

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

**N C R O P A**

~~CENSORED~~

**FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP**

**NCROPA IN ACTION**

**MAY 1991**

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# NCROPA IN ACTION

## A BRIEF RESUME OF JUST SOME ITEMS FROM THE NCROPA DIARY

- 5th Nov '89 In the BBC1 "Heart of the Matter" series, a programme called "Cross Channel Sex" was described in the TV listings thus: "Joan Bakewell and informed guests examine the possibility of the soft-porn channels which exist in many European countries being received on British screens." This turned out to be little more than a biased, blatantly feminist-extremist piece of anti-porn/pro censorship propaganda, with virtually no attempt to present opposing, differing views with any semblance of balance. Letter sent to Michael Checkland, BBC Director General, deploring this and the fact that such imbalance in the making of this type of programme, which was, in any case, contrary to the BBC's Royal Charter, had been going on for the past 13½ years, in spite of the NCROPA's many representations throughout that time. Letters also sent to Olga Edridge, the series producer, and Colin Cameron, Head of BBC Documentary Features.
- 6th Nov '89 Complimentary copy of the First Annual Report of the Broadcasting Standards Council received from its Chairman, Lord Rees-Mogg. This incorporated the Council's "Code of Practice". The NCROPA's name was omitted from the list of organisations appended therein who had been consulted by the BSC whilst drafting this Code.
- 7th Nov '89 Letter to Lord Rees-Mogg asking why the NCROPA's name had been omitted from their first report.
- 8th Nov '89 The Director, David Webb, addressed the Woman's Group of St. John's College Oxford on sexual censorship and the NCROPA.
- 10th Nov '89 A transcript of the BBCTV news report of the 21st October Muslim meeting at Manchester Town Hall, where Dr. Kalim Siddiqui called for Khomeini's 'death sentence' on Salman Rushdie to be carried out, was sent, at his request, to David Benedictus, Chair of the Censorship Committee of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, after the Director had urged them to add their organisation's name in protest to the Director of Public Prosecutions. (NCROPA had already made formal complaint about Dr. Siddiqui to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and the DPP).
- 13th Nov '89 Curt note of apology received from the BSC's deputy director re the omission of the NCROPA's name from their annual report.
- 13th Nov '89 The NCROPA listed in "Survivors London", an 'alternative' guide and reference publication.
- 14th Nov '89 Reply from the DPP's office - Chief Constable of Greater Manchester has begun inquiry into the Siddiqui/Rushdie matter.
- 14th Nov '89 Clare Short MP and other radical feminists began an anti-porn campaign by illegally removing legally permitted 'soft-core' and 'girlie' magazines from the shelves of a W.H. Smith bookshop in Kingsway, London, and dumping them at the cash-register check-outs.
- 16th Nov '89 Committee Member Isabel Koprowski appeared in the "Comment" spot at the end of the 7 p.m. Channel 4 TV News to speak against the Clare Short "Off-the-Shelf" campaign and in favour of adult sex magazines.
- 17th Nov '89 The Director was a guest on the Yorkshire TV late night programme "The

James Whale Radio Show". A viewers' 'phone-in' poll conducted during the hour-long programme recorded a majority in favour of "TV porn" - 7302 to 6245 against.

- 20th Nov '89 Letter to Lord Rees-Mogg, Chairman of the BSC, expressing astonishment at the curt apology received about the NCROPA's omission from their first annual report and asking if this was deliberate.
- 20th Nov '89 A new anti-censorship group was formed called "Feminists Against Censorship" which largely shares our views, and sent its first press release and promotional material.
- 21st Nov '89 Letter of congratulations and good wishes to the Chairperson of the new "Feminists Against Censorship" on their formation.
- 22nd Nov '89 The Director invited for discussions with TV current affairs programme-making company Barraclough Carey Productions Ltd., about possible 'pilot' for future series on people with particular consuming passions.
- 22nd Nov '89 110 MPs of all parties signed an 'Early Day Motion' in the House of Commons "calling on the Government to mount an urgent study into the impact of pornography and to introduce tough legislation if necessary." (Another 106 MPs added their signatures later).
- 30th Nov '89 Letter sent to each of the 20 MPs who drew top places in the House of Commons Private Members' Bills Ballot, asking them to consider taking on the NCROPA's "Freedom of Expression" Bill. (A number of replies were sympathetic to our cause e.g. Alex Carlile MP and Michael Colvin MP)
- 30th Nov '89 The Director took part in LBC Talkback Radio discussion with Mary Whitehouse and presenters Bob Wellings and Douglas Cameron about her suggested private member's Bill for replacing the present Obscene Publications Acts with her own usual brand of even more ruthless repression.
- 1st Dec '89 Letter received from the Home Office, replying to the Director's letter to the new Home Secretary, David Waddington MP, dated 31st October, about the obscenity laws and asking for a meeting with him. It states:-  
"While accepting that the law in this area needs to strike a careful balance between the rights of publishers to freedom of expression and the need to protect the public from offensive material, the Government believes that the present test of obscenity in the 1959 Act does not adequately meet the need to protect public sensibilities from the worst material which is available." Our request for a meeting was refused on the grounds that the Home Secretary "doubts that a meeting to discuss these issues would be profitable".
- 4th Dec '89 The NCROPA's AGM held at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London.
- 6th Dec '89 Letter received from Lord Rees-Mogg in reply to the Director's of 20th Nov. He assured him that the omission of the NCROPA from the BSC's annual report was nothing more than "a straightforward error, fortunately the only one so far detected." He apologised for it and said that the Home Office would be notified of the omission.
- 11th Dec '89 On 16th Oct the Londoner's Diary column in the London "Evening Standard" included a piece bemoaning the passing of the Conservative Party's Bow Group's former reputation "for being on the liberal, progressive wing" of the party. It quoted some present-day puritanical comments from "Crossbow", the journal of the Bow Group, edited by one Joanna Bogle. The piece said that she was a young married woman and former Conservative councillor. What it didn't say was that Mrs. Bogle is a leading light in the NVALA and is reportedly being groomed to take over Mrs. Whitehouse's mantle after her translation to that great, whiter-than-white broadcasting transmitter in

the sky.

- 15th Dec '89 Letter from the Conference & Elections Committee of the NCCL notifying us that the NCROPA motion submitted for the 1990 NCCL AGM (re the ineligibility of a motion about 'pornography' and censorship passed at their 1989 AGM because it was 'ultra vires' the Constitution and Rules of the NCCL) had been rejected because it referred "to legal advice which the membership (of the NCCL) will not have seen" and would probably not be competent to evaluate in any case!
- 16th Dec '89 The Director interviewed by Clive Myrie on Independent Radio News about the Government announcement of their setting up a review of research into the effect of 'pornography'.
- 20th Dec '89 Letter received from Feminists Against Censorship thanking the NCROPA for its good wishes. They will place us on their mailing list. The NCROPA will place them on ours.
- 2nd Jan '90 Letter to Chairman of NCCL's Conference & Elections Committee protesting at its refusal to accept the NCROPA motion for their 1990 AGM and appealing against it.
- 5th Jan '90 The Director, David Webb, and Committee Member and Honorary Legal Adviser Ted Goodman, and his wife, attended a performance at the South Bank Purcell Room, London of "Onan", a satirical entertainment about sex magazines and contemporary sexuality (from the Edinburgh Festival).
- 7th Jan '90 Committee Member and Membership Secretary Eric Miller appeared in the ITV programme "Encounter" which was about sex and religion in Amsterdam.
- 8th Jan '90 Robert Hayward, MP for Kingswood Bristol, tabled a House of Commons motion complaining to the Home Secretary about comedian Dave Allen's swearing in his BBC1 programme on 6th January.
- 8th Jan '90 Committee Member David Kennington took part in Pete Murray's 'phone-in' on LBC Talkback Radio about the offending Dave Allen Show on BBC1 and MP Jonathan Sayeed's (Conservative, Bristol East) complaints about 'bad language'.
- 9th Jan '90 Letter sent to Robert Hayward MP deploring his "intolerance, puritanism and, above all, hypocrisy in purporting to support a political party, the cornerstone of whose philosophy is 'freedom of the individual', 'freedom of choice' and 'freedom of the market-place'", by tabling a motion of censure on Dave Allen. Copies sent to Dave Allen, his producer and the Director General of the BBC, as well as Kenneth Baker MP (then Chairman of the Conservative Party).
- 15th Jan '90 In the BBC2 "Newsnight" programme of 4th January on 'child pornography', the presenter, Janet Trewin, gave precise details of how she and her BBC colleagues had responded to an advertisement in the magazine "Exchange and Mart", solicited the procurement of "illegal child pornography" and themselves offered for publication for gain such similar material "involving subjects between the ages eight and thirteen, and ... a baby" to the original advertiser(s), for which they subsequently received a cheque for £150. A complaint was therefore made to Sir Peter Imbert, Metropolitan Police Chief Commissioner explaining that, whilst the NCROPA in no way condones the use and abuse of children in sexually explicit material and was basically in sympathy with the general theme of this programme, it was appalled that a national institution like the BBC should itself apparently resort to breaking the law in the pursuit of exposing other law breakers, and could see neither ethical nor legal merit in such practices. Copies also sent to the DPP, the Head of News and Current Affairs BBCTV and the editor of "Newsnight", and the Group Managing Director of Link

House Publications, publishers of "Exchange and Mart".

- 16th Jan '90 Letter to John Chapman, journalist and author of a sensationalist piece in the "News of the World" on 7th Jan headed "Perverts in the Dock" which concerned a Dutch court case about child "pornography" involving four Britons. The NCROPA took exception to his derogatory comments that "perversions are tolerated" in the Netherlands. The letter pointed out the very sensible, intelligent and humane way in which Holland regards sex per se and sexual variations with proper openness, honesty and frankness. Copy of letter sent to the Dutch Ambassador, H.E. Mr. P.J.H. Jonkman, and to the editor "News of the World".
- 17th Jan '90 Press Statement issued to the Press Association about the NCROPA's complaint to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner about the BBC "Newsnight" programme on 4th January.
- 22nd Jan '90 News Media Release "Police Investigation of BBCTV Child Pornography" issued.
- 22nd Jan '90 David Mellor MP, Minister of State Home Office, writes to Teddy Taylor MP: "For our part, we take the view that the Obscene Publications Act 1959 could with benefit be strengthened."
- 23rd Jan '90 Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, formally presented her "Location of Pornographic Material Bill" to the House of Commons.
- 24th Jan '90 The Director and Ted Goodman met Paul Ferris, author and free-lance journalist, at the Grosvenor Hotel Victoria, London to discuss his forthcoming articles on 'pornography', commissioned by "The Observer" newspaper.
- 29th Jan '90 The DPP scandalously decides not to prosecute Dr. Kalim Siddiqui for endorsing the Ayatollah Khomeini's 'death sentence' on Salman Rushdie because of "insufficient evidence"!
- 31st Jan '90 Letter from Dave Allen thanking the NCROPA for its support (letter 9th Jan) - sending very best wishes and kindest regards and thanks again (the NCROPA had supported him in a previous controversy over television material) "for the time you give on all our behalfs that we may all enjoy the freedom of the individual".
- 1st Feb '90 Isabel Koprowski featured in a double page discussion-in-print with Dawn Primarolo MP on "Porn - the Great Debate" in the "Daily Mirror".
- 2nd Feb '90 Letter to Roy Greenslade, editor of the "Daily Mirror" complaining about the disapprovingly tut-tutting way in which the story of Robin Drew's suicide had been reported in the 31st edition. Robin Drew, the press officer of the Help the Aged charity, was a member of the Holland-based, wholly legal (in that country) SCAT Club and whose home had been raided by customs officers on 15th Jan. The letter said his death "was directly attributable to the censoriousness of the UK establishment, its hypocrisy, bigotry and intolerance".
- 2nd Feb '90 Letter to David Mellor MP, Minister of State Home Office, asking if he really meant what he said in his letter of 22nd Jan to MP Teddy Taylor - viz. that the O.P. Act 1959 "could with benefit be strengthened"?
- 8th Feb '90 The Director was interviewed on film at his home, for a French TV programme by documentary producer Nick Boothby.
- 9th Feb '90 Letter from the Director about the SCAT Club customs raids and Robin Drew's suicide published in the London "Capital Gay" newspaper.
- 12th Feb '90 Letter to Allan Green QC, The DPP, expressing the NCROPA's outrage at his

decision not to prosecute Dr. Kalim Siddiqui.

- 12th Feb '90 Second letter to Robert Hayward MP (further to the Director's letter of 9th Jan) about his criticism of the Dave Allen BBC TV programme.
- 12th Feb '90 Second letter to Kenneth Baker MP, Chairman of the Conservative Party (further to the Director's letter of 9th Jan) about Robert Hayward MP and the Dave Allen broadcast.
- 12th Feb '90 The Director was invited to lunch with Paul Raymond and his Chief Executive and Legal Officer Carl Snitcher to discuss the current situation in general and the setting up by Mr. Raymond of academic research about available sexually-orientated magazines in the UK.
- 14th Feb '90 The Director attended Thames Magistrates' Court as an observer for the preliminary hearings of some of the SCAT Club members prosecutions.
- 14th Feb '90 Letter received from Supt. Leslie Bennett, Head of Obscene Publications Branch New Scotland Yard, stating that the BBC were not to be referred to the Crown Prosecution Service for possible breaches of the law in making their "Newsnight" programme on child "pornography" on 4th Jan. because "it would not be in the public interest".
- 14th Feb '90 The Director and Ted Goodman attended a reception at Conway Hall London to launch the book "Blasphemy Ancient and Modern" by Nicholas Walter of the Rationalist Press Association. David Webb was invited to make an impromptu speech about his efforts to get those who had publicly been calling for Salman Rushdie's death prosecuted.
- 16th Feb '90 Letter from the DPP defending his decision not to prosecute Dr. Kalim Siddiqui (re NCROPA's letter of 12th Feb) saying that he had given "very careful consideration to all the available evidence and received advice from Leading Counsel on the matter".
- 18th Feb '90 The "Sunday Mirror" published front page 'expose' of Supt. Leslie Bennett, Head of Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Branch (see 14th Feb) which revealed he was an ex-"Gamblers Anonymous" member and loved dressing up in women's clothes (with photographs), as well as being a deacon at a Middlesex Baptist Church. Whilst the NCROPA has no wish to be morally judgemental on any of these activities, it does find hypocrisy utterly repugnant. Supt. Bennett's public pronouncements on so-called "obscene" publications included the classic one that he once found the kind of people who liked that kind of thing "sick", but that since working in the O.P. Squad he now found them "evil"! When he was a guest speaker at the NVALA 'fringe' meeting at the Tory Party Conference in Blackpool in the Autumn of 1989, Supt. Bennett said "How good it is to meet with people who are concerned about children and the family and the risk to which they are exposed through pornography". In the "Sunday Mirror" article his ex-wife (yes - she divorced him in December 1989!) Marian, who has two teenage daughters said that the last six years of their marriage "was a nightmare". Supt. Bennett has now been moved to other duties.
- 20th Feb '90 Letter to Christena Appleyard, Woman's Editor of the "Daily Mirror", castigating her for the distorted, dishonest, demented drivel in her article about sex magazines on 1st Feb entitled "They're not just pin-ups of nude women". Copy sent to Roy Greenslade, Editor of "Daily Mirror".
- 21st Feb '90 Letter to "The Guardian" re Dr. Kalim Siddiqui, Salman Rushdie and the DPP and Dr. Siddiqui's further pronouncements on "The Satanic Verses" furore. Not published.
- 22nd Feb '90 Letter from the Director published in "The Guardian" in response to the

the large spread, feminist-orientated article on "pornography" in their 15th Feb edition. The original, highly biased article was 1571 words long - 1037 words devoted to the women's anti-porn lobby and only 434 words devoted to the women's pro-porn (Feminists Against Censorship) lobby. The Director's original letter was 757 words, there being a great deal to answer in such a large article. The drastically cut version published by "The Guardian"'s letters editor, however, was edited (censored?) down to only 271 words! Furthermore the anti-porn lobby was allowed an additional 104 words in the shape of a letter from one of the original articles protagonists, Catherine Itzin, the founder of the absurd "Campaign Against Pornography and Censorship"!

- 26th Feb '90 David Webb and David Kennington attended Lambeth Magistrates' Court as NCROPA observers at the committal proceedings of one of the defendants in the "Operation Spanner" police witch-hunt case who was accused, among other things, of causing actual bodily harm by 'body-piercing' consenting clients. Facilities for the public at this Court were dreadful and it was impossible to hear the proceedings. After protests from Dr. Kennington and the Director to the magistrate through the defendant's counsel, the magistrate invited them into the well of the Court - which greatly displeased the officious police on duty.
- 27th Feb '90 Letter from Christena Appleyard, Woman's editor of the "Daily Mirror" thanking me "so much" for my letter of 20th February!
- 1st Mar '90 Letter from David Kennington sent to the Chief Clerk at Thames Magistrates Court complaining about the inability to hear the proceedings at this new Court House. (Dr. Kennington was attending preliminary hearings of SCAT Club cases as a NCROPA observer.)
- 1st Mar '90 The Director took part in an interview/discussion programme with presenter David Ross in his BBC Radio Belfast programme "Talkback". The opposition was represented by Monica Hinds from the Rape Crisis Centre. A representative from the Campaign Against Pornography had originally been invited but she refused to take part in a programme with David Webb.
- 4th Mar '90 At Bow Street Magistrates' Court a Covent Garden joke shop owner and his former manager were fined £200 and £100 respectively for displaying "chocolate and other novelty willies", under the Indecent Displays (Control) Act 1981. (In another case involving "chocolate willies" at Leicester Crown Court on 7th Oct '88, an entirely similar charge against a female shop-owner was thrown out.)
- 6th Mar '90 Letter from Robert Hayward MP in reply to my letters of 9th Jan and 12th Feb re Dave Allen. He was, he said, "experiencing substantial difficulties with my (his) office facilities" but "will give further consideration ..... and write again."
- 13th Mar '90 Letters sent to all 16 candidates for the NCCL Executive Committee Election asking if they supported "additional statutory censorship restrictions regarding sexual material depicting women" and also the extent of their commitment to Article 7 of the NCCL's Charter of Civil Rights and Liberties viz. "Freedom of Speech and Publication". This was to try and ensure that any pro-censorship factions were not improperly elected to this body before the NCROPA considers re-affiliating. Only two candidates even bothered to reply (one our own Ted Goodman).
- 14th Mar '90 Second letter to David Mellor MP, having received no reply to previous NCROPA letter of 2nd February.
- 14th Mar '90 Reply from Robert Hayward MP to my letters of 9th Jan and 12th Feb re the BBC1 "Dave Allen" programme on 6th Jan. "I am very much opposed to censorship", he wrote but (there's always a 'but', isn't there?!) "television is one area where I have more concern than most because of its general accessibility."

17th Mar '90 The Director was an invited guest speaker at a Seminar of Libertarian & Classical Liberal Thought hosted by York University Freedom Society at Derwent College, York.

26th Mar '90 Granada TV paid for a celebration dinner at Brown's Hotel London for Mr. and Mrs. Mary Whitehouse's 50th Wedding Anniversary, and Andrew Quinn, the Managing Director of Granada TV, proposed the toast to them. (Perhaps we should initiate the Annual NCROPA Hypocrisy Awards - Granada TV would surely be 1990's winner!)

14th Apr '90 An unsolicited, glossy brochure was received from HM Government's Foreign and Commonwealth Office called "Britain in the Community: Europe in the 1990s". It highlights the main points in the latest, six-monthly White Paper "Developments in the European Community, July-December 1989" (Cm 1023, HMSO). It contains some classic statements which will be of enormous interest to NCROPA members and which they will surely wish to watch out for:-

- "Europe is Growing Up".
- "In every way the barriers are coming down".
- "In creating a genuine common market, we can enjoy a greater choice of goods and services."
- "At another, more literal level, barriers are disappearing. The 1992 message has been heard loud and clear throughout the world, not least in Eastern Europe where it has encouraged the march of democracy and individual freedoms."
- "The changes taking place are helping to create a 'People's Europe' in which consumers' interests come first."
- "One of the main aims of the 1992 process is to remove restrictions which prevent people from buying the goods and services they want at prices they can afford."
- "More goods and services will become more freely available. There will be more competition, giving consumers more choice - from the food you eat to the television programmes you watch."
- "The aim is to maximise mobility and minimise customs and immigration checks."
- "This is what the United Kingdom is pressing for: the freedom to choose, throughout the Community."

We shall see!

21st & 22nd Apr '90 David Webb and Ted Goodman attended the NCCL AGM at the South Bank Polytechnic, London. The previous year's pro-censorship, anti-porn victory was overturned (albeit by a small majority) and the NCCL in effect returned to its former (and correct) policy on this issue. (N.B. Both David Webb and Ted Goodman attended as individual members of the NCCL since the NCROPA had withdrawn its former affiliation because of the 1989 decision.)

21st Apr '90 Ted Goodman and David Webb attended the Annual Dinner of the National Secular Society at the Bonnington Hotel London, where the guest speaker was Michael Foot MP, whom they met afterwards. The NSS is staunchly anti-censorship and in sympathy with the views of the NCROPA and the cause of freedom of expression in general.

25th Apr '90 The Director was referred to in most uncomplimentary terms in Sarah Baxter's undisguisedly pro-feminist, pro-Catherine Itzin report of the NCCL 1990 AGM in "Time Out" magazine.

4th May '90 Isabel Koprowski and the Director appeared as guest panellists, with Debbie Ashby and Adam Cole, in Anglia TV's "Frontline", a discussion and audience participation programme about 'pornography'.



- 6th May '90 David Webb and the NCROPA mentioned in the second of Paul Ferris's feature articles on 'pornography' in "The Observer". Although Mr. Ferris had referred to David Webb as "very resourceful", the Director was upset that he had described the NCROPA as a "tiny" organisation. It was not felt that Paul Ferris intended to sleight or denigrate the NCROPA but had merely made a careless comment.
- 17th May '90 The Director appeared in the TVS programme "The Time..., The Place", transmitted from the Oaklands Community School in Southampton, hosted by Ann Diamond. The subject was 'child molesters' and bogus social workers etc.
- 21st May '90 David Webb interviewed by Elizabeth Coldwell, Editor of "Forum" magazine.
- 4th Jul '90 David Mellor MP, Minister of State Home Office, announced that the Government "may consider licensing video shops if proprietors continue to rent adult (?) tapes to children."
- 13th Jul '90 In a survey carried out by the Broadcasting Standards Council, only 12% of 1009 people questioned believed television was the primary reason for "the increase in violence" in our society.
- 3rd Aug '90 Letter to Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director General of Telecommunications at OFTEL, protesting at his authoritarian and unacceptable order that all 'chat-line' telephone services must in future be recorded.
- 6th Aug '90 Letter to "The Independent" berating those who constantly and quite unjustifiably attribute criminal sexual behaviour, especially that involving children, to 'pornography'. The letter was in response to Ray Wyre's (he runs a convicted sex offenders' rehabilitation unit) implied notion in an article published in the 3rd Aug edition that this was so. NCROPA's letter was not published.
- 9th Aug '90 A Blackpool man was prosecuted at Preston Crown Court for taking photographs of his two naked children (aged 4 and 6) romping in the sunshine with a playmate. The processing laboratory to which the photographs had been sent contacted the police and the police raided the man's home. After being cleared by the jury the man said "I would not wish what I have endured on anyone. I feel scarred for life".
- 13th Aug '90 Letter from the Director published in the London "Evening Standard", in response to article in their 6th August edition headed "British Children in Porn" and in which an American "child pornography campaigner" (sic), Phillip Carlo, was reported as saying that the Dutch police are not interested in prosecuting the producers of sex videos involving children, which was quite untrue. David Webb's letter said "If all the 'pornography' in the world were to be eliminated completely it would not make one iota of difference to the incidence of child sexual abuse. The cause of that syndrome certainly does not lie there. It must be looked for elsewhere, and intelligent, sexually mature countries like Holland must not be made the scapegoats for society's deeper and darker ills."
- 13th Aug '90 Thirty-seven original watercolour designs for 'rude' seaside postcards by the late artist Donald McGill, including some for which he was fined £75 at Lincoln Assizes in 1954, for publishing "obscene" material, were sold at auction in Retford for more than £20,000. Let's hope the Bow Street "Porn Squad" have held on to some of those seized Covent Garden chocolate willies (see 4th Mar '90). In 2036 they could be worth a small fortune!
- 15th Aug '90 Letter to "The Guardian" about a leader comment in their 13th Aug edition, which called for a Ministerial Inquiry regarding the treatment needs of

sexually abused children and their abusers. Letter not published.

- 16th Aug '90 Letter to the Governor of Wandsworth Prison asking why inmates are not permitted to have homosexually orientated magazines (which are legally and freely available outside in the UK) on the same basis as heterosexually orientated magazines?
- 16th Aug '90 Letter to the Principal of Edinburgh College of Art deploring his ban on the public display of four gay-themed paintings in student Paul Birnie's degree show and asking the reasons for the ban.
- 20th Aug '90 Letter published in the London "Evening Standard" from Superintendent Michael Hames, Head of the Obscene Publications Branch at Scotland Yard, in reply to David Webb's letter of 13th August about 'pornography' and its alleged link to childsexual abuse, which he described as "both inaccurate and misleading".
- 21st Aug '90 Further letter to the "Evening Standard" from David Webb in reply to yesterday's reply from Supt. Hames. Not published.
- 22nd Aug '90 The Director attended a preview performance of the nude musical "Let My People Come" at the Boulevard Theatre, London. He was introduced to the audience as the Director of the NCROPA by one of the cast at the commencement of the show and warmly applauded.
- 1st Sept '90 Article about David Webb and the NCROPA published in the 'Forum Interview' feature in "Forum" magazine (Vol 23, No. 10 1990).
- 5th Sept '90 Eric Miller and David Webb appeared in a discussion programme for BSB television on "Pornography", presented by Nina Myskow.
- 30th Sept 90 The academic research study by Dr. Bill Thompson and Jason Annetts of Reading University, commissioned by Paul Raymond (see 12th Feb) was published, entitled "Soft-Core - A Content Analysis of Legally Available Pornography in Great Britain 1968-90 and the Implications of Aggression Research". (Copies available from: The Sociology Dept., Reading University, Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 2AA, priced £15.00 inc. p. & p.)
- 10th Oct '90 Supt. Michael Hames, Head of Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Branch, addressed a fringe meeting at the Bournemouth Tory Party Conference, organised by Mary Whitehouse's NVALA. He said that "the confused obscenity law was making the police's task in wiping out pornography very difficult." Since the concept of "pornography" exists nowhere in British law and is not therefore, per se illegal, this was a very revealing comment not only by, but also on Supt. Hames. It would appear that he sees "the police's task" as enforcing his own personal wishes, rather than those enshrined in the law laid down by Parliament! The meeting was picketed by members of the newly-formed "Conservatives Against Sexual Censorship".
- 19th Oct '90 The Director marched in the anti-censorship "Time to Know" Demonstration and Rally, through central London to the Dominion Theatre, where the meeting was addressed by MPs Tony Benn and Chris Mullin, and Duncan Campbell, the maker of the "Secret Society" TV series for the BBC. David Webb recorded an independent radio interview en route.
- 19th Oct '90 Letter to the editor of "Index on Censorship", described as "The International Magazine for Free Expression" - and to which the NCROPA annually subscribes - strongly protesting about an article in their Sept. issue by Catherine Itzin (co-founder of the absurdly named Campaign Against Pornography and Censorship) in which she had been allowed the use of their columns blatantly to propagandise about her indisputably anti-free-expression campaign under the guise of championing women's rights. It was Catherine Itzin, remember, who had so successfully

infiltrated her way into the NCCL, got herself elected to their Executive and Women's Committees and had subsequently hijacked that erstwhile tolerant and principled organisation for a platform for her brazenly anti-libertarian ideas.

16th Oct '90 The Director invited to the "Penthouse" 25th Anniversary Ball at the London Hippodrome but unfortunately unable to attend because of a previous engagement.

23rd Oct '90 The Director, David Webb, gave a talk "NCROPA and Censorship" to the Society for Individual Freedom in Whitehall, London.

30th Oct '90 Sgt. Mark Nurthen, the Bow Street police officer who confiscated the chocolate 'willies' from the Covent Garden shop in July 1989, and for which the shop's owner and manager were each fined on 4th Mar, was awarded £25,000 libel damages against "The People" newspaper for headlining their report of the story "What a load of plonkers!" and "Bow Street Willies", and referring to him as "Sgt. Nerd". Sgt Nurthen claimed that the story "defamed him, lowered his reputation and injured his feelings."

2nd Nov '90 Letter sent to "The Guardian" as follows:-

"Dear Sir, It really makes one feel proud to live in a country with such civilised, sensible, grown-up laws, which not only proscribe chocolate willies, but also any comment, serious or jokey, on those whose job it is to enforce such crucially necessary legal prohibitions. ("The Guardian" 1st Nov.)

Well done our boys in blue! Well done our judiciary! Well done our legislators! We shall, I feel sure, all sleep more soundly in our beds tonight, safe in the knowledge that, record high crime figures notwithstanding, we do live in a pure, unpolluted, willy-free environment. We must now demand a similar crack-down on marzipan boobs and sugar pussies. Yours etc.,"

Not published.

2nd Nov '90 Letter to Tabitha Troughton criticising her belly-aching article in "The Guardian" on 1st Nov concerning the film of Margaret Atwood's novel "The Handmaid's Tale" and "the use of hackneyed images of women's exploitation to market it", as she claimed. Since 'freedom of expression' is the writer's lifeblood, the letter asked if she wanted to see all media images of women statutorily conform to those of which she personally approved? "I don't know what you call that", the Director wrote, "but in my book it's called 'censorship'".

6th Nov '90 Supporting a motion put forward by the Dutch Minister for Justice, Hirsch Ballin, the Dutch Parliament voted for a change in their morality laws which allows the Public Prosecutor to prosecute for sexual acts with or between 12 to 16 year olds only if a complaint is lodged. If a complaint is lodged it is up to the Public Prosecutor to decide whether prosecution will take place. The difference between rape and indecent assault was also dropped.

7th Nov '90 The Director was interviewed on Dublin's Century Radio by Claire Mackeon about 'pornography' and the views of the NCROPA.

14th Nov '90 Anonymous donation from an individual member of the NCROPA of £3600.

14th Nov '90 The Director, David Webb, was interrogated for several hours, then arrested and strip-searched by Customs officers at London's Heathrow Airport on his return from a few days holiday in Amsterdam, Holland. After discovering some of the Director's NCROPA visiting cards in his pocket diary, the customs then served him with a warrant to search his home. He was refused access to his sol-

icator (a statutory right!) on the grounds that, since his solicitor, Ted Goodman, is also a Committee member of the NCROPA, he might interfere with their inquiries. Despite the strongest protests from David Webb, the detaining customs officers implacably refused to make contact with Mr. Goodman.

Accompanied by five customs and excise officers, including two uniformed officers, the Director was then taken by car to his flat, having been joined en route at Chelsea Police Station by two police officers from Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications Branch. The seven officers then proceeded to search the Director's flat in spite of them having agreed to wait for another solicitor, a 'duty' solicitor, to arrive to be present as an observer at the search. Some video tapes, personal 8mm Home movies and two copies of official instructions issued to customs officers (which had been sent to the Director, as well as to "The Guardian" newspaper, by a well-known broadcaster several years previously, in connection with another matter). David Webb had arrived at Heathrow at about 3.45 p.m. and the customs officers left his flat at about 11 p.m. During all that time he was given nothing but one glass of orange juice - and that in a stifling, window-less Heathrow detention room in which the air-conditioning had broken down.

This alarming train of events was activated as the result of six sexually-explicit video-tapes which the Director had not viewed but had been given by a colleague and friend (a Dutch national) connected with a Dutch civil liberties organisation. They were for NCROPA purposes and the Director made no attempt to conceal them. When asked by the customs officer in the Heathrow Customs Hall if he had bought or been given anything in Holland, he immediately produced them.

The Director was served with a destruction notice on the six seized videos on the grounds that they are "indecent and obscene", contrary to the provisions of Section 42 of the Customs Consolidation Act 1876. He is, of course, challenging this forfeiture notice in civil proceedings at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court at 10.00 a.m. on 27th June. The return of the articles taken from his flat, none of which are illegal, is still awaited. (IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE - No correspondence, material or articles connected with the NCROPA were taken and all NCROPA membership lists and records are kept elsewhere, not at the Director's home.) Obviously this incident is a very serious matter, indeed, and is being pursued at a number of levels with the utmost vigour. The outcome will be made known to the membership as soon as possible. Whatever happens, it will surely serve to strengthen even more our resolve to rid this sexually-repressed, increasingly depressing country of the cancer of censorship.

5th Dec '90 NCROPA Committee Meeting held in the North Room, Conway Hall, London.

5th Dec '90 Letter to the new Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker MP, congratulating on his appointment, but expressing the NCROPA's deep concern over the ever-increasing restraints imposed on freedom of expression in the UK, now one of the most censored countries in the so-called 'free' Western World. Conscious of the fact that Kenneth Baker had, until the demise of Margaret Thatcher and his new job, been Chairman of the Conservative Party, the Director reminded him of the claimed cornerstone of Conservative philosophy - the 'freedom of the individual/freedom of choice/freedom of the market-place' rationale. It was, the letter said, a claim which rang hollow with the NCROPA and its supporters, since the Conservative Government's record in this area of 'freedom of expression' throughout the whole of the past 11½ years had been appalling. "Instead of removing repressive state 'nannyism', the Conservative Government has, in fact, greatly increased it." The letter went on further to castigate the Government for refusing to allow this country to get into line with Europe on this matter. "With the advent of the Single European Market in 1992, the lifting of trade barriers and the harmonisation of the laws of EC member states, the UK should be bending over backwards to emulate the example of virtually all other EC countries who have long since rid themselves of the curse of authoritarian state sexual censorship, and set their people free to enjoy the harmless pleasures and delights of sexually explicit publications, if they so choose. 'Sex' is an instinctive, perfectly natural, human, driving force, and an enthusiastic interest in matters sexual, including publications about it, is thus also perfectly natural." The Director urged Mr. Baker to make the

bringing to an end of the out-moded, puritanical sexual repression imposed on us by "the obscenity of unnecessary and unjust state censorship", a number one priority of his new Home Office tenure of office and he requested a meeting between a NCROPA delegation and Mr. Baker to discuss this very important matter face-to-face.

19th Dec '90 The Director interviewed by Angela Rippon on her LBC Radio morning news programme, about the Home Office Research Publication "Pornography: Impacts and Influences", due to be published the following day.

19th Dec '90 Letter from the editor of "Index on Censorship" in reply to the Director's letters of 16th Oct and reminder of 6th Dec, regarding Catherine Itzin's article. He had had a large mail bag about it "most of it quite critical".

20th Dec '90 Home Office Research Publication "Pornography: Impacts and Influences" - a Review of available research evidence on the effects of pornography by psychologists Drs. Guy Cumberbatch and Dennis Howitt of Aston University. The Report concluded that there is no evidence of any direct link between pornography and rape and sexual violence. This report should be yet another 'coffin-nail' for the 'ban pornography brigade', but the Home Office do not like it when distinguished investigators don't come up with the answers they want (remember the Williams Report?!). Already, in advance of the official publication date, two national daily newspapers carried an identical, whole-page article written by Superintendent Michael Hames, Head of Scotland Yard's O.P. Squad, in which he had attempted to rubbish the report. (It was headlined in the "Daily Mail" on 15th Dec "Why I know this tide of porn is so dangerous", and in "The Sun" on 17th Dec "Why we must halt this sick flood of porn"). It seems certain that there is obviously some kind of collusion between the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police and our legal adviser is endeavouring to discover just what, if any. Even the official Home Office 'News Release' accompanying the publication of the Report quoted the Home Secretary commenting thus:- "There can be little doubt that pornography has an insidious and dehumanising effect on attitudes to women and family relationships. Regardless of whether or not it encourages violent crime, pornography degrades all who come into contact with it. That is why the Government has taken such tough action to control it." The Home Secretary then goes on to boast about, and list, the many legislative measures the Government have brought in or supported to bring about this "control" - or more accurately prohibition - and finally makes the extraordinary, and quite disgraceful statement, "These research findings, which in many ways are a curiously inconclusive mixture, are published as a contribution to the continuing debate." HOW MANY MORE RESEARCH FINDINGS, AND HOW MUCH LONGER IS THE DEBATE TO CONTINUE, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE?!!

19th Dec '90 In what has come to be known as the 'Operation Spanner' case, 15 men who had all pleaded guilty to various SM sex charges because Judge James Rant had earlier ruled that consent to an 'assault' was not a defence, were sentenced at their Old Bailey trial. Eight of them were given prison sentences of between 4½ years and 12 months, six others received suspended prison sentences and one was put on probation for two years. Notwithstanding that, since the men were all consenting adults, and there was no coercion involved - or, indeed, any complaint to the police - and that the NCROPA's view is that the case should never have been brought in the first place, the sentences of the appalling Judge Rant were outrageously harsh and totally inappropriate. Not surprisingly appeals have been lodged.

1st Jan '91 The editor of "Index on Censorship" published two long letters from campaigning factions, like the NCROPA, who were similarly angered by the publication of Catherine Itzin's article in the Sept '90 issue - one from Mary Hayward of the Campaign Against Censorship, and the other from Ms. A Carol of the Feminists Against Censorship.

4th Jan '91 Letter to Lord Rees-Mogg, Chairman of the BSC, asking if the report in the 2nd Jan edition of the "Daily Mail" that "the BSC has recruited a 'secret army' of armchair censors to combat sex and violence on the screen" is correct and, if so, how was it selected, who did the selecting and are its members being

paid for their 'services'? The Director also asked for the name of the "leading market research firm" which had been engaged to select, at random, "from telephone directories" a further 750-strong panel to be "on standby for highly controversial programmes".

8th Jan '91 Further letter to the editor of "Index on Censorship" complimenting him on publishing the two women's anti-censorship articles in the Jan issue, but taking him up on a number of points he made in his letter of 19th Dec, including a reminder that his magazine was supposed to be "The International Magazine FOR Free Expression" - and not AGAINST Free Expression, which is Catherine Itzin's line.

11th Jan '91 Letter to editor of the "Daily Mail" about Lynda Lee Potter's 'ravings' in the 9th Jan edition, wherein she blamed watching so-called "pornographic videos" for the rape of a ten year old girl by an unfortunate and disturbed man.

11th Jan '91 Letter from Lord Rees-Mogg, Chairman of the BSC, in reply to the Director's letter of 4th Jan. "The 'Daily Mail' article was an unsatisfactory mixture of editorial views and my own", he wrote, and he did not use the term "secret army". He went on " ...and there is no question of the Council's monitors or the Council itself acting as censors. Decisions on what to broadcast and when remain ones for the broadcasters themselves."

15th Jan '91 Reminder letter to Kenneth Baker MP, Home Secretary, asking for a reply to letter of 5th Dec last, and expressing the NCROPA's concern over his dismissive response to the Home Office's own Research Survey "pornography: Impacts and Influences".

19th Jan '91 Letter to the City Clerk of the City of Bristol in response to their invitation to various organisations to be asked for their comments on proposals by a Joint Sub-Committee of the Health and Public Protection, Licensing and Women's Committees of Bristol City Council, for "a Citywide policy with regard to issues relating to pornography". The NCROPA's views were detailed.

21st Jan '91 Ted Goodman and the Director attended the 1990 Freedom of Information Awards Presentation Ceremony and Reception at the City Conference Centre, London, which were made by Roy Hattersley, MP, Labour Shadow Home Secretary.

28th Jan '91 Letter to the Chief Constable of Essex, laying an information before him concerning what may well be the commission of a criminal offence at the Brentwood International Hall on 23rd Jan, during the course of a boxing match between Michael Watson and Craig Trotter. This was televised in the BBC1 "Mid-week Sports Special" programme. The letter referred to Judge Rant's ruling at the 'Operation Spanner' trial at the Old Bailey on 19th Dec that consent to an assault by the victim of that assault was no defence in law. The two boxers were undoubtedly assaulting each other, whether they had consented or not. Copies sent to the editors of "Gay Times", "Capital Gay" and "The Pink Paper".

28th Jan '91 Letter to Peter Hooley, Whitehall Correspondent of the "Daily Express" asking why, in his article on 21st Dec on the Home Office's Research Report "Pornography: Impacts and Influences", headed "Crime and Pornography report a 'waste of time'", why was it that he only reported the one-sided views of the pro-censorship/anti-pornography lobby and none of the views of the freedom of choice/freedom of expression lobby, including especially the views of the NCROPA?

29th Jan '91 Letter to the Managing Director of Network Research Ltd., the company engaged by the BSC to organise the monitoring of the content of broadcast programmes, asking how, and by whom the two panels of 'monitors' were selected and whether or not they are being paid for their services?

29th Jan '91 The Director attended a performance of the All-Male Chippendale Dancers at the Shaw Theatre, London. The packed house consisted of 99% screaming

women. If anyone still doubts that women are not as interested in "erotic" performances as men, they should take themselves along to see one of the Chippendales' audiences. It will be a revelation!

- 31st Jan '91 Second reminder letter to Kenneth Baker MP, Home Secretary - further to earlier letters of 5th Dec and 15th Jan.
- 1st Feb '91 A museum of underpants and knickers opens in Brussels, Belgium. Obviously its not only European trade barriers which are coming down!
- 8th Feb '91 Article published in "Capital Gay" about the Director's initiative in highlighting the SM Sex/Boxing parallel and the absurdities of the laws' highly prejudiced and selective interpretation of these two pursuits, headlined "'Lock them up for boxing" NCROPA tells police".
- 15th Feb '91 Third reminder (by Recorded Delivery) to Kenneth Baker MP, Home Secretary, asking him for a reply to NCROPA's earlier letters of 5th Dec, 15th Jan and 31st Jan - It is now more than 11 weeks since the Director first wrote.
- 5th Feb '91 Letter to Richard Baker pointing out that his membership of the Broadcasting Standards Council is surely compromised by his continuing to work as a professional broadcaster and calling on him to relinquish one or other activity.
- 15th Feb '91 Letter to Sir John Dellow, Acting Chief Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, laying an information about a possible offence at Wembley in a boxing match on 13th Feb between Pat Barrett and Salvatore Nardino (See 28th Jan).
- 25th Feb '91 Letter from Richard Baker in reply to letter of 15th Feb. He said our letter was "unmitigated rubbish". He said he was a freelance broadcaster and thought it important "for the BSC to have a member who is a professional in the broadcasting field".
- 22nd Feb '91 Letter from Scotland Yard in reply to NCROPA's letter of 15th Feb. "Your proposals would have wide ranging implications and will require detailed consideration before a fuller response is provided", the letter stated.
- 25th Feb '91 Letter to Chief Constable of Sussex, laying an information about a possible offence at the Brighton Conference Centre on 23rd Feb in a boxing match between Chris Eubank and Dan Sherry (see 28th Jan & 15th Feb)
- 25th Feb '91 The Director attended the First Night performance at the Chelsea Centre Theatre of the award-winning Hull-based Northern Youth Theatre's production of "Love Kevin", a musical play about a boy who leaves his northern home, comes to London and becomes involved in male prostitution. Senior clergymen and local councillors had tried to ban the production, often citing the notorious Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988.
- 27th Feb '91 Further letter to Richard Baker in reply to his reply of 20th Feb, wondering why any professional broadcasting communicator, whether as excellent and expert as himself or not, would even wish to become a participant in the operation of the state censorship machine (of which the BSC is undoubtedly a disgraceful part)? - although the £9000 yearly salary was probably "not to be sneezed at". The letter pointed out that, under Schedule 14 of the Broadcasting Act 1990, any member of the BSC "who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in any matter that is brought up for consideration at a meeting of the Council shall disclose the nature of his interest to the meeting and where such disclosure is made .... the member shall not take part in any deliberation or decision of the Council, or of any of their Committees, with respect to that matter." This effectively rendered Mr. Baker ineligible to participate in any BSC deliberation, the Director said, and he urged him to sever what could only be seen as his "public espousal of nannyist state censorship".

4th Mar '91 Letter from Chief Supt. Hills of Sussex Police, in reply to NCROPA's letter of 25th Feb to the Chief Constable re televised boxing match.

"In the absence of any complaint from either party involved in the Boxing Match, and in view of other priorities for deployment of Police resources, I do not intend to take any further action at this stage", he wrote.

4th Mar '91 At long last, letter from Home Secretary Kenneth Baker's Private Secretary in reply to the NCROPA's letters of 5th Dec, 15th Jan, 31st Jan and 15th Feb. The reason we did not receive an earlier reply to our original letter of 5th Dec was "as a result of an oversight" and they "do not appear to have any record of subsequent correspondence" from us!

The reply was, predictably, depressing reading, inasmuch as it spewed out the boring, old platitudes and cliches about striking the correct balance between the right of the individual to freedom of expression and the need to protect people (from what? - themselves, for heaven's sake?!); but even more so because of the bare-faced lies it trumpeted, viz. - "The Government has no powers to ban or censor individual publications, videos, plays or films and does not seek such powers ...": That the Home Secretary should have the effrontery to regale us with this kind of nonsense is highly insulting. He must think we came down with the last shower of rain. Why on earth does he think the NCROPA has been in business for the last 15 years?!

There is much else in the reply to infuriate NCROPA members and which will be answered in detail and in time. We were told that our request for a face-to-face meeting had been considered but "given the many demands on his time, I am afraid that it will not be possible for him to meet you personally." It is interesting to note that, despite these "many demands", Mr. Baker managed to find time to address the AGM of the NVALA at the RAF Club only 19 days later, on 23rd Mar! We have been offered a meeting with Home Office officials if we think that would be useful. The NCROPA Committee is still considering this offer.

5th Mar '91 Letter to Air Commodore Davies, Chairman of the RAF Club, Piccadilly, London, expressing the NCROPA's astonishment and outrage that the Club is allowing its premises to be used by the appalling NVALA for its AGM on 23rd Mar, when the NVALA constantly campaigns for more and more state censorship of anything of which it does not itself approve. The letter pointed out that Adolf Hitler had the same idea in 1939. For the many thousands of RAF men and women who had laid down their lives to fight against such dictatorial repression in that and other wars in the cause of freedom, the RAF Club's action in giving support to so monstrous an organisation as the NVALA was the grossest insult to their memory. 'Per Ardua ad Ignominia'.

7th Mar '91 At Bow Street Magistrates' Court London, the bookshop owner Richard Waller was acquitted of a 1959 O.P. Act charge of having for sale a book called "Modern Primitives", about body piercing, tattooing and scarification. The defence was awarded £500 costs. (The original seizure of this book in Nov 1989 was, interestingly enough, made by Sgt. Mark Nurthen, the same officer who seized the Covent Garden chocolate willies prosecuted on 4th Mar 1990, and who subsequently sued "The People" newspaper for £25,000 libel damages because they referred to him as "Sgt. Nerd", amongst other things!)

13th Mar '91 Reminder letter to Chief Constable Essex Police re NCROPA's letter of 28th Jan, still unanswered, about a boxing match.

13th Mar '91 Further letter to Chief Constable of Sussex explaining that Chief Supt. Hills (see 4th Mar) had misconstrued NCROPA's letter and asking for a re-examination of the matter.

13th Mar '91 Letter to Sir John Dellow, Acting Chief Commissioner Scotland Yard, thanking him for the letter of 15th Feb, but laying a further information about possible assault offences in televised boxing matches (1) between Sean Murphy and Gary de Roux at the London Arena on 5th Mar, and (2) in six other boxing matches on 6th Mar at the London ABA Finals at York Hall, Bethnal Green, London and in-



volving 12 named participants.

13th Mar '91 The Director interviewed by Chris Woods, News Editor of "The Pink Paper".

15th Mar '91 Article published in "Capital Gay" about the NCROPA's further 'informations' concerning boxing-match 'assaults' laid before various Chief Constables, and headed "Boxers committing 'assault' says pressure group".

15th Mar '91 The Director and other members of the NCROPA took part in filming for a 'pilot' programme on 'pornography', for Outlaw Films, an independent television film production company. The sequence re-created a speech David Webb delivered to the Society for Individual Freedom in October 1990.

16th Mar '91 Letter to the editor of the "Daily Telegraph" criticising an article by Nicola Tyrer in their 15th Mar edition, called "Nightmares in every Street" and in which she made the preposterous suggestion that all 'horror' videos should perhaps be banned completely, because some children caught up in the highly-suspect, spurious 'satanic abuse' assertions, might have been allowed to watch some. Not published.

19th Mar '91 Letter to the Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker MP, acknowledging his Private Secretary's letter of 4th Mar, to which the NCROPA would be responding fully when it had been properly considered by our Committee.

19th Mar '91 Letter to George Russell, Chairman of the Independent Television Commission complimenting him on his decision to lift ~~the~~ ban on the "Life of Brian" film for Channel 4's "Banned Season", but condemning him for banning "Dick", the short film documentary about penises, and Thames TV's "Sex in our Time". Copy sent to Michael Grade, Chief Executive of Channel 4 TV.

20th Mar '91 The Labour Party published a policy document "A new Ministry for Women". It included the following paragraph:-

"Pornography threatens or annoys women, its effects will be examined:

- \* Studies of the social impact of pornography will be instituted
- \* Women will be consulted about controls on the location of pornographic material."

For those NCROPA members who think that our problems are coming to an end with the demise of Margaret Thatcher and the wane of the Tory Party, and the increasing likelihood of a Labour Government, perhaps they'd better think again. Whatever the political party, such divisive, feminist, anti-sex policies are extremely regrettable and must be firmly and openly attacked wherever they appear.

2nd Apr '91 Letter from George Russell, Chairman of the ITC, in reply to the NCROPA's letter of 19th Mar. It pointed out that, under the provisions of the Broadcasting Act 1990, the ITC still has a responsibility (as did the IBA under the provisions of the 1981 Act) not to permit programmes to be transmitted which offend against good taste or decency. He also said that the ITC has not banned "Sex in our Time", but had only asked for "certain still photographs of a gynaecological nature" to be cut.

3rd Apr '91 Letter to Tim Exton of Filmit Productions enclosing details of the NCROPA as requested; and hoping that they would wish to give us screentime in their "Free For All" TV programme.

10th Apr '91 Further letter to George Russell, Chairman of the ITC, in reply to his reply of 2nd Apr. The Director said that, whilst the NCROPA appreciated the

ITC's difficulties in interpreting the absurd requirements of the Broadcasting Act 1990 wherein each licensed TV service is precluded from including in its programmes anything "which offends against good taste or decency or is likely to encourage or incite to crime or to lead to disorder or to be offensive to public feeling ...", it also appreciated that such requirements effectively rendered every programme ineligible for transmission, since there will always be some members of the public who will find elements of any programme "offensive". The letter went on to draw the Chairman's attention to the precise wording of the Act, which was "The Commission shall do all that they can to secure that every licensed service complies with the following requirements namely, etc." In view of the fact that the task of interpreting what would not be "offensive" to everyone was an impossible one, it was our contention that "all that they (the ITC) can do" is either (1) ridiculously ban all programmes, or (2) sensibly, ignore the directive completely. Naturally the NCROPA hoped they would opt for the latter course.

10th Apr '91 Isabel Koprowski took part in a "Woman's Hour" discussion on BBC Radio 4 about "Top Shelf Porn", with Clare Short MP, Valerie Riches of the Family and Youth Concern organisation and Dr. Guy Cumberbatch.

18th Apr '91 Further letter to editor of the "Daily Telegraph" (Max Hastings) noting that, although he had declined to publish our letter of 16th Mar, opposing the premise of Nicola Tyrer's article "Nightmares in every street", he had seen fit to publish a letter from Mary Whitehouse on 20th Mar which supported it. The Director also noted that a letter from Ted Goodman, writing in his capacity as Chairman of the C.A.C., which responded to Mrs. Whitehouse's inaccurate assertions, had also not been published. The Director asked Mr. Hastings if his newspaper believed in 'free speech' and in allowing the opponents of published contentious points-of-view the opportunity of expressing theirs, particularly when those opposing views are being expressed on behalf of the two foremost, national, anti-censorship campaigning organisations in the UK?

21st Apr '91 The Director and Isabel Koprowski attended the NCCL AGM (as individual members) at NAFTE Headquarters in London. All anti-censorship, pro-freedom of expression motions were overwhelmingly carried. The militant-feminist factions were little in evidence and have, hopefully, been routed. Let's hope that the NCCL will now revert to its former principled self permanently, i.e. in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of its Charter - Freedom of Speech and Publication.

22nd Apr '91 Preliminary hearing of the Director's civil challenge to the customs seizure of six videos at Heathrow Airport on 14th Nov last year. Date for full hearing fixed for 10 a.m. on 27th June at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court, Uxbridge, Middlesex.

1st May '91 Letter to the editor of "The Guardian" regretting that Christena Appleyard's dismissal of Clare Short's opposition to 'page 3 girls' ("Short shrift on page three" - "The Guardian" 29th Apr.) had cited the more minor, 'fringe' arguments to make her case rather than basic, freedom-of-expression principles (See 20th Feb '90). Not published.

2nd May '91 Letter to Canon Colin Hill, Vicar of Croydon, complaining about his reported welcome\* to the refusal of the renewal of a local sex-shop's licence, as well as his comments about having "a mature attitude to sex". The Director's letter asked him how he would like it if he were required to obtain a licence to operate 'a religious establishment', viz. his church, and furthermore be refused one simply because some people are offended by what he practises, preaches and disseminates? He said the sooner the Vicar and the Church began coming to terms with, accepting and glorying in the rectitude of the ecstatic delights of sexual pleasure, the sooner they will genuinely be able to claim that they have "a mature attitude to sex". The NCROPA had no wish to ban his freedom of thought and expression and asked him to do us the reciprocal courtesy of not trying to proscribe ours. \*\*"Croydon Advertiser" 1st Mar.

3rd May '91 Telephone call from the Vicar of Croydon in response to letter of 2nd May.

he claimed he had been mis-reported in the "Croydon Advertiser" on 1st Mar and that he had never signed any petition for the closure of the sex-shop. Notwithstanding that the Director had not claimed that he had, David Webb suggested to Canon Hill that he should complain to the editor of the newspaper and not to himself.

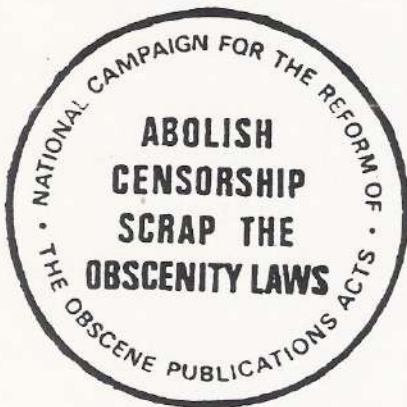
3rd May '91 Duncan Campbell and Georgina Henry write piece in "The Guardian" stating that "Sex and the Censors", one of the programmes recently shown in Channel 4's "Banned Season"; has been referred to the DPP by Scotland Yard's Obscene Publications branch, following a complaint from a member of the public.

4th May '91 Letter to the editor of "The GUardian" pointing out that Michael Grade was not "one of the leading campaigners" against the extension of the O.P. Acts to broadcasting, as Duncan Campbell and Georgina Henry had claimed in their article on 3rd May. In fact he didn't campaign against it at all. In a letter to the Director dated 7th Sept 1987, Mr. Grade wrote "Yes, I have no objection to Broadcasting coming under the '59 Act - provided the test of obscenity remains as currently defined, namely a jury has to decide that the broadcast had the potential to 'deprave and corrupt', a view he had publicly made known in a speech at that year's Edinburgh Television Festival. Not published.

6th May '91 "The Guardian" reports that a second programme shown in Channel 4's "Banned Season" has been referred to the DPP by the O.P. squad - "W.R.-Mysteries of the Organism" - after a complaint from a member of the public.

7th May '91 Letter to the editor of the "Croydon Advertiser" sending copy of the Director's letter of 2nd May to the Vicar of Croydon, and telling him of the Vicar's claim to have been misrepresented and mis-reported in their 1st Mar edition. If this were true, the Director asked that a correction be published. If not, he asked that the contents of his letter to the Vicar and the Vicar's response be published.

7th May '91 Letter to Anne Robinson congratulating her on her dismissal of Clare Short's arguments regarding 'page 3 girls' in her "Daily Mirror" article "The naked truth about porn" on 1st May.



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