

NATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE REFORM OF THE OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS ACTS

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE CONWAY HALL
RED LION SQUARE, LONDON WC1 at 7.00 p.m. on 10th November 1992

PRESENT: David Webb (Hon. Director), Edward Goodman, Isabel Koprowski,
Tuppy Owens, Alexander Barrie

1. Apologies for Absence - were received from Anne Jansen
2. Minutes of Last Meeting - held on 21st November 1991 were taken as read and approved.
3. Matters Arising from Minutes of Last Meeting - The Director apologised for the non-preparation of a NCROPA Petition. A General Election had intervened and diverted his energies in other directions.
 - Isabel Koprowski commented (apropos her report of prison sentences on lesbian offenders) that lesbianism was criminalised incidentally, if not always directly.
 - the vicious sentences imposed for sexual offences in this country were noted and condemned (after the Director reported the Court of Appeal's dismissal of the 'Operation Spanner' case appeals in February 1992).
4. Director's Report - The Director made yet another apology for the gap of a year since the last Committee Meeting. He explained that this was partly the result of the death of his mother, his absence for a period from London to look after a sick close friend in Manchester suffering from cancer and the General Election.
 - He had made a start on a new edition of NCROPA in Action newsletter for distribution to the membership.
 - The "Lord Horror" book publishers (Michael Butterworth of Savoy Books, in Manchester) had been acquitted of 'obscenity' on appeal to Manchester Crown Court on 30th July 1992.
 - He reported on his own court case - viz his High Court Appeal against Uxbridge Justices' decision to uphold the forfeiture of six sexually-explicit video-tapes he had imported from Holland and which had been confiscated by HM Customs at Heathrow on 14th November 1990. His application for Judicial Review of the Uxbridge Justices refusal to state-a-case to the High Court had been granted and he was awaiting to hear the date fixed for the full hearing, which was unlikely to be before May next year.
 - The Director gave details of his prolonged and, latterly, acrimonious correspondence with Nicholas Winterton MP regarding his attempt to get the Madonna book "Sex" prosecuted by the D.P.P. Mr. Winterton had failed.
 - He gave details of that part of the Conservative Party's General Election Manifesto in which (page 25) it boasted about the fact that this country has the toughest anti-pornography laws in Europe and that it was the Conservatives' intention to keep it that

way; and of his extensive correspondence connected with election issues, in which the NCROPA's horror of such a boast was forcefully expressed.

- He told of his prolonged battle with the Police Complaints' Authority, the Metropolitan Police Complaints' Dept. and the Home Secretary (Kenneth Clarke, MP), regarding his official complaints against the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Peter Imbert and the Head of the Obscene Publications Dept. at Scotland Yard, Superintendent Michael Hames, for their breaches of Police Regulations.

- He reported on Dr. Robert Spink's Early Day Motion debate on 'pornography' in the House of Commons on *27th October 1992*.

- He reported on the highly successful 'fringe' meeting the NCROPA had held at the Bedford Hotel, Brighton on 10th October 1992 during the Conservative Party Conference, where he was joined, as guest speaker, by Sean Gabb, Secretary of C.A.S.C. (Conservatives Against Sexual Censorship).

- The Director also reported on a number of interviews and appearances he had made on behalf of the NCROPA in TV and Radio programmes (some infuriatingly abortive).

- Copies of the NCROPA's Submission to the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice (November 1991) were now available for sale @ £3.00 per copy. This would be added to our publications list.

- He said that an official NCROPA Submission to the Law Commission Draft Criminal Code Bill had also been made.

- He said that he had been asked to write a book about the NCROPA by Cassells, the publishers, and had agreed to do so as soon as possible next year.

5. Date of A.G.M. - It was decided that the Annual General Meeting would be held in early December 1992 or January 1993 at Conway Hall.

- It was decided that the usual subscription reminder would be sent out with the AGM Notices.

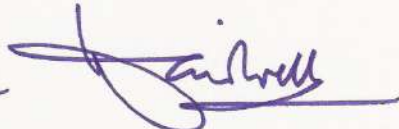
- Thanks were extended to Eric Miller for his stalwart but unenviable task of addressing all the envelopes for the AGM mailing.

6. NCROPA Administration and Office Needs - The Director ^{said} how desperate it was for the NCROPA to obtain office premises. His flat could no longer accommodate all NCROPA's paraphernalia. It was equally urgent that the day-to-day administration of the NCROPA was re-organised so that the workload could be spread to relieve the pressure on the Director.

7. Reports from Other Committee Members - The Committee noted, with regret, that both David Kennington and Eric Miller had suffered from ill-health problems.

8. Financial Report - The Director reported that the NCROPA's current account stood at £609.12 and the deposit account at £1844.23.

9. Any Other Business - David Kennington said that the Committee should be strengthened. Various names were suggested, including Sean Gabb, Secretary of C.A.S.C., and NCROPA member Adrian Parsons, who was very active as Secretary of the Portsmouth group of the NCCL. The Director offered to approach both to ascertain whether or not they might be prepared to serve. This was agreed and if their answers were positive, approval was also given for the Director to go ahead and formally invite them on to the Committee.
10. Date of Next Committee Meeting - It was agreed that the next Committee Meeting should not be held until after the A.G.M.

Approved 
21st February 1994