

journalist is not altogether free of problems: sources, lies and the withholding of information by some sources cause substantial perturbations in the journalist's daily work and he concludes: "The journalist's area of action and reflection has to be extended. A journalistic ethic of complexity will be born from this base, "the only one which suits our times".

112 **Between criticism and self-criticism**

JOSEP M^a GIRONA

The author bases his article on data gathered by the Centre d'Investigacions sobre la Realitat Social (Centre of Research on Social Reality) in December 1992. The study shows that the media are capable of imposing heroes and leaders. Television has the greatest influence, followed by the radio.

The present article refers to how a third of those surveyed in the aforementioned study believe in the independence of journalists, whereas the majority do not trust them.

This journalist believes that it is time for deep reflection on ethical and deontological problems. The journalist in question works on the radio. A very immediate medium although it does have its own problems. On the one hand, there lies the impossibility of having been unable to conduct radiophonic journalism throughout the 40 years of the dictatorship. On the other, the radio has to compete with the culture of image developed in recent years. The radio does not have the same opportunities as television does to access information sources even although the importance of the sources may be vital to the radio.

The author recalls what happened when TVE broadcast the fiction programme "Camaleó" which informed of a coup d'état in the USSR. Many radio journalists dashed frantically to the studio to inform of a news item which finally proved to be false. And he wonders: What happens when news is broadcast which later proves to be untrue? How can the people who

have been the object of an error of such characteristics be defended or excused?. In the author's opinion all the measures which are necessary to guarantee a free press should be taken. However, neither is it a question of justifying any kind of permissiveness with professionals who hurt others for any reason whatever.

121 Fugitives, milkmen and other nonsense

ROSA MASSAGUÉ

The journalist who signs this article deals with the ethical and deontological problems which face an overseas correspondent. In any event, they would be the same that affect any journalist plus a few others caused by different circumstances. They normally stem from the ethical perception of the journalistic profession in the country where the correspondent is working.

The author presents her own experiences in the written press and in two different countries where she has worked: Great Britain and Italy. She considers that in Great Britain whereas the so-called "quality press" is generally reliable, the tabloids are quite the opposite. Thus the correspondent can work quite calmly in this country.

The situation in Italy is different, since most newspapers judge and condemn suspects before they are proven innocent in court. Therefore correspondents, as a source of information from local newspapers and agencies, "have to tread carefully". A correspondent in Rome is also a Vatican correspondent, where it is not easy to get an answer to questions asked, and the answers go straight to the newspapers they trust most. Massagué also refers to correspondents from places where violent events are taking place, such as Northern Ireland. Normally, the information given on television is different from the correspondent's, because the power of an image magnifies the reality of the facts. Many media are just as or even more interested in publishing an article signed by a special correspondent than in the facts

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