

~~CENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

NCROPA

FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP

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

NO/DAW/DP

19th October 1992

Ms. Barbara Mills, QC,
Director of Public Prosecutions,
Crown Prosecution Service Headquarters,
4-12 Queen Anne's Gate,
London, SW1H 9AZ.

Dear Ms. Mills,

Re: "Sex" by Madonna

According to the press and media, the police have referred the above-named book (prior to its U.K. publication) to you for consideration for possible criminal proceedings against it under the Obscene Publications Act 1959, should publication go ahead here as planned. The police action is allegedly in response to a complaint from Nicholas Winter-ton, M.P. for Macclesfield.

The NCROPA strongly urges you to ignore the dictatorial, repressive, 'nannyist' rantings of this notoriously fuddy-duddy M.P. and his O.P. Squad 'poodles' - not because we vehemently disagree with their views, but because the law does not require action against this publication.

Not only will the matter contained in it not "deprave and corrupt persons who are likely, having regard to all relevant circumstances, to read see or hear" it; but no-one, anywhere, is, or ever will be, able to determine whether or not a particular article is capable of depraving or corrupting anyone. It is a human impossibility, as any rational, thinking person will readily ascertain.

This supremely logical determination has often been expounded and by many wiser heads than mine. For example, in his evidence to the Arts Council of Great Britain's Working Party on the Obscenity Laws in 1968, Professor R.M. Jackson, Downing Professor of the Laws of England at the University of Cambridge, said:-

"The supposed depravity and corruption produced by obscene articles is a matter of conjecture. No hard evidence can be put forward, for nobody can demonstrate that anybody has ever been depraved or corrupted by a particular obscene article. A decision that an article would have such a tendency is based entirely upon opinion unsupported by verifiable facts." *

The U.K.'s 'obscurity' laws are an absurd, unjust and viciously repressive anachronism. They do not, however, need re-drafting. They

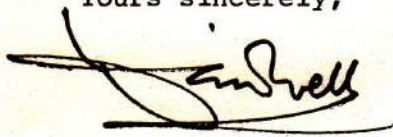
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need scrapping - just as they have been scrapped in virtually all other countries of the so-called 'free' world.

There simply cannot be a 50% chance of securing a conviction regarding this publication, which is, I understand, the test you apply, and certainly neither would such a prosecution be in the public interest. Please, therefore, refuse to sanction such a course of action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David Webb', with a stylized flourish underneath.

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

* "The Obscenity Laws", published by André Deutsch 1969.