

CAMPAIGN AGAINST CENSORSHIP

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held at 6.45, Friday, 13th July, 2001, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1.

Present: Ted Goodman (Chair), Dave Bird, Kent Boulton, Chris Hardman, Steve King, Nigel Meek, Basil Stein, Mark Taha, Mary Hayward.

1. There were no apologies for absence.

Since the last meeting, Morris Riley had died and the Council had thereby lost a valued film expert. The Chair had sent condolences to his widow on behalf of the Campaign.

2. The Minutes of the 2nd February meeting were signed as correct. Dave Bird's written report dated January to be added to the record.

3. Matters arising from the minutes - Mary Hayward had been unable to attend the Liberty AGM. Dave Bird had attended as an individual. He reported that there was nothing relevant to the Campaign.

There were no other matters arising.

4. Balances: HSBC - £397.29p, Girobank - £71.59p

5. Chairman's report

i. Communications White Paper - Mary Hayward to report on the 'summary of responses' at next meeting.

ii. Review of Sex Offences - acknowledgement received.

iii. ICSTIS Code of Practice - no response yet.

iv. The Chair had written to Patricia Hewitt about the RIP Act. He challenged her at a Labour Party meeting and got the 'child porn' excuse.

Ted Goodman also gave a talk to the South Place Ethical Society on censorship in the UK. Text to be published in their journal.

6. Members' reports

Dave Bird - ISPs had been warned against allowing dissemination of details of Jon Venables and Robert Thompson after their release.

The audience for a screening at Conway Hall of a documentary on deaths in police custody took over the hall and the projector after the management tried to prevent the showing. They had been threatened with legal action because the documentary accuses eight named police officers of murder.

Kent Boulton - no report this time.

FTO

Chris Hardman - Ted Goodman had referred a phone call from Yorkshire TV about proscription of foreign satellite channels to him. He had sent a 3-page fax to the researcher but heard nothing further.

Steve King - distributed his written report on a conference on child porn. The conference did not take enough account of the academic work, although Bill Thompson spoke. The audience was about 50% police, so the atmosphere was restrictive.

Nigel Meek - no report this time.

Basil Stein - the BBFC had proposed further revision of its code for cert. 15 and under.

He also drew attention to a case in which a 14-year-old boy had been convicted of possessing 'child porn' for having pictures of 14 and 15-year-old girls. (Steve King said there were other cases pending)

Mark Taha - keeping up the flow of press cuttings.

7. Secretary's report

- i. Proposals for CAC use of the internet - item held over
- ii. Department of Culture - item held over

8. No other business

9. Date of next meeting - September, date to be arranged.