



## **Writers and the Closed Shop**

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## Writers and the Closed Shop

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<b>Janet Adam Smith</b>	<b>Pamela Hansford</b>	<b>J. B. Priestley</b>
<b>A. Alvarez</b>	<b>Johnson</b>	<b>V. S. Pritchett</b>
<b>A. J. Ayer</b>	<b>Jacquetta Hawkes</b>	<b>Anthony Quinton</b>
<b>Quentin Bell</b>	<b>John Holloway</b>	<b>Lionel Robbins</b>
<b>Isaiah Berlin</b>	<b>Graham Hough</b>	<b>Steven Runciman</b>
<b>Anthony Blunt</b>	<b>James Joll</b>	<b>Alan Sillitoe</b>
<b>Asa Briggs</b>	<b>Frank Kermode</b>	<b>C. P. Snow</b>
<b>Alan Bullock</b>	<b>Arthur Koestler</b>	<b>Tom Stoppard</b>
<b>David Caute</b>	<b>Edmund Leach</b>	<b>Anthony Storr</b>
<b>Kenneth Clark</b>	<b>Hugh Lloyd-Jones</b>	<b>John Summerson</b>
<b>Richard Cobb</b>	<b>Donald MacRae</b>	<b>Christopher Sykes</b>
<b>Maurice Cranston</b>	<b>Olivia Manning</b>	<b>Julian Symons</b>
<b>Bernard Crick</b>	<b>Richard Mayne</b>	<b>Hugh Thomas</b>
<b>Margaret Drabble</b>	<b>Peter Medawar</b>	<b>H. R. Trevor-Roper</b>
<b>Ronald Dworkin</b>	<b>Jan Morris</b>	<b>John Wain</b>
<b>G. R. Elton</b>	<b>John Osborne</b>	<b>C. V. Wedgwood</b>
<b>D. J. Enright</b>	<b>Eric Partridge</b>	<b>J. G. Weightman</b>
<b>Antonia Fraser</b>	<b>Harold Pinter</b>	<b>Rebecca West</b>
<b>Christopher Fry</b>	<b>J. H. Plumb</b>	<b>Mortimer Wheeler</b>
<b>Roy Fuller</b>	<b>John Pope-Hennessy</b>	<b>Bernard Williams</b>
<b>William Golding</b>		<b>Angus Wilson</b>
<b>Geoffrey Grigson</b>		

THE ISSUE about the freedom of the press at present before parliament is a simple one. Under a piece of trade union legislation it will become possible for a closed shop to exist in newspapers, periodicals etc. which if it were enforced would mean that the only persons who could be employed would be members of the National Union of Journalists. In addition, the legislation provides that members can be expelled from the union without any reason being given and without a right of appeal to any independent tribunal.

It is clear to us as writers that this represents one of the most serious potential threats to the liberty of expression that has arisen in this country in modern times. We urge the government to think again and to accept the safeguards contained in Lord Goodman's amendments now before the House of Commons.

Any code depending on good will or persuasion cannot be regarded as adequate protection against the dangers of this situation, and while we recognise the sincerity of Lord Houghton's proposal,

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we nevertheless regard it as inadequate and liable to create a false sense of security.

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