

# SEXUAL FREEDOM COALITION

## MINUTES OF LAW PETITION WORKING GROUP

WED.19TH FEB 1997

ATTENDANCE Helen Buckingham Tuppy Owens, Tim Summers, Ted Goodman, Jeff Rosson

2 John Blanford's considerations of draft S F B section 18 approved.

SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT SECTIONS 30&31; J B considered that protection of minors required that we add to items 12,13,&22 the words "FOR PERSONS OVER THE AGE OF CONSENT" agreed

### STREET OFFENCES ACT

HELEN noted the unpleasant aspects of the S O A

1) The opinion of one policeman and his cautions can put a person on record for life.

2) Street trade is unwanted and inappropriate.

3) We should remove the sexual components of the act.

Ted suggested that mischief is adequately dealt with by laws against nuisance and obstruction.

Proposal that we "TRANSFER S O A out of schedule 1 to REPEALS in front of the PUBLIC ORDER ACT. agreed

### PROTECTION OF CHILDREN ACT.

J B considered "indecent" is very wide, "conduct unbecoming" e.g. nudity; "obscene means likely to deprave and corrupt.

Add to "Explanatory note" after photos "e.g. Julia Somerville Case"

The legal definition of obscene is in line with the rest of the European Union

Final paragraph, last line; add "which" is the case in other parts .....

Page 6 ;Add to explanatory note Obscene Publications Act 1959 and 1964 these words;

"Its repeal was recommended by the Home Office Professor Williams Report on Obscenity and Film Censorship(CMMD7772)which concluded that the Act was unworkable Agreed

SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT add the words "relating to persons above the age of consent" to sections 1,2a,4,5,&6 Agreed

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (PAGE 7) Section 27 add the sentence; "This repeal would allow Local Authorities for example, to stock books about homosexuality in their libraries"

Explanatory note; This will allow freedom of choice to each viewer, instead of a blanket prohibition of certain types of programme" agreed

(Page 10) double underline each law e.g. Blasphemous libel ADD "As a guiding principle, the criminal law should only prohibit behaviour that harms others

The Home Office Professor Williams Report on Obscenity and Film Censorship(CMMD7772)concluded that sexual legislation should define who is trying to protect whom, from what and why.

The U K is one of the only countries in the western world that retains state censorship. In 1993 the Home Secretary publicly confirmed that Britain has some of the strictest censorship laws in the world

Agreed

INTERNET The Association of London Government Conference on Policing the Internet was noted and a full report will be prepared. In Singapore, all Internet is vetted through one office, but Jeff considered this to be unsuccessful.

S F C MEDIA GROUP will set up a Web Site with Ian Howard.

Tuppy will prepare a synopsis of the S F C to be checked by Ted. Synopsis can then be generally available, e.g. in Consenting Adult but the S F C Bill will be embargoed until 21st June 1997 Agreed

The Mid Summers Nights Dream--Sexual Freedom Parade will be on the next agenda.

Helen will contact soon lawyers involved with the Kerb -Crawling issue

Date of next meeting by arrangement in March 1997.