

FROM MRS. G.C. COLLIN

Friday  
15th April 2005

BBC Charter Review,  
Department for Culture,  
Media and Sport,  
2-4, Cockspur Street,  
London SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sirs,

I am replying to your request in the Daily Mail for my opinions on the running of the present BBC.

Firstly, I find you are biased in favour of the Labour Party and Mr. Tony Blair. At the beginning of the Iraq War I entered a 'phone in on Radio 2 and gave my opinion that I was against the War because Bush and Blair, who were after one man, Saddam Hussein, had decided to bomb a lot of innocent civilians to get this one man, instead of leaving it to M.I.5., M.I.6., S.A.S., F.B.I., C.I.A. American Secret Service etc. Surely Bush and Blair could have assassinated this man with all their knowledge without going to war, which even though it is supposed to be over, has left Iraq in chaos. I said exactly this to the interviewer on Radio 2 and was met with absolute hostility. Needless to say my views were not broadcast. Point one against you.

A point in your favour, I listen to Radio 5 when I wake up (I am a widow living on my own) and get the up-to-date news programmes. I find I am a news junkie, reading newspapers, watching T.V. News, but only on Channel 5 and ITV1. Your newsreaders are too solemn and uninteresting.

Then after my Radio 5 sting, I make a big mistake and listen to some music on Radio 2 about 8 a.m. when Terry Wogan is on. As I said to Michsel Grade a few weeks ago, Terry Wogan is a peculiar little Irishman who walks around with a dead cat stuck on his head! He is vainglorious and dislikes women intensely. One morning between 9 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. he called some woman an old Tom, Tart, and Trollope. What I feel about this is, a woman should be allowed air time to answer this sort of denigration. There is a law of libel as you know. Does Mr. Wogan's Producer ever listen to what he is saying? I think old men get crackpot ideas about women and I feel Mr. Wogan should stand down and let a young man take over who is not bitter and twisted.

Radio 4 is dull except for the Saturday programmes. Now about your Television programmes, I never watch Eastenders,

I consider I am too intelligent and well brought up to watch this programme. As a matter of fact, one of my neighbours (an older woman) will not watch Eastenders as she says it is too violent! She does watch Coronation Street though.

Your Television programmes I never miss are Mastermind and University Challenge. I love to see if I know the answers! I never watch hospital programmes or medical programmes on any Channel, having had experience of hospitals with my late husband, I would rather forget it all. A lot of people are like me and have my views on these programmes.

Now Pop Bands, I can relate to young people who will try anything to be a success. I am more into Grand Opera though. When I was eight years old I attended a Dancing School. Little bit of singing and acting. We went round Church Halls, Hospital Wards, small Theatres with our troupe, great fun!

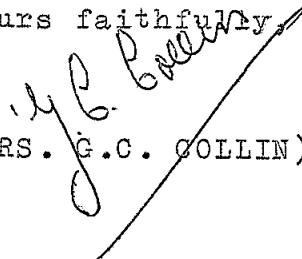
I think your coverage of Wimbledon is marvellous, your coverage of football is very good. I follow most sports. I admire Sue Barker, I also think Steve Davis and John Parrott are very interesting with their comments on Snooker. John Lloyd is very down to earth with his comments on Tennis, very good.

Going into comedy, nothing recently has surpassed Only Fools and Horses, I watch all the repeats! No one has taken Tommy Cooper's place though. I liked Les Dawson, and never missed Morecambe and Wise, especially at Christmas. Ken Dodd, although he is older, is still very amusing.

Don't overdo the Gardening Programmes, one can have too many of them.

Final word of advice, concentrate on young talent, and forget Bruce Forsyth.

Yours faithfully,

  
(MRS. G.C. COLLIN)