

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

RG/DAW/DP

26th May, 1980.

Don MacLean, Esq.,  
 Wellington Pier,  
 Great Yarmouth,  
 Norfolk.

Dear Mr. MacLean,

In a letter to all members of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association in April from Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, reference was made to "DON MACLEAN, the comedian who has 'launched a one-man campaign to stamp out bad language on television and in the theatre'", and an announcement that you would be speaking at their annual convention in Birmingham on May 17th.

I have just listened to today's Pete Murray Open House Roadshow programme on BBC Radio 2 (10 a.m. - 12 noon) in which you appeared and it was with considerable interest, therefore, that I awaited your act. Here is a representative selection of your material:-

"I nearly didn't get out of my dressing room. I got caught by the  
 Dooleys - DOOLEYS!"

"Lady Godiva, from whom we get that well-known horse-riding  
 expression - 'they're off!'"

"I can't see the point of sunbathing, unless you need somewhere to  
 tie your kite whilst you're sleeping"

"The Arsenal bra - plenty of support but no cups"

...../continued

All this is fine with me and, indeed, very amusing. It's not that I am vexed but simply puzzled. What I fail to understand is how you can reconcile your use of this kind of material with your campaign to stamp out bad language on television and in the theatre (and, presumably, by inference, on radio also)? This strikes me as the height of hypocrisy and I am both saddened and surprised that someone like yourself should publicly align yourself with an "appalling phenomenon" (John Mortimer's description) like Mrs. Mary Whitehouse and her band of self-righteous, self-appointed guardians of the nation's morals.

The N.C.R.O.P.A. has always been wise enough not to dismiss Mrs. Whitehouse as nothing more than a joke, as many have done, but to regard her as a very dangerous lady indeed, one who aims to have everything of which she and her cronies disapprove, suppressed by law. By launching a campaign like yours, phoney or not, and supporting a campaign like the N.V.A.L.A., you are merely serving the repressive pro-censorship cause. We shall continue to do everything possible to thwart their plans and, indeed, yours, if they are the same. However, we hope in the meantime that you will realise your serious error of judgement and reverse your thinking on this matter. In the hope that you will I am enclosing one of our application forms. We would be delighted for you to join ~~the~~ many other show business colleagues who already wholeheartedly support our cause.

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,  
Organiser,

National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts

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