

F I N A L R E P O R T

OBSCENITY SUBCOMMITTEE

January, 1982

The Legislative Council approved the creation of the Obscenity Subcommittee of the Senate Standing Committee on Judiciary and the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement, which is composed of ten members. The members are from the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee and the House Standing Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement.

The members of the Subcommittee are:

Senator John S. Murray, Co-chairperson
Representative L. W. Gross, Co-chairperson
Senator A. R. Bud Kudart
Senator Ray Taylor
Senator Robert Carr
Senator C. Joseph Coleman
Representative Sonja Egenes
Representative Virgil Corey
Representative Robert Arnould
Representative Minnette Doderer

At the Subcommittee's first and only meeting, held on November 16, 1981, the Subcommittee received the presentations of:

1. Mr. Steve Klepfer, President of the Concerned Citizens for Christian Standards, concerning pornography in general and concerning specific legislative proposals.

2. The Reverend Daniel Osterhout, representing the American Council of Christian Churches, concerning the saturation of sexually oriented materials into society, a survey linking rape with pornography and obscenity, and concerning the teaching of sex education in schools.

3. Mr. Robert Ward, representing the Iowa Library Association, concerning several problems which would result from the passage of local obscenity ordinances.

4. Mr. John Hartog, representing Pro Family Forum, concerning the regulation of pornographic materials and Senate File 304.

5. Mrs. Gerald Ratigan, representing the Des Moines Chapter of Citizens for Decency, concerning the need for tough laws on pornography and tough law enforcement.

6. Mr. George Flagg, a Des Moines City Councilman, concerning legislative proposals.

7. Mr. Richard Thornton, representing the Iowa Motion Picture Distributors and Iowa Periodical Distributors, concerning the need to keep a statewide obscenity standard and the apparent lack of enforcement of the present Iowa obscenity law.

8. Ms. Donna LaPorte, representing Eagle Forum, concerning the reprehensible nature of pornography.

9. Mr. Pat Griffith, representing Concerned Citizens for Christian Standards, concerning the infiltration of pornography into society.

10. Mr. David Richter, Pottowattamie County Attorney, concerning the unenforceability of the present Iowa obscenity chapter.

As a result of the testimony given and Subcommittee deliberation, the Subcommittee has recommended that upon the General Assembly's convening in January, the chairperson of the House Judiciary and Law Enforcement Standing Committee and the chairperson of the Senate Judiciary Standing Committee, appoint respective subcommittees to review and analyze the testimony and recommendations presented before this Subcommittee, for the purpose of the development of an appropriate bill or other appropriate courses of action. In this regard, the Subcommittee directed the Legislative Service Bureau to compile a package of materials including state and federal statutes, subcommittee minutes, and a listing of any recommendations made at the Subcommittee meeting, to be submitted to the subcommittee appointed by the Judiciary chairpersons.