COPY OF ERIC MILLES LETTER



NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

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17th January 1984.

The Rt. Hon. Peter Lloyd M.P. House of Commons, Westminster, SWIA OAA.

17. Burroway Road. Langley, Berks. SL3 8EH.

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

re: The Cinematograph (Amendment) Act 1982.

In your last letter of the 7th April 1982 you suggested a further opportunity for discussion would arise when we would be seeing how your Bill works out in practice.

I feel the time has now arisen with the last of the present applications being heard last week as I am now in a position to let you have a list of the Clubs previously operating and the result of their hearings - which rather speaks for itself.

It is now just over ten years since the first of the Soho Cinema Clubs (The Queens Cine Club) showing genuine 'Hard Core' sexually explicit films commenced operatingand many others started up afterwards.

Despite countless raids over the years by the Police and the impounding of thousands of 8m.m. films, pending possible prosecutions under the Obscene Publications Acts, none of the Clubs were forced to close and when cases were heard by Juries the greater majority returned 'Not Guilty verdicts.

In all this time I (and many hundreds of thousands of others) have had the freedom of choice to see this type of film, if I se wished, but with the advent of the above Bill the picture has been dramatially changed and I am no longer able to see these films and it is now apparant the Bill is prohibitory and not regulatory (the G.L.C. Licencing Committee and the Police rade certain of this).

The latest move by the Government, via the Home Office (via Graham Bright this time) is the Video Censorship Bill and the Nett result will be pre-censorship of video cassettes which adults may hire or purchase for viewing in the privacy of their own homes (1984 HAS arrived). Children and video 'nasties' was the smokescreen used to impose yet further censorship on this country and no Member of Parliment has been 'bright' enough to see through this and all have been led like cattle. I can only hope that this will, one day, dawn upon the General Public who will suddenly realize why Mrs. Thatcher awarded Mary Whitehouse for her 'services' to the country.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that London is the only capital in Western Europe where genuine (not soft core) sexually explicit films CANNOR be shown to the public and I am advised the latest available figures for W. Germany show a figure of 150 Cinemas licenced for the showing of hard core films and a figure of 650 licenced sex shops (where the goods sold are the genuine article).

I have had the pleasure of visiting Hamburg three times in recent years and what a pleasure that has been. There one has the



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freedom of choice - which certainly cannot be said of the U.K. (or Eastern Germany, the U.S.S.R. or their Satellites) and, with a great deal of bitterness, I ponder the fact I served with H.M. Forces for the period 1939-1946 in the cause of freedom yet it is the Germans (Western) who have this freedom of choice.

In respect of the E.E.C. we are the odd man out(it is, of course, the other European countries who are out of step) and it is only in the U.K. that people are serving terms of imprisonment for crimes!!!! under the O.P. Acts (the latest victims being the majority of the members of the Holloway family).

The Tories appear to be determined to re-impose Victorian morality upon the public which, in view of their substantial majority in the House,

I view with the gravest concern.

I will be very interested to learn of your reactions and reply to this letter and I confirm that if you so wish I would be only too pleased to accompany you around Soho to enable you to appreciate the area has been turned into a gigantic 'rip off' joint for unsuspecting tourists and I am no longer able to see the films which were available to me during the period 1973-1983.

Yours sincerely,

Eric E. Miller.