

CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

ON THE 28TH JANUARY 1996 TED GOODMAN, CHAIR OF CAC, DELIVERED A LECTURE ON THE DANGERS OF CENSORSHIP TO THE LEICESTER SECULAR SOCIETY (FOUNDED IN 1851 AND THE OLDEST SECULAR SOCIETY IN THE WORLD). IT WAS AT THE LATTER'S HALL IN THAT CITY. THE AUDIENCE WERE SURPRISED BY THE WIDE-RANGE OF BRITISH LAWS RESTRICTING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND THEIR CONCENTRATION ON SUPPRESSING SEXUALITY. ONE QUESTIONER SUGGESTED THAT THE ENGLISH ESTABLISHMENT USED THE EXCUSE OF ANTI-SEX CRUSADING TO OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER ALL MEANS OF EXPRESSION. IN OTHER WORDS THE NANNYIST "NO SEX PLEASE WE'RE BRITISH" ATITUDE WAS A MEANS TO AN END, NOT AN END IN ITSELF

CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT RACIST LITERATURE AND ALLOWING FASCISTS THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESION WHICH THE LATTER WOULD DENY OTHERS, IF THEY COULD. GOODMAN RESPONDED BY STATING THAT RACISM WAS A STATE OF MIND AND WAS THUS, IN ITSELF, LAWFUL. THE CRIME OF INCITEMENT TO RACIAL HATRED WAS TOTALLY DIFFERENT, SINCE IT CONSISTED OF ACTIONS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A SPECIFIC END AS OPPOSED TO A MERE EXPRESSION OF OPINION. SUPPRESSING SUCH OPINIONS WOULD MEAN THOUGHT-CONTROL. SUCH A CURE WAS WORSE THAT THE DISEASE OF XENOPHOBIA !

GOODMAN CITED THE EXAMPLE OF DR EYSINCK'S BOOK, WHICH SUGGESTED THAT JEWS WERE HEREDITARILY MORE INTELLIGENT THAN NEGROES. THE STATISTICS USED HAD BEEN IMPUGNED BY THE SUBSEQUENT STUDIES OF OTHER PSYCHOLOGISTS. THIS ILLUSTRATED HOW THE FREELY EXPRESSED INTERPLAY OF THEORIES PRODUCES KNOWLEDGE.