

davidwebb

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15, Sloane Court West,
Chelsea,
London, SW3 4TD.

29th May, 1985.

The Viscount Norwich,
24, Blomfield Road,
London, W.9.

Dear Lord Norwich,

As a member of the Campaign Against Censorship, in January 1984 I drew the attention of its Committee to your disagreement with the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts' opposition to the Video Recordings Bill and your resignation from the N.C.R.O.P.A.'s Committee for that very reason and which you had tendered to me in your letter of 5th December 1983.

Since the C.A.C.'s attitude to the Video Recordings Bill was similarly one of total opposition and identical to that of the N.C.R.O.P.A., it was only logical that you should, and would, immediately resign your sponsorship of that organisation. I had, you may remember, drawn your attention to this in my letter to you of 30th January 1984 and I had further suggested that, to be consistent, you should also send a copy of that resignation letter to Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, a member of Standing Committee 'C' at the House of Commons, exactly in the same disgracefully mischievous way you had sent him a copy of your N.C.R.O.P.A. resignation letter. You made no reply to that suggestion and neither did you resign your sponsorship of the C.A.C. I therefore raised the issue again with C.A.C. Committee members (two of which also serve on the Committee of the N.C.R.O.P.A., and I, myself, was pressed to serve on it when it was inaugurated, but I declined because of the pressure of my N.C.R.O.P.A. ^{work} amongst other reasons). The C.A.C. Committee agreed that you should be asked to account for your extraordinary double-think on this matter.

When I raised the matter yet again at the C.A.C. Annual General Meeting on 18th May 1984, I was informed that you had only been written to about it a week earlier. Incidentally the long delay in pursuing you about this was heavily criticised by the Chairman of that A.G.M., the then President of the C.A.C., Sir Roy Shaw, who has, alas, subsequently resigned from that post.

On 12th June 1984 I was informed by the Secretary of the C.A.C. that you had replied to her letter but that you denied that there was any difference between your views and the C.A.C.'s. That was an extraordinarily dishonest reply by any standards and, frankly, insulting. I immediately sent a copy of your N.C.R.O.P.A. resignation letter to the C.A.C. (two can play at that game!) and as a result, its Chairman, Dr. Kerr was instructed by the Committee to write to you again. I gather he failed to do so until very recently, after being further pressed by the Committee and myself.

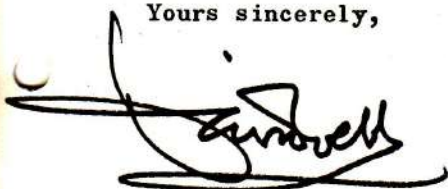
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At this year's C.A.C. Annual General Meeting, on 9th May, we were informed that you had totally ignored this further letter.

Neither I, nor a great many other members of the C.A.C., wish to be associated with a campaign sponsored by hypocrites and we are determined to bring to an end the shabby practice whereby public figures, especially Parliamentarians, publicly but fraudulently espouse libertarian causes when it suits their particular purposes, but shun them when it does not.

It is now nearly eighteen months since this matter was first raised. Will you please, therefore, do the decent thing and either declare an honest commitment to the anti-censorship cause and renounce your erstwhile backing for the iniquitous Video Recordings Act, or resign as a sponsor of a campaign you otherwise patently do not support? We have trouble enough fighting 'the enemies without', without fighting 'the enemies within'.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Webb', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

David Webb.