

MARGARET M. BECKETT, M.P.



7 June 1985

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

David Webb  
15 Sloane Court West  
London SW3 4TD

Dear David Webb

I am sorry that you appear to be under the impression that there is an outstanding letter from the Campaign Against Censorship to which I have not replied. It does seem as if this letter much have gone astray since I am certainly not aware of there being such an unanswered letter.

I am sorry that if you feel that I have been either discourteous or arrogant in my treatment of the campaign, since I was entirely unaware of the strong feelings to which you referred. Nor, I must admit, do I recall writing to your secretary explaining that I was totally inundated with work at that time and unable to deal with a matter which ~~he~~ had raised with me, but since you tell me that I had done so, I suppose that that must be the case. I had certainly again not intended to offend but merely to explain that my workload is such and certainly was such at that moment of time that to sit down and give a thoughtful reply on an issue of this importance as opposed to rushing off replies to the many desperate individuals who write seeking the Labour Party's help in the dire poverty to which our social security system has reduced them, was something that took a slightly second place.

However, the main point is that you inform me of something of which I was not previously aware, that there are apparently strong feelings in the Committee. As I said to you on the programme in which we took part, I am of course more than happy to resign as a sponsor of the campaign and am only sorry that you did not bother to ring me up much earlier and say that this was something which you were hoping or expecting me to do. I must admit I was vaguely under the impression that the question had lapsed and that my resignation was not sought. Incidentally you seem to be under the impression that Members of Parliament actively seek sponsorship. Far from this being the case, I am constantly embarrassed by the string of organisations which I am asked to sponsor and who usually appear very anxious for their part to obtain



the names of MPs to be associated with their campaign. I  
am pleased to discover that there is one organisation  
at least which is quite happy not to have some of ~~this~~ <sup>us</sup>.

Regards

Margaret Beckett.

Margaret M Beckett