

22 - 3 - 04

Dear Sir, I wish to comment on the forthcoming review of the B.B.C. charter.

Firstly consideration must be given to the abolition of the licence fee and alternative methods of funding found; disregarding the foreseeable outraged outbursts of vested entrenched interests.

If this is not acceptable there must be a radical review on all aspects of the organisation, particularly what is its role. This should be followed by a radical review of expenditure; an exercise in costs control; commercial and business ethics and disciplines exercised. Revenue must be obtained from sources other than licence payers and advertisement revenues must be considered.

A halt must be called to the world wide junketing of B.B.C. personnel.

There are far too many special

correspondents, political, foreign, educational, sports correspondents, pseudo experts together with a myriad of others often making irrelevant comments adding nothing to a programme but expense.

The B.B.C's role as I understand, is to entertain, educate, advise and inform and in the case of the latter to inform is to report events and not to manufacture them.

Greater control must be exercised over interviewers many of whom are rude and aggressive considering this good journalistic practise. They express personal views which are irrelevant in the context of an interview and by their conduct and licence of their employers have contributed in no small measure to the denigration of politico and politicians and many other institutions. Further many do not ask questions but make statements with implied facts seeking controversy and then constantly interject during any response.

There is clearly an unhealthy ethos within the B.B.C; an old boys network and a culture that they know best. When this

is questioned or challenged a closing of 'ranks' occurs with a screaming outburst of righteous indignation. I quote the Gelligan affair.

Radio is no better than television and I include it in my comments above. Why should the B.B.C. rule the airways. Be under no illusion the organisation is held in as much disdain as regard in many parts of the world.

The B.B.C. is a treasured organisation within the British psyche. But it is British and without showing or implying any form of bias it should not seek to diminish or denigrate the British culture or way of life, or surrender to outside negative interests.

Yours faithfully
James H. Bass