

'Keep her off the screen' orders by Hill and Aylestone as memoirs storm grows

KEELER BANNED BY BBC AND ITV

CHRISTINE Keeler was

banned from television last night—on two channels.

Miss Keeler, 27, had been invited to appear in the BBC-1 "Twenty-four Hours" programme—and in Independent Television's "Frost on Friday."

But the "Twenty-four Hours" appearance was scrapped on orders from the BBC's chairman, Lord Hill.

Cancelled

And the Frost show invitation was cancelled on orders from the Independent Television Authority's chairman, Lord Aylestone.

Television personality David Frost had planned to sit Miss Keeler in the front row of the studio audience while he interviewed Australian newspaper boss Rupert Murdoch.

Mr. Murdoch is chairman of the News of the World, which is serialising Miss Keeler's memoirs.

A storm has blown up over Miss Keeler's references to a long-past association with Mr. John Profumo, former War Minister.

Last night's Murdoch interview was allowed by Lord Aylestone on condition that there was no long discussion about Mr. Profumo.

During the interview, Mr. Murdoch denied that the series would damage Mr. Profumo.

He defended publication of the series and said: "I judged this as in the public interest as a cautionary tale to politicians."

Mr. Murdoch disclosed that he had personally cut part of Miss Keeler's book for his paper.

Section

"When I read the manuscript," said Mr. Murdoch "I said the first part of the story should be left out as neither relevant nor decent."

"This earlier part was unpleasant," he said. "But the rest, the story of Stephen Ward, the search for a scapegoat, was very interesting."

The ITA also clamped down again yesterday—on the television commercials advertising the News of the World.

On Thursday, commercials advertising the Keeler serial had been banned, on the ground that "a considerable section of the public is offended by the series."

Yesterday, the ITA announced:

"We have had further discussions with the News of the World about possible

By CLIFFORD DAVIS

alterations in the script of the commercial advertising the Keeler memoirs.

"We found it impossible to come to any agreement with them on a script, advertising the News of the World, that would not—by implication—draw attention to the serialisation of Miss Keeler's memoirs."

"The ITA has reluctantly come to the conclusion that advertisements from the News of the World, for the rest of the period while the memoirs are being published, cannot be accepted."

The News of the World, which had booked three spots this weekend for commercials not mentioning the Keeler memoirs, promptly sent a letter by hand to Lord Aylestone. The letter said: "We

have been told that your office has released a statement to the Press that all News of the World advertising is banned until the serialisation of Miss Keeler's memoirs is withdrawn or terminated."

This decision, the letter suggested, was "a change of attitude" and "censorship" which was "an abuse of the powers of the ITA."

Prepared

Later, an ITA spokesman said: "There was no change of policy. The News of the World has known our attitude throughout."

"We are always prepared to consider advertisements which have no allusion to Miss Keeler."

MISS KEELER, at home in Belgravia, said last night: "My BBC television appearance was cancelled at two hours notice. I was very upset."