

— The Editor
"Hendon Times",
71 Church Road,
Hendon, MWA.

REFORM

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/DAM/DP

PRESS RELEASE

DAVID WEBB, the founder and organiser of the NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS (N.C.R.O.P.A.), addressed the HENDON YOUNG CONSERVATIVES at their headquarters at 166 Station Road, Hendon last Tuesday evening, 25th March, at 8.15 p.m., about censorship in general and the aims and activities of the N.C.R.O.P.A. in particular, with special reference to the recent Williams Report on Obscenity and Film Censorship.

Mr. Webb told of how he founded the N.C.R.O.P.A. in 1976 as a militant anti-censorship lobby and to serve as a really effective platform to combat the growing menace of the ever-increasing erosion of individual liberty in this country. He said that since pornography (or, as he preferred to call it "sexually explicit material") was harmless it should be freely available to consenting adults, just as it is in nearly every other country of the so-called free Western World. The Williams Report conceded that this was so but, although N.C.R.O.P.A. welcomed much of what it had recommended, the campaign felt that it did not go far enough. Even if all its recommendations were implemented, there would still be far too many legal restraints on the freedom of adults to see, read and hear whatever they chose for themselves.

Mr. Webb savagely attacked the puritannical pro-censorship factions and their appalling leaders, like Mary Whitehouse and James Anderton, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester, and he made no apology for condemning them

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in such strong terms. He regarded Mrs. Whitehouse, not as many people did, as a joke, but as a very dangerous lady indeed, and James Anderton was, he said, an alarming phenomenon.

Finally Mr. Webb reminded the audience that the Conservative Party had always campaigned on a platform of the "freedom of the individual" and he urged them to join in his fight against bigotry, intolerance and repression. There was not a single dissenting voice in the audience and afterwards David Webb, an actor with more than 700 television appearances to his credit, said how encouraged he was by the response although not at all surprised. "It's high time that the self-appointed, arrogant 'guardians of the nation's morals' were cut down to size and it was clear that the younger generation - and N.C.R.O.P.A. - ~~is~~ clearly intended to see that they were".

The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Hendon South Young Conservatives, Mr. ANWY MINNIS.

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