

NO/DAW/DP

11th November, 1981.

Godfrey Gold, Esq.,
Taboo Cinema Club,
15-18, Great Newport Street,
London, W.C.2.

Dear Godfrey,

First of all, congratulations on the splendid result of your court cases. I am especially delighted because you and John have never wavered in your determination to challenge every attempt by the police to put you down. I do hope they will now leave you alone.

I regret, however, that the real purpose behind this letter concerns a far less happy matter since I hope to be able to enlist your help in rallying support for what at times appears to be a near dying cause. The cause, is, of course, that of the N.C.R.O.P.A. which, and as I pointed out in my recent "round-robin" letter to club owners (via Eric Miller), is in grave danger of extinction unless something can be done about its funding. The debt to me, personally, now stands at £505.94 and Ted Goodman is owed around £30.00. At present I am not working and living on unemployment benefit. I have no money left of my own and, even if I had, I really don't see why I should have to finance a campaign of this sort out of my own pocket, as well as already devoting the majority of my own time and energy to its cause. There has to come a time when, however dedicated one may be to the cause, enough is enough.

The response from my "urgent appeal" for more funds was precisely nil. I am bound to say that I am desperately disappointed and saddened by this total indifference from those who, being actually "in the business", have such a vested interest in the achievement of NCROPA's aims, and especially since you all agreed so recently to make regular contributions. There is so much more that could be done but it simply cannot be done without money. Our opposition is considerable, well-organised and thus, above all, properly and substantially funded. To combat that we must be likewise.

I cannot believe that your colleagues really fully appreciate their precarious position. No doubt they think that they have always got round the legal restrictions in some way or other in the past and will be able to do so in the future. Well, I can assure them that, unless we can stop, or at least put the brake on the courses of action at present being formulated by the authorities, that, frankly will be impossible because they will be out of business.

The Indecent Displays (Control) Act is now in force. The Westminster City Council's proposals for the licensing of all "sex oriented premises" have been

...../continued

accepted by the G.L.C. (in spite of assurances from Ken Livingstone and the Chairman of the Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee that the present administration at County Hall would not pursue out-moded and repressive censorship measures) and approved for inclusion in the next Greater London Council (General Powers) Bill which goes to Parliament on November 27th. I am enclosing a copy of the draft of this Bill and you will see that the conditions for the granting of these licences will be so ridiculously harsh, that only a Mary Whitehouse or Archbishop of Canterbury will qualify. They are horrendously Orwellian. This is not all. The Home Office is at this very moment discussing proposals for legislation which would make all private commercial cinema clubs illegal. As you know, at their invitation we had a long meeting with Home Office officials and expressed in the strongest terms possible, our total opposition to any such action. These sort of alarming proposals MUST BE FOUGHT - but WE MUST HAVE THE MONEY TO DO SO.

I cannot go on running this campaign any longer if I am always to be substantially out-of-pocket as a result and, unless this situation is satisfactorily resolved in the very near future, I very much regret that I shall be forced to dismantle the campaign. This would be a terrible blow for me personally, having put in so much hard work over the past five and a half years, but just think what capital Mrs. Whitehouse and her cronies would make out of it. The press, too, would have a field day proclaiming the demise of the NCROPA because of lack of support and, above all, the damage to our cause would be irreparable.

This letter, then, is a desperate last plea to you personally, to try to persuade your colleagues how imperative it is that they give their wholehearted support to NCROPA and in so doing, make it possible for us to have the really effective voice absolutely essential to our survival. I am sure you will do all you can to help.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,
Organiser,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts.

enc. The Obscene Publications (Amendment) Bill is now in force. The Minister has
enc. all's proposals for the licensing of all "Sex oriented services" have been