

MINUTES OF THE NCROPA COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14th MARCH 1986 HELD AT  
15 SLOANE COURT WEST, CHELSEA, LONDON SW3 4TD

1. Apologies for Absence: from Pamela Manson
2. Minutes of last Committee Meeting approved.
3. Matters arising from Minutes of last meeting -
  - David Kennington bemoaned our lack of access to television and radio compared with Mary Whitehouse, especially since balance is required by the Broadcasting Acts. The Director said he would continue to pursue this with the IBA and BBC.
  - A donation of £50 was voted to be sent to Lord Houghton's Monitoring Committee of the Video Recordings Act, and on which the Director sits.
  - Ted Goodman agreed to draft letter to Lady Porter, leader of Westminster City Council, re sex-shop licensing fees. Director to send it.
  - Agreed that an emergency motion regarding the Winston Churchill Bill would be tabled at NCCL A.G.M.
  - The Director had sent twelve 'experimental' appeal letters to selected celebrities but had received no replies. David Kennington suggested writing to Paul Getty Jr. The Director to send follow-up letters. Eric Miller mentioned approaching the group "Pink Floyd". The Director said he would write to them if they were still in business. He said he would also write to "Frankie Goes to Hollywood" who had had trouble with the censors over some of their records. Eric Miller suggested writing to American "porno-stars" like Annette Haven, and was authorised to do so. Ted Goodman thought that Bill Wright, a former committee member, might help in this direction.
  - David Mellor, Under Secretary of State at Home Office, had replied to Director.
  - Director had sent Critique of Churchill Bill to the "Zipper" shop.
  - Director had not written further to Leon Brittan because he had been removed from his post as Home Secretary.
  - The Director had received a reply to his letter to Norris McWhirter about his legal action against the I.B.A., which he had subsequently lost.
  - After the Director's unrelenting pressure on the Campaign Against Censorship, Neville March Hunnings had resigned as its Chairman (He had accepted a paid post on the Video Appeals Committee, an absurd and irreconcilable conflict of interest).
4. Discussion on General Meeting of 6th February 1986 -
  - David Kennington regretted the fact that some members present had mentioned their commercial interests. The Director replied that such persons were only excluded from serving on the committee, which alone decided NCROPA policy. The Director and Eric Miller gave details of how such people had never been able to influence NCROPA policy even when contributing substantially to funds.
5. Expansion of Committee -
  - Ted Goodman proposed that Eric Miller should meet Ms. Ginny Wall, a member, with a view to deciding whether she should be invited to join the NCROPA Committee and if he considers her suitable, the Director to invite her to serve. Agreed that the Director should write to Ms. Wall asking her to meet

Eric Miller. Agreed also that the Director should approach Ms. Isabel Koprowski, Editor of "Forum" Magazine, about becoming a member of the Committee.

6. Appointment of NCROPA Delegates to NCCL A.G.M. -

- The Director read out NCROPA's motion for the NCCL A.G.M. in April. (This was in addition to NCROPA's emergency motion). Ted Goodman advised that he would be attending in any case as an individual member. The Director was appointed as delegate to propose our motion. The other delegate nominated, who would second the motion, was David Kennington.

7. Obscene Publications (Protection of Children, etc.)(Amendment) Bill -

- The Director said that he and Ted Goodman had, by appointment, met Winston Churchill M.P. at the H. of C. on 13th February. The Director had also attended the Second Reading of the Bill in the House and all the parliamentary Standing Committees on the Bill. He said that the Committee Stage in the Commons was now completed and the Bill would now proceed to the Report Stage in the Commons on 25th April. The Director pointed out that the Bill had already been changed out of all recognition in Committee. Alf Dubs, M.P., a Labour front bench spokesman on the Parliamentary Standing Committee, had agreed to meet the Director and had requested as many new amendments as possible so that an attempt to talk out the Bill at the Report Stage could be made. Matthew Parris M.P. had written to the Director pledging his support for NCROPA's position, but is resigning his seat to take up a presenter's post on London Weekend TV. The Director explained the significance of the changes for the better, at NCROPA's suggestion, of Clause 2 of the Bill. The attempt to control the contents of publications had been replaced by a shrink wrapping clause. An attempt to specify explanatory wording on the wrapping was defeated in Committee because such a notice, in its opinion, might be an invitation to minors. Quitlynn Ltd. had sent a huge quantity of postage stamps and addressed envelopes to all M.P.s and will copy a NCROPA letter to be drafted by the Director, to all of them. Members who have expressed the wish to help will be invited to help the Director complete the mailing as necessary.

8. Director's Report -

- David Webb asked Committee members to ensure that they updated the NCROPA promotion leaflets and letter-headings before using them.
- On 12th February the Director and Ted Goodman met the Directors of Gold Star Ltd., publishers of so-called 'girlie' magazines, at their invitation. Their complete commitment to the NCROPA was endorsed, as was their promise to give the NCROPA their full and continued backing, both morally and materially.
- The Director detailed his protests to the producer of the BBC Radio 4 programme "Stripped to the Essentials" over lack of balance. He described his restricted telephone call at the end of the radio phone-in the following week. He mentioned, however, the favourable review of his contribution to the phone-in by Paul Ferris, radio critic of "The Observer".
- The Director will write to the Chairman of the BBC.
- The Director described his attendances at Lord Houghton's Committee monitoring the working of the 1984 Video Recordings Act. He reported how it will be investigating the appointment of members of the Video Appeals Committee.
- An article by the Director will be published in the April issue of "The Freethinker".

- He praised Ted Goodman's participation in the LBC Radio debate with Mary Whitehouse, on the Churchill Bill and related issues, on 5th March.
- The Director had received details of a Lesbian and Gay Artist Show at Brixton offering NCROPA a stand. David Kennington was asked to arrange same. He was asked to liaise with Elizabeth Goodfellow.
- The Director had received a letter from "Gay's the Word" bookshop about their forthcoming trial. It was decided that their request for information about our members could not be met since it would be against NCROPA's policy and pledge to members; especially as the manageress of the bookshop had expressed support for some types of censorship. The Director was asked to reply accordingly.
- The Director's further request for a meeting with Douglas Hurd M.P., the new Home Secretary, had been rejected even though Mr. Hurd had met Mrs. Whitehouse. Director asked to write letter of protest to Home Secretary.
- The Director had sent a NCROPA letter of sympathy to the widower of Mrs. Fanny Cockerell, a tireless champion of anti-censorship causes, who died on 5th March 1986. Eric Miller had also telephoned Mr. Cockerell with his condolences.
- Approaches have been made requesting an answering machine from Gold Star Ltd.
- David Webb had received a letter from Gold Star expressing concern and requesting help over media allegations that the rise in rape was in part caused by the proliferation of sex magazines. Eric Miller contended that it was the suppression of "pornography" in Britain which had caused it. The Director reported that Ted Goodman was in the process of obtaining the March 1986 Home Office Statistical Bulletin on notifiable offences which would then be studied, analysed and responded to if appropriate.

9. Reports from Committee Members -

- Eric Miller said he had been bereaved by the recent death of his wife and thus prevented from doing as much lately as he would have wished. The Committee expressed their condolences to him and his family. Mr. Miller also reported his observation that Soho was now virtually 'dead' except for 'peepshows'. He raised the question of approaching the new newspaper "Today". The Director said that they were already on NCROPA's press list and had been sent NCROPA's Critique of the Churchill Bill.

10. Tenth Anniversary of the NCROPA -

- Ted Goodman proposed a dinner in a restaurant given by Committee Members for the Director on the evening of Tuesday 29th April. It was agreed that those wishing to attend should telephone David Webb the evening before. It was emphasised that only Committee members and their respective immediate partners could attend and that they would have to pay for themselves.

11. Any Other Business -

- It was decided that the next committee meeting should be after the April NCCL A.G.M. i.e. after Friday 9th May 1986.
- The poor performance of the Campaign Against Censorship was noted and regretted.
- The meeting ended at 11 p.m.

  
30/10/86