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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

HON. DIRECTOR - David Webb, 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London SW3 4TD - Tel:071-730 9537

COMMITTEE -David Kennington Litt.D., Gerald Fowler, M.A.Hon., F.A.B.E.,  
E.A.C. Goodman, LL.B.(Sol), Clifford Hanley, Eric E. Miller, Tuppy Owens, BSc, DipHS,  
Dr. Christine Pickard, M.B., Ch.B., Alexander Barrie AADipl, MAIE, Isabel Koprowski, BA

The N.C.R.O.P.A. is affiliated to the National Council for Civil Liberties

NO/DAW/DP

15th January 1991

The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker, M.P.,  
Secretary of State for the Home Department,  
Home Office,  
50 Queen Anne's Gate,  
London,  
SW1H 9AT.

*Ken Secretary of State,*

I do, of course, appreciate that your workload is a heavy one, but, in view of the very important implications of the findings of the recent Home Office Research Survey ("Pornography: impacts and influences"), and since I have not yet received a reply to my letter of 5th December last year, the need for a meeting between representatives of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) and yourself, to discuss this contentious matter, which I requested, is now all the more urgent.

We are especially concerned by your apparently dismissive response to the report and in particular by your comments on it published in the Home Office News Release of 20th December 1990. These comments are, with respect, nothing more than your own highly subjective, personal views. They do not stand up to objective, rational and intellectual challenge and the NCROPA totally rejects them. Neither do they indicate that you have much regard for freedom of choice, freedom of expression and freedom of the individual in anything like the measure our European partners have, nor, indeed, virtually all other 'free' countries of the Western World, where "pornography" (sexually explicit material) is rightly freely and legally available to those who want it - and there is nothing strange or unnatural in having an appetite for 'sex'!

Furthermore, your negative response to the report is an indirect but nevertheless extraordinary insult to the two distinguished academics whom you (the Home Office) had yourself commissioned to prepare it. It is yet another glaring example of the disgraceful double-standards employed by subsequent Governments in facing up to and dealing with

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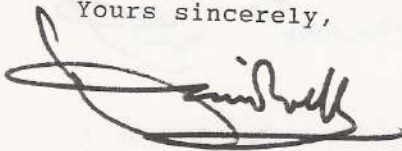
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this matter. Whatever happened to the 1979 Williams report, for instance, another classic example of an official Home Office investigation of "pornography" which has been rubbished and ignored simply because bigoted Governments, in their supreme arrogance and prejudice, refuse to accept its facts and findings? How many more reports, investigations and commissions do you need to put an end to this ridiculous farce?

I know, from the ever-increasing number who are contacting and joining the NCROPA, that the British people have had enough and are heartily sick of being 'nannied' by the State and denied the right to have sexually explicit material - which is harmless - if they so choose, like the vast majority of other 'civilised' countries. In a supposedly 'free society' it is a demand that should and must be met. Please, therefore, grant us a meeting with you to allow us to put forward our views to you, and discuss them, direct.

We shall look forward, hopefully, to your early reply.

Yours sincerely,



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