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## From the traditional impresarios to the boss Santacreu, via the Cercle d'Economia

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JOSEP PERNAU

One of the last directors of the “Diario de Barcelona”, now the Dean of the Col·legi de Periodistes de Catalunya, Josep Pernaú, recalls a period spanning more than seven years from November 1969 until February 1977. The author talks about his former colleagues, most of them young, who would later figure prominently in the management staff of the communications media of Catalonia.

The epoch was one of change, difficult. The author “rummages through papers” and finds cuttings which refer to the explosion of a fire bomb in the newspaper’s doorway; an assault on a writer, threats, both written and phoned, by the so-called uncontrolled element. He also remembers the letters of solidarity sent to the “Diari” by colleagues of the profession. In this collection of memories, the names of the other directors of the “Brusi” appear: Tarín Iglesias, Martín Ferrand and contributors such as Josep Melià, the newspaper’s political columnist based in Madrid, although “not everything he wrote reached the readers”. The end of the dictatorship was nigh and democracy was beginning to rear its head.

The author refers to the impresarios that the “Diario de Barcelona” knew: Miguel Mateu-Count of Godó (1969-72), Artur Suqué and the Cercle d’Economia (1972-1975), Suqué-Santacreu (1975), Santacreu (1977). During this last phase there arose a situation described by the author as difficult: “The impresario and the people around him were right-wing, whereas the staff were left-wing”. In these circumstances, on February 25, 1977 Santacreu, “the boss”, removed Pernaú from the management of the “Brusi”. He was later told that the Minister of Information and Tourism had demanded his head.