

~~CENSORED~~

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM  
OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS  
**N C R O P A**

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**FIGHTING SEXUAL CENSORSHIP**

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NO/DAW/DP

16th November 1993

The Rt. Hon. Nicholas Scott, MBE, JP, MP,  
Minister of State for Social Security and  
Disabled People,

House of Commons,  
Westminster,  
London,  
SW1A 0AA.

**COPY**

*Nicholas Scott,*

You will, I'm sure, appreciate that the statement made by the Prime Minister in his speech to the Conservative Party Conference at Blackpool on October 8th regarding so-called "pornography", has astonished, alarmed and outraged myself and the many supporters throughout the country of the National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts (NCROPA) which, as you know, I founded in 1976 and have run ever since as its honorary director,

The Prime Minister's announcement that the Government plans "a big crackdown on the loathsome trade in pornography that offends so many people in this country" is extraordinary for a country which indisputably already has the toughest, most viciously and unjustly repressive pro-censorship/anti-"pornography" laws in virtually the entire so-called 'free-world'. In a supposedly 'free society', that the UK Government should even be thinking of strengthening those laws still further is utterly contemptible, when it should undoubtedly be doing quite the reverse and enacting a drastic liberalisation of our uniquely savage sexual censorship legislation - and as recommended by the Home Office's own Committee on Obscenity and Film Censorship (the Williams Committee) way back in 1979.

Notwithstanding that the implications contained in his emotive and irrelevant message are based on false premises, the Prime Minister's words are doubly reprehensible when, two year's previously, in his address to the same assembly at the same venue, he proudly asserted, and I quote:-

"I want to give individuals greater control over their lives"

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continuation/.....

and he went on to say:-

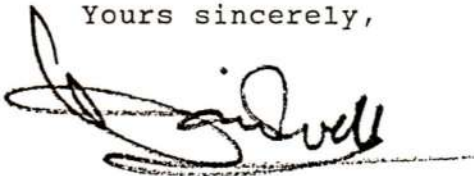
"That is our programme for the 90s. I will put it in a single phrase: the power to choose - and the right to own ..... choice is something most of us can be trusted with."

Like me, there are millions of respectable, law-abiding adults in this country who enjoy the harmless pleasure derived from 'consuming' sexually-explicit material (or as Mr. Major would call it, "pornography"). Where is our freedom to choose - our "power to choose - and the right to own" such material, a right to freedom of expression unrestrainedly afforded all other 'free-world' countries, even many now from former stringently repressed Communist Eastern-Bloc countries, and how can the Prime Minister reconcile what he said in Blackpool in 1991 with what he said there on 8th October this year?!

For the past 17½ years I and the NCROPA have been tirelessly - and quite voluntarily! - fighting for this aspect of freedom of expression in the UK. Not since 1981 have we been afforded a single opportunity of even discussing the issue with a Government Minister (the last and only time was on 21st January 1981 when we had a meeting at the Home Office with the then Home Secretary, William Whitelaw and his Minister of State Patrick Mayhew (now Sir Patrick). My every request for such a meeting with successive Home Secretaries or Government Ministers has been refused.

As a matter of urgency, therefore, may I enlist your help (as my local constituency MP) and your good offices to try to assist me in arranging such a meeting, either with the current Secretary of State, Michael Howard, or one of his Ministers of State at the Home Office. Any help you can give me in this much neglected matter will be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



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

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