

NO/DAW/DP

26th April, 1982.

David Sullivan, Esq.,  
Roldvale Ltd.,  
34, Upton Lane,  
Forest Gate,  
London, E.7.

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter and leaflet with a copy of your 'ad' from the "News of the World".

I almost physically trembled at the thought of that £7,800 the 'ad' cost. That is almost the exact amount the N.C.R.O.P.A. has received both in subscriptions and donations from all sources throughout its entire six years' existence! I only hope it pays off, although I am bound to say that, personally, I have my doubts.

I entirely agree that most MPs are stupid enough to use the numbers of letters they receive as an accurate reflection of the majority of their constituents and I have been saying this for a long time, not least to the MPs themselves. They interpret silence or inaction as indifference or even positive support for the legislative measures currently being enacted. We, of course, don't accept that for a moment but, by and large, the people who are on our side, and they are by no means a minority, are not unfortunately the kind of people who write letters to their MPs or to the press, or join campaigns or get involved in tub-thumping demonstrations - and more's the pity.

However you are also absolutely right in saying that the sex industry has defaulted in many cases in the past, by its own inaction. As you know, last year we had a number of meetings with most of the Soho cinema club owners. They did respond at the time and contributed to the 'ad' we placed in "The Guardian" (as, indeed, you yourself did). They then decided that it was in their best interests to support the N.C.R.O.P.A. solidly and on a regular basis by making regular contributions. Sums of £10 to £20 a week from each were mentioned and offered. Those payments were never forthcoming and, even when I wrote urgent appeal letters later on in 1981, because we were so desperately short of money, no-one responded (except, of course, your good self, Ron Coleman and Godfrey Gold and John Lindsay). I formed the impression - either rightly or wrongly -- that people who were willing to donate in principle, were frightened that they might do so but that others would not then pay their due whack.

We have, as you know, pressed on as best we could and Ted Goodman, Eric Miller and myself in particular have worked slavishly - and I do not mean that

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in any boastful way - to try to combat what we knew was always on the cards from so reactionary a Government as the present one.

You asked if there was any chance of a few letters to support your 'ad'. Well of course we are doing that all the time. I am enclosing herewith a selection of copies of some of my more recent and important ones, including letters to the Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, the Lord Chancellor and Lord Justice Lawton, together with some of their replies.

What I desperately wish to do is (a) circularise all our supporters and (b) write to all 635 Members of the House of Commons and many of the more active (politically) members of the House of Lords. Postage alone for this would be nearly £225. Letters to M.P.s must be personalised if they are to meet with any positive response and this would add immeasurably to the cost. However a 'round-robin' letter about the present crucial state of affairs is long overdue and, I believe, absolutely essential. At present we are again penniless. Is there any chance of a further donation whilst there is still a chance of at least halting the rot? I do hope so. It would be tragic if we had to give up the ghost through lack of financial support.

I am also writing to Ben Coleman, Gádfrey Gold and Ben Holloway and, possibly one or two others on the same lines. I hope that they will also be able and willing to help.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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

P.S. I also visited two of your shops. On 13th March I went to your Tottenham shop in the hope of encountering the pickets who have been demonstrating there, but there were none in sight. On 26th March I went to Hornchurch where I did confront five pickets and pointed out to them that it was an offence to picket private premises and interfere with business. I gather from your manager there that the presence of the pickets outside had undoubtedly affected your takings which were always considerably down whenever they appeared. I referred them to a Court of Appeal case in 1975 concerning the picketing of an estate agent who had been granted an injunction prohibiting the pickets. I was also very concerned about "staged" demonstrations set up for film crews for TV programmes, one of which I had appeared in.

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