

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP

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NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

NCROPA DIRECTOR'S COURT OF APPEAL CHALLENGE TO HM CUSTOMS
PROHIBITION ON THE IMPORTATION OF ADULT SEXUALLY-EXPLICIT VIDEOS
(THE QUEEN EX PARTE DAVID WEBB v THE UXBRIDGE JUSTICES)

In a legal battle which has been going on for over five years (since November 1990), on Thursday/Friday next, 25th/26th July 1996, the Court of Appeal of the High Court will hear an appeal by DAVID WEBB, the Honorary Director of the NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS (NCROPA) against a June 1993 High Court judgment in which he was refused a Judicial Review application for an Order of Mandamus against UXBRIDGE MAGISTRATES.

At a civil sitting of Uxbridge Magistrates' Court on 27th June 1991, a confiscation order made by HM CUSTOMS & EXCISE on six sexually-explicit video tape cassettes, which they had seized from David Webb at Heathrow Airport on 14th November 1990 on his return to the UK from the Netherlands, was upheld by the Uxbridge Justices.

David Webb challenged the Uxbridge Justices' decision by making an application for them to 'state-a-case' for the opinion of the High Court. They refused to do so and David Webb then sought a Judicial Review of the Justices' refusal by making an application to the High Court for an Order of Mandamus which would compel them to 'state-a-case' and thereby permit him a legitimate appeal against their confiscation order. This was heard before Lord Justice Glidewell and Mr. Justice Cresswell on 9th June 1993, when David Webb represented himself in Court (as he had done in all previous Court hearings of this matter). In his judgment, whilst complimenting David Webb on the skill with which he had present-

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COMMITTEE - Alexander Barrie, A.A.Dipl, M.A.I.E.; Dr. Philip Stokes; Ted Goodman, LL.B. (Sol.); Clifford Hanley; David Kennington, M.A. (Hons.), Litt.D., B.A. (Psy.); Sean Gabb; Eric E. Miller; Tuppy Owens, B.Sc., Dip.H.S.; Dr. Christine Pickard, M.B., Ch.B

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ed his case, Lord Justice Glidewell ruled against him.

David Webb then lodged an Appeal against the High Court's decision to the Court of Appeal and it is this disgracefully delayed hearing (it was originally set down for hearing on 9th June 1994 but was not reached) that is now due to take place at 10.00 a.m. on Thursday 25th January 1996 at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London. At this hearing David Webb will be represented by Counsel, MICHAEL O'MAOILEODIN, Barrister.

Apart from David Webb's contention that HM Customs should not have confiscated his videos, and the Uxbridge Justices should not have upheld that confiscation, on a point of law, he also claims that such Customs' seizures are in breach of the provisions of European Union law and the European Convention on Human Rights. There are masses of such seizures imposed by HM Customs every day, most of which go unchallenged and unreported, but certainly not without immense private anger and outrage of the victims of this uniquely British brand of Grundyist injustice and State-Nannyism.

David Webb founded the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) 20 years ago and has been tirelessly campaigning against the UK's repressive, draconian and antiquated sexual censorship laws ever since and for the same freedom of expression to be allowed British people as that freely enjoyed by the people of virtually all other so-called 'free-world' countries, including the USA, all continental European Union Member States, and now even most of the former repressively censored countries of the Eastern Communist Bloc

If David Webb's Court of Appeal hearing fails, he intends to pursue the case in the European Courts.

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Issued by DAVID WEBB, Honorary Director, NCROPA, at 1600 hrs. on Monday, 22nd January 1996 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

For further information contact David Webb on 0171-352 9067