

28 of 34 DOCUMENTS



November 30, 2009

Sovietize American News?

BYLINE: Steve Forbes

SECTION: FACT AND COMMENT; Pg. 13 Vol. 184 No. 10

LENGTH: 294 words

HIGHLIGHT: Didn't the Berlin Wall fall 20 years ago?

`div#comLink {display:none;} div#storyBody { background-image: url (http://images.forbes.com/media/2009/01/22/normal_FC.jpg); background-repeat:no-repeat; background-position: 0px 0px; padding-top: 90px; }`

Lenin reads Pravda--have we come to this?

Didn't the Berlin Wall fall 20 years ago? Yet a former executive editor of the *Washington Post* and a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism issued a massive report recently recommending that the government get involved in saving news reporting. The fear is that the Internet is destroying newspapers, which means there won't be resources to get the news or generate in-depth, investigative stories. Thomas Jefferson must be rolling in his grave, and Lenin must be laughing in wherever it is he's now burning.

The two journalist worthies want, among other things, a National Fund for Local News (paid for through a variety of taxes), which would give public radio and public television added resources to cover more local news reporting.

Although newspapers are in serious financial straits, the sources of news reporting are as robust as ever, particularly now that technology allows countless individuals to instantly report on the Internet something newsworthy. As for longer stories and reports, they're already being generated by a number of think tanks, such as the Heritage Foundation, the **Cato** Institute and the National Center for Policy Analysis. There are also plenty of philanthropists who would be willing to found and support foundations whose task would be to generate investigative stories. And there will be no shortage of aggregators to bring together or summarize these reports for readers.

We don't need a Washington version of the old Soviet propaganda organs, Tass and *Pravda*.

LOAD-DATE: November 16, 2009

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

PUBLICATION-TYPE: Magazine

Copyright 2009 Forbes Inc.
All Rights Reserved