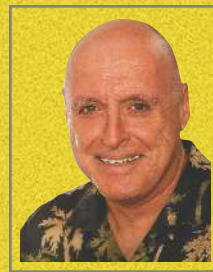


The Extra Point

BY JERRY ROBERTS



1030 Quotations About the World of Journalism

Today, words written and spoken about the media, both from those who have worked as a part of it and others who have observed. That's next on The Extra Point.

The major news media today is nothing more than propaganda-spewing machinery that is designed to keep us barking at each other, rather than at the people who manipulate us.

Perhaps it's always been this way, just not in the obvious ways it's done now. I went looking for opinions on the media, from people who have worked within it, and others, and here is what I came up with. We start with three from CBS news anchor, Walter Cronkite.

1. "I think it is absolutely essential in a democracy to have competition in the media, a lot of competition, and we seem to be moving away from that." Just a few massive companies own almost all of it.

2. "Our job is only to hold up the mirror — to tell and show the public what has happened." When is the last time you felt that's what they're doing?

3. "A handful of us determine what will be on the evening news broadcasts, or, for that matter, in the New York Times or Washington Post or Wall Street Journal. Indeed it is a handful of us with this awesome power. And those news stories available to us already have been culled and re-culled by persons far outside our control." It was already that way in Uncle Walter's day, over 60 years ago.

Next, from Tom Brokaw, NBC news anchor:
4. "I always think there are people looking not so much for information as for reassurance and reaffirmation of their views." Confirmation bias is what we want, not the truth.

5. Author George Orwell wrote, "The people

will believe what the media tells them they believe." Take a look around. It's true.

6. One more from Orwell: "Freedom of the Press, if it means anything at all, means the freedom to criticize and oppose." This is the foundation of what we all thought the media is there for, and it's being taken away.

7. "If people in the media cannot decide whether they are in the business of reporting news or manufacturing propaganda, it is all the more important that the public understand that difference, and choose their news sources accordingly." — Economist Thomas Sowell

8. "The media's the most powerful entity on earth. They have the power to make the innocent guilty and to make the guilty innocent, and that's power — because they control the minds of the masses." — Activist Malcolm X

9. "When the public's right to know is threatened, and when the rights of free speech and free press are at risk, all of the other liberties we hold dear are endangered." — Christopher Dodd, former U.S. senator.

10, President John F. Kennedy said the following, and given where we are today, it seems like something from a fantasy. "We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values."

11. The next one fits today well. Former New York mayor John Lindsay said: "Those who suppress freedom always do so in the name of law and order."

(Con't.)

12. “The media is absolutely essential to the functioning of a democracy. It's not our job to cozy up to power. We're supposed to be the check and balance on government. — Public broadcaster and author Amy Goodman

13. President John Adams wrote, “Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.”

14. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, former President of Estonia, spoke about the economics of news: “Fake news is cheap to produce. Genuine journalism is expensive.”

15. “The critical importance of honest journalism and a free flowing, respectful national conversation needs to be had in our country. But it is being buried as collateral damage in a war whose battles include political correctness and ideological orthodoxy.” — Juan Williams, political commentator on Fox News.

16. “The lowest form of popular culture — lack of information, misinformation, disinformation, and a contempt for the truth or the reality of most people's lives — has overrun real journalism. Today, ordinary Americans are being stuffed with garbage.” — Watergate investigative reporter Carl Bernstein

17. Actor and social commentator Will Rogers once said this, which pretty well sums up the problem with media and trust today: “The problem in America isn't so much what people don't know; the problem is what people think they know that just ain't so.”

That's the Extra Point. Be responsible and make something good happen today. For 93.3 and the Ray Gibson Show, I'm Jerry Roberts.

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