HOY ACCUSES STAR OF SLANTING NEWS, IS FIRED AND ALMOST SUED. THE STAR TRIES TO BAR THE PRESS FROM THE TRIAL, THEN DROPS CHARGES, SAYS HOY IS COMPETENT REPORTER WHO RESIGNED, PAYS COSTS BUT DOESN'T TELL ITS READERS ALL ABOUT IT.

Critical news stories in the press about the press are as rare as ninety degree heat in November which was the month in 1974 that we published a story about the Toronto Star firing reporter Claire Hoy and threatening legal action against him.

Being so rare, stories about the development of the Hoy affair were not conspicuous by their presence in the Star. We learned at "Media 75" that Hoy was working for the Ontario government and later for the Toronto Sun as a columnist. Then along came some clippings this past summer, dated in October 1977, and on December 18, 1977, in the form of Hoy's column called "Claire Hoy at Queen's Park," and news stories in the Globe and Mail and the Sun. Obviously, we hadn't been reading Everyman's friendly, sexy, frothy, far-right Tabloid at that time and missed the Sun column. The column and the news items are reprinted herewith holus bolus and pretty well tell it as is or as it was plus gratuitous remarks by Hoy about the Sun.

Let us now underline Hoy's victory and the Star's abject capitulation, being the Star's failed attempt to bar the press from any court hearings on the Hoy case, the Star's failure to inform its readers that the Star had contritely dropped all charges and changed the Hoy file to depict a resignation rather than a firing, to pay the costs, pay severance pay and agree to give Hoy a recommendation that he performed his duties at the Star "in a highly competent and professional manner." To coin a cliché - the bigger they are (at Torstar) the harder they fall - but for those who read the Star only - who knows?
HOY AND STAR REACH ACCORD OVER DISMISSAL

A settlement has been reached between The Toronto Star and Claire Hoy, a former Star reporter and now a Toronto Sun columnist, on a grievance over his dismissal by the Star. He was fired after two television interviews in which he suggested the Star slanted its coverage.

The agreement has led to cancellation of a hearing of the grievances by an arbitration board. The Toronto Newspaper Guild, which filed the grievance on behalf of Mr. Hoy, won the right to have the arbitration hearings held in public.

The terms of the settlement include the right of Mr. Hoy to resign and collect severance pay. The agreement, which is subject to ratification by the Newspaper Guild, also requires the Star to expunge all references to the incident that led to Mr. Hoy's dismissal from his employment record.

Mr. Hoy is to be given a letter of recommendation by the Star that certifies he is a highly competent and professional newspaper reporter.

The terms also require the Star to pay the cost of court proceedings that led to a decision upholding the right of an arbitrator to hold hearings on the grievance in public.

The severance pay which Mr. Hoy will receive amounts to thousands of dollars. Mr. Hoy is in Japan covering Premier William Davis's trip for the Sun.

A libel suit which the Star brought against Mr. Hoy is to be dismissed, on consent of the court.
UNFAIR DISMISSAL

THE STAR LOVES OUR BOY HOY, EH?

Sun columnist Claire Hoy will get a good job reference - from the Toronto Star!

A settlement, which includes cash, and a letter of recommendation certifying Hoy as a competent and professional newspaper reporter, has been reached between Hoy and the Star.

Hoy was fired from the Star in October, 1974, after he criticized the Star's coverage of the 1974 federal election on the CBC program, 24 Hours.

The agreement, which includes Hoy's right to collect severance pay for his years at the Star, has led to cancellation of a hearing of grievances by an arbitration board.

The Toronto Newspaper Guild, which filed the grievance on behalf of Hoy, won the right to a public hearing of the case. The Guild's lawyer, Jeff Sack, who represented Hoy, said the amount of severance pay "hasn't been worked out yet," but will amount to thousands of dollars.

Hoy was making $330 a week at the Star when he was fired.

Present guild contract with Star reporters allows severance pay of a week's salary for each consecutive six months employment. A libel suit against Hoy, launched by the Star, is to be dismissed.
CLARE HOY AT QUEEN'S PARK

Beland H. Honderich
Chairman and Publisher
The Toronto Star

Dear Beland:

Perhaps you remember me.

It has been a little over three years since your newspaper fired me after I'd accused The Star on both CITY-TV and CBC television of slanting its political news coverage.

No doubt some of your readers will remember the stories written about it, the official denials accusing me of making false statements.

Or maybe, if they missed the telecasts during which I outlined specific examples of what I considered to be an abuse of the position of trust newspapers hold in our free society, the public may recall the story from last year when the CBC publicly apologized to you as a result of my appearance on their network.

Please don't get the wrong impression "B." May I call you "B?" I know your friends do. I hope you don't mind.

I don't want you to think I'm bitter. I'm not. Quite the opposite.

Actually you did me a favor. I now work for a newspaper, in my opinion, which respects the professionalism and competence of its reporters, which doesn't have editors telephoning night and day, which doesn't have a phobia about rewriting vast numbers of stories to comply with the Globe version.

I work for a newspaper now which again in my opinion, does not suggest, directly or indirectly, how a reporter should best approach a particular story in advance.

During the last provincial election, for example, nobody told me to lay off negative stories about Stuart Smith's campaign.

They left it to me to cover events and write them as they occurred.

But, back to the issue at hand.

As you know "B," your paper accused me of making false statements about you. Since you're in the newspaper business, I don't have to tell you how serious that is with respect to the credibility of a reporter.

You no doubt remember the Toronto Newspaper Guild filed a grievance against you when I was fired and so began a long, in-
Volved series of hearings and court proceedings.

You'll recall, "B" that when the arbitration proceedings began in April, 1975 - quite apart from libel actions launched against me - reporters showed up to cover it, no doubt assuming some public interest in charges that Canada's largest newspaper may have indeed slanted the news.

I have often wondered if it bothered you, a twinge or two perhaps, that your newspaper went to court to fight to keep reporters out of the hearings.

It serves little purpose now to remind you that you lost your battle to ban the press from the hearings, but some readers may be interested to know you have subsequently agreed to drop all actions against me, change my file to depict a resignation, rather than a dismissal, and generally agree to pay costs, severance pay and do the old mea culpa, mea culpa routine.

It might also be appropriate for me to thank you for the letter you have agreed to have written on my behalf should someone inquire about my performance as a reporter at The Star.

I thank you in advance for telling people, in writing, I performed my duties "in a highly competent and professional manner," and, as a result, The Star "has no hesitation in certifying" me as an "experienced and competent news reporter."

That's very good of you in light of what you said about me three years ago. I wanted you to know, personally "B," that I appreciate it.

There is one small point however which concerns me. Since your newspaper reported the ongoing proceedings in my case, including the CBC apology, I would have thought, to be consistent, you would have published the news about your newspaper agreeing to drop all its charges against me.

Since I am familiar with your views on fairness in news reporting, and since it was of sufficient public interest for both the Globe and Sun (and other publications) to carry, don't you think it would have been decent to complete your earlier coverage and tell your readers how the case was finally resolved, even if it was in my favor?

I know it's a small point "B," and again, I want you to know I'm not bitter but, as I'm sure you'd agree, fair is fair.

Please convey for me my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your entire management, and thank you for helping me make my own Christmas this year just a little bit brighter.

Yours truly,
Claire Hoy