

David Kennington

NO/DAW/DP

12th January, 1983

John Carlisle, Esq., M.P.,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA.

Dear Mr. Carlisle,

Thank you for your letter of 13th December in response to mine of 2nd December.

I cannot accept your assertion that the tone of my letter is in any way "dictatorial" and I am astonished by the way in which you have reacted to ~~my~~ perfectly proper and polite questions, about a matter of public concern, that I simply wished to put to you on behalf of a national organisation. My actual wording was "On behalf of the N.C.R.O.P.A., may I put to you the following questions?" Nothing "dictatorial" about that phraseology, I would have thought?

I am also surprised that you have never heard of the N.C.R.O.P.A. before, because it has been in existence since April 1976, when I founded it in the wake of the absurd "Inside Linda Lovelace" trial. I also presume that you have not read the Williams Report, because we gave both written and oral evidence to the Committee (the Home Office Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship) which produced that unanimous report and we are mentioned in it several times by name. We also had a personal meeting with the present Home Secretary in 1981 and have subsequently taken part in many discussions with the Home Office and other M.P.s on new legislation.

I am even more surprised, however, that you have never heard of any of the members of our Committee, not even Lord (Julius) Norwich, arguably one of the top intellects in the country, a man of great erudition, a well-known radio and television broadcaster and, to boot, a member of the same Parliament to which you yourself belong. I can quite understand that you haven't heard of me, even though I have been a professional actor for the past 28 years and have made more than 700 television appearances during that time. Perhaps, however, you do not watch television - except, of course, Channel 4. Gerald Fowler is the former M.P. for The Wrekin, a former Minister of State for Education and Science and presently director of the North East London Polytechnic. The two serving doctors, Christine Pickard and Brian Richards, are both well-known medical authors and journalists and experts in their own right in the field of sexual medicine and Clifford Hanley is a well-known Scottish author and playwright.

Whether distinguished and famous or not, the N.C.R.O.P.A. Committee

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whose credentials are impeccable, and indeed all its many supporters, are surely entitled to a considered reply and, respectfully, therefore may I repeat the request I made in my letter of 2nd December for replies to the ten questions I therein listed?

Finally, in order that you may become more fully acquainted with the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts, I am enclosing herewith one of our promotional leaflets which summarises our aims and aspirations.

Yours sincerely,

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

Copies to: The Editor, 'Luton Evening Post'
The Editor, 'The Luton News'