

Ms Tessa Jowell M.P.

NATURE SECRETARY
HOUSE OF COMMONS

KW

7. MARCH 2005.

DEAR Ms JOWELL

HAVING HELD A WIRELESS AND T.V. LICENCE FOR OVER 6 YEARS I WRITE WITH SOME CONCERN REGARDING THE ANNOUNCED CHANGES TO THE B.B.C. CHARTER. I REALISE THAT THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE THE DAYS OF LORD REITH, BUT I AM SORRY TO HEAR THAT THE GOVERNORS ARE TO BE REPLACED BY YET ANOTHER QUANGO. I ALSO FEEL THAT IF THE LICENCE FEE IS TO CONTINUE WE SHOULD HAVE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT ALL PEOPLE WITH SETS PAY THEIR SHARE. AT THE MOMENT THOSE CAUGHT GET AWAY WITH ONLY A PUNY FINE WHICH MANY DO NOT PAY! IT WOULD BE FAIRER IF EACH HOUSE, CARAVAN, AND BOAT WAS CHARGED A T.V. RECEIVING TAX (LIKE THE COUNCIL) OR A TAX ON NEW RADIOS AND T.V. SETS.

THE B.B.C. MUST NOT BE CONSTRAINED TO BECOME A MOUTHPIECE FOR POLITICALLY CORRECT UNELECTED QUANGOS (SUCH AS THE C.R.E) OF WHICH THE ELECTORS HAVE HAD MORE THAN THEIR FILL SINCE THE LAURENCE AFFAIR, AND LORD STONON REPORT. WE MUST ALSO REMEMBER THAT ONE OF THE B.B.C.'S DUTIES IS TO ENTERTAIN, WE DO NOT WANT ALL THE LIGHTER SIDE PROGRAMMES HANDLED OVER TO T.V. I FEEL THAT IT IS ALSO TIME THAT I.T.V. HAD A REVIEW IN VIEW OF SOME OF THE GUTTER LEVEL RUBBISH IT IS NOW CHURNING OUT. I RECALL THE WORDS TALKING WHEN I.T.V. WAS BORN - "THERE WILL BE COMMITMENT TO CULTURAL PROGRAMMES" ETC. I HAVE YET TO SEE I.T.V. HONOUR THAT PLEDGE. THEY HAVEN'T GIVEN US ANYTHING LIKE THE PROMS. AS YET, SO HOW ABOUT A "SHAKEUP" FOR THEM? WE HAVE ALSO HAD ENOUGH OF SATELLITE T.V. MEGUL'S MONOPOLY OVER SPORT, AND OUR NATIONAL GAME (SOCCER) APPEARS TO BE IN THE HANDS OF BIG MONEY WHICH IS KILLING OFF THE GAME. IT'S ALSO TIME FOR CHANGES THERE!

YOU SAY THAT THE B.B.C. IS TO CONCENTRATE MORE ON "SERIOUS" PROGRAMMES. DO I UNDERSTAND THAT WE WILL BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO SEE BEHZTI (AS IT WAS INTENDED BY THE AUTHOR), OR HAVE THE DISGRACEFUL ACTS OF A MOB OF HOOLIGANS OUTSIDE BIRMINGHAM REP PREVENTED THAT TOO? SO ARRESTS WERE MADE, AND SOME PEOPLE WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER APPEARED TO SPEAK IN FAVOUR OF THIS MOB, - WE NEED A LAW TO PROTECT US FROM

RELIGIOUS LEAGUES!

I WILL BE SAD TO SEE PROGRAMMES SUCH AS 'GROUND FORCE' OFF OUR B.B.C. SCREENS, BUT I RESPECTFULLY HOPE THAT SOMEONE WILL RID US OF "CELEBS" ACTING WITH VULGARITY ON THE I.T.V. SCREEN IN SUCH AS "I'M A CELEB GET ME OUT OF HERE". TO QUOTE A LINE FROM GILBERT & SULLIVAN - "THERE'S NONE OF 'EM BE MISSED"!!

YOURS SINCERELY ASL

MR A-V-BAKER.