

APPENDIX C - Extract from Communications Committee hearings - Will
Lewis on Dominic Lawson / David Blunkett (9th January 2008)

Q1433 Chairman: Just for the sake of completeness, you have commented on this elsewhere in the press, but as you know we had Dominic Lawson before us and he said that he was asked by Aidan Barclay not to run a particular story about David Blunkett. Has this ever happened, not about David Blunkett, but has this ever happened on any other issue as far as you are concerned?

Mr Lewis: No, and I was confused by Mr Lawson's evidence because on the one hand he seemed to be complaining that he could not get through to the proprietor and then, when he did get through, he was obviously angst-ridden by what appeared to be or was alleged to be an attempt to get him to not write a story, which then was published. It was rather weird. I also was really quite amazed about the thought that Conrad Black did not interfere, because the last time I read Max Hastings' book it was full of clear evidence of interference on really quite an absurd level, he seemed to spend his life writing memos justifying things.