

Mr. R. J. BARNES

R.B.C. Charter Review

Department for Culture, Media & Sport

15.4.05.

2-4 Cockspur Street

London SW1Y 5DH.

I understand that the BBC is supposed to be impartial politically, but if so, it consistently fails to achieve this objective. In the Gillegan case, comment went on for some weeks, but only once did I hear the word "impartiality".

The tone & the manner in presenting political & current affairs programmes is distinctly Conservative.

In the present election campaign, we find that the Labour case is hardly heard at all. The Conservatives set the agenda, their arguments are heard clearly & if Labour get a word in it is defensive & negative. This is because of the selection & manipulation of the BBC.

We note that when Tony Blair appeared on a spurious game show he spent some time beneath a slogan "we say, you pay". When the Minister of Health (Keid) appeared on a discussion programme he was seated in a lower chair & the Conservative in a higher chair - examples of the BBC "dirty tricks" department.

Following a Pats question, in which Tony Blair re-iterated the achievements of low inflation, low interest rates & low unemployment, Andrew Marr commented that we should hear these claims frequently repeated "ad nauseum". In fact we hear nothing of these claims repeated during the election campaign.

Campaign

because these facts are to the credit of the Labour Party + must be avoided by the BBC.

The Conservatives wish to ignore the economy + the BBC are helping them to do this.

In a political discussion the presenter always requires the Labour spokesman to speak first, followed by the Conservative who is then in a position to refute what Labour has said.

As a public body, the BBC should be a bastion of democracy but the reverse is true. Democracy is supposed to thrive on a well-informed electorate making decisions, but in fact the electorate are denied much of the information they need for this process. It is a major scandal.

When Gilligan was exposed a BBC spokesman said it was the BBC's duty to attack the Government. He would not have said this about a Conservative Government.

What is the explanation for this deplorable state of affairs?

It is that the BBC is riddled with class prejudice which changes of Directors or Chairman have had no effect so far.

The renewal of the Charter must ensure a wholesale shake-up of the entire establishment to ensure fairness in the BBC's presentation.

RJ Barnes.