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**Proprietor and Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Telegraph* from 1954–1987 was Michael Berry, in 1968 created Lord Hartwell of Peterborough in the City of London. *Courtesy Lord Hartwell.***

I soon found out that there was always an alternative to unused stories which had been rejected by the copy taster. The *Daily Telegraph* was administratively divided into two main departments, 'News' and 'Features' with its independent heads of departments, the News Editor and the Feature Editor. What News had been rejected could always be included in my fortnightly Feature "Science and the Citizen" over which I had control. This feature appeared at first monthly, later fortnightly, but I could never persuade Features to give me a weekly full page for science. This is now standard practice for many newspapers, including the *Daily Telegraph*.

I finally decided, after I had worked for the *Daily Telegraph* for a few years, to approach the Owner, Mr Michael Berry, who was after all the Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of the paper. By the time I met him he was in his middle fifties and had his offices on the fourth floor of the Telegraph building. His office was remarkable for the fact that it had a small garden on its balcony. In 1986, he was created Lord Hartwell, a life peer, by Mr Harold Wilson, the Labour Prime Minister. This was a very unusual political honour, as Michael Berry was known to be an arch-conservative and such had always been the policy of his paper.

When he became Lord Hartwell, this was an additional fact why everyone was in fear of him and mentioned his name almost in a whisper. When I received an occasional science news item sent to my office with a note pinned on it saying "Michaelis explain" it was to be treated like a word from the Almighty and it was sure to be printed in the next day's paper with my explanation. I never feared him, I liked and respected him for his great knowledge of science and was therefore optimistic when I approached him for the weekly full page of science. But this was refused for reasons I have never had explained.

Not everyone on the paper got on well with him because of his patriarchal methods and his belief in gerontocracy, as a correspondent put it who had served under him for too many years. He was also known for his tightfistedness, but his belief in the freedom of expression earned him the title as the 'best proprietor of the time'. In 1985, he had, for a number of financial reasons, to sell the newspaper to Conrad Black, a wealthy, powerful and ambitious Canadian, and the editorial offices of the paper soon afterwards moved to an ultra modern and computer controlled atmosphere at Canary Wharf, away from the traditional home of English Newspapers, the famous Fleet Street.

The huge antiquated 19th century printing presses were at the back of the building in Fleet Street, where also the type-setting in hot lead metal was carried out with Linotype machines. The time had come for a change, but it must have been a sad change for Lord Hartwell. He died in April 2001 aged 89. I had left the paper in 1973.