

CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

23 BUDGEN DRIVE
REDHILL SURREY
RH1 20B
10th August 1996

To: Antony Young
c/o BBC Radio
"In the Dock"

Sir,
PROGRAMME BROADCAST AT 1.30PM SATURDAY 10th AUGUST
1996 "POLITICIANS IN THE DOCK"

I congratulate you on your excellent attack on hasty, ill-considered, badly drafted, English "knee-jerk" legislation. You mentioned the Dangerous Dogs Act and Pensions Act 1986 as examples and added that such legislation required quick amendment. The tragedy is that once laws are on the statute book, pressure of time and inertia mean that they are only repealed if the public outcry is massive, such as over the Poll Tax.

This is especially true of rushed, nannyist morality legislation based on the premise of "No sex please—we're British." The Video Recordings Act 1984, for example, was panicked through Parliament to stop the allegedly widespread watching of "video nasties" by children, before the evidence of this was exposed as false. The resultant blanket State censorship of videos in this country means that minority material cannot be sold, because the cost of certification for possible censorship is too high. Thus a shop selling uncertificated French video recordings of Moliere plays was forced to stop so doing.

Britain needs an American-style Bill of Rights to protect citizens from over-enthusiastic legislators, egged on by journalists who demand more State interference in everything except the Press!

Yours for less law

Clr E Goodman
Chair of CAC