

HON. DIRECTOR

David Kennington Litt.D.,

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NO/DAW/DP

29th September 1989

James Whale, Esq.,
"The James Whale Radio Show",
Yorkshire Television Ltd.,
The Television Centre,
Leeds,
LS3 1JS.

National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts

I was both surprised and disappointed that you did not invite a spokesperson from the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) to take part in your programme on "pornography" on Friday last, 22nd September.

The NCROPA, as you will see from the enclosed promotional leaflet, is passionately committed to fighting for drastic reforms of the U.K.'s draconian, repressive and antiquated censorship laws, which would bring us into line with virtually all other countries of the so-called 'free' Western World, who have long since rejected the kind of 'nannyist', censor-obsessed society with which we are still saddled.

Although you made a good many highly pertinent points which reflected our own views on this issue, and although I appreciate that the programme-format you employ requires a light approach, there were many statements made, especially by Diane Core from "Childwatch", which were quite unfounded, factually inaccurate and, in a word, untrue. These ought to have been challenged and her fallacious and irrational beliefs exposed. Unfortunately they were not and she was allowed to get away with presenting her views largely as though they were indisputable testimony from heaven.

In the course of the programme you mentioned that you'd had difficulty in getting "anti-pornography" protagonists to agree to participate. Perhaps that is why you felt obliged to give one who had consented to appear an easy ride. My view, however, is that these busy-bodying kill-joys are not entitled to the kid-glove treatment they usually receive, when the real reason for their reluctance in coming forward in such circumstances is that they know their arguments will not stand up to proper scrutiny and reasoned debate, based as they are on blind prejudice and emotion.

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On the other hand, our case, the N.C.R.O.P.A.'s case, is, we contend, unanswerable. Nevertheless in the media we are rarely permitted a proper opportunity for presenting this case, and in television especially.

We very much hope, therefore, that if and whenever you cover this subject again, or indeed any other subject relevant to our campaign and cause, you will allow us such an opportunity and thereby begin helping to redress the ever-increasing bias and imbalance surrounding media coverage of the contentious issue of sexual censorship.

Yours sincerely,

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

P.S. Please continue to resist any censorship of your own programme, from whatever direction it comes (limited though I appreciate you are by the provisions of the 1981 Broadcasting Act) but please, also, dismiss the idea that people like myself, heavily involved in the running of a law reform campaign, will make for the dreaded "bland" kind of broadcasting you so abhor and which you articulated to a "Guardian" journalist recently. I hope the enclosed copy of my lengthy letter to Diane Core will demonstrate this.

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