What was the consequence of the editor's insistence on facts and statistics?

Editors of newspapers and magazines often go to extremes to provide their readers with unimportant facts and statistics.

Last year, a journalist had been instructed by a well-known magazine to write an article on the president's palace in a new African republic.

When the article arrived, the editor read the first sentence and then refused to publish it.

The article began: 'Hundreds of steps lead to the high wall which surrounds the president's palace.

The editor at once sent the journalist a fax instructing him to find out the exact number of steps and the height of the wall.

The journalist immediately set out to obtain these important facts, but he took a long time to send them.

Meanwhile, the editor was getting impatient, for the magazine would soon go to press.

He sent the journalist two more faxes, but received no reply.

He sent yet another fax informing the journalist that if he did not reply soon, he would be fired.

When the journalist again failed to reply, the editor reluctantly published the article as it had originally been written.

A week later, the editor at last received a fax from the journalist.

Not only had the poor man been arrested, but he had been sent to prison as well.

However, he had at last been allowed to send a fax in which he informed the editor that he had been arrested while counting the 1,084 steps leading to the fifteen-foot wall which surrounded the president's palace.

Though the journalist immediately set out to get the facts after receiving instructions from his editor, he did not send them at once.

Meanwhile, the editor was getting impatient, SO he sent three faxes, finally threatening to fire the journalist.

When the last fax was unanswered, the article was published in its original form.

The journalist sent the editor a fax a week later, explaining he had been imprisoned after counting the steps and measuring the height of the wall.

The journalist counted the number of steps as he wearily climbed up to the high wall surrounding the president's palace.

On arriving at the main gate, he sat down to get his breath back.

He then produced a tape measure in order to measure the wall.

While he was busy measuring the wall, a policeman approached him and asked him what he was doing.

Though the journalist explained he was a reporter and his editor had asked him to find out the exact height of the wall, the policeman refused to believe him.

He was arrested and sent to prison because the police thought that he might be a spy or might even want to assassinate the president.

When the journalist insisted he was innocent, he made things worse for himself.

This proved to the police that the man certainly was guilty and deserved to stay in prison indefinitely.

What's the name of the person who first sailed up the Hudson River?

I wonder if you could give me some information about train times.

Why don't we go to the cinema this evening?

Film-making in Hong Kong is an important industry.

I need flour and milk to make cakes.

When you're out, please get me a newspaper.

I have never seen so many people.

Never have I seen so many people.

I had hardly finished speaking when the door opened.

Hardly had I finished speaking when the door opened.

He has not only made this mistake before, but he will make it again.

I realized what was happening only then.

I will never trust him again.

You seldom find traffic wardens who are kind and helpful.

Not only has he made this mistake before, but he will make it again.

Only then did I realize what was happening.

Never will I trust him again.

Seldom do you find traffic wardens who are kind and helpful.

The editor acted as he did because he was dissatisfied with the factual content of the article.

The journalist took a long time to send the details required because he had not been allowed to fax the information he had obtained.

Why had the journalist been arrested? Because his activities must have appeared suspicious.

Having read the first sentence, the editor refused to publish the article.

The magazine was about to go to press.

He sent the journalist two faxes, but did not receive a reply.

He informed the journalist he would be fired unless he replied.

He informed the editor of his arrest while carrying out his instructions.

Editors of newspapers and magazines often go to extremes to provide their public with unimportant facts and statistics.

The magazine would soon go to press. It would soon be printed.

The poor man had been arrested. He was very unfortunate.

He had at last been given permission to send a fax.