Focus on the Media

By CLIFF KINCAID

"LaRouche and his partisans may believe that Katharine Graham was behind the death of her husband, but no one else doubts that Philip Graham, a seriously disturbed manic-depressive, killed himself and that Mrs. Graham obtained control of the Post by honorable means."

Washingtonian Chairman of the Board Philip Merrill was said to be outraged by the mere mention of the LaRouche campaign against Mrs. Graham in his magazine. He reportedly told Post personnel that the Pack story was "awful" and that he "greatly regretted it."

Writer Pack refused to tell me whether he had been reprimanded over the article. He said it was an "in-house matter" and that he wasn't going to comment further. However, he said that he stood by the story.

"Woman's Day" Editor Out of Touch with Readers

One of the mysteries associated with the Attorney General's Pornography Commission was why Ellen Levine, the only journalist on the commission, became a "disasser" to the commission's final report after she had voiced support of it during the panel's deliberations.

In response to questions I submitted, Levine now says that the personal statement she issued on the report did not constitute an official dissent. She said she agreed with most of the recommendations of the commission.

However, on the key issue — pornography's link to sex crimes — it is obvious that Levine is still in dissent. While the commission found reason to believe there was a causal link between pornography and sexual violence and exploitation, Levine insisted in her statement that there is no such connection.

Levine was not only in disagreement with the majority of the commission, but was out of step with the vast majority of readers of her own magazine, the CBS-owned Woman's Day. A survey on pornography published in the Jan. 21, 1986, issue showed that 88 per cent of Woman's Day readers said they believe there is a link between pornography and violence against women.

About one-quarter of those responding to the survey said they had been physically abused as a result of their attackers' access to pornography.

Levine, in her statement to the commission, said that pornography should not be made a "scapegoat" for society's problems and that "the possibility for halting its use seems as slim as was the chance of halting the sales of liquor during Prohibition."

However, an overwhelming 80 per cent of Woman's Day readers said they believe that all pornography should be outlawed. Less than 2 per cent thought 1st Amendment considerations were more important than outlawing pornography.

How does Levine deal with this? Her spokesman told me that she considers the survey "deeply flawed" and "unreliable."

New Republic" Whitewashes ANC

The liberal New Republic is widely read these days because it is perceived to be moving toward the right. But it suffered a relapse when its August 25 issue carried an article portraying the Communist-terrorist African National Congress of South Africa as a "liberation movement" that has demonstrated "moderation."

The article was written by Steve Mufson, who was identified as a contributor to the Wall Street Journal and LaRouche's Kinsale. A call to the Journal's foreign desk confirmed that Mufson is still a contributor.

Mufson dismisses claims that a majority of members of the ANC's executive committee are Communists. He says unnamed "academic analysts," who are "more reliable," put the number at only 13.

He doesn't mention that an ANC defector, Bartholomew Hlapane, testified before Congress in 1982 that, even then, the South African Communist party exercised "influence and control" over the ANC through a minority of members of the executive committee.

Mufson dismisses the fact that the key positions of the ANC executive committee, such as secretary-general and chief of military operations, are held by self-avowed Communists. The ANC president, Oliver Tambo, has refused to deny that he is a Communist.

After attempting to dismiss the claim the ANC is Communist-dominated, he tries to suggest that it is not committed to terrorism.

He writes, "The ANC has signed the Geneva convention on the humanitarian conduct of war, the first liberation movement to do so." The ANC has been striking at innocent civilians, but this is a sign of "moderation" because such tactics are designed to bring about a political solution, not force whites out of the country.

CBS Scare Campaign Aimed at Mothers

One of the most disgraceful reports to have aired recently on network news was an August 6 story by correspondent Bob Simon on the CBS Evening News. Simon described his own report as a "story about poison in our food chain that would horrify a mother." He strongly suggested that when mothers feed their children apple sauce or apple juice, they are injecting a deadly poison into their young, developing bodies.

A central focus of the story was on what federal agencies, "bureaucrats," and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were doing or not doing to regulate the use of the chemical dinitrophenol on apple trees. The chemical adds several months to the storage life of apples.

Reporter Simon showed a doctor claiming that dinitrophenol is a carotenogen. An EPA official was then shown testifying before Congress that more data were needed on the question. It was a perfect contrast: the concerned doctor versus the foot-dragging bureaucrat.

What Simon didn't mention was that the EPA has bent over backward to appease the environmental extremists on this issue. An EPA scientific advisory panel of independent experts concluded in September 1985 that the available data do not demonstrate that dinitrophenol causes cancer. Nevertheless, the EPA did act to reduce the permissible level of dinitrophenol residue in food.