

~~CENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

N C R O P A

HON. DIRECTOR— David Webb, 15 Sloane Court West, Chelsea, London SW3 4TD — Tel: 01-730 9537

COMMITTEE — David Kennington, Litt.D. Gerald Fowler, M.A.Hon., F.A.B.E.,
E.A.C. Goodman, LL.B.(Sol), Clifford Hanley, Pamela Manson, Eric E. Miller,
Dr. Christine Pickard, M.B., Ch.B., Dr. Brian Richards, M.B., B.Ch., William J. Wright, B.A., M.A.I.E.

The N.C.R.O.P.A. is affiliated to the National Council for Civil Liberties

NO/DAW/DP

9th February, 1985

Richard Simmonds, Esq., M.E.P.,
Woodlands Farm,
Cookham Dean,
Maidenhead,
Berks..

John M. Simmonds,

Thank you for your letter of 30th January in reply to mine of 22nd January.

I am sorry that you found the tone of my letter "offensive". It was certainly not intended to be so, nor do I for one minute accept that it was. When politicians reply to letters of mine in the way that you have I always know that I have touched a raw nerve but am right on target, if you will forgive me for mixing my metaphors. I have learnt from the experience of running this campaign for the past nine years that this is a favourite device correspondents use for evading the issue I have raised and giving a straight answer.

The British Conservative Party (of which, as I understand it, you are a member although that political label is not attached to you in Strasbourg) must really desist from presenting itself as the 'freedom of the individual' party. Quite clearly it is not. The hypocrisy and humbug that is constantly flaunted by Conservatives on the censorship issue (and ^{freedom from} censorship is a vital element in any 'freedom of the individual' philosophy) is becoming daily more sickening, as the catalogue of pro-censorship legislation enacted during the years of present Tory rule clearly bears out. It is high time this great Tory 'con' was exposed for what it is.

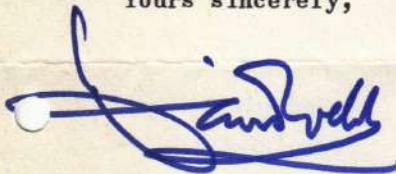
With regard to supporters or ours who live in your constituency, people who join an organisation like the N.C.R.O.P.A. do so to throw their support behind the campaigning measures being undertaken collectively on everyone's behalf. They desire and expect lobbying to be carried out for the cause whenever and wherever appropriate. As an M.E.P. you are an appropriate and legitimate target of such lobbying in this instance. The fact that your European Parliament constituents have not contacted you personally is immaterial. In any case, I sincerely hope that you are not gullible enough to fall for the "number of letters" game that so many other politicians play. The receipt of, let us say, a hundred letters from the pro-censorship lobby and only one from

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the anti-censorship lobby would certainly not necessarily reflect an accurate cross-section of opinion amongst your constituents as a whole and such an interpretation would be naive to say the least. In any case, with dangerously subversive organisations around like the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association with mischievous and devious leaders like Mrs. Mary Whitehouse, the inaccurate and hysterical propaganda disseminated by the pro-censorship lobby is as dishonest as it is prolific.

I am afraid that I am unable to rephrase my remarks "appropriately" as your letter requested, if I am to qualify for a copy of your report. I am satisfied that they were phrased appropriately enough in my previous letter. May I, therefore, simply repeat them and once again ask if you "would be kind enough to send me a copy"? After all you did promise it to me some fourteen months ago.

Yours sincerely,



David Webb,
Honorary Director,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts