

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS (NCROPA)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 15 SLOANE COURT WEST,
CHELSEA, LONDON, SW3 4TD at 7.30 p.m. on 30th October 1986

PRESENT: David Webb (Hon. Director), Eric Miller and David Kennington.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Ted Goodman.
2. The Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 14th March 1986 were approved and signed.
3. In matters arising from the previous Minutes, the Director, David Webb, referred to the Churchill Bill which, since it had been defeated before the 1986 N.C.C.L. Annual General Meeting, no emergency motion about it was tabled. The Director expressed his delight that, after ten years of NCROPA's existence, this defeat was the first positive parliamentary victory for the campaign and hoped it would mark a turn-around in past trends towards ever more censorship.

The Director had found the lost Noris McWhirter letter but would not be pursuing the matter further since the issue was no longer topical or of particular interest.

Eric Miller reported on his futile attempts to have the agreed meeting with Ms. Ginny Wall, a member of NCROPA and potential committee member. She had been very unresponsive and un-cooperative. It was agreed that the onus was now on her to respond positively and, failing that, no further approaches would be made to her.

The Director explained that he had not yet approached Ms. Isabel Koprowski, Editor of "Forum" magazine, but was hoping to meet her to 'sound her out' first.

The Director expressed his disappointment that Lord Houghton's ad hoc committee to monitor the workings of the 1984 Video Recordings Act had all but 'fizzled out'. There had been very poor attendances at Lord Houghton's meetings at the House of Lords (all but one of which he had himself attended) and, although Lord Houghton had obviously tried his best, it appeared that little was going to be achieved by the Committee.

Gold Star publications had kindly donated a new answering machine to replace the broken and unrepairable one in use previously.

It had still not been possible to arrange the agreed NCROPA dinner. Another attempt to do so would be made.

4. David Webb detailed the passage of the Churchill Bill in the House of Commons, his and Ted Goodman's meeting with Winston Churchill M.P. to discuss his Bill and of how it was finally 'talked-out' at the Report Stage.
5. The Director reported on the withdrawal of the "Gay's the Word" bookshop prosecution by H.M. Customs & Excise and expressed his delight at another victory, albeit small as compared with NCROPA's over-all aims.
6. Formal approval was given to the nomination of NCROPA member Alexander Barrie to serve on the NCROPA Committee and consent to which had already been given

by Mr. Barrie.

7. The draft of NCROPA's "Freedom of Expression Bill" was discussed and approved and it was agreed that this should be sent to the top six M.P.s in the Private Member's Bills Ballot in the House of Commons.
8. The Director reported briefly on a number of exchanges and lines of correspondence he had had with various people and bodies and on a variety of censorship-related topics.
9. David Webb said that another "NCROPA in Action" booklet for the members was long overdue but that pressure of work had so far prevented its compilation. He hoped to be able to get one out very soon.
10. It was agreed that the date for the 1987 Annual General Meeting would be deferred until the latter part of the year which seemed to suit people better. No decision on fixing a date was taken.
11. The NCROPA Motion of Censure on the NWCL's General Secretary had been carried at their Annual General Meeting. It was decided that, unless some urgent new issue arose in the interim, no NCROPA motion would be tabled at next year's N.C.C.L. A.G.M.
12. David Kennington reported on his visit and communications concerning the banned play at Coventry, which had had a subsequent production in London.

Signed  David Webb, Honorary Director, as a true
record on 31st July 1987