

## America's Second War For Independence:

# The Fight for A Free Press

**The text of a speech delivered by Willis A. Carto at the Health & Freedom Rally, Irvine, California, March 13-14 discussing the growing media monopoly in America.**

*On March 13, veteran populist patriot Willis A. Carto spoke at the Health & Freedom Rally convened in Irvine, Calif., by Peymon Mottahedeh of Freedom Law School. Carto—who has spent a lifetime fighting for the Constitution and an independent media—addressed the topic of the growing concentration of corporate control over what he called the American “media monopoly.” We present Carto’s address for the benefit of our readers who will find his comments interesting.*

I went to war as a young lad of 18 in 1944. I don’t know what I accomplished in that war—or what good it was for America—but I’ve been involved up to my neck in a very important and deadly war with our nation’s enemies since shortly after I came home—our internal enemies who aim to reduce our nation to a jurisdictional province of a “New World order”—to use the exact words of Bush the elder; and to reduce our culture to garbage, our traditions and ideals to forgotten legends and our precious liberty to a bad joke.

At the age of 77, Father Time warns me that I have only 20 or 30 years left before I must consider retirement, so if America lasts that long I will continue to add to the total of truth-telling books and periodicals. Basically, I am a champion printing salesman. I have made lots of profit for printers.

In the course of doing that during the past 50 years—since 1954—I have concurrently originated a number of organizations and publications during that time, all to try and provide important information to those working to save American sovereignty and our Constitution. I can name *Right, Western Destiny, The Washington Observer, Liberty Letter, Liberty Lowdown, The Spotlight, The Journal of Historical Review, The IHR Newsletter, The Barnes Review* and today I am associated with a wonderful and experienced staff who create a great weekly newspaper, *American Free Press*.

I’ve also been able to publish over 200 patriotic, populist and thought-provoking books and would have brought out at least that many more had it not been for sabotage. And

although little I’ve done has attained the large circulation and influence I’d have liked, I believe that cumulatively they’ve had some impact on the course of events, providing a select group of Americans who have called themselves “patriots” since before Mr. Ashcroft ever thought of the term, with valuable and constructive reading material which may have somewhat slowed down the annihilation of our civilization.



**WILLIS CARTO**

I’ve spent my entire adult life in the media, of course—but in the independent media, the alternative media, if you will.

As a young man coming back from World War II in 1945 I knew that there was something wrong. I could see that the course of world events—and domestic affairs here at home—was skewed.

I could see that the priorities of our national so-called “leaders” were out of touch with the interests of the American people. And so, in my own way, I set about trying to find out, essentially, who was to blame for this sorry state of affairs. And you know what I discovered—early on?

It was this: the fact that on virtually every issue you could name—whether it be foreign policy, trade, taxes, immigration, race relations, finance and economics—the media monopoly was supporting positions on those issues that ran counter to the interests and wishes of the American people. And counter to the national interest.

Through their immense clout, the big daily newspapers, newsmagazines, radio and television (which was in its infancy during my first years in the public arena) were attempting



**John Peter Zenger was one of the first publishers to challenge the “Crown’s” media monopoly. Above, officials of the Crown burn copies of Zenger’s newspaper in a public square. Today, patriots are still fighting for free speech—but the real threat comes from private agencies (such as the Anti-Defamation League and the big media) who want to determine what you can or cannot say, hear or watch.**

to impose their agenda—really, the agenda of the owners and controllers of the media—on the American political process.

Back in 1989 “they” said *The Spotlight* was “paranoid” when we featured an exclusive report analyzing the growing concentration of control over the major media. Critics said it was just another one of those wacky conspiracy theories—“just like you see in the movies.” Well, it was a theory backed up by facts and it’s gotten worse.

In totalitarian countries, *The Spotlight* noted, the government controls the media. But in the United States—and around the world—many would say that the controllers of the privately owned media control the governments and they do so in order to promote their own special interests.

Professor Ben Bagdikian, a prominent media critic and author of the book, *The Media Monopoly*, has pointed out:

The [media] lords of the global village [at *American Free Press* they call it the Global Plantation] have their own political agenda. All resist economic changes that do not support their own financial interests.

Together, they exert a homogenizing power over ideas, culture and commerce that affects populations larger than any in history.

Neither Caesar nor Hitler, Franklin Roosevelt nor any Pope, has commanded as much power to shape the information on which so many people depend

# Global Oligopoly

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to make decisions about everything from whom to vote for to what to eat. . . .

Monopolistic power dominates many other industries and most of them enjoy special treatment by the government.

But media giants have two enormous advantages: They control the public image of national leaders who, as a result, fear and favor the media magnates' political agendas; and they control the information and entertainment that help establish the social, political and cultural attitudes of increasingly larger populations. . . .

According to Robert W. McChesney of the Institute of Communications Research at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign:

The global media system is fundamentally non-competitive in any meaningful economic sense of the term.

Many of the largest media firms have some of the same major shareholders, own pieces of one another or have interlocking boards of directors.

When *Variety* compiled its list of the 50 largest global media firms for 1997, it observed that "merger mania" and cross-ownership had "resulted in a complex web of interrelationships" that will "make you dizzy."

Christopher Dixon, a media analyst for Paine Webber commented, at the time: "What you are seeing is the creation of a global oligopoly. It happened to the oil and automotive industries earlier this century; now it is happening to the entertainment industry,"

And of course, it's happening in the banking industry, too. There is absolutely no control over these growing monopolies.

In 1989, there were 11 major media giants emerging as the most powerful names in the global media monopoly. As *The Spotlight* predicted, the numbers of the major controlling entities would decrease even as their various media holdings would increase.

The comments of the aforementioned Professor Ben Bagdikian regarding the growing concentration of media ownership summarize the matter well:

When 50 men and women, chiefs of their corporations, control more than half the information and ideas that reach 249 million Americans, it is time for Americans to examine the institutions from which they receive their daily picture of the world.

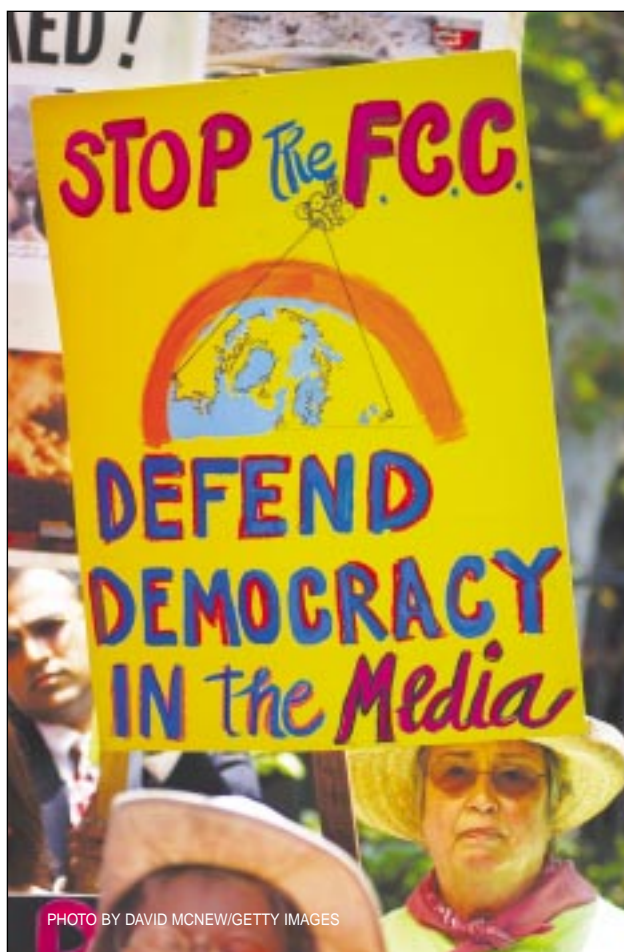
The United States has an impressive array of mass communications. There are 1,700 daily newspapers, 11,000 magazines, 9,000 radio and 1,000 television stations, 2,500 book publishers and seven movie studios.

If each of these were operated by a DIFFERENT owner there would be 25,000 individual media voices in the country. . . .

The basis for all liberty—freedom of information—is also in danger of being polluted. . . . by a new mutation of that familiar scourge of the free spirit: Centrally controlled information.

The concerns about the control of the media by private, special interests are also expressed quite well by liberal writer Dr. Michael Parenti in his book, *Democracy for the Few*. He comments:

While the news in "totalitarian" nations is controlled, we Americans supposedly have access to a



**Members of Code Pink and other media consumers gather near the studios of Clear Channel-owned radio station KFI during a nationwide protest against FCC media deregulation in Los Angeles, Calif. The FCC decided to allow media corporations to own dramatically more news outlets in each U.S. city.**

wide range of competing sources.

In reality, the controls exerted over the media in the United States, while more subtle and less severe than in some other countries, leave us with a press that is far from "free" by any definition of the world.

The news media are important to any study of American politics. They select most of the information and misinformation that help us define sociopolitical reality.

Almost all the political life we experience is through the media.

How we view issues—indeed, what we even define as an "issue" or "event"—what we see and hear and what we do not see and hear are greatly determined by those who control mass media.

Dr. Parenti forthrightly confronts what I call "the Controlled Media." He writes:

Who controls the mass media? Five New York banks (Chase Manhattan, Morgan Guaranty Trust, First National City, Bankers Trust and the Bank of New York) own controlling shares in the three national television and radio networks (NBC, CBS, ABC) and are powerful shareowners of *The New York Times*, *Time*, Columbia Pictures and Twentieth Century Fox.

These banks have representatives on the boards of the three networks and control all network fiduciary and debt financing functions.

The networks themselves exercise a controlling interest over publishing houses, film companies and recording companies. They own television stations located in key urban areas, reaching a lion's share of the national audience. . . .

Newspapers show the same pattern of ownership

with most of the big circulation dailies being owned by chains like Hearst, Gannett and Copley. . . .

I just mentioned the Copley Press—which is based right here in California, publishing the super-profitable San Diego monopoly, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, which used to be my daily paper.

Sadly, the people of San Diego County are forced to be polluted daily by the *Union Tribune*. I suppose that most of them are ignorant of their plight.

I've been featured in *The San Diego-Tribune*, and not, as you might guess, in the most friendly way. But then, I've never been accustomed to any friendly media coverage whatsoever.

In any case, when *The San Diego Union-Tribune* published a vicious attack on Liberty Lobby on October 25, 2000, few of its readers knew that as long ago as 1977, the paper and its publisher, the Copley Press, were exposed as hardly more than a front for the CIA and the notorious Anti-Defamation League.

What's more, it turns out that the Copley Press and the *Union-Tribune* also functioned as a conduit for (and intelligence arm of) the FBI.

That a CIA front should level an attack on Liberty Lobby at this time was no coincidence: the carefully-timed smear was clearly designed to interfere with and scuttle Liberty Lobby's appeal of an unjust judicial ruling that resulted from a lawsuit orchestrated against Liberty Lobby by a known CIA operative.

At the very moment the *Union-Tribune* published the smear, Liberty Lobby's appeal of the judgment was being considered by the California state court of appeals. Although the ruling was not expected for perhaps another six weeks, just five days after the article appeared, the court suddenly issued a ruling and rejected Liberty Lobby's appeal.

The legal case against Liberty Lobby was brought under the direction of a shadowy CIA covert operative named Andrew E. Allen.

The scion of an extremely wealthy San Francisco family, Allen is one of many such socialites who dabble (as a "hobby") in intrigue.

Living off the fruits of his family's multiple trusts and a lucrative real estate fortune, Allen admits to having devoted a substantial portion of his time to active engagement in what are clearly covert intelligence operations in the CIA's sphere of influence.

Allen is the sponsor of one Mark Weber who spearheaded operations to destroy Liberty Lobby, the Institute for Historical review and *American Free Press*.

That Allen's sponsors at the CIA would issue orders to their underlings at *The San Diego Union-Tribune* to attack Liberty Lobby on cue is no real surprise considering the truth about the newspaper and its history.

Ironically, the journalist who first publicly revealed the long-secret Copley Press/*Union-Tribune* link to the CIA is Joe Trento, a "liberal" who was a longtime enemy of Liberty Lobby and who, in fact, had a long-standing close relationship with a top CIA official, James Angleton.

However, in August 1977 Trento co-authored an expose of the Copley-CIA connection, entitled *The Spies Who Came in From the Newsroom*. Which was quite revealing.

Among other things, Trento reported that the Copley Press and the *Union-Tribune* newspaper (which was previously two separate newspapers, both published by Copley):

- Provided credentials, information, and placement of stories for the CIA and the FBI.
- Exchanged intelligence information with the CIA for 'scoops' and planted CIA and FBI stories and editorials.
- Harbored CIA operatives on the payroll of the Copley News Service and fed stories to news-service clients at the request of the CIA and the FBI.

Trento's investigation also determined that the Copley News Service (which actually had been a financial failure) was set up by James S. Copley at the suggestion of then-President Dwight Eisenhower for the purpose of supplementing CIA activity.

A series of meetings and phone calls between Eisenhower and Copley, outlined in documents examined by Trento, revealed that Copley volunteered his newly formed news service as "the eyes and ears" for "our intelligence services" and that Eisenhower told the publisher that his favors were appreciated and would be "reciprocated when possible."

Although Copley News Service lost money every year, Gene Gregston, the former editor of *The San Diego Union* (later merged into the *Union-Tribune*) admitted to Trento that CNS "was never run to make money; it was an ego thing for Jim Copley, and the CIA wanted it."

According to Trento, no less than 23 Copley News Service employees had worked for the CIA simultaneously. Although there were some 194 American newsmen who had CIA connections during that same period, according to Trento, CNS was the only news service that engaged in "full cooperation with" the CIA for some 30 years.

The CIA connections of the Copley empire were such that, according to Trento:

CNS reporters often acted as if they were doing CIA public relations. When the CIA decided to overthrow a Latin American government, CNS would begin writing unfavorable articles about it.

Editorials would appear on the pages of the *Tribune* and *Union in San Diego*, warning of the dire consequences of Communists in Latin America. Then articles on "freedom fight[er]s" and "anti-communist opposition" would appear on the CNS wires. When the coup came, Copley editorials rejoiced.

Trento also revealed that "Copley Press's relations with the FBI are as intriguing as its CIA connections."

Trento's investigation revealed that many times Copley reporters were turned into virtual informants for the FBI, so much so that the Copley Press effectively, in Trento's words, "ran a system of intelligence gathering for the FBI."

According to Trento, Copley reporters were sent to cover anti-war demonstrations and other public meetings of political dissidents. Afterward, when the reporters turned in stories and photographs, the materials were often turned directly over to the FBI and never even published in the Copley newspapers.

Trento quoted *Union-Tribune* photographer Thane McIntosh who said that forwarding of the photographs to the FBI was something "that all the photographers suspected. Some were disturbed about it and some were not, but you couldn't help participating. You had the assignment, so you had to do it."

In addition, Copley employees were ordered to draft memos on events that they covered which were then turned over by Copley management to the FBI.

Trento also revealed that: "The FBI also used Copley to release 'raw' and often unverified data about individuals of whom it didn't approve." In other words, the Copley press would effectively publish unproven smears of individuals who were targeted for special treatment by the intelligence community. Also, Trento learned, the FBI placed editorials in the Copley Press against dissident groups of which the FBI did not approve.

When one Copley writer, Vi Murphy, attempted to force full disclosure by Copley regarding the names of journalists at Copley who were collaborating with the CIA, she was told that she could "never utter another public statement or another three-letter word spelled CIA as long as she was an

See **CONNECTIONS**, Page B-4

## What You See & Hear Decided by Handful of Families

*Then there are nine major corporations dominating the global media (although, as we shall see, two of the nine are actually controlled by one family). Let me spend a few minutes taking a brief look at these media giants.*

### TIME WARNER

The biggest by far is Time Warner, the largest media corporation in terms of annual revenue, a position certainly enhanced by its merger with AOL.

Once the fiefdom of American media icon Henry Luce, founder of the Time-Life publishing empire, this global media conglomerate is today essentially dominated by Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress and heir to the Seagram's Liquor fortune of his late father, ex-bootlegger Sam Bronfman, a top-level figure in the international crime syndicate dominated by the late Meyer Lansky, who was the "boss of bosses" of organized crime during his lifetime.

The merger in the 1980s of the former "Lucepress" (as it was known in its heyday) with Warner Communications set the stage for expansive growth of this massive worldwide empire, which has more than 200 subsidiaries.

The Warner Brothers Studios, the famed Hollywood film company, was merged with the Seven Arts Production Company, based in Canada, in 1967. The founder of Seven Arts was Louis Chesler, a longtime front man for crime boss Lansky. The new operation formed by the merger was dubbed "Warner Communications."

Not surprisingly, a major stockholder in Warner was the infamous "flight capital" money laundering empire known as Investors Overseas Service, which was headed by Bernard Cornfeld. Remember him? A flamboyant playboy, Cornfeld was actually no more than a front man for Swiss banker Tibor Rosenbaum, a high-level arms procurement official for Israel's intelligence service, the Mossad. Rosenbaum's Banque De Credit Internationale, based in Geneva, also functioned as the chief drug and gambling money laundry for the Lansky crime syndicate.

Considering all of this, it was probably inevitable that the Bronfmans (moving from their organized crime antecedents into the world of "legitimacy") would emerge as key players in the Time Warner empire.

Here's a representative (although far from complete) list of the more eminent holdings in the Time Warner octopus:

- Home Video: Time-Life Video; HBO Home Video; Warner Home Video;
- Cable Franchises reaching 11.7 million subscribers;
- Turner Broadcasting, including all of the CNN holdings, including TBS Superstation, CNN International, CNN radio, *Headline News*;
- Magazines: *Time*, *People*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *Life*, *Fortune*, *Money*, *Vibe*, *In Style*, *Parenting*, *Baby Talk*, *Martha Stewart Living*, *Sunset*, *Health*, *Hippocrates*, *Asia Week*, *President*, *Who*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Cooking Light*, *Southern Living*, *DC Comics* (50 percent holdings), *American Lawyer*, and;
- Book Publishing: Oxmoor House, Sunset Books, Little, Brown & Co., Time-Life Books, Warner Books, Book-of-the-Month Club.

All in all, there's lots more. Let's move on to the second big media giant:

### SEAGRAMS

Although Time Warner is very much a Bronfman family-dominated operation through the Time Warner shares held by the Seagram company, Seagram is one of the major media conglomerates on its own part.

Edgar Bronfman's son, Edgar Bronfman Jr., operates Seagram as his personal plaything, controlling Universal Music Group, the largest recorded-music firm in the world, along with Polygram, a major music company, as well as Universal Studios and TV channels throughout Europe and Latin America.

### NEWS CORPORATION

This is the empire of Rupert Murdoch, whose flagship newspaper, the "neo-conservative" *New York Post*, and his "neo-conservative" *Weekly Standard* magazine (edited by Bilderberg figure William Kristol) are among the most powerful voices for the Israeli lobby in America. Murdoch's sleazy Fox Television reaches 40 percent of the American viewing public. Murdoch also controls substantial media properties in Asia and Latin America.

### DISNEY

Long run by Michael Eisner who's now having trouble holding onto power within, this global giant has assumed control of ABC television and radio, Hyperion Books, Chilton Publications (a variety of trade publications), Fairchild Publications (*Women's Wear Daily*), the Arts & Entertainment Network, the Lifetime Network and ESPN, along with a host of local newspapers across the country.

### GENERAL ELECTRIC

This corporate giant controls NBC television and radio, CNBC and, the History Channel and Court TV, among other holdings.

### AT&T/LIBERTY MEDIA

Formerly "the phone company," this media giant has holdings in Time Warner, News Corporation, CNBC and Sprint PCS Group, as well as substantial holdings in South America and Asia in cable, satellite and broadcast television.

### SONY

Controlled by a Japanese billionaire who has been accused of being a "front" for the Rockefeller family (which quietly bought up huge interests in Japanese corporations following World War II)—so we can't truly say that World War II was fought for nothing—Sony produces films in Europe and Asia and television programming on five continents, not to mention its lucrative music empire that reaches round the world. The "inside joke" is that the name "Sony" is a clever acronym that really means "Standard Oil of New York," the firm that established the Rockefeller billions.

### VIACOM

Headed by Sumner Redstone, another powerful figure who is a devout supporter of Israel but who is little known to the American public, this firm owns Paramount Pictures, MTV and the Blockbuster video chain.

### BERTELSMANN

Established in Germany in 1835, this is the largest TV and radio firm in Europe and owns the U.S.-based Random House Publishing, which critics have called "the CIA's favorite publishing company." Random House subsidiaries include such well-known book publishers as Alfred A. Knopf, Ballantine Books, Beginner Books, Crown Publishers, Fawcett Books, Fodor's Travel Publications, Modern Library, Orion, Pantheon Books, Times Books and Vintage Books. This German company has publishing enterprises in Germany, Britain and Argentina.



BRONFMAN JR.



EISNER

# Connections

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employee of the *Union*."

The fact is that the CIA has a major influence on the American media and this further adds to my contention that the plutocrats DO control the media monopoly in this country. In case you haven't figured it out, the CIA functions as a virtual enforcement arm—the hit squad if you will—of the powerful international financial interests that dominate economic life in the United States and, really, around the world.

In regard to the aforementioned *Washington Post*—certainly the most powerful newspaper in America, rivaled perhaps only by *The New York Times*—it's also a mouthpiece of the CIA. Does that surprise you?

Some years ago a young Jewish girl, Deborah Davis, wrote a thoroughly devastating book, *Katharine the Great*, which exposed the covert ties between Katharine Graham, the owner of the *The Washington Post* and the CIA, much to the dismay of many highly placed people.

However, Mrs. Graham managed to use her clout—along with that of the CIA—to actually get the book shredded by its publisher (prior to the book receiving widespread distribution). That's right. The book's publisher actually shredded the book, even after it had gone to the expense to print it.

The result was that, in the long run, Miss Davis actually won a court judgment against her publisher. Fortunately, however, the book was re-released in 1991 by a small New York publisher and we promoted it in *The Spotlight*.

And another thing worth noting, although the Graham family does have a substantial controlling interest in The Washington Post Company, if you read the ownership report for the company that is published annually—buried inside the paper—you'll find out something very interesting.

The truth is that there are many other powerful elements in the world of finance that have substantial interests in the Washington Post Company, ranging from the Rockefeller-controlled bank, Chase Manhattan, to Morgan Guaranty, to a bevy of other banks with British and Rothschild family connections.

No wonder the *Post* never reports on the yearly meetings of the powerful Bilderberg organization—even though Katharine Graham always attended. Only *The Spotlight* and now *American Free Press* has the guts to do that.

In many respects, Katharine Graham (now deceased) was really only a front for a wide range of other big money interests who had a vested stake in controlling what may well be the most powerful newspaper in the capital of the most powerful nation in the world.

The evidence shows that the CIA has also had a hand in placing favorable reviews of books (that have actually been sponsored by the CIA itself) in newspapers.

For example, two writers, Morton Mintz, and his co-author Jerry Cohen, in their 1976 book, *Power, Inc.* describe on page 283 how the April 1976 report issued by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities revealed that "a book written for an English-speaking foreign audience by one CIA operative was reviewed favorably by another CIA agent in *The New York Times*." The reviewer, Mintz and Cohen note, "was not a member of the *Times* staff."

In regard to CIA manipulation of the media, David Wise, writing in *The American Police State* pointed out that the CIA had not only attempted to interfere with or prevent the publication of books critical of the CIA, but that the CIA had also set up a "task force" to draw up plans to suppress one of Wise's previous books, *The Invisible Government* (which was about the CIA).

In fact, Wise obtained CIA documents that indicated that the CIA task force "recommended that the CIA use its agents or contacts in the news media and publishing circles to attempt to bring about hostile reviews of the book." The pur-

pose, according to the CIA document was "to lessen the book's impact and to cast doubt on the validity of its claims."

In addition, Wise pointed out:

The CIA's contacts with the publishing world were not confined to attempts to suppress books. . .

In 1967 publisher Frederick A. Praeger conceded he had published "15 or 16" books for the CIA.

By the mid-sixties, more than \$1 million had been spent by the government on its "book development" program.

The Senate intelligence committee estimated that by 1967, the CIA had produced, sponsored, or subsidized "well over 1,000" books" here and abroad.

The CIA also planted stories in the foreign press, some of which were played back to American audiences. . . .

A former chief of the Washington bureau of *The New York Herald Tribune* and a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. and a contributor to *The New York Times Magazine*, *The New Republic*, *Esquire* and other national magazines, Wise can hardly be called a "conspiracy theorist."

It is worth pointing out that one of the 20th century's most revered muck-rakers, famed journalist George Seldes, devoted much time and energy in books documenting that private interests do "control" or otherwise influence the media.

Chapter titles from *Freedom of the Press* are illustrative—"The Power of Advertising," "Utilities Corrupt Press and Public," "A Smudge of Oil" (referring, of course, to the oil industry).

In his book *1000 Americans*, Seldes named names and listed "the 12 most powerful families in America" and documented their financial holdings and their influence over and control of the major media in the United States.

## MUCKRAKER

Another eminent muckraker, Ferdinand Lundberg, writing first in *America's Sixty Families* and later in *The Rich and the Super-Rich* also wrote of "the press of the plutocracy," referring to the control of the press by wealthy and influential elites.

Journalist A. J. Liebling once commented that freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own the press. And, unfortunately, he was right.

Perhaps the most comprehensive regular critique of the media in recent years has been compiled by Project Censored based at Sonoma State University in California. Project Censored was founded by Professor Carl Jensen.

Dr. Jensen writes: "The most common form of media misrepresentation is omission. Sometimes the omission includes not just vital details of a story but the entire story itself, even ones of major import."

When Project Censored published its account of the most censored or under-reported stories of 1993, it is interesting to note that one of those stories was of the scandal involving the illicit domestic spying by the aforementioned Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith, an outfit that functions as an illegally unregistered agent for the government of Israel and as a propaganda and intelligence division of Israel's clandestine services agency, the Mossad.

And I must point out that Project Censored actually awarded our own newspaper, *The Spotlight*, not one, but two, awards for publishing two of the top ten most censored stories of 1990.

One of the stories dealt with the fact that the Bush administration had effectively given the Iraqi government of Saddam Hussein a "green light" to invade Kuwait in 1990. *The Spotlight's* story, by the late Andrew St. George, was gleaned from diplomatic sources at the United Nations in New York. This story was deemed by Project Censored to be the "number one" most censored story of the year—but it was reported by *The Spotlight*.

So although there is a thoroughly-documented "Controlled Media" in this country—newspapers such as *The Spotlight* and now *American Free Press* exist to bring American readers the facts that the "Controlled Media" does not print.

And something I'm about to say about the media may surprise you. The media isn't as "liberal" as you might think.

Although—beyond question—the media is quite "liberal" in the conventional cultural respects, the truth is that there is very much a strong "conservative" influence in the media today, demonstrated by the artificially-stimulated "popularity" of such personalities as the Rupert Murdoch-controlled Bill O'Reilly of Fox television and radio voices such as Mike Savage, Rush Limbaugh, G. Gordon Liddy and William F. Buckley, Jr.

In addition, the major media conglomerates are now beginning to publish and promote books by certain "approved" conservative voices.

Lately, there's been a big frenzy in the media about Mel Gibson's film, *The Passion of the Christ*.

Many bigshot Hollywood producers who—over the years—have literally made billions of dollars promoting violence on the silver screen have suddenly decided that Mel's film is . . . get this . . . "Too Violent." Quote. Unquote. This is really funny.

They really don't know what to do with Mel. When you're as popular as he is with the American public, it's really kind of hard to paint him as a monster. But the media is working at it.

In the famous Hollywood film "Network," a newsman, Howard Beale, was angry that Arabs were trying to buy up his network and declared, "I'm mad as Hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!" And that's what Americans should be saying today. ★

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