

~~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., PO Box 7744, London SW3 5YF. Tel: 0115-9622198

Please Reply to:- 68c Flood Street, Chelsea, London, SW3 5TE.

1st March 2000

The Managing Director,
Opinion Leader Research Ltd.,
59, Russell Square,
London, WC1B 4HJ.

Dear Sir,

Re: BBFC Citizens' Juries

On 2nd February I was telephoned by your Research Executive, Ms. Diane Beddoes, enquiring whether I would be interested in appearing as one of your expert witnesses before two 'Citizens' Juries' you had been commissioned to hold on behalf of the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) as part of "a wider consultation on film classification guidelines". Ms. Beddoes said that it was, indeed, the BBFC itself who had suggested myself for this role.

I agreed to do so and Ms. Beddoes said the two dates on which I would be required were likely to be 25th February at Portsmouth and 10th March at Birmingham. She also asked me if I knew any other suitable witnesses from our side of the debate, and I duly suggested Mr. Ted Goodman, a solicitor and member of the NCROPA Committee.

The following day I received a letter from Ms. Beddoes confirming what had been discussed on the telephone and formally inviting me to participate. Brief details about 'Citizens' Juries' were enclosed and a copy of the draft agenda which, although she said had not yet been finalised, it was thought would be requiring me to attend on those days already discussed by telephone (i.e. 25th February at Portsmouth and 10th March at Birmingham). She concluded her letter by saying that she would contact me "in the near future to discuss this further". I have neither heard nor received any communication from her whatsoever since.

The Portsmouth event (24th - 29th February) has now passed. I was ready and prepared to travel to Portsmouth on 25th February, as expected, willingly to take part as invited so to do.

If your plans for this exercise had to be revised, or if you decided you did not, after all, require my services, as a matter of common courtesy the least you could have done was to have notified me as soon

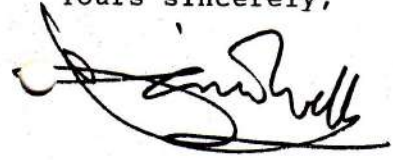
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as possible beforehand. Your omission to do so displays a cavalier disregard for those prepared to go to considerable lengths and inconvenience (and gratis) to assist you in your professionally remunerated project.

I am bound to add that I have always been highly sceptical of the value and integrity of opinion research companies. This latest experience with your own company has done nothing to alleviate my concerns. I am even beginning to wonder whether or not the invitation was itself genuine, or merely another P.R. ploy.

Yours sincerely,



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

Copy to:- Andreas Whittam Smith, Esq., President, British Board of Film Censors.