

~~CENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS N C R O P A

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP

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NO/DAW/DP

11th March 1992

The Rt. Hon. Neil Kinnock, M.P.,
Leader of H.M. Opposition,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London,
SW1A 0AA.

Dear Mr. Kinnock,

In 1976, when I was forming the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA), I wrote to you inviting you to become a founding member of its Executive Committee, because of your declared sympathies towards our aims and aspirations of freeing this country from the tyranny of censorship.

You replied on 16th February 1976 stating that you did uphold our views "and would happily associate myself with the Campaign". You did not feel, however, that you could take a very active part in our activities "simply because I have a fairly lengthy list of other pre-occupations. But you went on to say:-

"However, you can count on my support in the House of Commons if we should ever arrive at the state of amending the current Obscene Publications legislation."

Sixteen years and four Governments later (three of them, for the past thirteen years, Conservative) the Obscene Publications legislation is not only as firmly in place as ever, but has been extended to include cinema films and, by virtue of the Broadcasting Act 1990, television and radio also. Notwithstanding this prolific extension of its provisions, a number of other legislative measures have also been subsequently enacted by Parliament - e.g. the appalling Video Recordings Act 1984, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, the the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act 1982, as amended by the Cinemas Act 1985 - which, in various ways, add still more state censorship restrictions and prohibitions, and most astonishing of all, many politicians constantly cry out for even more repressive censorship legislation and the strengthening of our present draconian "obscene" publications laws!

It is an indisputable fact that the U.K. currently has more state censorship - certainly sexual censorship - than virtually all other European Community countries, than most other so-called 'free' West-

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COMMITTEE - Alexander Barrie, 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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ern World countries, and now, even, than many additional countries from the former Communist Eastern-Bloc régimes (Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Esat Germany, etc.).

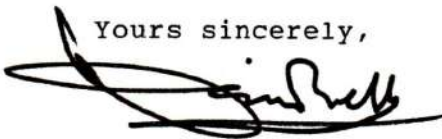
This is a wholly intolerable situation in what is laughingly described as a 'free society', and, moreover, a country which is a signatory to the right to 'freedom of expression' enshrined in both the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the European Convention on Human Rights (1953).

Although much of the strong backing for the draconian state censorship legislation the UK presently imposes on its citizens undoubtedly comes from the ranks of the extreme right wing of the Conservative Party, who quite disgracefully and hypocritically claim to be supporters of a Party philosophy based on 'freedom-of-the-individual', there is, very regrettably, also a disturbingly significant faction within the Labour Party which shares and supports their anti-libertarian views. At the centre of this faction is what the NCROPA regards as 'the unacceptable face of feminism' - those women politicians who seek to suppress (censor) by force of law any form of sexual expression of which they personally do not approve. That is a form of tyranny which does your Party no credit, your Party's cause much damage, and your Party's potential vote great harm. Whilst the NCROPA welcomes the Labour Party's concern for equal rights and opportunities, it condemns any 'unequal' and inappropriate special discriminatory approach to the control of sexual publications, of the kind promulgated in your policy document "A New Ministry for Women". We believe the Labour Party has not really thought this through properly and should be very careful indeed before it commits itself to legal curbs on the freedom of expression simply to appease a comparatively small but unrepresentative group of militant, dictatorial extreme feminists.

The NCROPA will be advising its supporters - and there are millions! - to vote only for those candidates who support the general removal of the UK's intolerable present censorship restrictions, which will bring us into line with the rest of our European partners, where true 'freedom-of-expression' prevails and where consenting adults are free as-of-right to choose for themselves what they see, read and hear.

You have already told us that you agree with our philosophy and aims. Please now, therefore, use the influence of your prestigious position as Party Leader to persuade any dissenters, and publicly back us by including a firm commitment in your Election Manifesto to ridding this increasingly depressing and repressed country of the curse of state censorship. There are, I assure you, many votes in this but they will only be cast for your Party's candidates, if your Party supports us!

Yours sincerely,



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