

COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NCROPA HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 1985

AT 15 SLOANE COURT WEST, CHELSEA, LONDON SW3 AT 7.30 pm.

1. Apologies: Clifford Hanley (Mr. Hanley's letter was read to the meeting and received expressions of appreciation from those present)

Present: David Webb, David Kennington, Eric Miller, Elizabeth Goodfellow, Edward Goodman.

2. Minutes of Meeting of 11th April 1985 read and approved

3. Matters Arising Lord Norwich and Margaret Becket MP have resigned as sponsors of CAC as the result of sustained NCROPA pressure.

- Director has received no reply to his letter to Larry Hodgson Editor of BBC Radio News.
- Dr. Guy Cumberbatch and Martin Barker not to be invited to join NCROPA Committee at this stage.
- AE Trust are unable to continue to finance Lord Houghton's Video Recordings Act Monitoring Committee, NCROPA will therefore contribute £50.
- NCROPA does not have sufficient funds to undertake a survey of sex-shop and Cinema Club licences at present. In any event this would be best undertaken after the abolition of the Metropolitan County Councils in April 1986.
- Lady Porter, Leader of Westminster City Council, has replied to the Director's letter stating that she could not comment on increased licence fees for sex-shops as matter was sub-judice because of an appeal. Ted Goodman asked to write to her on behalf of NCROPA.
- Of the three MEP's written to by Director (Messrs. Cassidy, Seligman and Simmonds), Mr. Seligman and Mr. Simmonds have replied. The latter's reply was abusive. A NCROPA member, who is one of his constituents, has therefore written to Mr. Simmonds MEP.
- Director asked to draft and submit Motion for NCCL AGM 1986, if he feels it appropriate.
- There have been three meetings of Lord Houghton's Video Recordings Act Monitoring Committee. The Director has attended one and sent apologies regarding the other two, which work commitments prevented him attending.
- Director's draft letter to potential contributors approved, subject to minor amendments suggested by E. Miller.

4. Director's Report

- No reply received to Director's letter to David Mellor, Minister of State at Home Office, regarding appointment of new President of the BBFC, despite repeated reminders.
- Director's correspondence with Secretary of NCCL revealed that NCROPA's resolution passed by 1984 NCCL AGM had not been acted upon and sent to Home Secretary as instructed. Matter being further pursued by the Director.
- Director has issued press release regarding appointment of officials of BBFC. An article in "The Stage" has appeared based on this.

Item 4(cont.)

- Director wrote letter to "The Times", which was not published, in response to published letter from Mrs. Whitehouse linking drugs and pornography.
- Director's statement on Law Commission's Recommendations on Blasphemy Laws published in August 1985 issue of "The Freethinker" magazine.
- The Directors of Zipper Bookshop, Camden, are being prosecuted. The NCROPA Director was therefore asked to write a letter of support to them and, if appropriate, a letter to the NCCL.
- The Director has written to the PM, Home Secretary and 30 BBC TV journalists about the banning of the Northern Ireland documentary "Real Lives" in August 1985.
- The NCROPA Director has received a reply to his letters to the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, regarding the banned BBC programme "Real Lives". *The reply* was from Giles Shaw MP, Minister of State at the Home Office. *It was* unsatisfactory and untruthful and the Director will be responding accordingly.
- The Director took part in an interview/phone-in programme on Radio Mercury on 29th August 1985.
- The Director has written to <sup>the</sup> 12 members of the Video Appeals Committee established under the Video Recordings Act, regretting their acceptances, and urging them to change their minds. Some replies have been received.
- The Director has discovered, after repeatedly enquiring of the BBFC and Home Office, that members of the Video Appeal's Committee are to be paid and were appointed by the BBFC.
- The Director has written to the new Home Secretary, Douglas Hurd, asking for a meeting.
- The Director has written to Lord Harewood, new President of the BBFC and the two vice-presidents, Lord Birkett and Miss Monica Sims. Only Ms. Sims has replied.
- The Director has written to Mr. Norris McWhirter of the Freedom Association deploring his attempt to sue the IBA re the "Spitting Image" programme.
- The Director has written to Clive James about remarks he made on Richard Baker's "Start the Week" BBC radio programme which gave the impression that we no longer have censorship in this country.
- The Director has written to the Chairman of the IBA regarding the banning of the Channel 4 TV documentary "Brazil: Cinema, Sex and the Generals".

5. Committee Members' Reports on Activities

- Elizabeth Goodfellow reported on the successful struggle by her organization "SM Dykes" to be allowed to use the GLC Lesbian and Gay Centre. She described how the anti-porn feminists had used unreasonable counter-productive tactics, whereas the SM Dykes had more subtle methods. As a result an EGM had been called in June 1985 at the Centre, at which the SM Dykes group had won the right to use it by a majority of 20 votes.
- Elizabeth Goodfellow said the SM Dykes were developing links with the "Sexual Fringe" Organization.

Elizabeth Goodfellow also reported on the appeal by the Curzon Cinema Club, Haringey, against the refusal of the GLC to grant them a licence.

Item 5(contd.)

- Eric Miller reported on the last meeting of the National Council of the CAC at which the CAC Chairman, Neville March Hunnings, had announced his membership of the Video Appeals Committee set up under the Video Recordings Act.

6. Plans for 1985 AGM

The Director will prepare an up-to-date issue of "NCROPA In Action" to be sent out to members with notices of the AGM. It was agreed that the AGM would be on Friday 29th November 1985 at 7.30 pm or a preceding weekday. It was also agreed that the agenda would be as short as possible, so as to give the members a full chance to speak. The agenda would commence with the Director's Report, followed by a report from Elizabeth Goodfellow on the gay situation and then contributions by members. The Chairman would be Ted Goodman. The meeting would be private, for members only, followed by a press release the next day. The Director will book a hall and Eric Miller will address the envelopes to members.

7. Future Activities and Strategy

The Director stated he had sent a NCROPA letter to Neville March Hunnings regretting his acceptance of membership of the Video Appeals Committee, as it was incompatible with Neville's Chairmanship and Council membership of CAC. It was agreed that Ted Goodman and Eric Miller would pursue the matter at the next meeting of the Council of the CAC. David Webb said he would write, as an individual member of CAC, to Neville stating that Neville should not remain Chairman or Council member of CAC. It was agreed that, after the November NCROPA AGM, there should be a public meeting early in 1986 at which representatives of other organizations such as "Sexual Fringe" should be invited.

8. Date of next Meeting

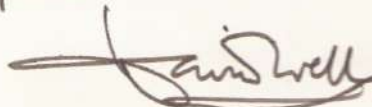
It was agreed that the next NCROPA Committee Meeting should be in December ie after the November AGM.

9. Any Other Business

Elizabeth Goodfellow was congratulated on gaining her degree and it was noted that her name on NCROPA letterheadings should now be followed by the letters "BA(Hons), Dip HE".

The meeting ended at 10.30 pm.

Approved as correct 14th March 1986.



Hon. Director.