

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

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

NO/DAW/DP

16th September 1983

BS1877  
Michael Freeman, Esq.,  
H.M. Prison,  
Brixton,  
Jebb Avenue,  
London, S.W.2.

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 10th August and my apologies for the delay in replying, the reasons for which will, I hope, become apparent by the time you get to the end of this letter.

I am, of course, very sorry indeed to learn of your conviction and heavy sentence and also of Sara's conviction, especially after your previous triumphant success at the Old Bailey trial when you conducted your own case. We live, I fear, in an increasingly depressing and increasingly unjust country. However we must not give up and must continue the fight as best we may, even though the climate of Establishment opinion is presently so hostile. I realise that these will not be exactly cheering words for someone in your present predicament, but, however trite it sounds, I really do hope that you are in as comfortable conditions as possible under the circumstances and that time will pass quickly for you. Most of all, however, I hope that you will be able to secure a speedy release on appeal, if that course is open to you.

We are certainly putting up as big a fight as we can against the Graham Bright Bill regarding video cassettes. At the moment I am trying to arrange a meeting with the Home Secretary to discuss the Bill and, since he is a 'new broom' at the Home Office, to discuss the Williams Report and censorship in this country in general. We have already submitted, at the Home Secretary's request, our written observations on the proposals for the Bill and I am enclosing a copy of these herewith, which I know will interest you.

I produced a press release about the Bill on Monday and recorded an interview for Independent Radio News, which was broadcast several times on Tuesday morning. Yesterday evening I took part in a 'phone-in' programme on the Bill on Capital Radio. TV-am, the commercial breakfast-time station also interviewed me and sent for a photograph, but then didn't use the story. The 'nationals' have not so far reported anything but that does not surprise me. So you see you are not the only one who doesn't get reported in the newspapers!

I had another letter from the Home Office this morning and the Home

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Secretary is at present considering our observations before deciding whether or not he will receive a N.C.R.O.P.A. delegation. I shall certainly expect him to do so, since he has already received a delegation from the National Viewers and Listeners' Association, led by you-know-who and, as I see it, is now duty bound to afford us the same courtesy and equal opportunity of stating our case face-to-face.

You are certainly right in observing that '1984' and 'Big Brother' would appear to be already with us and you will notice that I have made reference to it on page three of our observations. The imminent arrival of the Orwellian state was further imprinted on my mind a few weeks ago when I went up to Manchester to take part in a programme about Orwell's life called "The Road to 1984" which will be transmitted by Granada TV next year.

Finally I have taken up your suggestion and have sent Derek Mann, © Chairman of the Video Trade Association, a copy of our press release and observations on the Bill.

Once again, thank you for writing to me, even though you are in such unhappy circumstances. One can only go on hoping that it will eventually go our way and that that will come about sooner, rather than later.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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

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