

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP

HONORARY DIRECTOR - David Webb, R.A.D.A. Dip., 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London, SW3 4TD - Tel: 071-730 9537

NO/DAW/DP

22nd May 1993

Christopher Bland, Esq.,
Chairman,
London Weekend Television,
LWT Holdings plc,
The London Television Centre,
Upper Ground,
London,
SE1 9LT.

Dear Mr. Bland,

"The London Programme" about Soho's 'sex' establishments, transmitted by London Weekend Television on Friday evening on ITV at 11.10 p.m. (21st May 1993) and presented and edited by Trevor Phillips, was grotesquely biased and unbalanced.

The central theme of the programme was an undisguised call for the strengthening and extension of the Obscene Publications Acts, as well as other relevant and/or related legislation concerning sex-orientated businesses, and from start to finish consisted of raw, unchallenged, one-sided propoganda for that contentious cause. At no point in the programme was anyone interviewed or given the opportunity to put forward the opposing point of view, which would have helped to present a programme with at least a modicum of fairness and balance and, most importantly, due impartiality.

As the founder and honorary director of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) for the past 17 years, an entirely independent and voluntary 'freedom of expression' organisation solely dedicated to the reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (and other relevant and related Acts) and to fighting the obsessive state sexual censorship in this obscenely censor-saturated country, I find it extraordinary that a TV programme could be made on such a topic without any approach whatsoever being made to an organisation like ours for our views and aspirations.

I will not need to remind you of your obligations, as a licensed service television provider, under the provisions of the Broadcasting Act 1990, and in particular Section 6.

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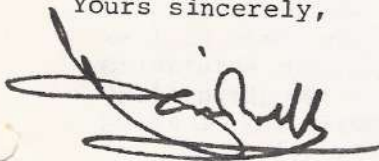
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Furthermore, under the provisions of the European Community Council Directive of 3rd October 1989, which came into force on 3rd October 1991, anyone whose legitimate interests have been damaged by an assertion of incorrect facts in a television programme must have a right of reply or equivalent reminder (Article 23). In the light of the serious omissions and gross distortions concerning this edition of "The London Programme", and mindful of your statutory obligations as a licensed service TV company, what action do you propose taking to redress the serious shortcomings of this programme (by no means the first occasion on which "The London Programme" has transgressed in this respect) and what "right of reply or equivalent remedies" are you prepared to offer me and the NCROPA, and the other people unfairly treated by this over-emotive, highly sensationalised and distorted programme?

Finally, may I also express the NCROPA's strong condemnation of the highly improper (and probably illegal) practice of filming actual police raids and operations (obviously with the full connivance and co-operation of the police) involving matters which may well eventually prove to involve no criminal activity and, in any case, have yet to be scrutinised and determined by the proper authorities viz the Crown Prosecution Service and the Courts, and where they will be adjudged innocent? (The NCROPA will be making appropriate protest about this to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner).

We also deplore the highly unethical and repulsive practice (often used by "The London Programme" of using concealed, secret cameras on private premises without prior permission and request that it be stopped forthwith.

Yours sincerely,



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

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