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29th May, 1985.

Mrs. Margaret Beckett, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London, SW1A 0AA.

Dear Mrs. Beckett,

As a member of the Campaign Against Censorship, I wrote to its Chairman, Dr. David Kerr, on 15th November 1983 to express my horror that, four days before, on 11th November, and one day following on a specially convened meeting of the C.A.C. which was held at the House of Commons on 10th November to discuss and mobilise the Campaign's total opposition to the Video Recordings Bill, you, a listed sponsor of the Campaign, had strongly supported the Bill in a speech you made in the House of Commons. In view of this diametrically opposed view of the Bill you were taking, I called for the immediate removal of your name from the list of sponsors.

On 17th November 1983, as you will remember, it so happened that you and I both took part in the Channel 4 TV "Right To Reply" programme, which was transmitted the following evening. You and Tory M.P. Jerry Hayes were representing those in favour of the Bill and David Kerr and myself, in my capacity as Honorary Director of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts, were representing those against it. During the course of that programme, which I 'taped', I challenged you about the completely contradictory stances you had adopted - on the one hand declaring your strong support for a ruthlessly authoritarian censorship Bill, whilst on the other declaring your support for an anti-censorship organisation which expressly and openly deplored the measure. After some prevarication on your part I put it to you that you shouldn't be a sponsor of the Campaign Against Censorship at all. You replied "Alright then. Let them take me off. I don't mind".

Notwithstanding that devastating exposé and your re-action to it, you still made no move formally to withdraw your sham sponsorship and, unfortunately, Dr. Kerr allowed the matter to lapse even though his Committee had agreed you should be asked to account for your extraordinary double-think on this matter.

I raised the issue again at the C.A.C.'s Annual General Meeting on 18th May 1984 and was informed that you had been written to about a week earlier. Incidentally, the long delay in writing to you about this matter was heavily criticised by the Chairman of that meeting, its President Sir Roy Shaw, who has subsequently resigned from that post.

On 12th June 1984 I was informed by the Secretary of the C.A.C. that you had replied but that you did not have time to write and explain yourself because

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you were now a front bench 'spokesperson'. What discourtesy and arrogance! The C.A.C. Committee, like myself, quite properly found your reply both extraordinary and unacceptable and Dr. Kerr was instructed to write to you again. I gather he failed to do so until very recently after being further pressed by the Committee and myself.

At this year's A.G.M. on 9th May, we were informed that you had ignored this further request.

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 politicians, publicly but fraudulently espouse libertarian causes when it suits their particular purpose, but shun them when it does not.

It is now more than 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 of the 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'David Webb', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

David Webb.