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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

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The N.C.R.O.P.A. is affiliated to the National Council for Civil Liberties

NO/DAW/DP

1st June, 1981.

~~Robert L. Vigars, Esq., G.L.C.,
Members' Lobby,
The County Hall,
London, SE1 7PB.~~

*I do NOT agree with your campaign.
Society should set standards of
behaviour and enforce them.*

Dear Mr. Vigars,

Robert Vigars

As a member of the newly-elected Greater London Council, you will, amongst other matters, be concerned with the control of public entertainment in the capital. The previous County Hall administration acted in a very repressive, kill-joy fashion by purporting to be publicly opposed to censorship whilst in practice condemning freedom of expression and, when and wherever possible, implementing steps effectively to curtail it. The disgraceful episode concerning "The Romans in Britain" and the National Theatre was a classic example of this double-talk. The persecution of London's sex shops and cinemas is another. From a party whose political philosophy extols the virtues of private enterprise and a free market economy, we heard a great deal of emotive out-pouring about the proliferation of sex establishments and the supposed resultant squeezing-out of other businesses which were no longer viable. No mention at all was made or account taken of the country's overall, grave economic recession. The blame was placed directly on Soho's one growth industry. No doubt the same Soho sex establishments are also responsible for the many empty shops and closed-down boutiques in, for example, Chelsea's King's Road!

Most persecuted of all have been the private cinema clubs which have been subjected to almost constant harassment by the authorities, often in ways which have been severely criticised by the Courts. We expressed our serious concern about this state of affairs in an advertisement placed in last Wednesday's edition (27th May) of "The Guardian", a copy of which appears at the foot of this letter.

The sex establishment controversy has been described as an environmental issue, but whose environment is at risk? Those who desire the harmless pleasures the sex establishments provide are entitled to as much consideration as the puritans from the pro-censorship lobby. Personally, I think it would be depressingly dull to live in a completely sanitized, antiseptic environment. I, like millions of others, want to be free to choose for myself. All tastes should be catered for in a supposedly free society.


I do hope that the new Council will not seek to impose out-moded, repressive censorship restraints on the citizens of London and its visitors. We already have more censorship in this country than virtually all others of the Western World and now, Greece and Switzerland are two of the last remaining states in the process of liberalising their legislation in this area. That the United Kingdom has, in effect,

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become an island of repression in a sea of freedom is not something of which the "mother of the free" should be proud and I trust that the new Greater London Council will also take that view.

It would be helpful to have your views on this matter and I shall hope to hear from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,



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

ADVERTISEMENT

**NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS**

Sex Please — We're British!
London's Sex Cinema Clubs — The Facts

There are over 50 private sex cinema clubs in London and nearly 200 throughout the United Kingdom. These clubs are providing harmless entertainment for the hundreds of thousands of their members who regularly watch explicit sex films as consenting adults.

The National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (N.C.R.O.P.A.) is concerned that the ever increasing persecution of these clubs by the authorities is grossly unfair. The resulting unfavourable public image of these clubs thus created is both inaccurate and undeserved.

For the record these cinema clubs:

- (1) do not show sex films involving children, nor do they allow admission to any person under the age of 18 years.
- (2) do not show films involving bestiality.
- (3) do not show films of a sado/masochistic or violent nature involving actual physical harm to the participants.
- (4) do accept the need for control of front of house displays and advertisements so that casual passers-by are not confronted by matter that some of them might consider offensive.
- (5) do support the legitimate implementation of necessary safety precautions which protect and safeguard their patrons.
- (6) do not wish to offend members of the public who do not wish to partake of the kind of entertainment they are providing but also expect that the rights of those who do will also be respected.

With all these points in view, the cinema clubs firmly support the N.C.R.O.P.A. in its campaign for radical reforms of our out-moded and repressive censorship laws, as recommended by the Williams Report, which would bring this country into line with virtually all other countries of the so-called free Western World and thereby allow consenting adults the right to see, read and hear whatever they choose for themselves.

If YOU are likewise concerned about freedom and censorship in this country and would like to see a liberalisation of the law in this field, write to your M.P. at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, and ask him or her to press for Government action now. You can also help by donating to or joining the N.C.R.O.P.A. Full details are available from David Webb, Organiser, National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts, 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London SW3 4TD (Tel. 01-730 9537).

*The N.C.R.O.P.A. is a completely independent
organisation and has no connection whatsoever
with any business or commercial enterprise.*

CENSORED

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