Does the writer think the parents were lucky or unlucky to gain prosperity in this way?

Why?

In democratic countries, any efforts to restrict the freedom of the press are rightly condemned.

However, this freedom can easily be abused.

Stories about people often attract far more public attention than political events.

Though we may enjoy reading about the lives of others, it is extremely doubtful whether we would equally enjoy reading about ourselves.

Acting on the contention that facts are sacred, reporters can cause untold suffering to individuals by publishing details about their private lives.

Newspapers exert such tremendous influence that they can not only bring about major changes to the lives of ordinary people but can even overthrow a government.

The story of a poor family that acquired fame and fortune overnight dramatically illustrates the power of the press.

The family lived in Aberdeen, a small town of 23,000 inhabitants in South Dakota.

As the parents had five children, life was a perpetual struggle against poverty.

They were expecting their sixth child and were faced with even more pressing economic problems.

If they had only had one more child, the fact would have passed unnoticed.

They would have continued to struggle against economic odds and would have lived in obscurity.

But they suddenly became the parents of quintuplets, four girls and a boy, an event which radically changed their lives.

The day after the birth of the five children, an aeroplane arrived in Aberdeen bringing sixty reporters and photographers.

The rise to fame was swift.

Television cameras and newspapers carried the news to everyone in the country.

Newspapers and magazines offered the family huge sums for the exclusive rights to publish stories and photographs.

Gifts poured in not only from unknown people, but from baby food and soap manufacturers who wished to advertise their products.

The old farmhouse the family lived in was to be replaced by a new $500,000 home.

Reporters kept pressing for interviews, so lawyers had to be employed to act as spokesmen for the family at press conferences.

While the five babies were still quietly sleeping in oxygen tents in a hospital nursery, their parents were paying the price for fame.

It would never again be possible for them to lead normal lives.

They had become the victims of commercialization, for their names had acquired a market value.

Instead of being five new family members, these children had immediately become a commodity.

Immediately, the news got out, a plane arrived with reporters and photographers.

The family's rise to fame was swift, and soon the media had told the whole country.

Newspapers and magazines offered huge sums of money for exclusive rights to the story, while gifts poured in from baby products manufacturers.

The family's old farmhouse was replaced by a new home, while lawyers were employed as spokesmen.

The parents paid the price for fame: they would never again lead normal lives.

There is a well-known expression in English to describe rising from poverty to a state of being very rich or wealthy: it's called going 'from rags to riches'.

It doesn't usually mean that a person has been living in rags and then becomes extremely rich.

The expression is not quite right to describe what happened to John, but not far wrong.

John's life had been very ordinary and certainly lacked excitement.

He was 25 years old, but he didn't take part in any sport, he didn't have a girlfriend, and he didn't drive a car.

Instead, he went everywhere on his bicycle.

In fact, he led a pretty boring life, but he was happy.

Then one day a friend suggested he do the football pools.

John did the football pools and won a million pounds.

He went mad with the money.

He bought a new car and a big house.

And then he met a girl and married her.

It was all too quick.

Very soon they started arguing and soon they got a divorce.

Now John is alone again and living in his big house as a sad millionaire.

The lesson of the story is this: never listen to the advice of a friend.

If John had never done the football pools, he would never have become a sad millionaire.

On the other hand, he is now able to give a lot of money to charity to help people less fortunate than himself.

The Press will argue that they have the right to publish a story, although it may seriously affect the  
individual concerned, because facts in themselves, however unpleasant they may be, must be respected.

News editors and reporters wanted to publish the story because they believed it was the right thing to do.

The interest that was taken in the family was mainly from commercial organizations who wanted to promote their sales.

The public is often far more interested in stories about people than in political events.

The influence of newspapers is such that not only can they bring about major changes in the lives of ordinary people, but they can even overthrow a government.

Stories about people are often of great interest to everyone.

Newspapers wield tremendous influence over the lives of ordinary people.

Lawyers were employed to act as spokesmen on behalf of the family.

Instead of being five new family members, these children had become victims of commercialization.