

HON. DIRECTOR

David Kennington Litt.D.,

Alexander Barrie AADipl, MATF, Isabel Koprowski BA

NO/DAW/DP

8th August 1988

Mrs. D. Fairest,

Sheffield,

Dear Mrs. Fairest,

Thank you for your letter of 3rd June, regarding my letter in the "Radio Times" about the BBC Television programme "Secret Services: The Prostitutes". I apologise for the delay in replying but your letter has only just reached me because of insufficient address.

I will try to answer the points you made ad seriatum.

(1) You^{are} confused. Far from pointing out "anything in it which was offensive", as you stated in your letter, I was showering the programme with compliments. Not that I would regard an element of so-called 'offensiveness' in any programme as a valid criterion for censoring it. In my view it is often a very good and even necessary thing to "offend" people. It helps to jolt their smugness.

(2) Again, I must correct you when you state that "women never go to prostitutes". They do. They may not be so openly referred to as such, but have you never heard of the 'gigolo'? Any visit to such places as the French Riviera, New York or Amsterdam will, provided you know where to look, confirm this, although you will find even greater difficulty in getting women to admit to such an association than men. Your notion of women being "the stronger sex" is, with respect, both irrelevant and inconsequential.

(3) What possible relevance can my own personal religious beliefs have on the portrayal of sex on television? Sex and the pursuit thereof is a perfectly normal, biologically instinctive and highly pleasurable activity and a crucial component of life (and for homosexuals I include homosexual activity in that.) Why shouldn't it be depicted, both implicitly and explicitly, in television and film programmes? Who is this ~~this~~ peculiar 'kill-joy' fellow called Jesus you write of who sits by your side and so haplessly censors your viewing pleasure? If he is the leader of that Christian cult, my non-membership of which you obviously lament, and which has cancelled out any good it may have done in the world by the harm it has perpetrated over the centuries, than I am delighted that I don't have anything to do with him.

(4) Although, like you, I would prefer to be "doing not watching" "raw sex scenes", as you so describe them, they certainly do not "frustrate" me. Rather they entertain, excite and sometimes sexually arouse me. They may provide vicarious pleasure,

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but in an unfair world, where so many, through no fault of their own, are denied the privilege of suitably compatible, readily available and mutually agreeable sexual partners, the next best thing is better than nothing, and at least acts as a harmless 'safety-valve' for inherent, human sexual energy.

It was kind of you to take the trouble to write to me and, although we obviously do not agree on many issues, I hope you will give my views, and the views of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA), your careful and rational consideration.

Yours sincerely,

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