

MINUTES OF THE NCROPA COMMITTEE MEETING OF 7th OCTOBER 1987 HELD AT

15 SLOANE COURT WEST, CHELSEA, LONDON SW3 4TD

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Alexander Barrie, David Kennington and Eric Miller.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

The Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the 31st July 1987 were read and approved with minor amendments to the text, and were duly signed.

3. MATTERS ARISING.

The Director had written to Elizabeth Goodfellow about her resignation from the Committee, thanking her for her past service but regretting her departure and the reasons she had cited for it.

The Director of Public Prosecutions had informed the NCROPA Director that Mrs. Mary Whitehouse would not be prosecuted for breaching BBC and Channel 4 copyright by showing videotaped copies of television films to M.P.s and others at the Houses of Parliament.

After protests from the NCROPA, Catherine Itzin, who advocates censorship, has been asked by the National Council for Civil Liberties not to represent herself as its spokesperson.

The Director stated that he was preparing a "NCROPA IN ACTION" booklet, detailing activities since last year's AGM. It would be sent out with the notices for this year's AGM.

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

The Director said that he had written to the "Sunday Times" about its hypocrisy in condemning the banning of the book "Spycatcher" whilst at the same time, and in the same issue, calling for action against 'computerised indecency'.

He had written to Mr. H.S.L. Dundas, Chairman of Thames Television, about "The Cook Report" programme on child pornography.

He had written a letter of support to Mr. Philip Sutcliffe, a member from Halifax, Yorkshire, who was suffering from police harassment against his video business.

The following books have been received by NCROPA: "Behind and In Front of the Screen" from the Independent Broadcasting Authority and "The Portrayal of Violence on TV: A Content Analysis" from Michael Grade BBC Television, a commissioned study by Dr. Guy Cumberbatch and his team at the Applied Psychology Division, Aston University.

John Gibbins, Director of Gold Star Publications Ltd., had prepared computerised address labels of all the new Members of Parliament for NCROPA's use.

The Director had written a letter to the "Daily Mirror" supporting the disc jockey who had once posed for nude photographs for a magazine.

The Director had written to "The Guardian" about an article which condemned a 'Kissagram' for women which the author had witnessed in a Hampton Court restaurant.

Committee member Pamela Manson had taken part in the "Brass Tacks", "What's News?" programme on BBC Television, during which she made some controversial comments which had upset some NCROPA members. Although she was appearing in a personal capacity, she did make mention of her membership of the NCROPA Committee. It was resolved that in future, when making such appearances as a NCROPA spokesperson, Committee Members should first liaise with the Director.

An article about the changed attitude of Michael Grade, BBCTV Director of Programmes, to the proposed extension of the Obscene Publications Acts to broadcasting, in which the Director featured extensively, appeared in "The Stage" on 24th September 1987.

The Director had corresponded with Michael Winner about the 'umbrella' organisation The Milton Committee and, as a result, the NCROPA has now been made a member organisation of that Committee.

The Director had written to Michael Checkland, the new Director-General of the BBC about the Seminar on Violence to be held there in December and asked to be included if outside bodies were to be invited.

The Director had written to James Naughtie about an article he written for "The Listener", and entitled "The Trouble with Simple Solutions". Although it was largely sympathetic to our cause, Mr. Naughtie had contended that "a substantial majority" share Mrs. Thatcher's "distaste for the degradation involved in the trade of pornography".

The Director had corresponded with Robin Corbett M.P., Labour Front Bench Spokesman on Broadcasting, about his call for legislation against newspapers of "The Star" variety.

A letter from the Director on television violence was published in "The Independent" on 16th September 1987.

Also on 16th September the Director sent letters to the Prime Minister and each member of the Cabinet about the Government Seminar on Television Violence on 21st September. Copies were also sent to the Chairmen of the BBC and the IBA and to the Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Home Secretary. A Press Release incorporating copies of the letter was also issued.

The "Daily Telegraph" had sent the Director the results of its Gallup Poll on television violence.

The Director had written to the Minister of State for Trade about the publicity campaign to prohibit the impost of cheap Chinese ladies' knickers.

The Director had been trying to assist Ian Jackson, a member whose club, "The Nightshift", had been raided by the police because of alleged "indecent behaviour" there on 21st September. The matter was referred to Ted Goodman, NCROPA Committee Member and Legal Adviser.

The Director had featured in an article in the October issue of "Gay Times" about video censorship.

The Director had written to the presenter and producer of the ITV daily programme "The Time, The Place" criticising the imbalance of views of those participating in a programme devoted to newspaper censorship and in which Michael Gabbert, Editor of "The Star" was in the hot seat. NCROPA requested that it be invited to take part in any such future programmes.

5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting would be held in November at Conway Hall, London. The Agenda was agreed and Ted Goodman was appointed to chair the meeting.

6. NCCL - ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & MOTIONS FOR THEIR 1988 AGM.

It was decided how NCROPA, as an affiliated member of the NCCL, would cast its votes for the NCCL Executive Committee. It was also decided that the NCROPA would table a motion for the NCCL's AGM that Catherine Itzin be expelled from that organisation because of her continual advocacy of State censorship and consequent opposition to Article 7 of the NCCL's Charter of Civil Rights and Liberties, viz. Freedom of Speech and Publication.

7. PHOTOCOPIER.

The Director expressed the urgent need for NCROPA to have its own photocopier. He was asked to try and acquire one, preferably by donation.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

Isabel Koprowski, member of the NCROPA and Editor of "Forum" and Penthouse" magazines, had been invited to join the Committee and had accepted.

9. DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING. In December, after the AGM, on a weekday.

Handwritten note: 26th July 1988.
Sindwell, Hon. Dir.