

NYT FEUD HAS THOMPSON ON THE ROPES

October 24 – If Vegas were taking odds on whether Mark Thompson will take over as the new president and CEO of the *New York Times* Company, the smart money would bet against him. After what *Times* public editor Margaret Sullivan said about him recently in her blog, he's already on the ropes.

Sullivan asks, "how likely is it that the *Times* Company will continue with its plan to bring Mr. Thompson on as chief executive?" Questioning his integrity about his statement that he knew nothing about a spiked documentary exposing Jimmy Savile, she writes, "His integrity and decision-making are bound to affect The Times and its journalism—profoundly. It's worth considering now whether he is the right person for the job, given this turn of events." If this wasn't enough to finish Thompson, she adds, "What are the implications for the Times Company to have its new C.E.O.—who needs to deal with many tough business challenges here—arriving with so much unwanted baggage?"

Sullivan, it would appear, is playing rabbit for *New York Times* publisher Arthur O. Sulzberger, Jr. It suggests that Thompson has been spoken to about stepping aside but has proven to be obstinate, which is why Sullivan has been rolled out to smack him in public. Either that or she is going out on a limb.

Recently more than 1,200 files were released on suspected child abusers in the Boy Scouts. Also, a Rhode Island judge was recently asked to unseal documents in a lawsuit dealing with the Legion of Christ, a Catholic order of priests which has been tainted by a sexual abuse scandal of its own. In both instances, the *Times* was among those seeking the files.

Parliament needs to secure the BBC files with an eye toward uncovering the truth about the BBC and the *New York Times*.