

In regular phone-in programmes we have made substantial efforts to ensure pro-Government voices on Iraq were heard - when not that many were naturally coming forward - and in programmes like 'Question Time' we have thought long and hard about how to create the right panel with a balanced audience. I could go on, but the point is that looking across our programmes I do not accept that our journalism has shown a sustained bias against the Government's Iraq policy.

I accept we could have been swifter in some of our programmes to analyse the shift in public opinion suggested by the polls this week - but by Wednesday we had given a great deal of prominence across our output to the polls.

As for the Commons vote - I believe it was journalistically right to give greater weight to the first vote. It was that vote which illustrated the size of the rebellion and was the heart of the story. We know from speaking to MPs in the lobby that some of them switched their vote on the substantive motion to express solidarity with British military forces. Further, John Reid was given ample opportunity on 'Today' on Wednesday morning to point out the 4 to 1 support from Labour MPs for the second vote.

You are unhappy about Wednesday's Radio 4 newspaper review. These reviews are not arithmetic exercises. The Clare Short story was given unusually vivid treatment in some of the morning papers - and hence that story was strongly reflected in the 0640 review. That was a reasonable editorial judgement. I need to point out that two minutes of the review was given over to the Prime Minister's speech and that at 0740 the running order was reversed; that review began with newspaper coverage of the Prime Minister's speech.

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