

[95] From: William Siemering <74164.440@CompuServe.COM> (by way of cemad@libertynet.org (DEBBIE SMITH)) at SMTP-po 1/2/97 10:04AM (3588 bytes: 64 ln)

To: fgg at POST1

Subject: International Media

----- Message Contents -----

Text item 1: Text Item

Received: by ccmil from philadelphia.libertynet.org

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Received: from [128.91.200.168] (TS3-39.UPENN.EDU [128.91.200.168]) by philadelphia.libertynet.org (8.6.12/8.6.12) with SMTP id JAA08651 for <fgg@asc.upenn.edu>; Thu, 2 Jan 1997 09:58:05 -0500

Date: Thu, 2 Jan 1997 09:58:05 -0500

X-Sender: cemad@libertynet.org

Message-Id: <v01510102aef14626e1fc@[128.91.200.168]>

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Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"

To: fgg@asc.upenn.edu

From: William Siemering <74164.440@CompuServe.COM> (by way of cemad@libertynet.org (DEBBIE SMITH))

Subject: International Media

Dear George:

Since we've last been in touch, I've most recently been assisting in media development overseas, particulalry developing community radio in South Africa; I also dis work in Slovakia and Budapest. Since May I've been president of the International Center for Journalists which, in short, strengthens decomcracy through media education. We administer the Knight International Press Fellowships and both send Americans abroad and bring overseas journalists here for placement at newspapers/radio/tv stations. [I'm able to use my public radio experience in new ways.] There is even more sameness on public radio; independent producers have more difficulty finding an outlet for their work.

I was interested in the article in Utne Reader; you have a formidable task. Tony O'Reilly of H.J. Heinz and the Independnt newspapers in Ireland and South Africa aid this century has been a battle of ideologies; next century it will be between global corporations. The consolidation of media ownership is of great concern. [The recent de-regualtion of radio allowing the CBS/Westinghouse/Infinity merger is the most recent case.] In Slovakia I was dismayed to hear the newly indepdent radio sounding like US rock stations. In South Africa, the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA), the equivlenet of the FCC, awarded its first licenses to non-profit community radio. They also imposed the strictest limits on foreign imports- 55% of the porgramming must be of African origin on community stations because they know the importance of establishing an African culture. It is interesting that in some emerging decomcracies there is a fresh vision of the possibilites of media, of using it in original ways. Of course they have a difficult time since resources are so limited and they are frequently serving the poorest of the poor.

I heard the film critic for FRESH AIR, John Powers, explain how the drive to make movies marketable overseas has driven them to make less place specific and more action oriented; they are dumbed down and we suffer as well as those that see these oveeras. And of course, the foreign audience has a very distorted sense of American culture.

Even though the Freedom Forum espouses free press and free speech, they may not be interested in funding the research on corporate censureship. But it may be worth a try. the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) may however. They've suppoted my work in South Africa.]

I'm still based in Philadelphia-I'm in Washington 3-4 days a week. My e-mail

there is >bill@ci.gov< Tel: 202-737-3700.

Best wishes in your work.

Bill Siemering

SIEMERING

From: fgg at post1 1/2/97 11:13PM (789 bytes: 9 ln)  
To: William Siemering <74164.440@CompuServe.COM> (by way of cemad@libertynet.org  
(DEBBIE SMITH)) at SMTP-po  
Subject: International Media

----- Message Contents -----

Dear Bill: Good to hear from you. Re ICJ, you may be interested that I am on the International Advisory Council for Hungarian Television, and will have a meeting in Budapest Feb. 78. Still also doing much research on grants and contracts, and, as you have guessed, trying to raise \$\$ for CEM. POWERS' data came from us -- we did a study of exporting violent shows, writtn up as "marketing Global Mayhem." Hope that our paths will cross. Send me snail mail address and I'll place you on CEM list, send some materials. George.

Window: 1 - 24 Lines: 14 Edit: ↑ ↓ → Help: F1 End: ENTER