

HON DIRECTOR

David Kennington Litt.D.,

Elizabeth Goodfellow BA, Alexander Barrie AADipl, MAIE

NO/DAW/DP

8th September 1987

Michael Winner Esq.,
Chief Censorship Officer,
The Directors Guild of Great Britain,
c/o 6-8, Sackville Street,
Piccadilly,
London, W1X 1DD.

Dear Mr. Winner,

Congratulations on your splendid letter in "The Guardian" on Saturday in reply to Mary Whitehouse's of the previous day. I was about to send one on almost identical lines but yours rendered mine superfluous.

I have been meaning to write you for some time since I am surprised that the N.C.R.O.P.A. was not approached to be included in the Milton Committee, especially when, in your circulars, you have been asking present members to suggest other possible supporting organisations. However, we would like to become part of that important forum and if you are not the appropriate person to contact, perhaps you would be kind enough to let me know who is.

We are quite appalled to learn that Michael Grade has dropped his opposition to the extension of the Obscene Publications Acts to television and radio. I recall his filmed interview on BBC Television News on 19th February 1986, at the time of the Churchill Bill. When asked "Will you win the battle?", he replied "We have to". Whatever the reasons for his extraordinary 'about-face', I find it difficult to believe that a mere change of thought over his previously held implacable and unequivocal beliefs are any part of them.

Let us hope that the BBC Board of Governors and the Independent Broadcasting Authority, both of whom expressed their opposition to public service broadcasting being brought under the provisions of the O.P. Acts at the time of the Churchill Bill, are not, like Mr. Grade, also about to become turn-coats on this issue, and acquiesce with the Government's intentions. The N.C.R.O.P.A. is a non-partisan organisation and embraces supporters from all political persuasions. We have fought, and will continue to fight unnecessary censorship no matter who propounds it. It is however, surely ironic that the political party which proclaims the

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corner-stone of its whole philosophy as 'the freedom of the individual', is the one which presently so vigorously urging ever more censorship restrictions. We find that a saddening and disturbing thought.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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