

# Your Freedom of Choice: CENSORED!

There are, we must admit, many reasons to be *offended* by or to *disagree* with the content of various publications, movies, or television and radio programs. But whenever individuals feel personally *threatened* by what other people read, publish, or broadcast, it seems that the only solution ever entertained to resolve their perceived threat is by lobbying for government intervention ---  *censorship*  --- a "solution" welcomed by governments ever eager to extend their control over the citizenry.

But is the perceived threat *real*? Can the simple *expression* of ideas, opinions, or lifestyles pose a genuine threat to the safety of individuals in society?

We think not.

The world is replete with potentially dangerous people, ideas, and opinions. But history has proven that *potentially* dangerous ideas only become a *real* danger to citizens when *governments* become active in attempts to enforce or ban the acceptance of those ideas. That's exactly what happened with publications like *Mein Kampf*, *Das Kapital*, and yes, even the *Bible* --- yet few today would advocate their banning despite the carnage that has been attributed to them at various times throughout history.

*Freedom* involves taking a risk that there will always be some abuse of it, but knowing that the environment of freedom for all is the most valuable (and *necessary*) social condition. Otherwise, we'll have *tyranny*, which guarantees oppression for *everyone* under the pretext of "protecting" certain interest groups.

*The issue here is choice.* The power to abolish what we *don't* like is the same power that can abolish the material we *do* like --- and that's something that happens every time censorship becomes accepted as a legitimate function of government. (over)

# Freedom Party

Those who still believe that it is possible to confine censorship to specific areas of thought or depiction (i.e., sex) should take a closer look at today's reality --- virtually every conceivable form of communication in this country is controlled by some level of government in some manner: television, radio, newspapers, religious opinion, record albums, units of measurement, language, political advertising, telephone rates, the mail, sexually-oriented matter, rock videos, film, "crime" comics, satellite reception, "lifestyle" advertising, etc., etc., etc...

And what's the government's *justification* for all this media control?

"We're not trying to *protect* anyone," (!!) says Mary Brown, the Chairman of Ontario's "new" *Film Review Board* (really the old Censor Board made more powerful and politically disguised to hide the fact), "our purpose is simply to *enforce community standards*."

What Mary Brown has confessed to us in no uncertain terms goes much further than the simple admission that individuals in Ontario have been denied their right to *freedom of speech* and *association* --- it means that certain selected minorities within society have been categorically denied their right to express *disagreement with majority opinion*. Unfortunately, as happens with all censorship attempts, things like "community" standards always become *government standards*, and the word "enforce" always refers to the initiation of legal force against someone with whom the government has a *difference of opinion*.

We think that the basis of any free society is having the right to disagree in a peaceful manner without fear of political reprisal --- no matter *how* unpopular a person's point of view may be.

**Freedom Party** believes that the *purpose of government* is to *protect* our freedom of choice, *not* to restrict it.

*Censorship*: What are you doing about it?

If you want to make your own choices rather than have those choices taken from you by often well-meaning but always ill-advised interest groups and politicians, then *choose Freedom Party* before even *that* choice may be taken from you. After all, freedom of choice is what we're all about!

**Freedom Party** is founded on the principle that: Every individual, in the peaceful pursuit of personal fulfillment, has an absolute right to his or her own life, liberty, and property.