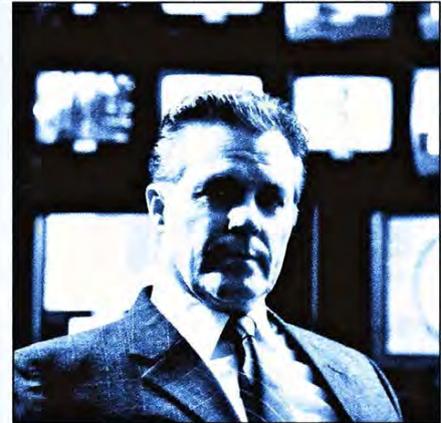


27 I can talk about the media

A Scandal

BBC under pressure to sack presenter

Politicians **are putting pressure on** the BBC **to** remove chat-show host Bob Aldred, after a story **leaked out** that he uttered racist remarks following his Saturday show. The comments were made **off the record**, and colleagues feel they have **been blown out of proportion**. However, Aldred is **a household name**, and any comments that could **stir up** controversy and **cast doubt on** the integrity of the BBC would be very damaging. Friends hope the incident will quickly **blow over**, but critics argue that the BBC has been left with no option. 'This story won't **go away**,' said one MP. 'The BBC must act now to **stamp out** any possible accusation of racism, and **the sooner the better**.'



Glossary

put pressure on sb (to do sth)

force or try to persuade sb to do sth; that person is then **under pressure**.

**leak out
off the record**

(of secret information) become known to the public.
used for saying that a remark is not official or intended to be made public. OPP **on the record**.

**blow sth (up) out of (all) proportion
a household name**

make sth seem much worse or more dangerous than it really is.
a name known to everyone; a famous person.

**stir sth up
cast doubt(s) on sth
blow over**

try to cause arguments or problems.
make people feel less certain about sth.
If a difficult situation **blows over**, people stop talking about it and soon forget about it.

**go away
stamp sth out
the sooner the better**

disappear.
get rid of sth that is wrong or dangerous, often with force.
as soon as possible.

1 Circle the correct answer.

- 1 If you **cast doubt on something**, you make other people feel *more / less* certain about it.
- 2 If a situation **blows over**, people *start / stop* worrying about it.
- 3 If a comment is made **on the record**, it *is / isn't* intended to be made public.
- 4 If information **leaks out**, it becomes *known / official*.
- 5 If you **stamp something out**, you *put your foot on it / get rid of it*.
- 6 If a problem **goes away**, it *disappears / moves somewhere else*.

2 Rewrite the sentences using the correct form of the word in capitals. Keep the same meaning.

- We need to get rid of prejudice. STAMP *We need to stamp out prejudice.*
- 1 He tried to make her change her mind. PRESSURE
 - 2 His comments weren't intended to be made public. RECORD
 - 3 We need to do this, and as soon as possible. SOONER
 - 4 He's known to everyone. HOUSEHOLD
 - 5 The secrets have become known recently. LEAK
 - 6 People will soon forget about the incident. BLOW
 - 7 She made it seem much worse than it was. PROPORTION
 - 8 His comments have caused a lot of anger. STIR