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April 8, 2000

# California Legislature Goes Sane!

Judith A. Reisman, PhD



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## California legislature goes sane!

Posted By *Judith Reisman* On 04/08/2000 @ 1:00 am

A democratically controlled, California legislative committee went sane on April 4, 2000 when the "Safe Public Libraries Legislation," a Parental rights measure, cleared the California Judiciary Committee, 5-0.

Following a spirited debate on what constitutes "harmful matter" and "parents rights," led by Sen. Steve Peace, D-El Cajon, in his scathing condemnation of the American Library Association and the ACLU as "hypocritical" free speech advocates, Sen. Ray Haynes, R-Riverside, won a unanimous victory for his parental rights library bill.

Haynes' bill, SB 1412 would forbid rental of "R" or "NC-17" videos to minors under 17 years of age and would allow parents to know if they are paying a fine for books such as "The Anarchist Cookbook" or films like "Natural Born Killers," both "available to minors at public libraries," said Sen. Haynes.

Despite indignant protests by ALA and ACLU witnesses, Peace sided with Haynes saying that if "children go to Blockbuster Video to rent an R-rated movie, they are properly denied this privilege as a matter of corporate policy. As state legislators, it is our job to ensure that this community standard is also upheld in taxpayer-funded libraries." Haynes cited the Columbine tragedy as raising public awareness of the need for parental involvement in their children's lives — even when the brainwashed bureaucrats who run our libraries disagree. "This bill begins to address that failing," said Haynes.

As an expert witness for Haynes, I described some of the weighty data I have gathered studying mass media effects over the last 30 years. "Harmful Matter," § 313 in the California code, protects minors from material that "appeals to the prurient interest ... depicts or describes in a patently offensive way sexual conduct ... (or) lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value *for minors*."

If something is "commercially exploited by the defendant for the sake of its prurient appeal, that evidence is probative ... and can justify the conclusion that the matter lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value *for minors*."

Empirical evidence that sexual and violent material are “harmful matter” began with the sophisticated Greeks who crafted the word “obscene” (“off-stage”) to describe their treatment of graphic violent and sexual material. And, Deuteronomy 4:15 warns beware, “lest ye corrupt yourselves — *and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female*” (photography is a graven silver process).

Following up on the corruption theme, March 3, 1865, President Abraham Lincoln signed the “Lincoln Law” outlawing anything “tending to stir the sex impulses or to lead to sexually impure and lustful thoughts,” saying, “no obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, other publication of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be admitted into the mails of the United States.” Imagine!

Thousands of research studies showing media “copycat” effects support Greek, biblical and Lincolnian findings.

Major studies began in the 1950s, were repeated for the surgeon general in 1972 and 1982, were reconfirmed in 1986 by the attorney general’s Commission on Pornography, and were confirmed again in 1992 by the ultra-liberal American Psychological Association. What is glamorized in the media causes copycat behavior in vulnerable youths and adults.

Advertising’s annual billions of profit are based on that causal relationship.

Reiterating the theme of media causing copycat conduct was Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop. He said that violent and pornographic media are a “crushing public health problem ... a clear and present danger ... blatantly anti-human. ... We must oppose it as we oppose all violence and prejudice.”

Even liberal television luminary Bill Moyers, in “Bill Moyers’ World of Ideas,” observed that the “transition from things imagined to things real is a very easy one ... and men, no less than children, will suit action to fantasy.” Humans *imagine* doing something before actually doing it. And, nothing has formed our imaginations more than the obscene post-1948 Kinseyan mass media.

Writing in *Stop Teaching Our Kids To Kill*, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman and Gloria DeGaetano document the mass media’s arrogant lust

and appetite for "harmful matter," graphic sex and violence. These authors, like Koop, called for "action against TV, movie and video game violence."

It is well past time for the American polity to recapture our mass media. History, religion, science and liberty require that sexual and violent "copycat" media be "off-stage."

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