

BILL WALKER 112

15-2-04

Dear B.B.C.,

Reference your questionnaire.

I am a 66 year old Englishman  
born and bred. I started listening to BBC radio  
from about age 8. I remember listening to  
"Dick Barton", "Life with the Lyons", "Educating  
Archie", Jimmy Edwards, Tony Hancock, Saturday  
Night Theatre, 2 Way Family Fracasites, and  
Billy Cotton among others - I didn't listen to the  
news or educational programmes - too much like  
school! We didn't have TV until I was 18 and  
then I didn't watch TV ~~watch~~ regularly until 1966,  
and even then I didn't watch a great deal  
because of work commitments. Since retirement in

1993 I've watched TV more often. But I don't think much of most of the TV at present, apart from the films. There is no variety entertainment like "Sunday Night at the Palladium", "Black & White Minstrels", "Come Dancing", "Morecambe & Wise"; nor plays. I've always watched BBC TV dramatisations of Dickens, George Eliot, Austen, the Brontës and Hardy. I should like to see dramatisations of Daphne Du Maurier, George Orwell, John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, and Dostoevsky, and the stories of Somerset Maugham, and Guy de Maupassant, and the plays of Sheridan, Wilde, Chekhov, Ibsen, Shaw and Arthur Miller. I wish the BBC would show again:-

Freeman's interviews with Tony Hancock, Gilbert Harding, and C. G. Jung; and John Betjemann's "Thank God it's Sunday"; and Tony Hancock's Half Hour.

I am not interested in the Internet or digital television (whatever that is!). I therefore don't see why BBC should get involved with either.

I do not want to see commercials on B.B.C because (a) they interrupt the flow of the programme, and

(b) brainwash the viewer to want something which the viewer does not need.

As far as I am aware the BBC has always been properly run, and has adhered to whatever standards of accuracy, impartiality and fair play are deemed necessary for television. As a lawyer I am aware that every person has his, here or its own concepts of "accuracy", "impartiality" and "fair play".

The licence fee is the best way to pay for the BBC.

It is not for me, as a member of the public, to tell the BBC how it can properly be accountable to Parliament: that is solely the concern of the BBC and Parliament. I regard Parliament as accountable to the public.

Provided the BBC gives me a reasoned reply to any letter of complaint I may write, I shall regard the BBC as sufficiently accountable to me. Please note that I would not communicate any such complaint electronically, either by telephone or e-mail.

Yours faithfully,  
Arthur