

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

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1st October, 1980

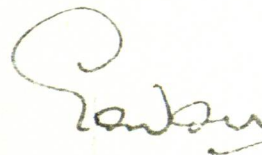
Dear Willie

I was horrified to read of the appointment of Jeremy Issacs as Chief Executive of ITV2. You will remember that he was the man that put onto British Television screens the close up of an IRA thug who declared to the vast television audience that every patriotic Irishman should shoot an English soldier.

Later he filmed an IRA road block, and when the IBA said they did not want it shown, threatened to leave a blank screen with a notice saying that censorship had been applied, and the IBA backed down.

We have now got two former Socialists as chairmen of the IBA and ITV2 and it is perhaps no surprise that they have appointed an extreme left winger as Chief Executive. One of the major problems is that we do not appoint people to serve on the governing body of the BBC or ITV that actually know anything about broadcasting and broadcasters. It is even thought to be beneficial to the public interest to have people who are "average viewers". This new appointment shows what madness this policy is. Don't you think that we must really have knowledgeable people serving on broadcasting authorities. Television is after all the imagination of the nation. The average man and woman born since 1950 has spent and will spend 1/4 of a waking life time watching television screens.

Yours ever



Gordon Reece

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH MP
cc The Rt Hon Lord Thorneycroft, CH