

VIEWER AND LISTENER

HOME TO ROOST!

The Mary Whitehouse Experience', BBC2's new comedy show, was the first to be brought before the Broadcasting Standards Council!

The Council, for which National VALA fought so long and hard, became operational on behalf of the public on 2nd January 1991, under its Chairman Lord Rees-Mogg.

How successful it is depends entirely upon the degree to which the public is prepared to get involved. The Council covers all BBC, ITV, Cable and Satellite programmes.

Its address is: 5-8 The Sanctuary, London SW1P 3JS. Tel: 071-233 0544.

"Clear-sighted Chairman!" – see inside



ROY SILVER and DAVID TURTLE collect signatures in Royston

COP Petition out on the High Streets

Up-date and reports from around the country

– see inside

Many more signatures are required so please keep on collecting.

We are grateful for all the generous donations received to help meet the cost of this Campaign and Petition.

A High Street 'Sign-In Kit' is also available.
Telephone Roy Silver on Royston (0763) 241726.

PETITION FORMS AVAILABLE (SAE PLEASE) FROM:
COP, 86 Rowlands Road, WORTHING, W Sussex, BN11 3LE

☎ Worthing (0903) 30858

IMPORTANT!

If attending the Convention YOU MUST let us know in advance. Please write to John Beyer, National VALA, Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex, CO7 7RH by 15th March 1991 at the latest.

CONVENTION —1991—

SATURDAY

23rd MARCH 1991

THE RAF CLUB
128 PICCADILLY
LONDON W1

10.45am – 3.30pm

and

ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

(members only)

4.00pm – 5.00pm

The Home Secretary, The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker MP, has been invited to be our guest speaker. We hope very much that he will be able to attend.

ANNEKA MAKES IT!

Anneka Rice will be presented with the National VALA Award for the remarkable Romania Challenge.

HOW YOU GET THERE

The nearest tube stations are GREEN PARK and HYDE PARK CORNER

Bus routes: 9, 14, 19, 22, 25, 38

Car Parking: NCP Park Lane

£7.00 for 6 hrs

THE VIEWER AND LISTENER

SPRING 1991

ARDLEIGH, COLCHESTER, ESSEX, CO7 7RH.

Tel Colchester (0206) 230123

President: Mrs MARY WHITEHOUSE CBE

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PRICE 20P

CLEAR-SIGHTED CHAIRMAN!

On the day (2nd January 1991) the Broadcasting Standards Council became operational, Lord Rees-Mogg, its Chairman, launched an attack on what he called "children of the sixties" who make programmes in which they impose their permissive values on viewers. He told the *Daily Mail* in a special interview, that he intended to reverse the trend and put the viewer in charge of what was shown. He said, "The people now making programmes were students in the 1960s when there was a revolutionary change in social conscience and a great breaking-down of taboos. That affects what we see on our screens.

"We are going through a period in which people taking the decisions in television are the children of the 1960s, people who were students at the end of the 1960s, people under 45. The power lies with the producer age group. But the parents of young children are normally in their twenties or thirties."

The broadcasters' argument that you could always switch off the set was arrogant, said Lord Rees-Mogg. "What they are saying is if you don't like it, you can lump it. Broadcasters should not take their decision in a social vacuum."

In ordinary family life the balance was imposed by what the mother would allow in the home. "People feel that television is imposing lower standards than they themselves want. They want TV to be careful when children are watching. Adult films at 11pm are not such a problem."

He intends that the BSC which began its monitoring work yesterday (1st January 1991), should end the 'producer monopoly' of television. The programme-makers, for the first time, will have to bow to the public's views.

"The consumer ought to be sovereign in television as in everything else. That is what democracy is all about."

Lord Rees-Mogg revealed that two panels of around 770 members of the public - men and women, dustmen and barristers, young and old, the well-heeled and the unemployed - will watch the output of all TV stations, both terrestrial and satellite. They will pass their views to the new council, which will meet to hear complaints about TV and radio from January onwards.

For highly controversial programmes, a 750-strong panel chosen at random by a leading market research firm from telephone directories will be on stand-by.

If a complaint is upheld by the council, it will publish a judgement or publicise it in the press. In very serious cases a statement will be read out on television.

"PORNOGRAPHY REPORT UNDER FIRE" *Western Dail Mail*

"PORNOGRAPHY STUDY DISMISSED" *Birmingham Evening Mail*

"PORNOGRAPHY REPORT SLAMMED" *East Anglian Daily Times*

"CRIME & PORNOGRAPHY REPORT A WAST OF TIME" *Daily Express*

With such headlines as these the Cumberbatch report on whether there was a link between pornography and violent crime was almost universally dismissed.

This research was set up by the Government under the leadership of Dr. Guy Cumberbatch of Aston University and Dr. Dennis Howitt of the University of Loughborough at a cost of £650,000.

National VALA was not the least surprised by the unsatisfactory results of this research and was much encouraged by the stand taken against it, not least by Detective Superintendent Michael Hames, head of Scotland Yard's obscene publications squad: "The report says you can't prove a link between pornography and crime - we know that. I cannot prove a link either, but I can tell you from bitter experience that the sick deluge of pornography is on the increase and so is violent sexual crime."

Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, president of the National Viewers & Listeners' Association, said the report was a waste of public money. "This is just another of the highly controversial reports that get us nowhere. It's high time the Government had the courage to say simply and categorically that pornography is an increasingly evil blight on our society, and take steps to deal with it."

"WE ARE NOT EXAGGERATING"

The following is an extract from what was said during *Public Eye* BBC2 TV 19th October 1990.

"There are no national statistics on child abuse network crime, but police are becoming increasingly aware of network rings from videos and contact magazines seized from those involved in them. They believe that what they uncover is only a small proportion of the actual networks that operate all over the country. What the Authorities fear is that those caught up in these paedophile rings will become abusers themselves once they reach adolescence."

Supt Michael Hames said "Breaking into a network of child abusers is like no other area of police activity in the sense that by comparison burglars and robbers are easy.

"I think we've come to accept that there is child abuse within the family and, certainly all over the country, child protection teams have been set up to deal with the abuse, but following on from that we've now begun to discover that there is a tremendous amount of abuse from outside the family. I can tell you that we are not exaggerating when we talk about the extent of network child abuse, because every week we are receiving more and more information about networking.

"Three years ago we started an index of names of people who had been dealt with for sex abuse of children - that was from zero and we are now well above the 3,000 . . . it is rising every day.

"The fact is that children are being abused in all of the towns, cities and villages in the country".

Public Eye said "Six officers at New Scotland Yard now work full time investigating child pornography and paedophiles.

"Dr Nick Wild, Consultant Paediatrician, discovered, over a two year period in Leeds, 31 child sex rings involving 334 children and almost 50 perpetrators. *Public Eye* carried out a national survey on organised network child sex abuse over three years. They wrote to every police force in the country: three quarters of the 52 forces responded. 18 had no experience of these problems. 186 separate cases were reported involving 1,812 victims - many revealed a large number of linked offenders.

"For example, Northumbria - 61 suspected cases involving 161 children; West Mercia - 12 networks involving 165 children.

"Police say that it is so hard to trace networks . . . these cases are the tip of the iceberg.

"The transition from victim to abuser is common. Child abuse experts say 40% go on to abuse. Dr Gail Ryan, of the University of Colorado, USA, says over half of the boy victims and a fourth of the girl victims are being abused by adolescence".

PETITION TAKES OFF!

by Steve Stevens

For weeks now hundreds of letters have been coming in from people of all walks of life and from all over the country, even from the Hebrides and the Orkneys.

They are from people and from organisations who have seen a letter from Mary Whitehouse in their local newspaper announcing the Campaign to Outlaw Pornography. Many of the writers express their own concerns and why they are backing this Campaign and why they are asking for petition forms.

In her letter, Mrs. Mary Whitehouse CBE spoke of people being deeply shocked and concerned about the appalling reports of child sexual abuse that have come to light in Britain during the past few months and how, in case after case, it had been revealed that pornography had played a key role in the corruption of the minds of those who have often tortured as well as sexually abused the children, leaving them physically and mentally damaged.

One young lady collected a full sheet of 74 names by standing outside Sainsbury's. She has now written to Mr. Sainsbury asking if she can do it inside instead of outside in the cold! Others have got together a team of 20 people to collect signatures in shopping areas using clipboards and a poster. One man in a wheel chair did this in Bournemouth and fell out of the chair and had to go to hospital for stitches in his head. That did not deter him — he was soon back again collecting more signatures!

● "As convener of the Board of Social Responsibility for the Presbytery of Sutherland, Church of Scotland, I have been encouraging members to DO something in support of the COP. Locally, our church intends distributing copies of the Autumn issue of *The Viewer and Listener* with our church magazine which is delivered to every home in the parish. Also we plan to make available at shops and post offices copies of the petition which we will encourage people to sign. I therefore write requesting that you forward to me at the earliest 240 copies of the V & L. I plan the distribution for mid-January and wish you every blessing in your endeavours."

Sutherland

● "As a pastor and former policeman, I know that pornography corrupts and depraves, and therefore anything we can humanly speaking do, we should."

Suffolk

● "I wholeheartedly agree it is time we all stood together about the terrible state of the world regarding the poor children who suffer sexual abuse due to pornography becoming part of everyday life."

Cleveland

● A Youth and Community worker wrote: "I am extremely concerned about the effects of pornography and the alarming influence of videos — sex, violence and the occult."

London

● "I have been putting my hand on the top shelf of newsgazettes in this area and have got a shock. I have written to Mrs. Thatcher, David Waddington, Lynda Lee-Potter and Clare Short, enclosing some of the pictures I cut out of"

Blackpool



Steve and Kay Stevens managing the COP petition.

● "As Superintendent Hames, Head of the Obscene Publications branch of New Scotland Yard says, the laws on pornography are farcical. I will continue to write to people who I think can help — the pen is mightier than the sword."

Lancashire

● "I write to ask how I can support you — join your organisation! The state of play has reached very unfortunate proportions — the media is so sex-drenched it does a supreme disservice to people. Something must be done."

Maidstone, Kent

● "I divided my efforts to get signatures between my immediate neighbourhood and our church. I concentrated on the danger and abuse of children in the making of obscene videos. People were in hearty agreement that a lot needs to be done to clean up our country."

Dundee

● "Dear Mrs. Whitehouse, I have an appointment to see the Solicitor General, Sir Nicholas Lyell and I intend to lobby him on this matter."

Shefford, Bedfordshire

● "I have collected signatures for COP and I am also writing to Kenneth Baker, who is our local MP as well as being now Home Secretary, in the hope that he will do something about it"

Dorking, Surrey

● "I appreciate all the great work being done, and pray that God will bless your efforts. We can only pray that the regulations drawn up for the European governments will provide a safeguard for us here. We certainly need it. I was privileged to work for 30 years in Swaziland in business administration in a hospital, and I was quite shocked when I returned home to Britain to find the deterioration in our moral standards."

Troon, Ayrshire

● "I am interested in your campaign to outlaw pornography and have spoken about it to our local clergy. Kindly send me any leaflets or publicity you may have. For some time I have been praying against pornography, so was glad to see your letter in a Bradford paper whilst on holiday there."

Swaffham, Norfolk

● "A dozen or so of these forms have been photostated and sent round the locality to friends and churches. Trust you will receive them fully signed in due course. This was my personal effort locally."

Harleston, Norfolk

STAYING IN CONTROL

George Russell, as Chairman of the new Independent Television Commission (ITC), launched on 1st January 1991, controls what we will watch on commercial television into the next century. He has championed a system of quality through regulation outlined in the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

His proposals for a "quality threshold", which bidders for ITV franchises would have to pass before the size of their bids was considered, were adopted by the Government. Mr Russell will oversee the largest and most significant contest ever seen for the coveted licences.

Those who fall below the rigorous quality requirements will face a penalty point system, which will lead to fines. Fines for continual misdemeanours will grow in size. "It will get more and more expensive for those disregarding their obligations on quality, to the point where it would be much cheaper for them to invest more money in quality output. But with a certain number of breaches, the franchise will be removed" he says.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please remember, thanks to the computer-based system, that National VALA now personally reminds members when their subscriptions are due to be renewed. Therefore, we no longer provide for subscription renewal in *The Viewer and Listener*.

To process subscriptions quickly it helps enormously if members use the renewal form included with our reminder letter.

To minimise costs it helps National VALA if subscriptions are renewed at the first time of asking. We are most grateful to our members who respond promptly.

Our need for additional donations is as great as ever as campaign costs increase all the time.

BOOKSHELF

MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD (Special Price) £1.00p
by Mary Whitehouse (autographed)

MONITORING REPORTS
Seven Days Violence No 4 £1.00p
Drinking in Television Programmes £1.00p

BOOKLETS ON BROADCASTING
National VALA's Response to the White Paper on Broadcasting £1.00p
There Can Be No Defence 75p
Violence on Television 25p
Monitoring Radio and Television

BOOKLETS ON PORNOGRAPHY
Pornography: An Update on Recent Research 50p
Children and The Family at Risk £1.00p
Psychiatrists Report on Pornography 20p

CONVENTION 1990 CASSETTES
1. **Morning Session** £2.50p
Mary Whitehouse CBE
David Mellor QC MP
Jocelyn Barrow OBE
Award Presentation to 'Survival Special'

2. **Afternoon Session** £2.50p
Prof. Fr. Janusc Balicki
Mrs Eileen Jones
Questions

HEAR, HEAR!

The National Consumer Council recently published the results of a survey, conducted by MORI, investigating what people think about some of the services they use every day, including television.

The consumers were asked if they were satisfied with the overall service they received, what they felt about price and quality and whether they felt that those providing the service adequately listened to their complaints and suggestions.

Opinions about radio and television programmes contrasted strongly. Only 6% expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of radio compared with over 50% for television. Only one-third were satisfied with the quality of TV programmes, two-thirds with radio.

Among all the key services in the survey, the price of a television licence was felt to be the most unreasonable; 39% said that the cost of a licence was very unreasonable. Consumers obviously felt that they were not getting value for money.

Television companies were not seen as looking after consumers well, although independent companies were slightly better than the BBC. People's leisure activities are an important part of their lives. But in this survey it was found that there is a clear message for television to devote more time and attention to consumer consultation.

Consumers do not feel they are receiving value for money or that they are listened to.

Mrs Norah Buckland

It was with great regret that we learned of the death of Norah, widow of the late Rev. Basil Buckland, who, with Mary and Ernest Whitehouse, founded the Clean Up TV Campaign in 1964. She remained a very loyal worker for National VALA until very recently. We extend warm sympathy to her family and friends.

PRINTED CONVENTION SPEECHES
Mary Whitehouse 50p
David Mellor QC MP £1.00p
Jocelyn Barrow OBE 50p

TV STATION ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER CARD (Revised 1991) 20p

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