

HON DIRECTOR

David Kennington Litt.D.,

Elizabeth Goodfellow BA,

NO/DAW/DP

17th September, 1986

Derek Roberts, Esq.,
198, Sherwood Park Road,
Mitcham,
Surrey, CR4 1NF.

Thank you for your letter of 19th August.

First of all, I am very sorry that you have not been sent the NCROPA promotion leaflets you asked for at the A.G.M. I thought I had asked another of our number to take on that task but obviously I had not and the fault is, therefore, entirely mine.

With regard to responding to your earlier letters of 11th and 26th March, I can only say that, at that time, and as you will remember, I was up to my eyes in fighting the Churchill Bill. Without wishing to dramatise or blow my own trumpet, I really flogged myself silly over that. It was absolutely exhausting but, and as you will also appreciate, so very worthwhile when the Bill was finally scotched and the NCROPA was able to notch up its first parliamentary win in its ten years existence.

I wrote personalised letters to all 650 M.P.s (copy of that letter enclosed herewith) as well as, in co-operation with Ted Goodman, supplying, as requested, suggested detailed amendments which were also intended to obstruct and delay the Bill's passage. I worked in close liaison with Alf Dubs, the Labour Home Affairs spokesman opposing the Bill and the plan of action worked admirably with the Bill eventually being technically "talked out". Obviously I would have preferred it to be defeated on a straight vote but (and I don't have to tell you this) Parliament - and parliamentarians - work in a very mysterious way.

The stress of it all did, however, take its toll and adversely affected the hypertension and angina (mild) with which I've suffered for the past three years. I was told to "cool it" by my doctor and, in consequence, letters like yours very regrettably were not attended to, although that does not mean that their messages were lost. Furthermore Ted Goodman had a brief spell in hospital himself and his wife has been having problems with her current pregnancy; whilst Eric Miller's wife died from Multiple Sclerosis and this affected him surprisingly badly.

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In fact I do see "The Guardian" every day and had seen Donald Room's letter. You certainly have a point when you suggest that more should be made of what he was stating. However, we have aired this view on a number of occasions. Mrs. W. always dismisses Berl Kutchinsky's findings by maintaining that sex crimes in Denmark have naturally diminished because many previous sex offences are so no longer. Kutchinsky has, I think, countered her contention.

What we really need is more factual information on the subject from some of the liberated European Governments, like Denmark, Holland, West Germany and France. We are trying to obtain it through their respective London embassies, but it is anything but easy, I do assure you. We will keep trying and I will let you know the outcome.

Your stalwart support of what the NCROPA is trying to do, recently under some unfortunate circumstances, is, you know, greatly appreciated, as are your letters and suggestions. I will certainly endeavour to ensure that in future they do not go unanswered for so long. I know how maddening that can be but do hope that this time you will understand why it has occurred and forgive me.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

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

Encs.