

CAMPAIGN

CENSORSHIP

AGAINST

DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY)

PLEASE REPLY TO:-

23 Budgen Drive
Redhill Surrey
RH1 2QB
20th September 1999

To: The Producer
Newsnight
BBC TV
Wood Lane
Lindon W12 7RG

Sir,
GROUP DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT OF BRITISH BOARD OF FILM
CLASSIFICATION : 11PM FRIDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 1999

The above mentioned item was imbalanced because its participants included a member of a pro-censorship lobby group, but no-one from an anti-censorship organisation (of which there are several in Britain). Your presenter did a magnificent job redressing this imbalance, especially by referring to the absence of film and video censorship in other parts of the European Union. As she was, however, chairing a studio debate (not conducting a one-to-one interview), the exposition of the anti-censorship case should not have depended upon her.

Another criticism is the absence of Members of Parliament in the discussion. The President of the British Board of Film Classification pointed out that he has to apply the Video Recordings Act. Members of the legislature should therefore be asked why the United Kingdom has State Censorship, whereas the rest of Europe does not. It is a matter of lawmaking, not of enforcement and/or opinion !

Yours,

Clr E Goodman
Chair of CAC