

Buying participation?

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Duration of video clip: 1 minute and 20 seconds

I think the question of chequebook journalism gets trotted out when it's useful when someone is having their voice cut off. Because I think of a particular film I wrote about years ago, where Abbie Hoffman who is a fugitive, was given a video recorder that was the payment for participating in this, and it caused a great brouhaha in public television circles because it was seen as aiding and abetting a fugitive. Well it was the only way that that story could be told and this story where there was trust between the filmmaker and the subject, so I think it's a glib way of dismissing a complex problem and I think one could be guilty of buying an interview, and certainly lots of money has been passed off to famous people to get their agreement to participate. But I think there's money and there's money, and there are notions of what we are. Money plays a role within that relationship and you just can't you know use a cookie cutter to look at to think about those issues.