

D008

Hutton Inquiry

The public are under a grave handicap in assessing the Hutton inquiry. Our information is provided by journalists and the media, yet they are the chief suspects. Inevitably the presentation is slanted.

I watched every minute of the televised closing speeches on September 25. The reporting next day on the BBC Radio Four Today programme concentrated on the bad things Jeremy Gompertz QC, for the Kelly family, said about the Government. Nothing about the damning indictment Jonathan Sumption QC levelled against the BBC and its employee Andrew Gilligan. It is absurd for Simon Jenkins (26 September 2003) to end his piece on the Hutton inquiry by saying no one was to blame. Andrew Gilligan was doubly to blame for falsely asserting on air that the Government (1) forced the inclusion of the 45-minute claim into the September dossier and (2) knew the claim was wrong. The BBC was to blame for steadfastly supporting him in this. Both were to blame for not at once (or ever) withdrawing this false claim and apologising to the Government. But for this media misconduct Dr Kelly would still be alive.¹

¹ *The Times Register* (Debate), 30 September 2003 (final sentence omitted).