

BREAKING NEWS:

Murdochs and Prime Minister Advised by Same Verbal Evasion Coach.

Before appearing before the Select Committee the Murdochs were groomed by the world-renowned verbal evasion coach, Larry Cuchullain, President of the Verbal Evasion Trust. As was Rebekah Brooks and the Police Commissioners. And the Prime Minister before answering questions from the House.

“Sure, I advised them on how to handle the questioning,” said Mr. Cuchullain. “It’s not easy to be grilled by a bunch of fame-hungry politicians in front of the world’s media. Everybody needs advice. And I’m the best in the business. I’ve spent my whole career developing techniques to help people with verbal evasion. You want to know what I said to them? O.K. I’ll tell you.

Firstly I told them what is key. Never use the words ‘Yes’ or ‘No’. Give them as much non-essential verbiage as possible. You’ve got to wear the questioners down.

Don’t try and make them look like idiots but try and make them get itchy by repeating everything of no importance. Remember, they are more nervous than you are. They are not used to appearing in front of the world’s media - they’re sweating. Whereas you are used to it. You’ve been there and done this many times. So you’re in good shape.

There are two main defences.

One is the War Criminal’s Defence: ‘I was not aware at the time.’ Self-explanatory. White as snow.

The other is the Capo Defence: ‘In my position I am not personally involved in everything that happens. This particular matter would not come to me. It would have been handled by the person responsible for that aspect of our activity.’ Push it down to the mechanics.

And I told them a few useful phrases that work a treat.

‘I do not have direct knowledge of that.’ Neat.

‘I do not know the status of that.’ Implies you could find out because you’re a capo, but right now.....

‘To the best of my knowledge, I knew nothing about it.’ A real beauty, that one.

‘There were never any inappropriate conversations.’ Complete obfuscation. Definitely my favourite.

I emphasised that all they had to do was keep talking until they had worn their questioners down. Those guys don’t have forensic skills, they don’t know how to go for the jugular. They’re all hoping you’ll slip up and let out some gem of a revelation. When that doesn’t happen, they get depressed and tired. They start to wilt.

Follow my advice, I told them, and you’ll be sitting there as innocent as a new-born baby.

Well, there you go. That’s what I told them.”