



29th November 1988

David Webb
NCROPA
15 Sloane Court West
Chelsea
London SW3 4TD

Dear Mr Webb,

Michael Grade has handed to me your letter to him of 22nd November, and Gwynn Pritchard also passed on to me your letter of 10th October; my apologies at the outset for this rather belated reply.

To the first point, 'Right to Reply' is produced, in different weeks, by Andrea Collett and myself. As you recall, the interview which we recorded with you had to be dropped in the week in which it was recorded, when Ms Collett was producing. I looked at it the following week and decided it should be run; unfortunately Ms Collett was away when I took that decision and therefore was not able to pass on to me the substance of her conversation with you. Had I known of her agreement I would clearly have honoured it, and I regret the crossed wire.

However, I think in honesty I should add that had I known of the agreement, I would have also been reluctant to run your interview at all. This raises a wider editorial point about 'Right to Reply' which is, as you know, a viewers' programme. We were interested in your letter to Prince Charles not because it came from NCROPA but because it contained important arguments about television that deserved a hearing, which was why we agreed to record an interview rather than merely insisting that you use the Video Box.

But at the same time I would not wish to imply to our viewers that it was necessary to belong to an organisation to be heard on 'Right to Reply'. We value our contributors to 'Right to Reply' not because they have a platform but because they are viewers who have a voice that deserves to be heard; in other words, to 'Right to Reply' all viewers are equal: it would be a sad day if it became the territory of interest groups.

Cont/...

I'm sorry if this appears to you as censorship. I hope that, even at this late stage, you'll accept that it is the opposite: an approach intended to encourage the liveliest and noisiest of debates.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Curry".

ANDREW CURRY
Producer 'Right to Reply'