

~~CENSORED~~

TO CINEMA CLUB OWNERS

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REPEAL OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

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COMMITTEE — Lord Norwich, [REDACTED], Dr. Brian Richards, Clifford Hanley, Eric Miller, William J. Wright,
Bernard Brick, [REDACTED], G.T. Fowler, M.P., Dr. Christine Pickard,
E.A.C. Goodman, LL.B.(Sol.), Pamela Manson.

NO/DAW/DP

11th October, 1978.

The N.C.R.O.P.A. is, as you may know and would no doubt expect, gravely concerned about the ever increasing police harassment of cinema clubs and sex shops. We have always made it clear that our campaign is not against the police as such but against the repressive censorship laws on the Statute Book which enable them to operate in the way they do, thus preventing the adult population of this country from reading, seeing and hearing whatever they choose for themselves. However, when the police raid clubs and shops incessantly over long periods of time, sometimes several times during the same day, impound hundreds of films and thousands of books, whilst at the same time, in many cases bringing no charges for many months and, as often as not, not at all, then N.C.R.O.P.A. cannot sit idly by and allow such a situation, in which the police are in effect acting as their own judge and jury, to go on unchallenged.

We have done and are doing whatever we possibly can to expose this scandal although with a largely hostile press against us, a Home Secretary who repeatedly tells us that he cannot interfere with the running of the police, and ruthless police chiefs out to make a name for themselves and who, in any case, have been appointed by that same Home Secretary, it is difficult to make any real impact.

Mr. Gerry Fowler, the M.P. for The Wrekin and a member of our Committee, has taken up this whole question of police harassment and with his researcher and myself recently visited a London cinema club to get first hand information of what is going on. He is now pursuing the matter with both the Home Secretary and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. However, it is vital that the public at large is made aware of what is being carried out in their name and of how the police are "bending the rules" and grossly exceeding their powers. Nothing is more likely to enrage British public opinion than "police state" tactics but our problem is getting this information across to them. One sure way is for N.C.R.O.P.A. to take space in the press where we could detail our cause for concern by presenting the facts.

As you will know, advertising space in national newspapers is extremely expensive and the N.C.R.O.P.A. simply does not have the necessary funds for such an enterprise. As a cinema club owner your concern will obviously be even greater than ours because your livelihood is at stake and the purpose of this letter is to sound out your opinion, and that of your colleagues and find out if you would be prepared, in company with other cinema club proprietors, to contribute to the high cost of one/some advertisement(s) on the lines I have mentioned? These advertise-

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ments would, of course, be published by and in the name of N.C.R.O.P.A. and would be subject to clearance by our own legal advisers as well as the newspapers selected. However this would carry far more weight than advertisements under your own banner because you obviously have a vested interest in the outcome whereas we are fighting for a principle as frustrated "consumers" only.

If you are, broadly speaking, in agreement with this idea and are prepared to contribute financially towards it, please let me know as soon as possible. Your answer, at this stage, will not be interpreted as binding in any way, but it will give us a general idea of the support we can expect.

Finally, since we are trying to document as many of these police raids as possible, it would be of enormous assistance if you could let us have complete and accurate details of any trouble you have experienced (including dates and times if possible - most important!). We must be armed with all the facts if we are to attempt to combat this growing menace really effectively.

Your answer will be treated in strict confidence and I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,
Organiser,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts.