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13th May 1991

Dear David,

Thanks for your letter which I received this morning. I am sorry to hear about your mother's operation and other problems, it seems to me that people who take up a cause and fight for it are frequently the ones with the least amount of time to do so.

I have some good news from my own point of view - the DPP has decided not to take any further action against me. In one respect I am not surprised, as I had not personally published anything obscene, or in the remotest bit pornographic. On the other hand prosecution could have argued that I had helped others to publish "obscene" material, although not for gain, and I hadn't actually done anything more than any men's magazine, i.e. accept advertisements for it. I was worried that they could easily have decided to prosecute me for the hell of it, and even if the case had failed, which I think it would have done, it would have been most unpleasant in the meantime for myself and my wife to have had all this business dragged out in court and quite probably, knowing the lack of news our local rag has, reported in the press for all the neighbours to read. One of the problems is that people are so unaware about how restrictive the law is. If they hear that there has been a police raid they assume it must be child pornography or something like that.

Of course the police made me sign a statement to forfeit my videos and magazines. It was implied that I had the option to refuse, but this would have meant a further court appearance, which could possibly have led to the unpleasantness mentioned above. Quite honestly, the magazines I had were nothing more than a load of old men's magazines which I couldn't have cared a toss about. They even confiscated things like "Video World" which nobody could argue was pornographic, and things like "Forum" which looks at sex from a more intellectual point of view and doesn't even have any pictures in it. The videos were all "hard core" porno, some quite good ones as well, but they were all copies I had obtained for the price of a blank tape. Bloody waste of video cassettes though. Still, I can easily get some more.

Regarding my book, I can't resist the temptation to publish this myself since no publisher seems to wish to take it on board. I have bags and bags of enquiries from my previous enterprise which will give me plenty of scope to sell it by mail order. I know that they can't say that the book is obscene, there won't be anything remotely titilating in it, I shall make sure of that, although the advertising material for it makes it look decidedly risque, tacky and very tabloid in style. I have done this in the hope that it will sell the book, so that other people can learn from my own experiences.

Regarding the "1992 buiness", I wonder whether the defences have not already been seriously breached. Every month there are dozens of advertisements in men's magazines, video magazines and even Exchange & Mart from video companies

in Holland who sell completely uncensored videos. They get away with it by having a "secret agent" copying and despatching the tapes within the UK. There appears to be very little police or customs can do about it, although I know they seem to spend more time and money on trying to trace these firm's agents than they would if they were looking for KGB agents at the height of the cold war. From the look of it, they aren't having much success though. Even though these firms sometimes sell quite odd stuff my attitude is that it serves the government right for being so bloody small minded in the first place. I suppose that the Home Office could put a ban on all advertisements for pornographic material from abroad, but there are dozens of ways that these firms could get around it, and this is probably why they haven't bothered.

It strikes me that all the police activity is a waste of time, since the West Midlands Police Obscene Publications Squad have been raiding Birmingham's half a dozen sex shops for about fifteen years now, and they're still all selling hard core porno. It's all a terrible waste of public money. They ought to stick a tax on it like the French, and completely ban certain really nasty things. Then the police could get on with doing something more useful for the community than burning porno mags and videos.

Regarding my book, I have already written it, but I am going to send out the advertising material for it to see what sort of response I get before I actually get it printed. It will run to about 48 pages. If I get a good response I will have to really get moving. I will send a copy to you for Ted Goodman to ponder, but I think that time will require me to take his comments into account for a second edition.

Well, I shall have to close now and get on with some work. Many thanks for your moral support, and I look forward to sending you my book if the response is good.

Best Wishes,

