

# ROLDVALE LTD.

March, 1982

34, Upton Lane,  
Forest Gate,  
London, E.7.

## DEFENCE OF OUR INDUSTRY

- A personal message from David Sullivan.

This circular is aimed at all those who have an interest in the sex industry in and around London.

Whilst we are very competitive, there comes a time when we should realise that it is important to actively engage in mutual support to protect our common interests.

The background and events leading up to the crisis which our industry now faces are important because we need to be prepared for a period during which we will be under even greater attack.

When the Indecent Displays Act was going through Parliament, Conegate, Goldstar and Galaxy Publications jointly financed a parliamentary campaign to ensure certain clauses were amended. As a result our opponents saw that the impact of this measure was reduced. They then organised a sustained campaign of letter writing to the Government and M.P.'s which has resulted in the current legislation to licence (and even ban) all sex shops.

During this period, we as an industry did nothing. We didn't lose the battle - we gave it away by default.

Whilst it is now probably too late to effect major alterations to the licencing proposals, it could still be possible to cause a re-think on certain aspects. For example, the right of appeal against refusal to grant a licence has recently been withdrawn. In no other field would a Government dare do this.

The Home Office state that all the communications they receive are from our opponents. If they use this as their measure of public opinion then we MUST ensure our voice is heard.

Overleaf, is an advertisement Conegate is placing in the national press. The cost of this is astronomical. We are not asking for contributions (although they wouldn't be refused!) - what we want is for you and your staff to make the phone calls and write the letters. Get your customers involved - even one phone call will be a great help.

If we cannot make any impact with this campaign, then our opponents will sweep us away. They have already tabled a Bill to make all adult material totally illegal.

If you want any further information or have any suggestions ring me on 01-471-5812.

IF YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING YOUR LIVING MIGHT DISAPPEAR.

Protests at the vicious sentence passed on Chris Holloway should be directed to the Lord Chancellors Office - 01 219 3232. One phone call has a large affect.

## STOP PRESS ... PRISON FOR JOHN LINSEY

Whilst I myself have no involvement with the cinema club industry, I was shocked to hear that John Linsey had received a three month prison sentence over his Blackpool Cinema Club. Additionally, his manager got two months and the girl on the cash desk two months. All three had previous good characters and Linsey had been cleared eight previous times on identical and similar material. The latter was kept from the jury in the trial by the Judge.

If you are repeatedly tried for the same or similar material, you must eventually be found guilty - on the law of averages, you will eventually draw the wrong judge or jury and under the recent appeal court ruling, you will go to prison. SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG HERE!

Again, if you disagree with the Linsey sentence - phone or write in protest (and get your staff, friends and customers to do the same thing):-

1. Lord Chancellor, The House of Lords, Westminster, SW1 (01 219 3232).
2. The Home Office, Whitehall, London, SW1 (01 213 3000).

Mr Whitelaw has publicly stated that people should not be sent to prison for non-violent crimes, BUT THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE FIELD OF PORNOGRAPHY - YOU may be next!

This advertisement will appear in the News of the World on Sunday 4th April. It has cost Conegate Limited £7,800.00. We are not asking for financial contributions, but we do need your support - so please ask your workers, friends, relatives etc., to make phone calls and write letters today - the implications of the Bill will affect you!

# WE HAVE THE RIGHT TO SURVIVE!



**A PERSONAL APPEAL FROM  
BRIAN RICHARDS,  
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF  
CONEGATE LTD., ON BEHALF  
OF HIS 351 EMPLOYEES,  
15,000 - 20,000 ORDINARY  
WORKERS WHO ARE  
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY  
RELIANT ON THE SEX  
INDUSTRY FOR THEIR JOBS  
AND YOUR FREEDOM OF  
CHOICE.**

There is a Bill presently going through Parliament known as "LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL" which is expected to become law soon. It sounds innocent enough, but its implications for freedom of choice and the job security of our staff and suppliers is frightening. Simply, within one month of it becoming law it could lead to the closure of all sex shops throughout the country without compensation and without any right of appeal by the owners or representation by customers of sex shops.

The jobs of the people employed by sex shops and their supply industries will be reliant on the whim of local councils who have no mandate from the electorate to take such action.

Equally, local councils do not have the right to deny the 700,000 customers who use our shops the freedom to buy what they choose, where they choose, when they choose.

This Bill is seen by the puritanical minority as the watershed, the first step in restricting your right to choose in an area where individual emotions and needs are sensitive and personal. Local Government should not be able to decide your needs purely based on their own personal opinion.

The closing of sex shops in this country will not remove the demand for our services as the opposition to the sex shop industry like to believe.

The demand will remain, so will the supply. Simply, the supply of sex products will go underground, operated by unscrupulous people who, at best, will pay neither taxes or VAT. Our contribution to the Government coffers in tax and VAT will be £2,000,000 this year. Revenue they will not be able to collect in the future.

There can be little doubt that the majority of people have no objection to our shops.

Our opponents argue that sex shops encourage sexual violence, yet last year, during which we doubled our number of outlets by adding nearly 60 branches to our chain, sex crimes dropped by 2,000 and rape came down by 13%.

Ask the Home Secretary:-

- A/ Why so much of police resources (and your money) are directed at the sex industry?
- B/ Why he is apparently willing to allow thousands more people to be thrown onto the dole?
- C/ Why he should allow the Treasury (which means you) to lose £2 million in taxes and VAT each year?
- D/ Why you should lose yet more of your freedom of choice?

If you agree with the Governments back-door closure of sex shops then we respect your right to do so. If you agree with us, we ask for your support by undertaking one of the following:

- 1/ Phone or write to either Willie Whitelaw, Timothy Raison or Lord Belstead, The Home Office London SW1. Telephone 01-213 3000.
- 2/ Write to your own MP at the House of Commons, London SW1 or to your local council.
- 3/ Sign the petition at your local sex shop

The Private Shops (Conegate Ltd)  
34 Upton Lane  
Forest Gate  
London E7



THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN PLACED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE PRIVATE SHOPS AND PAID FOR BY THEIR EMPLOYERS, CONEGATE LTD.