

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

**N C R O P A**

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**FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP**

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HONORARY DIRECTOR - David Webb, R.A.D.A. Dip.,

Please reply to:- 68c Flood Street, London SW3 5TE

Direct Tel. Line:- 0171-352 9067

PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS:  
NCROPA  
P.O. BOX 7744  
LONDON  
SW3 5YT  
TEL: ENQS: 01753 674932

NO/DAW/DP

28th January 1998

Andreas Whittam Smith, Esq.,  
31, Brunswick Gardens,  
London, W8 4AW.

*Sean Mr. Whittam Smith,*

I wrote to you on 14th January at the British Board of Film Classification's Soho Square address, assuming that you had already taken up your appointment as its new President and wherein were conveyed the congratulations of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA).

It is clear from the reply to that letter I have received from the BBFC's Director, James Ferman, that you have not yet, however, taken office, and he has thus been unable to answer it. Because of the NCROPA's serious concern over events regarding the BBFC and matters of censorship which are currently being reported almost daily in the media, and thus the urgency of the issues raised, I am taking the liberty of writing to you at your home address and in advance of your taking up the Presidency proper.

Our first concern arises from a piece in the 19th December 1997 edition of "The Guardian" which proclaimed your avowed "porn crackdown". In a country which presently and disgracefully still retains virtually the most repressive State video and film censorship of any other 'free-world' nation (certainly within the EU), the contemplation of yet more draconian curbs on freedom of expression fills us with utter despair.

We were, however, glad to read of your intention to have "consultation with various interest groups". The NCROPA would very much like to be included in these consultations, as the largest organisation in the UK representing the 'consumer' (or potential 'consumer') of 'adult' material - i.e. those most directly affected by the decisions of the BBFC.

Since that earlier letter (of 14th January) even more alarm bells have been activated by events in the House of Lords and the activities of

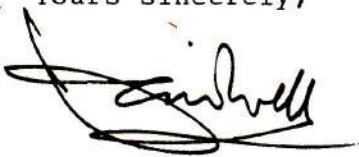
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some members of that unelected and undemocratic assembly, in particular Lord (David) Alton (a long-time, neo-fanatical supporter of ever more statutory censorship, as I am sure you are already aware), and Lord Campbell of Croy who opposes your appointment as BBFC President outright, although his reasons for so doing are not yet clear to us. Since both these peers are well-known pro-censorship protagonists, Lord Alton's planned amendments to the Government's Crime and Disorder Bill are certain to be anything but favourable to our staunchly libertarian views.

We very much hope you will wish to include us in your consultation exercise and we shall look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Webb', written in a cursive style with a large loop at the end.

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