

Ted

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CENSORSHIP

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 7.00, Friday, 2nd February, 2001, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

Present: Ted Goodman (Chair), Kent Boulton, Chris Hardman, Nigel Meek, Morris Riley, Basil Stein, Mark Taha, Mary Hayward, Dave Bird (after 7.30).

1. Apologies for absence were received from Steve King.
2. The Minutes of the meetings held on 16th June and 3rd November 2000 were signed as correct.
3. Matters arising from the minutes - the Home Office had written to acknowledge receipt of the Campaign's response to the consultation paper on R18 videos.

There were no other matters arising.

4. Balances: HSBC - £413.74p, Girobank - £133.26p
5. The draft of the Campaign's comments on the white paper: 'A New Future for Communications'(CM5010) was discussed and expanded to include areas where comment had been specifically asked for. Mrs.Hayward to prepare and send the final version.
6. The draft of the Campaign's comments on the Home Office discussion paper: 'Setting the Boundaries: Reforming the law on sex offences' was discussed and amended. Mr.Hardman's suggestions for references to case law were adopted.Mr.Goodman to prepare and send the final version.
7. Advertising of sex services - Mr.Goodman wrote to the Home Office about proposals for a new law specifically criminalising cards in telephone boxes. He received a form letter which did not answer CAC's points and had written again - no reply.
8. Proposed proscription of 'Adult X' satellite channel - Mr.Goodman had written to the Department of Culture to oppose the ITC's request - no reply.
9. Other Business
  - i. Dave Bird distributed a report on various topics. Unfortunately he did not give enough detail to enable them to be followed up.
  - ii. A man who sold blue videos in Grimsby and York was fined £5,800 by York Magistrates Court after purchasers complained to Trading Standards that the tapes sold as 'hardcore' were soft porn. He admitted the offences.
  - iii. The Advertising Standards Authority banned an advert for the Yves St.Laurent perfume 'Opium' which showed a not-quite-naked woman lying on her back. Mr.Goodman had written a letter of protest - no reply.

PTO

iv. Mr. Goodman had attended a Sexual Freedom Coalition meeting at which 3 members of the BBFC spoke. Council members who would like a copy of his report please contact him or Mrs. Hayward.

v. Pasolini's 'Salo' (first released in 1976 but shown only in cinema clubs) had been given an 18 certificate for both cinema and video and Channel 4 wanted to buy it for FilmFour.

vi. BBC Films, which provided some of the money, had asked Universal, the distributor, to remove 35 f-words from 'Billy Elliot', to produce a version to be marketed at half-term. The unbawdlerised version has a '15' certificate. The producers insist that the language is an essential part of the film and not noticable in context. Tewkesbury town council had voted to reduce the rating to '12'.

vii. Mrs. Hayward to attend the Liberty AGM (16th/17th June) as CAC's delegate.

10. Date of next meeting - 20th or 27th April (provisional).