

## **NewsWatch Monitor Issue 3**

### **Fraser Institute continues its distorting ways**

by Donald Gutstein

Last August, NewsWatch Canada explained how the Fraser institute slanted its news-monitoring studies (Kathleen Cross, [NewsWatch Monitor, Vol. 1. No. 1](#), Summer, 1997). It seems that little has changed with the news media's think-tank of choice.

The January, 1998 issue of 'On Balance,' the Fraser Institute's media-monitoring operation, claims that "Liberals dominate national TV news, Reform presence declines."

The study was a tally of "soundbites" - an MP speaking some words on camera would be one soundbite -- on national television news during the 60 days before the start of the spring federal election on June 2, 1997 (pre-election period), and during the 60 days after the House resumed sitting. (The phrase 'resume sitting' is actually incorrect. An election creates a new Parliament,







editorial motivation and control." Even under the best of circumstances, Black said, chains tend to restrict the diversity of opinion by sharing correspondents and centralizing administration.

"Even in such instances as these, there is a tendency to combine feature services, such as parliamentary correspondents, and to centralize administration, necessarily reducing the diversity and particularism of press opinion."

Black centred out Power Corp. for criticism over the extent of its control and the fact that it

\*\*\* From The Big Black Book: The Essential Views of Conrad and Barbara Amiel Black, by