

RT Hon TESSA JOWELL M.P.  
CULTURE SECRETARY.  
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

7TH FEB. 2004.

DEAR MS JOWELL,

AS A LICENCE HOLDER FOR OVER 50 YEARS I WRITE WITH CONCERN FOLLOWING THE RATHER UNJUST ATTACKS ON THE B.B.C. IN THE WAKE OF THE HUTTON REPORT, WHICH SUGGEST THAT THIS WILL BE USED TO JUSTIFY CERTAIN CHANGES WHEN THE REVIEW OF ITS CHARTER TAKES PLACE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES DO WE WANT BACK DOOR PRIVATISATION OR COMMERCIALISM TO BE INTRODUCED, WHICH WOULD CERTAINLY DESTROY ITS ROLE AS AN INDEPENDANT PUBLIC BODY WHICH WE TRUST, NOR (MIGHT I SAY) DO WE WANT THE B.B.C. REDUCED TO BEING A MOUTHPIECE FOR POLITICALLY CORRECT UNELECTED RACE INDUSTRY QUANGOS AS WE SAW IN THE KILROY SILK AFFAIR!

YOU RECENTLY WERE REPORTED TO HAVE ASSURED US THAT PUBLIC OPINION WOULD BE INVITED BEFORE THE CHARTER DECISIONS WERE MADE. MAY I THEREFORE EXPRESS THE FOLLOWING VIEWS? :-

1. IF THE LICENCE FEE IS RETAINED LET US TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION AGAINST THE 30-40% WHO DO NOT HAVE T.V. LICENCES. (CARAVAN TRAVELLERS ALWAYS HAVE AN AERIAL ON THEIR VEHICLES, BUT I HAVE YET TO SEE THE POLICE RAISE THE MATTER WITH THEM AS TO WHETHER THEY HAVE A LICENCE!).  
2. IT IS TIME THAT THE RADIO NETWORK RAISED ITS OWN REVENUE, AND SHOULD NOT BE SUPPORTED FROM T.V. LICENCE FUNDS. A "ONE OFF" SALES TAX ON ALL RADIOS COULD BE USEFUL.

3. ABOLISHING THE LICENCE WOULD BE POPULAR - PERHAPS AN INCREASE TO THE V.A.T. RATE FOR T.V.'S ETC COUD REPLACE IT?.

YOU SAID RECENTLY THAT CHANGES WERE DUE IN LINE WITH THE MODERN SOCIETY. MAY I ALSO SUGGEST THAT IT IS HIGH TIME TO REVIEW OUR VIEWS ON THE PRESENT DRAGONIAN CENSORSHIP WHICH STILL AFFECTS ADULT HOUR VIEWING. THE SITUATION AT THE MOMENT IS MORE IN KEEPING WITH CROMWELLS TIME. WE NEED TO HARMONISE OUR CENSORSHIP POLICY IN LINE WITH THE COUNTRIES IN THE E.U. FOR IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT A T.V. SET IN THE VATICAN CITY WILL RECEIVE MORE ADULT ENTERTAINMENT THAN IN THE U.K.!

YOURS SINCERELY  
MR A.V. BAKER.