

~~CENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

NCROPA

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COMMITTEE – The Viscount Norwich, F.R.S.L., Gerald Fowler, M.A.Hon., F.A.B.E.,
E.A.C. Goodman, LL.B.(Sol), Clifford Hanley, Pamela Manson, Eric E. Miller,
Dr. Christine Pickard, M.B., Ch.B., Dr. Brian Richards, M.B., B.Ch., William J. Wright, B.A., M.A.I.E.
David Kennington

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

NEWS MEDIA RELEASE

The NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS (NCROPA) yesterday, 2nd March 1983, held its MEMBERS' GENERAL MEETING at the Conway Hall, London, W.C.1. Although the NCROPA has been in existence for seven years, this was the first full meeting for the membership.

The meeting was chaired by its legal adviser and Committee member EDWARD GOODMAN and, after the administrative, business side of the meeting was concluded, the founder and newly appointed Director of the NCROPA, formerly its Organiser, DAVID WEBB, presented his report.

DAVID WEBB traced the history of the NCROPA from its beginnings in 1976 and outlined its progress during the past seven years. He made no secret of the fact that, at present, the NCROPA could in no way be said to be winning. He maintained, however, at the opposition, albeit intense, often fanatical and certainly highly organised, was still a minority of public opinion and quite unrepresentative of the vast majority of the British people who were not intolerant bigots and puritans and not in favour of retaining our out-moded, restrictive and repressive censorship laws.

DAVID WEBB said that some entrepreneurs in the adult publications industry had been consistently generous in donating to the campaign's funds and he thanked them especially, but others, regrettably, with a similarly vested interest in bringing some sanity to our appalling censorship laws, had not contributed their fair shares or, in many cases, honoured completely unsolicited pledges of financial help. The campaign needed many more members and a recruiting drive would be launched.

He saw two main obstacles blocking NCROPA's forward progress towards the achievement of its aims. The first was the general lack of fair and balanced reporting in the media of side of the argument in the great censorship debate, and the second the

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unwillingness of M.P.s, even those known to support the NCROPA, to get involved with the issue in the public political arena. However much they agreed in principle privately, Mr. Webb thought that they were, in the main, either worried about potential dirty smear campaigns, such as the one seen recently in the Bermondsey By-election, deliberately incited by the moral fascists of the 'Puritan Brigade'; or, quite simply, arch hypocrites. We have to convince M.P.s, he said, that they would not be doing something unpopular by coming out against censorship and in favour of the freedom of choice for the individual, and that the electorate as a whole would, in fact, applaud them for their great good sense and honesty.

Finally DAVID WEBB savagely attacked the hypocrisy of the present Government and MARGARET THATCHER in particular. Not only had no action been taken to implement the findings of the WILLIAMS REPORT (the report of the Home Office Committee on Obscenity & Film Censorship), which had been gathering dust on the shelf for over three years, but much new and alarming censorship legislation had actually been enacted, added to the viciously repressive measures already on the statute book and was, horrifyingly, now law. And all this enacted by a Government which had the temerity to claim that the basis on which it makes all its decisions, is "the freedom of the individual". This was, he said, a complete sham and he feared that '1984' was already with us.

The meeting ended with an open discussion on the future strategy of the NCROPA, with the new Director, DAVID WEBB, assuring the members of the unflagging resolve of the Committee to increase the campaign's momentum and to fight on relentlessly, until their aims are achieved and the 'obscurity' of censorship is a thing of the past.

To coincide with the General Meeting, a booklet entitled "NCROPA IN ACTION" has been produced. This gives a brief resumé of just some of the NCROPA's activities and achievements during the past two years and a copy is enclosed herewith.

ENDS.

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For further information please contact DAVID WEBB on 01-730 9537 or 0582-22815