



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

**N C R O P A**

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**FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP**

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HONORARY DIRECTOR - David Webb, R.A.D.A. Dip., 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London, SW3 4TD - Tel: 071-730 9537

NO/DAW/DP

16th October 1991

Sir Richard Attenborough, CBE,  
Chairman,  
Channel 4 Television Ltd.,  
60 Charlotte Street,  
London, W1P 2AX.

Dear Sir Richard,

I attended some of the 'fringe' meetings of the Conservative Party Conference at Blackpool last week, including two meetings of the National Viewers and Listeners' Association, on Wednesday the 9th and Thursday the 10th of October, which were addressed by Mrs. Mary Whitehouse as well as (on Thursday) Supt. Michael Hames, Head of the Metropolitan Police's Obscene Publications Dept.

Both these meetings, held in St. John's Church Hall, Cedar Square, Blackpool at 5.45 p.m. each day, began with a public screening of excerpts from Channel 4's "Sex and the Censors" programme and "W.R. - Mysteries of the Organism", also screened by your company in your "Banned" Season. Mary Whitehouse freely solicited the information at the Thursday meeting that she had herself video-recorded these programmes from your transmissions.

Without prior permission, Mrs. Whitehouse will, of course, have infringed the laws of copyright on these programmes by recording them and screening them publicly as I can personally confirm that she did. I feel sure you and your company will wish to investigate this matter further.

This is not the first occasion that Mrs. Whitehouse has recorded copyrighted material from TV programmes transmitted by public service broadcasting companies, and subsequently screened them to a public audience. She did so, for example, on 17th February 1987 when she screened extracts from both BBC and Channel 4TV programmes to members of the press, M.P.s and others in a House of Commons Committee Room. I wrote to your then Chairman, the Rt. Hon. Edmund Dell, on 4th March 1987, to inform him of Mrs. Whitehouse's action and to ask what action Channel 4 proposed to take against her. Your then Managing Director, Justin Dukes, replied on 12th March stating that in Channel 4's view "it would not .... serve any useful purpose to commence an action alleging breach of copyright by Mrs. Whitehouse, or people acting for her."

I and the NCROPA were both disappointed and puzzled by Mr. Duke's attitude and I wrote to tell him so on 16th March. Hopefully on this occasion, when the illegal practice appears to have been flagrantly repeated, you will not be so tolerant.

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COMMITTEE - Alexander Barre, A.A.Dipl. M.A.I.E.; Professor Gerald Fowler, M.A. (Hons.), F.A.B.E.; Ted Goodman, LL.B. (Sol.); Clifford Hanley; David Kennington, M.A. (Hons.), Litt.D., B.A. (Psy.); Isabel Koprowski, B.A.; Eric E. Miller; Tuppy Owens, B.Sc., Dip.H.S.; Dr. Christine Pickard, M.B., Ch.B.

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I am sure you will wish to pursue this matter vigorously. As an actor myself, I do not not take kindly to the illegal use of any of my TV appearances and neither will anyone involved in any of these programmes, nor, I am sure, those holding the copyright of any publicly screened material.

Yours sincerely,



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

P.S. Incidentally, we have met - just! I had the pleasure of meeting you very briefly at an Equity A.G.M. at the Adelphi Theatre many years ago when we were both serving members of the Equity Council. *D*

P.P.S. I am enclosing a copy of the piece which "The Stage and Television Today" ran in its edition of 19th March 1987, for your information. *D*

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