

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION,  
SENATE HOUSE,  
LONDON UNIVERSITY BUILDING,  
MALET ST., W.C. 1.

30<sup>th</sup> October, 1939.

Dear Noel Burton,

Thanks for your letter of the  
26<sup>th</sup>. There is no compulsory censorship  
of the Press in this country, and the  
voluntary censorship (of which the Press may,  
if it pleases, avail itself for its own pro-  
tection) is under the charge not of this  
Ministry but of Sir Walter Monckton.  
So I fear it is not within my  
power to control the use by the newspapers  
of such forms of words as they may employ  
in the publishing of their news items.

I do not see how they could be  
compelled to state in every case the source  
of their information - & at any rate the  
matter would not be in my province.

Yours sincerely,

Macmillan.

TELEPHONE:  
HASLEMERE 562.

*Macmillan*

MARLEY CORNER,  
NR. HASLEMERE,  
SURREY.

24th October 1939.

My dear Noel,

Many thanks for your letter of the 19th instant.  
I am hoping to see you tomorrow or Wednesday at the Lords,  
and as the matter in question is very complicated I will  
not try to deal with it in a letter. I think the  
general position is more satisfactory than you suppose.  
If the comments are reduced to a minimum and also if the  
phraseology about their source is improved, we should  
have made a good deal of progress.

I think the paragraph which you quote from  
Macmillan's letter comes into a different category from  
the contentions which I - at any rate - advanced to him.

Yours ever,

*Stanning*

18 COWLEY STREET  
WESTMINSTER.  
S.W.1

24th. October 1939.

Dear Cobham,

Let me say how glad I am to  
congratulate you on your appointment, and to  
see you back in London. I should much like  
to get a talk with you when you come to the  
House.

~~Sp~~ Press Statements - out 25  
(in word)

Want ask gr. given notice.  
I ask if Min' will ~~make~~ deal  
w/ statements by 1 press  
wh claim official authy  
~~tho they do possess it.~~  
to do not make it clear  
wh they possess it.

• ~~Ex~~ Today 2 p. "In official  
circle comment was  
made" p. 4 on. on Liberty  
• (implying. got had closed door

P.S. We have  
cleaved up leaves  
& pulled up stadiiski  
today.

Oct 18 1939.

COLNE COTTAGE  
CROMER.

Dear Pa

Thanks awfully for  
your letter & petrol  
coupon. We are going  
a drive tomorrow.

So glad you come on  
Thursday.

Do you agree that  
Ran & Sam must  
go to Upskire?  
Writing in a hurry.  
Grand about Thursday.  
With love & affection  
Rufe.

7

2

A similar comment on Murali:

These statements are held  
to be part (90 press dept.)  
by 1 BGR part c.

+ also by ventral.

Wright the 4 part had know.

Minist Oct 4, replying re BBC,

"We do not control the news bulletin  
any more than we control any  
news bulletin in the newspapers."

1 ask how he can be in control  
of Will he exercise it - bec  
AMG may be damaging, anyhow  
misleading.

Telephone No.:  
EUSTon 5030.

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SENATE HOUSE,  
LONDON UNIVERSITY BUILDING,  
MALET STREET, W.C.1.

*Open claim's official auth*

18<sup>th</sup> October, 1939.

Dear Lord Noel-Buxton.

Please forgive my delay in answering your letter of the 6<sup>th</sup>, in which you refer to "the authority" for statements in the Press when they say that they "have news" from an authoritative source & so on. I am afraid I have no control over the formulas which the Press employ in giving items of news or expressing opinions. Their practice in the matter is one of long standing & it is not within my province as Minister of Information to interfere with it.

Yours sincerely,

Macmillan.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Noel-Buxton,  
18, Cowley Street,  
Westminster, S.W.1.