

Gerald Fowler,
Dr. Christine Pickard, E.A.C. Goodman LL.B.(Sol) Pamela Manson.

The N.C.R.O.P.A. is affiliated to the National Council For Civil Liberties

NO/DAW/DF

17th January, 1980.

Ms. Frances Donnelly,
Producer,
"Personal Call",
Radio 1,
B.B.C.,
Broadcasting House,
London, W1A 1AA.

Dear Ms. Donnelly,

Unfortunately I was unable to listen in to the Mary Whitehouse "Personal Call" programme on Tuesday evening but a number of N.C.R.O.P.A. supporters heard the programme and were infuriated to hear her mention that someone did once begin a campaign in opposition to her National Viewers and Listeners' Association but that it very soon foundered, or words to that effect. She gave the impression, apparently, that this was the only opposition group she had encountered since taking up the banner of self-appointed guardian of the nation's morals. This is quite untrue, as she knows perfectly well. I founded the N.C.R.O.P.A. in 1976 and in that capacity and as organiser I have done battle with the formidable lady on many occasions subsequently, including a debate at the Cambridge Union. Our campaign has continued to grow in numbers and strength ever since and we are now the generally accepted leading, most forceful platform for the anti-censorship, libertarian lobby, as anyone who has studied the Williams Report and our submission to that Committee (set up by the Government) will know. So much of what we have been advocating since N.C.R.O.P.A.'s inception has been accepted and incorporated into that Report. We are, ~~not~~, of course, satisfied with ~~everything~~ in it and are *at*

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present working on the final draft of our considered response to it for the Home Secretary.

At the end of "Personal Call" on Tuesday I gather that Mrs Whitehouse was quoting freely from the Annan Committee Report on broadcasting, only too eager to use its findings to support her beliefs. But, look what happens when a report is published with which she does not agree. Since the publication of the Williams Committee Report (the common-sense findings of which were, of course, anathema to her), she has engaged in a continual violent attack, not only on its contents, but on the integrity of the constituent members of that Committee who presented it, in an despicable attempt to discredit them, notwithstanding the fact that their findings were unanimous.

People of her ilk are too readily ^{dismissed} as a joke but I and N.C.R.O.P.A. supporters have never found Mrs. Whitehouse or her cronies the slightest bit funny. We regard her as a very dangerous lady indeed. In order to preserve the B.B.C.'s policy of impartiality and balance, perhaps you would consider inviting myself, or some other representative from N.C.R.O.P.A., to occupy the 'hot seat' in a future edition of "Personal Call". We really feel that the British public have had their bellyfull of Mary Whitehouse, that it is high time she was well and truly cut down to size and that the voice of reason should be allowed to be heard - that is to say, our voice.

Please may we urge you to give our request your serious and urgent consideration. We shall look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,

Organiser,

National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts.