

TessaJowellM

Department for Culture	
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Action	Dear Official
BP	Treat As App
	For information only
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14 December 2003

Email

Tessa Jowell M.P.
 Culture Secretary
 House of Commons
 Westminster
 London SW1

sent 6/1/4

Kate MK.

Ref.: BBC License

Dear Tessa Jowell,

I heard your introduction (Friday C4 Today programme) of the matter of the renewal of the BBC Charter and read the reviews in the Observer (Sunday 14/Dec) particularly Hutton (Will Hutton, that is). The reviews cemented my concern that your broadcast appeared very offhand, and that come what may, as far as the GB public are involved, you have already made up your mind to use this to wreak the Government's spleen at this God given opportunity. I genuinely do not wish to appear sarcastic, but I am extremely anxious as I look at the TV programmes and see SKY, SKY, SKY.

Should the prognosis prove correct, that the new ITV consortium be sold to yet another American company will put us on par with and in the same disgusting position as that of Italy, where their P.M. owns nearly all the media channels.

Apart from this domestic consideration, the BBC is greatly respected by millions of people all over the world and if we ascribe to the firm British values of equality and fairness, both we and the world need a BBC that is independent and courageous. A BBC that can take on governments, yes, even our own.

You -- the Government -- my Government (as I am a keen LP supporter) may have your squabble with the BBC over the IRAQ war issue, but I can forecast the revulsion of the public if this was seen to turn into a vendetta where the Government, using it's POWER to settle the score in it's FAVOUR.

The decision to assist the US, Bush, Rumsfeld, Powell et all, was a disaster that should never have happened, if, for one moment, Tony Blair had listened to the British People. The emphasis on maintaining 'the bridge' is only used when the US want us to do something that is questionable. Please listen to the growing outcry in the US itself. Listen to the owner of Vanity Fair and others who view their country's Foreign Policy with horror and deep, deep concern.

The British People will never forgive us (you) if we let Tony Blair destroy our chance of a THIRD TERM in office. We will have the Tories back -- if that happens even I would withdraw my support and the future for me would be exceedingly grim. Hutton puts it "*..in the round it remains a glorious tribute to Enlightenment values..*", that is a description of the BBC that I can thoroughly support, and I sincerely hope and trust that you can come to the same conclusion. Thank you.

Yours Fraternally

Frank Outh

Cc Steve Pound M.P.