LA. Tel: 0171-403 3888.



Police guard a McDonald's in the heart of London's West End against McLibel supporters. Below: Helen Steel and Dave Morris outside the High Court.

Pictures Nick Cobbing



Labour: fine tuning will be crucial



Graham Allen MP, Labour Spokesperson for Media, Broadcasting and the Superhighway on government cross-media ownership proposals

THE Government's proposals for cross media ownership should carry a "Handle with Care" label. While I welcome a broadened perspective for the media industry and a points system which restricts share of the overall market, there is much in the paper that requires further clarification and detail. It remains to be seen whether the government will stick to its original principles through the consultation process or bow to pressure in areas where the proposals remain vague. The fine tuning of the new rules will be crucial.

For a start, the Government's proposals for an independent regulator are far too nebulous. We have not been told who will be responsible for appointing the regulator. We have been left in the dark as to how and to whom the regulator will be accountable. And we have a proposed regulator with far too much scope for discretionary decisions. The new media regulator should not be allowed to decide which companies can or cannot merge or whether excess media ownership should be divested or not. The task must be set in stone: it must control dominant media interests. Furthermore, this task is too important to be tacked onto the duties of the

Director of Fair Trading, as the Government is suggesting. Regulating media ownership must be the only thing that he or she does.

Similarly with the crucial issue of conditional access to media gateways, the Government has not shown how it will make a reality of its stance against market dominance and anti-competitive practice. It predicts the need for a regulatory framework for the provision of broadcast subscription and pay television services but commits only to reviewing the situation at an unspecified future date. We have no guarantee that the

necessary legislation will be introduced in time, if it is introduced at all.

I am also concerned about the protection of regional and community interests. In the dash for deals that the White Paper will instigate, national newspaper groups with national interests may buy up regional ITV stations and endanger regional character and diversity in broadcasting. Those media groups with radio interests will be able to buy up to 35 local radio licences with no community obligations whatsoever. Where there is freeing up of commercial activity, there should also be safeguards for regional and minority interests.

Labour has a firm set of principles which we believe should shape media legislation – plurality of ownership, diversity of content, quality of programme-making and writing and promotion of regional strengths in broadcasting. The 1990 Broadcasting Act and the disastrous franchising rounds for Channels 3 and 5 have failed these principles. I sincerely hope that we will see some principled legislation result from the cross media proposals and some initiative, clarity and foresight in the drafting of the forthcoming White Paper on digitisation.

Good for the few and bad for the many

TONY HARCUP

THE Government's media ownership proposals are bad news for radio listeners and aspiring radio broadcasters – but good news for the industry's handful of big players.

Arguing that "there is an immediate need to relax the rules on radio ownership", the Government is raising the limit on the number of local licences held by any company, from 20 to 35 – and even that limit will be scrapped altogether in the Bill being prepared for the autumn.

The Government proposes abolishing the restriction on radio stations being owned by television companies, and the proposals will also allow newspaper companies to own both radio and television broadcasters (subject to a maximum sectoral share of 15 per cent).

Not much evidence there of the "diverse and pluralistic media industry" proclaimed by National Heritage Secretary Stephen Dorrell.

Within hours of the Government's proposals being unveiled, shares in the larger radio companies shot up and takeover speculation reached fever pitch.

RADIO

Alone among the big boys, GWR had already hit the 20 licence limit – so it stands to benefit the most from the new regime. But non-radio-specific media conglomerates are also likely to be attracted by the opportunity to control ever-larger chunks of the advertising market.

The relaxation of ownership restrictions will inevitably result in commercial radio stations being concentrated into fewer and fewer hands – all playing the same old records and offering a negligible local news service.

With ownership restrictions going out the window, there is a real danger that the big commercial players will now be tempted to bid for the new range of small low-power licences which are becoming available on the 105-108 MHz section of the FM waveband.

This would be ironic, as these licences are only coming about because of intensive lobbying by the hundreds of community radio groups which up to

now have been restricted to occasional 28-day broadcasts.

One such group is Cambridge Community Radio, whose 200 enthusiastic volunteers have broadcast for a month in each of the last three years.

A new full-time licence is now being created for the area, but as Cambridge Community Radio chairperson Clive Woodman explained: "We may now face competition from better-financed commercial radio groups eager to add another radio licence to their portfolio."

A neighbouring community radio group in St Albans also undertook years of campaigning to bring a local radio licence to their area only to find it eventually awarded to a subsidiary of the Chiltern Radio Group.

In response, the Community Radio Association (CRA) has launched a campaign to have community radio recognised as a separate sector – with non-profit-making local licences protected from and running parallel to the commercial sector.

For details of this campaign, contact the CRA on 0114 2795219.

WHAT A CARVE UP!

Government cross-media ownership proposals please UK media

STEPHEN Dorrell, then National Heritage Secretary, published his proposals on cross-media ownership on 23 May*. He made one or two gestures in his initial comments on the importance of the media in a democratic society. "The media has an ever more central role in our democratic and cultural life. That fact underlines the need to ensure that no organisation should be allowed to dominate and unduly influence the media," he said.

However, this aspect was rapidly jettisoned as the proposals were presented. Against 'the protection of diversity and plurality' he posed the commercial requirements of the media industry, and the need 'to take a significant share of the expanding international media market'.

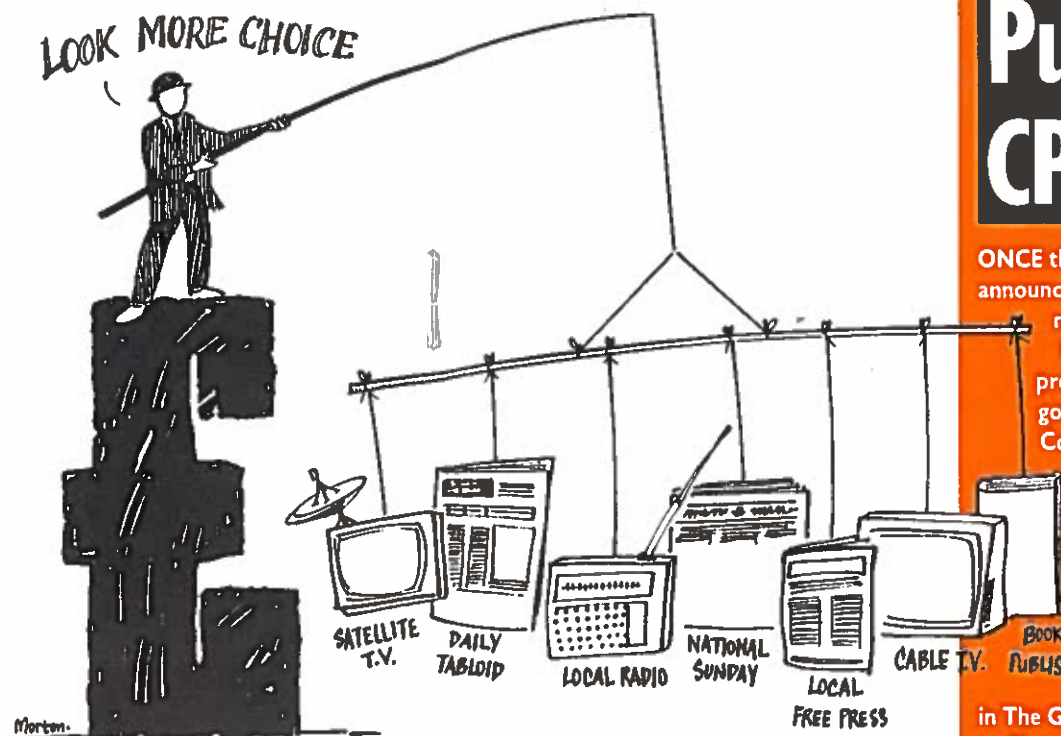
It's clear that the British Media Industry Group (BMIG) had won the day – with its members standing to gain the most from the government's proposals. Indeed their successful campaign is a telling example of how powerful and effective the orchestrated efforts of media companies can be.

The proposals have unleashed the wrath of Murdoch

The BMIG, a pressure group representing four of the biggest UK newspaper publishers – Associated Newspapers, Pearson, Guardian Media group and the Telegraph – was set up in July 1993, and the lobbying group Market Access International hired in August, with the explicit aim of re-shaping media ownership rules. Since then we've seen discreet lobbying, high profile conferences, the opening up of newspapers and magazines to a stream of articles and reports which presented a one-sided case for abandoning ownership restrictions, and senior figures within each of the companies

taking a very high profile. Sir David English, chairman of both BMIG and Associated Newspapers met John Major to discuss the issue, and he was supported in his efforts by Guardian chairman Harry Roche, Pearson Managing Director Frank Barlow and Telegraph Deputy chairman Sir Frank Rogers. Market Access got the BMIG access to the politicians at party conferences, arranged meetings and lunches with relevant civil

servants and parliamentarians, and meetings with the secretaries of state at both National Heritage and the DTI. "The great contribution we made was to force the government to think about what we're saying," Sir Frank Rogers said, but they've done more than that. The BMIG report, A New approach to Cross-Media Ownership, launched in March this year, argued for a system to measure 'share of voice' for the whole media industry – the very idea taken up by Dorrell. What the BMIG case dramatically underlines is that media owners can already exert an enormous impact and influence when they act in concert to influence policy; Stephen Dorrell's proposals will ensure even greater dominance for the media companies. But if the BMIG are clearly 'winners' the



Putting the CPBF view

ONCE the government's proposals were announced life was more hectic than normal in the CPBF National Office. We were in demand to provide an alternative view to the government's. CPBF National Council members Tom O'Malley and Granville Williams did numerous radio interviews and appeared on BBC Breakfast TV and Newsnight. A CPBF press release was picked up by some papers and Tom O'Malley's letter and an article on the role of the BMIG appeared in The Guardian.

Comments on the government's proposals should be submitted by 31 August 1995 to: Broadcasting Policy Division, Department of National Heritage, 2-4 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5DH

The CPBF booklet Britain's Media: How They Are Related has sold out. It provided the arguments against the approach to cross-media ownership which the government has adopted. We want to do an up-dated second edition, but the problem is cash. Our finances are in a parlous state and the cost of researching, writing and printing a second edition would be £4,000. If you can help us to raise the money for this project, or can put us in touch with possible funding sources please contact us urgently.

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government's proposals have unleashed the wrath of Murdoch, who because of his dominance in national newspapers is unable to take over ITV stations. (The other 'loser' Montgomery's Mirror Group Newspapers, which had a 20 per cent stake in Scottish TV, has remained strangely quiet). The Murdoch press has lambasted the government's media plans, and in the Tory leadership election directed withering criticism against John Major. The new National Heritage Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, was the subject of constant derision in Today – and she can expect more from the Murdoch press unless she makes concessions favourable to his empire in the cross-media policy debate.

*Media Ownership: The Government's Proposals, Cmnd 2872. HMSO £6.75

markets in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the regions of England, and 20 per cent of each media sector (TV, newspaper and radio).

New or existing media concentrations above these levels would be subject to approval by an independent media regulator to determine whether they were in the public interest.

SHORT TERM PLANS

New laws on ownership will be introduced in the autumn which will mean:

- Newspapers will be free to take over TV stations and vice versa, according to certain thresholds. National newspapers which have less than a 20 per cent share of the total national circulation would be allowed

to control up to 15 per cent of the television market, based on audience figures, and subject to a limit of two ITV licences. (Rupe doesn't like this one.)

Where a newspaper group's regional titles account for more than 30 per cent of regional newspaper circulation cross control will not be allowed. The same 30 per cent threshold applies to a regional newspaper wanting to take over an ITV franchise in its circulation area.

- Newspapers below the 20 per cent threshold will be able to seek Radio Authority consent to control radio stations and vice versa, but regional newspapers with more than a 30 per cent circulation share would not be able to control stations

in their area.

- Television. Restrictions on ownership between terrestrial, satellite and cable television services to be abolished, subject to a 15 per cent limit on total television audience. Satellite and cable companies in which a national newspaper has a 20 per cent stake and is above the national circulation ceiling can't own a terrestrial station. (This is another policy Rupe doesn't like.)

- Radio. The number of local radio licences which can be held will increase from 20 to 35, prior to the long term proposal to abolish the limit.

- The circulation threshold for newspaper referrals to the Monopoly and Mergers Commission doubled to 50,000.

THE PROPOSALS

consumer." 5.20

The report argues that only when restrictions are taken off companies will they be able to grow to a size which will enable them to compete internationally.

LONG TERM AIMS

The government wants to abolish the existing cross-media ownership rules, and introduce a new way of measuring media markets according to their relative influence. Ownership thresholds would be set to limit companies to 12 per cent of the total UK media market, 20 per cent of the regional

KEY ISSUES

The rationale for loosening media ownership rules is justified in commercial and technological terms. "The technologies of broadcasting, publishing and telecommunications are converging at an increasingly rapid pace. The dynamics of technological change carry with them the potential to reshape the nature of the media industry, and to create new business opportunities." 5.17

"Alliances between television and newspaper companies are a logical and natural product of the economic and technological dynamics of the industry and will allow a healthy interchange of skills and creativity for the benefit of the

What we think

LET'S start with the assumptions behind the government proposals. The idea that by lifting cross-media ownership restrictions UK media companies will be able to grow and compete with the large global media corporations is faintly absurd. After all, with the exception of companies like Reed Elsevier (the result of a merger between UK and Dutch companies), Pearson and News International most of the companies have their operations and make their products very much for UK-based audiences and consumers. You only have to look at the top 70 programmes in June, to see how true that is for television.

We are not talking in the main about companies which operate on a global market, but ones which for commercial reasons want to expand into different, more profitable bits of the media within the UK. But this is also raises questions. Newspaper groups have been keen to portray their industry as mature, with limited growth potential – to survive they need to move into TV. But TV viewing is declining, too: down nearly 14 per cent between 1985 and 1994. If the multimedia revolution is real, you don't need to change the cross-media rules to allow newspaper groups to move into the growth areas of CD-ROMS, home computers and computer software.

Existing laws on cross-media ownership have given companies vast opportunities to expand their multi-media interests. Already at a local, regional and national level swathes of the media are already in the hands of companies that now want more.

The government proposals only pay lip service to the vital issues of diversity and plurality in the media. What they are about is increasing cross-media ownership and reducing range, choice and quality.

A particular area of concern in the proposals relates to the idea of lumping all the media together and then slicing it up based on the idea of 'share of voice'. This is fraught with problems because 'market measurement methodologies' based on revenue, audience share and 'numerical and other relevant criteria' cannot measure the influence and impact which different TV programmes, newspapers and radio stations will have. The idea of relative impact cannot be measured in any meaningful way.

**NEWT'S BRAVE
NEW WORLD**

NEWT GINGRICH wants "to reshape the entire nation through the news media". (New York Times 14/12/94)

There are two strands to his strategy. One is a strong appeal to corporate leaders to consider an advertising boycott of newspapers that oppose their views. "If you are prepared to be tough minded about it, the major 20 advertisers in the country by themselves could impose a standard, because among them they are such a dominant force in the market," he said.

Also media editorials ought to match the business interests of media owners. "The business side of the broadcast industry ought to educate the editorial-writing side of the broadcasting industry," he asserts. The prospect of a monolithic media, with advertisers only supporting pro-business views, and media commentators and pundits echoing the corporate interests of their owners, moves closer.

**ONE VOICE ON ITALY TV
IN REFERENDUM**

Italy's media referendum (11 June) rejected proposals which would have obliged Berlusconi to sell off two of his group's three TV networks.

Vincenzo Vita, of the centre left PDS party which supported the proposals, complained that Fininvest had unfairly exploited its three networks to support the Vote No Campaign.

"It was an abnormal and unjust campaign because the object of the referendum became the instrument for winning it," he said. In the month prior to the vote Fininvest networks ran 520 spots for the Vote No Campaign.

The Vote Yes campaign had only +2 spots before it decided to pull them off the networks. The cancellation followed the spots being sandwiched between Vote No spots and promotions celebrating the Fininvest network's fifteenth anniversary with the slogan Your Right to Choose.

The Vote Yes campaign had no alternative outlet for its campaign. State broadcaster RAI is not allowed to run electoral propaganda.

**SENATE BILL LIFTS CURBS
ON US MEDIA**

Amid accusations that Republicans are rewarding their corporate paymasters, the Republican controlled Senate voted to lift almost all restrictions on the big media companies.

The measure, passed by 81 votes to 18, in June, eliminates a legally enforced ceiling on cable TV prices; broadcasters currently restricted to 12 television stations will be able to own as many as they like; and it abolishes the law on radio ownership, which previously limited companies to 40 stations.

The whole package gives enormous power to the media giants, who lobbied hard for it and are some of the biggest donors to political candidates. Sounds familiar.

Entertainment unions urge accountable BBC governors

THE Federation of Entertainment Unions (FEU) wants a different system for appointing the BBC governors. They argue, "The BBC should supply a public service which is, to a considerable extent, complementary to the commercial service, not merely competitive with it... This failure to understand the nature of public service broadcasting which in the past enabled the BBC to acquire a world wide reputation for the quality and variety of its programmes shows how crucial the question of the manner and appointment of the Chair of

the Board of Governors and the Director general of the BBC is."

The FEU argue for a more publicly accountable system of appointing the BBC Governors, which would also be an additional guarantee of independence from the patronage and political interference of the government of the day. Their solution is a system of appointment by Select Committee, 'subject to Parliamentary approval' and the composition of the Board of Governors 'should in general be required to reflect the society which the BBC serves'.

Supping with the devil...

→ from page 1

leaders, we have to ask why. After all News International newspapers pursued in the recent Tory leadership election a determined campaign to force John Major out of office and replace him with a right-wing, anti-Europe, nationalistic Tory leader, and the Daily Mail ran a front page on July 4, 'Time To Ditch The Captain'.

The power and influence of the media owners has increased enormously under successive Tory governments since 1979 - Murdoch's domination of national and Sunday newspaper circulation, and control of BSkyB, distorts the democratic process and threatens the survival of the other newspapers.

Far from Labour seeking to appease or seek some accommodation with such people, the message should be a clear one. Media ownership isn't determined by political expediency. Mr Murdoch is skilled in manipulating governments and politicians to accommodate his global business agenda but he should be told, "You have used your power for too long to influence politics and the media in the UK, but now in the interests of diversity and democracy it's time to dismantle your empire - keep some of your newspapers or BSkyB, but you can't have both."

Born out of the struggle for equality

The Black Press in Britain

by Ionie Benjamin

Trentham Books

£11.95 1-85856-028-4

THIS book is an important introduction to the history of Black publications in Britain. It examines their struggles, successes and the determination of the Black publishers to continue publishing in order to redress the balance.

Pioneering Black papers such as The Pan African, The African Telegraph and The African Times and Orient Review were launched before the first World War. These papers were born out of the struggle for Black equality. For example, The Pan African explained that its aim was to be the 'mouth-piece for millions of Africans and their descendants'. The paper wrote stories campaigning against imperialism and for the self-determination of Black people.

The book explains that it was the Black press which highlighted one of the first race riots in Britain. This occurred at the end of the first World

War when Black seamen who choose to settle in Britain were attacked by 'marauding mobs in the streets and in their homes'. The African Telegraph reported the story in graphic detail while the white press 'understated the facts or apportioned blame'. These early papers set the pace for the second group of Black publications which emerged after the Second World War.

The most important of these was The West Indian Gazette launched in 1958. Its editor was the communist activist Claudia Jones who had settled in England after her deportation from the United States. Claudia brought to the paper her experience of struggle against racial and social injustice. The paper highlighted the plight of Black immigrants in Britain when whites rioted against Blacks in August 1958, first in

Nottingham and a week later in Notting Hill. The Gazette offered an 'alternative and opposing voice' to that of the white media. Claudia and the paper also opposed the immigration bill which was passed after the riots.

However in the 1970s and '80s things changed because while Black publications were expected to continue the struggle British born Blacks wanted more from Black publications. Many shared 'similar educational and cultural experiences and aspirations' and expected the same opportunities and wanted a paper which would reflect this. Black Britons also wanted music and fashion which older papers were not addressing. The book explains that by the 1980s Black publications began competing for these readers. The competition then and

now is between two publishers, Arif Ali - owner of Hansib Publishing who acquired the largest number of newspapers and periodicals in Black publishing including The Caribbean Times - and Voice Communication which publishes The Voice, Black Beat International and Pride.

The conclusion of this book is that, despite the history of the Black press struggle in Britain, there is hope because 'racist perspectives are becoming less generally acceptable in mainstream media' and that once advertisers discover the spending power of Blacks they will see that they can gain from it and thus treat Blacks better. However, from recent stories it is hard to see how the white media is becoming less racist and the high unemployment amongst Blacks makes it difficult to reduce racism significantly.

Black publications will have to continue the struggle through their pages for the foreseeable future.

Beulah Ainley

Tribute to a dissector of hypocrisy

Chomsky's Politics

by Milan Rai

Verso £10.95 paperback

ISBN 1 65984 011 6

CHOMSKY was in Britain in June to receive an honorary degree from Cambridge and to deliver the keynote address at the Human Rights Convention in London. He is a sought-after speaker all over the world, addressing packed-out meetings, but unable to accept more than a fraction of the invitations he receives to speak. His books also sell in large numbers, with the *The Chomsky Reader*, published in 1987, selling 47,000 copies.

This popularity stands in marked contrast to the attitude of the media in the USA to his work and ideas. There is a policy of exclusion from the elite journals like the *New York Times*, *Harper's* or the *Atlantic*, and apart from the period 1967-72, his books are not covered in the influential *New York Review of Books*. He is also effectively ostracised from the mainstream American media.

Part of the reason for this is to do with his detailed, persistent and powerful analyses of US foreign policy in South East Asia and South America, and the dissection of the media's role in 'manufacturing consent'. In the book, *Manufacturing Consent*, co-authored with Edward S. Herman, they point out, "The democratic postulate is that the media are independent and committed to discovering and reporting the truth... If however the powerful are able to fix premises of discourse, to decide what the general populace is allowed to see, hear, and think about, and to 'massage' public opinion by regular propaganda campaigns, the standard view about how the system works is at serious odds with reality."

A new, and recommended, book on Chomsky's Politics provides a very thorough introduction to the ideas and influences which have shaped Chomsky's writings - over 25 books in 25 years. It's also a tribute to the stamina and commitment of an intellectual spurred into activism in 1964 by the Vietnam war, and driven to dissect the hypocrisy and cant of US foreign and domestic policy then and in the intervening years. GW

Support for media victims

THE FIRST issue of Presswise Bulletin has just been published. Presswise offers advice and support to people unfairly treated by the press. Launched as a spin-off from the work done with Clive Soley and the CPBF around his Freedom and Responsibility of the Press Bill, Presswise has set itself an ambitious programme of work and fundraising to sustain its activity.

 Copies of the Bulletin and further information about Presswise are available from Unit 25, EBC, Felix Road, Bristol BS5 0HE. Tel 0117 941 5889.

**CPBF
NOTICES**

FRINGE MEETINGS

We're coming up to the conference season again. We'll be holding Fringe Meetings at the following conferences so if you can help with leafletting, please contact us.

TUC, Brighton

Tuesday 12 September
Royal Oak Hotel 12.45
THE UNIONS, MEDIA OWNERSHIP & DEMOCRACY

Speakers include John Foster, General Secretary, NUJ

LIBERAL-DEMOCRATS, Glasgow

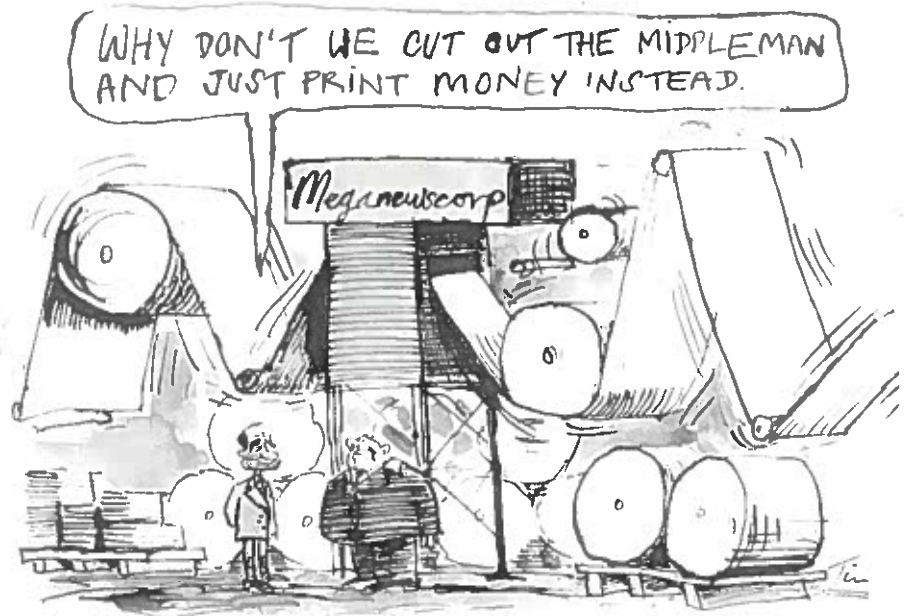
Jura Room, Moat House Hotel,
Sunday 17 September 6.30pm
Speakers include Janice Turner, editor
Stage, Screen and Radio

LABOUR PARTY, Brighton

Royal Albion Hotel, Old Steine
Tuesday 3 October, 12.30
Speakers include Chris Mullin MP

**GET THE PICTURE ON
MEDIA OWNERSHIP**

Our A2 full colour chart – Britain's Media: How They Are Related – details who owns the UK media, and covers National and Regional Newspapers, TV, Publishing, Radio and TV News/New Media. You can buy the poster for £2.00 inc P&P from CPBF. It's an invaluable resource for media education, trade union studies or just to have on your wall to see how bad things will get unless we have a drastic change in media policies.



One of a set of six postcards just produced by the CPBF on the themes of Press Freedom and Media Ownership. There is another Tim Sanders card, two by Paul Morton, one by Steve Bell and one by Jamel Akib. You can purchase the set for £2.00 inc P&P from the National Office or CPBF (North) 7 Northumberland Street, Huddersfield HD1 1RL TEL 01484 454184. If you would like to purchase quantities of the cards, please contact us to discuss discounts.

It's money that matters

HOW do you increase profits by a staggering +15 per cent? The annual results for EMAP, the media group with interests in regional newspapers, consumer and business magazine publishing and radio, show operating profits for the radio division up from £1 million to £5.2 million.

The acquisition by EMAP of Transworld Communication's radio stations for £50 million contributed £3.6 million to total profits.

Granada's half year results also showed pre tax profits up by 50 per cent at £154.5 million.

JOIN

THE CAMPAIGN

FOR PRESS AND

BROADCASTING

FREEDOM

MEMBERSHIP RATES PER ANNUM		AFFILIATION BY ORGANISATION	
a) Individual membership	£12	f) Less than 500 members	£20
b) Unwaged	£6	g) 500 to 1,000	£25
c) Household (2 copies Free Press)	£20	h) 1,000 to 10,000	£45
d) Supporting membership (includes free CPBF publications)	£25	i) 10,000 to 50,000	£105
e) Institutions (eg libraries: includes 10 copies of Free Press)	£25	j) 50,000 to 100,000	£200
		k) Over 100,000	£400

I/We want to join the CPBF and enclose a cheque/PO for £..... FP87

Name

Address

Postcode Tel.....

Organisation (if applicable)

Return form to CPBF, 8 Cynthia Street, London N1 9JF **Tel: 0171 278 4430**