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15th. May 1977

Dear Sir Michael Havers Q.C.,

thank you very much for your letter of the 12th. May. It was very kind of you to write a personal reply. I am surprised to find that I agree with almost everything you say in ~~it~~^{it}.

I agree that pornographic films should be confined to adults-only clubs and pornographic publications to adults-only bookshops. This is what happens on the Continent. In West Germany and the Netherlands, for instance, pornographic films are prohibited in public cinemas. They are confined to adults-only clubs in recognised "red light" districts, as are sex-shops, sex-theatres, prostitutes and the like. In Istanbul, as in other Turkish towns, the entrance to the recognised "red light" district is guarded by a police post to prevent children and respectable women from entering.

The trouble in the United Kingdom is that no such logical scheme exists^{here}. Thus, instead of having proper recognised places for such things, pornographic publications are sold in sweetshops. However this is the result of the actions of the authorities. The efforts of the Metropolitan Police have resulted in the closure of most of the pornographic bookshops in Soho. Now the Metropolitan Police are prosecuting film clubs there. Thus, without a recognised outlet for such things, they move to suburban residential areas. In fact two years ago the residents of part of Southampton petitioned the then Home Secretary (Roy Jenkins) to declare part of the town a "red light" district so that everyone knew where they stood. On the Continent people who are revolted by pornography and prostitution keep out of the recognised "red light" districts. In the United Kingdom no such system exists, resulting in confusion and annoyance.

Regarding the political leanings of people who watch pornographic films and/or buy pornographic publications, several surveys have been carried out in this country, in the U.S.A. and in Denmark. These surveys show that the great majority of "consumers" of pornography are middle-aged middle-class males from the "conservative" voting socio-economic group. The following psychologist has given talks about this subject at public meetings. He is better qualified than ~~me~~ I to answer any questions you may have about it: Maurice Yaffe of Guy's Hospital whose address is 8 Wyneham Road, Herne Hill, London S.E.24. He is abroad until the 20th. June.

Yours sincerely, E.A.C. Goodman, LL.B.