

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REPEAL  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

ORGANISER — David Webb, 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London SW3 4TD — Daytime 01-828 3016  
Tel: 01-730 9537  
COMMITTEE — Lord Norwich, Clement Freud, M.P., Dr. Brian Richards, Clifford Hanley, Eric Miller, William J. Wright,  
Bernard Brick, John Sussams., G.T. Fowler, M.P., Dr. Christine Pickard,  
E.A.C. Goodman, LL.B. (Sol.), Pamela Manson.

NO/DAW/DP

PRESS INFORMATION

The NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REPEAL OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS has written to the Home Secretary to express its concern over the Leader of the Opposition's recent attempt to persuade him to introduce new so-called "obscene" publications legislation before the findings of the recently appointed Williams Committee are made known. This is not expected to be for at least two years.

MR. DAVID WEBB, the National Organiser, has requested an urgent meeting with the Home Secretary to discuss the matter.

A copy of the text of the letter is enclosed herewith.

Issued on Wednesday, 14th September, 1977 at 1100 hrs.

For further information please contact Mr. David Webb on 01-730 9537 (Home) or 01-828 3016 (Office) or, until 16th Sept., 01-743 8000 (BDCTV Reh. Rooms)

~~GENCENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REPEAL  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

ORGANISER — David Webb, 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London SW3 4TD — Tel: 01-730 9537  
COMMITTEE — Lord Norwich, Clement Freud, M.P., Dr. Brian Richards, Clifford Hanley, Eric Miller, William J. Wright,  
Bernard Brick, John Sussams, G.T. Fowler, M.P., Dr. Christine Pickard,  
E.A.C. Goodman, LL.B.(Sol.), Pamela Hanson.

NO/DAN/DP

14th September, 1977.

The Rt. Hon. Merlyn Rees, M.P.,  
Home Secretary,  
50, Cedar Drive,  
Hatch End,  
Pinner, Middlesex.

Dear Mr. Rees,

It is reported that the Leader of the Opposition has written to you asking you to consider immediate changes in the so-called "obscenity" laws, as a result of pressure exerted upon her by Mrs. Mary Whitehouse who has, true to form, been busily and mischievously stirring up trouble about the virtually mythical use of children in pornography in this country. We request that you do not accede to such a request for to do so would destroy the credibility of the Williams Committee which you have appointed and which has already begun its deliberations on these laws.

Mrs. Thatcher's request is very surprising because the anti-pornography laws in this country are amongst the strictest in Western Europe. "Pornography" has been legalised in most of the West European countries (e.g. Denmark in 1967, Sweden and the Netherlands in 1968, West Germany, Italy and Portugal in 1974 and France in 1975).

The United Kingdom is one of the only countries in Western Europe which still jails people for "pornography" offences. Recently, for example, Mr. John Barby was sentenced to five years imprisonment at Ipswich Crown Court for importing publications which are perfectly lawful on the Continent. Such imprisonments are contrary to the European Convention on Human Rights of which the United Kingdom is a signatory.

It is also reported that Mrs. Whitehouse has asked for a meeting with yourself or a Home Office Minister. Mrs. Whitehouse's only "official" capacity is that of Honorary Secretary to the National Viewers & Listeners Association. Since I have never yet seen any "child pornography" on British television, and neither has she or any of her members, her prurient interest in the subject must be regarded as obsessively personal and her arrogant demand for a meeting will, we trust, be treated with the contempt it deserves.

The N.C.R.C.P.A., on the other hand, is a much more interested party and, as its National Organiser and therefore its chief spokesman, representing the views of its many supporters, I am a much more appropriate person to request such a meeting with you. I earnestly hope that you will grant my request at an early opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

David Webb, Organiser,  
National Campaign for the Repeal of the Obscene Publications Acts