

NO/DAM/DP

26th November, 1981.

Ron Coleman, Esq.,

Gold Star Publications Ltd.,

Gadeline House,

2, Godstone Road,

Whyteleafe,

Surrey.

Dear Ron,

You may remember that I sent you a letter on 12th September, explaining our precarious financial situation and appealing for help. I do appreciate, of course, that there is a natural reluctance, on the part of those in the business, to contribute to a campaign where there is, perhaps, a feeling that not all those who should and could, are paying their fare shares. This is, I know, a problem.

However, I have today received a cheque for £200.00 from Conegate Ltd. and last week John Lindsay's company sent a cheque for £250.00. This will indicate to you, I hope, that others are coming to our aid, that we certainly don't expect you to bear the burden alone but that you will wish to follow their example.

I do not need to tell you, of all people, how desperately necessary it is for every possible pressure, from every possible quarter, to be exerted on the powers-that-be at such a critical time. I am horrified at the present GLC's endorsement of the inclusion of the Westminster City Council's proposals for the licensing of sex shops in the next Greater London Council (General Powers) Bill, which goes to Parliament tomorrow, especially since I wrote to all 92

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members urging them to oppose this measure, as well as engaging in extensive correspondence with Ken Livingstone and other Councillors, including Simon Turney, Chairman of the Public Services and Fire Brigade Committee. Both he and Ken Livingstone had assured me that it was not the intention of the present administration at County Hall to implement put-coded and repressive censorship restraints. You and I, and anyone else with even a modicum of intelligence, know full well that, whatever may be claimed otherwise, this is a censorship measure in disguise - and, having obtained a copy of the draft Bill, a censorship measure of alarmingly authoritarian proportions.

We have sent our objections to the Bill in general (since, obviously, we reject the concept of licences for sex shops per se), as well as, in particular, giving a detailed résumé of our specific objections to individual clauses. The Solicitor and Parliamentary Officer of the GLC, Mr. J.R. Fitzpatrick, has promised to consider these in consultation with the London Boroughs Association but, in any case, we have already begun the procedure for petitioning against the Bill in Parliament, which is a prerogative with a Private Bill of this nature. This means that we shall appear in person, hopefully with Counsel, before the Parliamentary Committee to put our case against the Bill.

We also had another meeting with officials at the Home Office on 2nd Oct., at their invitation, to give our views on possible legislation concerning private commercial cinema clubs, which would, if enacted, effectively render them all illegal at a stroke. Not even a hint, of course, of any general, comprehensive liberalisation legislation, in the wake of the Williams Report - or rather, more than two years after the Williams Report!

It is all most alarming and depressing, I fear, but I am convinced it can, and will be effectively checked - but only if the necessary financial backing is found to do so. I only hope that everyone whom is in sympathy with our cause, will have the perception to respond positively and immediately, before it is all too late.

With very best wishes (and I do hope you are prospering in spite of all the setbacks),

Yours sincerely,

David Webb, Organiser, N.C.R.O.P.A.