

Chilling day Special Branch swooped to seize ANOTHER dossier on VIP abusers: 16 MPs' names mentioned in

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- Police raided newspaper offices of Don Hale, editor of Bury Messenger
- He'd recently been given sensitive files by Labour politician Barbara Castle
- Documents included typewritten minutes of meetings that had been held at Westminster in support of paedophile agenda
- Included details of a host of Establishment figures who had apparently pledged support to their cause
- Also mentioned multiple times was Tory minister Sir Rhodes Boyson, a well-known enthusiast for corporal punishment, and Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph

By GUY ADAMS FOR THE DAILY MAIL
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The knock on the door came early one day in the famously dry summer of 1984. It was just after 8 am, and Don Hale, the young editor of the Bury Messenger, was reading the daily papers at his desk as his reporters were beginning to arrive at the office.

As Hale, then 31, answered the door, a trio of plain-clothes detectives barged in, followed by a dozen police officers in uniform.

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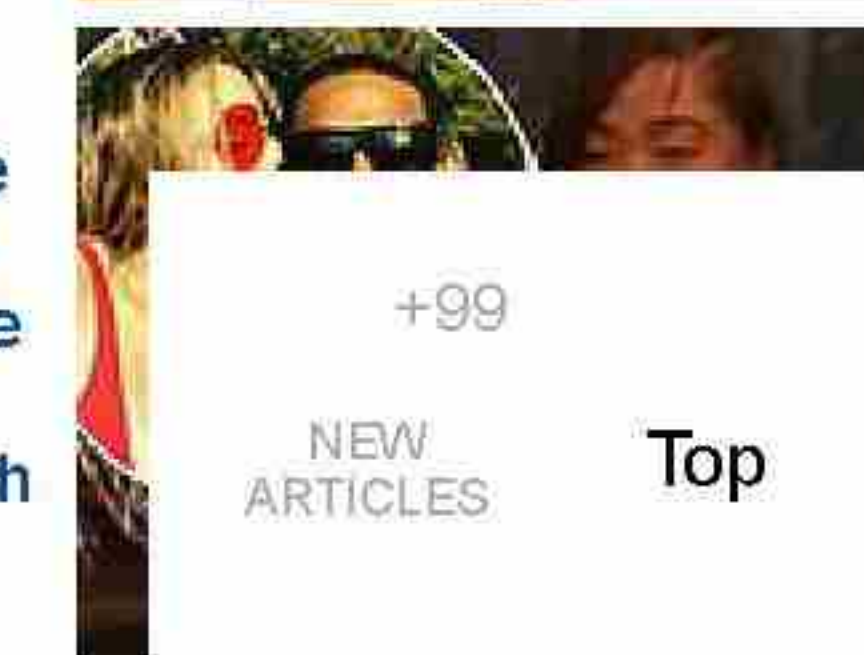
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Over tea and a bun at a local cafe, Mrs Castle opened a battered briefcase and handed Hale a bundle of extraordinary documents. They included typewritten minutes of meetings that had been held at Westminster in support of the paedophile agenda, along with details of a host of Establishment figures who had apparently pledged support to their cause.

No fewer than 16 MPs were on that list, several of them household names. Also mentioned multiple times was Tory minister Sir Rhodes Boyson, a well-known enthusiast for corporal punishment, and Education Secretary Sir Keith Joseph.

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'I don't suppose you'd be interested in writing a story on this,' Mrs Castle asked in what Hale describes as a tone of weariness.

'She perked up when I told her that yes, I would be interested,' he says, 'though I warned her that I would have to make inquiries with the authorities about some contents of the dossier.'

Accordingly, a few days later he put in a call to the Home Office.

'I could detect the antagonism from officials as soon as they answered,' he says. 'The institution that should have been protecting vulnerable children seemed more interested in stopping the Press from prying too closely.'

It was the morning after Hale made his call to the Home Office that Special Branch officers turned up at the Bury Messenger.

Pushing him into a corner, they began barking orders.

'Let me assure you that this story is not in the public interest,' said a detective. 'It cannot be printed, as a matter of national security.'

'That can't be right,' Hale told him.

'Look, we're not here to argue,' the detective responded. 'Are you going to hand over your papers?'

'No,' Hale replied.

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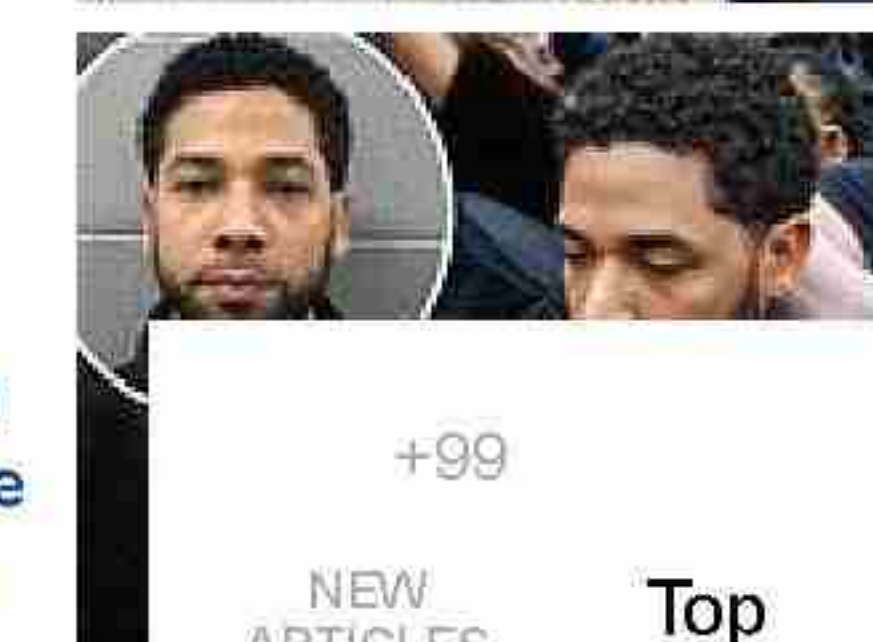
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Sir Rhodes Boyson (left) was mentioned multiple times in Mrs Castle's dossier; while Sir Keith Joseph (right) was also named in her files



At this point, the officer produced a document, signed by a judge. It showed that his previous remark about not printing the story had not been a request, but an order. The document handed to Hale was a D-notice — a relic of wartime censorship that could be served on newspaper editors, allowing the Government to block any story that threatened national security.

'If you don't comply with this notice, we will arrest you for perverting the course of justice,' the detective barked. 'You will be liable for up to ten years in prison.'

At this point, Hale's resistance collapsed. He had been plunged into a situation for which he had little experience.

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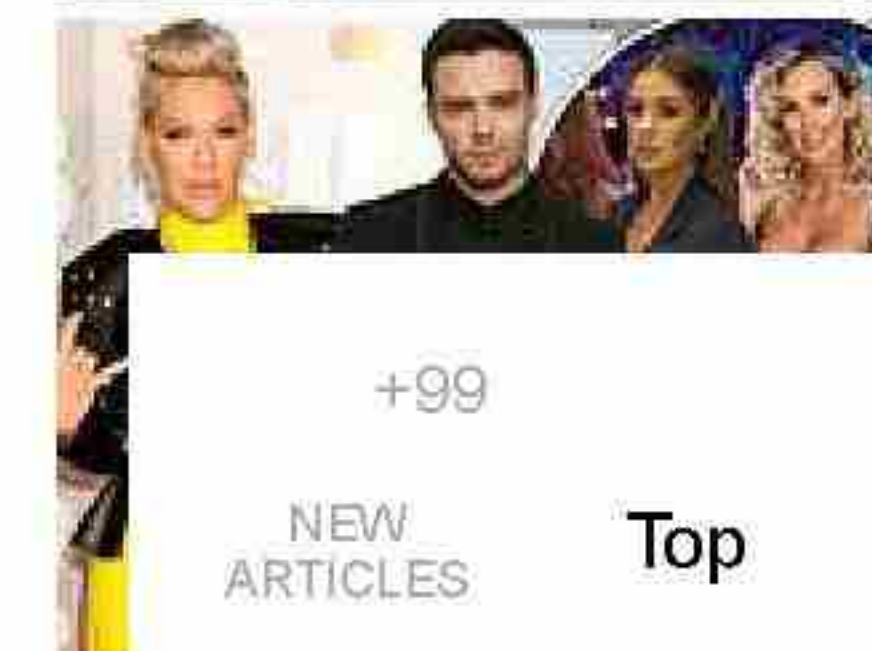
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