

~~GENCENSORED~~

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

1st March 1993

Mrs. Ann Winterton, M.P.,  
House of Commons,  
Westminster,  
London,  
SW1A 0AA.

*Ann Winterton*

Thank you for your letter of 24th February in reply to mine of 22nd February.

If your "exhibition" of so-called "pornography" was arranged solely for Members of Parliament, why were members of the press and media invited? Having noted from your press release of 9th February that "a special press viewing" was being arranged, it was clear to me that the "exhibition" was not arranged just for M.P.s. Why you should therefore be "surprised" because I was disappointed that I was not allowed to attend myself (as the founder and director of the only U.K. national campaign expressly established to work for the reform of the Obscene Publications Acts for the past seventeen years) is puzzling.

Since I have been denied an opportunity of viewing the 'exhibits' you and Supt. Hames put on display, for myself, I am unable to comment on them. I can, however, comment on your press release. That shows quite clearly that, blinded by your own highly subjective views on sexually explicit material (which you have made known on many previous occasions), you have enlisted the highly questionable assistance of a highly-partial, politically-active, campaigning police officer (whose highly sympathetic views to your own are also much publicised) to present a highly distorted picture of the present U.K. situation regarding such material, its present impact and the impact it would have if the U.K. 'grew up', stopped enforcing massive state censorship and permitted its adult citizens that same right afforded virtually all other citizens of E.C. and 'free world' countries.

Apropos of your release, I would further comment:-

- (1) "... obscene and pornographic material" is not "increasingly available in the United Kingdom". The strength (not "weaknesses") and effectiveness of the O.P. Acts have seen to that! These Acts are also ruthlessly effective in suppressing 'sexually explicit material'. Blanket censorship as embodied in these appalling

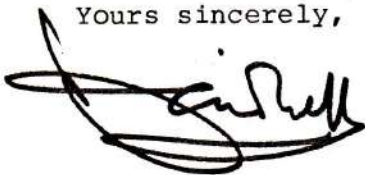
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(and other related) Acts is the weapon of dictators and tyrants and is totally unacceptable in a 'free society'.

- (2) "Oral sex, both homosexual and heterosexual group and anal intercourse" is not per se "violent and abnormal sexual behaviour", as you imply. All of these sexual activities are practised by millions of people daily throughout the world - yes, even in Congleton! Your assertion that they are "abnormal" is ludicrous.
- (3) Of course you are a "prude". Much more worryingly, though, you are also obviously an authoritarian who wishes to impose your own moral standards on all others. How can you reconcile that with your membership of a political party which proclaims the cornerstone of its whole philosophy as 'freedom of the individual', 'freedom of choice' and 'freedom of the market-place'?
- (4) I certainly agree with you that "the Obscene Publications Act (sic) is no longer relevant". And thus, where consenting adults are concerned, it should be scrapped, in the way our promotional leaflet (copy enclosed herewith) proposes.
- (5) Most 'sexually explicit material' (what you would no doubt call "pornography", albeit in the main inaccurately) is not "gruesome and nauseating" - and neither is it "filth". "Filth", like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Like 'sex' itself, most 'sexually explicit material' is utterly delightful and provides (where obtainable) enormous, harmless pleasure for millions. That you should be devoting so much of your time and energy - and with so much vehemence - to preventing people from indulging in such pleasure is as bizarre as it is outrageous. A little less hysteria and a lot more tolerance is what is required. Not the kind of sensation-seeking stunt you engineered at the House of Commons.

This is not a 'law and order' issue. It is a matter of human rights - the right to "freedom of expression". The people of the United Kingdom deserve, and expect, that right, too.

Yours sincerely,



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

P.S. I am also enclosing a copy of the NCROPA's own Press Release about your 'exhibition', for your information. *jsb.*

Enclosures