

From **HORACE CUTLER, O.B.E.**

LEADER OF THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL

THE COUNTY HALL, SE1 7PB

Telephone 01-633 3304/2184

5 October 1977.

Mr. E. E. Miller,
17 Burroway Road,
Langley,
Berkshire.
SL3 8EH.

Dear Mr. Miller,

THE PORN MERCHANTS

It is more than obvious from your letter of 2 October that you have no clear conception of what we have been doing in the West End nor of why we are doing it.

The action we have so far taken, which is indeed almost the extent of that which we are legally empowered to take, has been to remove from public display the worst excesses of indecency and obscenity.

What we have not done and indeed not sought to do is to censor in any way the contents of films shown in private cinema clubs, not least because we do not have the power to do so. On the other hand in relation to public cinemas we can (as has been shown by the legal decision) and will prevent the public display - contact with which is not a matter of individual choice but of necessity if you happen to be passing by - which falls below acceptable standards.

If you read our Manifesto produced for last May's election you will see the following paragraph "We will not continue to set ourselves up as judge and jury in film censorship. We will rid ourselves of these powers which we regard as matters for Central Government, and not for your GLC." In other words we have very little desire to prevent adults from seeing whatever they want, although at the moment we do have a statutory duty to impose censorship on films where there is a possibility of children being involved.

On the other hand, there are Members in County Hall, including some members of the Labour Party, I might add, who do not subscribe to the liberal view in these matters and who will doubtless attempt to prevent the showing of any film which they regard as unsuitable. This is not and never has been a matter of party politics but has been left to the conscience of the individual members concerned.

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As to the quotation with which you complete your letter I would hazard a guess that it is an extract from the Longford Report on Pornography, although from the style I doubt whether it is penned by the noble Earl himself.

Yours sincerely,

Herica Cutler .