

find it an amusing romp. Others may well find it repellent rather than amusing, and the frankness of some of the language in the sexual scenes may cause offence to some.

The Tribunal classifies this book as indecent in the hands of persons under the age of 18 years.

R. S. V. SIMPSON, Chairman.

30 July 1971.

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*Decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal*

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963, and in the matter of an application by the Comptroller of Customs for a decision in respect of the book *Do It* by Jerry Rubin, published by Simon and Schuster, New York.

There was no appearance of the applicant nor of the publisher's representative in New Zealand. Accordingly no submissions were made.

DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL

THE Comptroller of Customs submitted this paperback edition of Mr Rubin's book to the Tribunal for a decision. There was no appearance of counsel but a letter was received from Mr Nigel S. Roberts, Lecturer in Political Science and American Studies at the University of Canterbury.

Mr Roberts says that in December 1970 in the course of his duties he asked the University Library at Canterbury to order the book. He did so, he says, "Because: (i) whether we like it or not, Mr Rubin has been an influential figure in an unusual way in American politics since 1968; and (ii) overseas reviews indicate that *Do It* should not be simply censored or easily dismissed. It is, apparently, an important work if we are to understand and interpret the frame of mind of Mr Rubin's followers.

"For these reasons it would be less than honest for a full and thorough comprehension of American Government and Politics if Mr Rubin's *Do It* is not made available for consultation and reference by serious students of American Government at the very least".

Jerry Rubin is the leader of the Yippies, the Youth International Party. This is his testament, written as provocatively and offensively as possible. It amounts to a full exposition of the communist-anarchical philosophy underlying much of the student and prolonged-adolescent revolt prevalent today in the United States. Alliance with the Black Panthers is an element in the story, drugs are a factor. The tenets and attitudes which make up the "philosophy" are socio-economic and political as much as moral, although denunciation of conventional morality and subversion of accepted standards are preached throughout.

This is easily the most complete and authoritative statement that any member of the Tribunal has encountered of one of today's most disquieting social phenomena. It is ugly reading, but it provides a major contribution towards the understanding of a movement which is already to be reckoned with in many places. "Representative democracy is the enemy. The goal of each man his own revolution".

To refuse to allow the adult citizen to read this book would be to interfere with his right to make up his mind on questions which go to the root of moral and economic principle, matters upon which he has, as an adult, a right to make up his mind without unnecessary protection. It is not, in our view, the intention of the statute that we should attempt to deprive him of this.

We go further. The argument is aimed towards the minds of those considered likely to be susceptible to its attraction: adolescents and those who are immature. Here again we cannot believe that paternalist protection is in the interest of such persons, nor, therefore, in the public interest. To deny the young access to important facts of modern life or to a knowledge of doctrines which at some stage they are likely to encounter would be to do them a grave disservice.

In spite of features which we dislike and find objectionable, and bearing in mind section 11 (1) (b) of the Act, we have no hesitation in deciding that the Act does not require us to restrict the circulation of this book.

The Tribunal classifies it as not indecent.

R. S. V. SIMPSON, Chairman.

30 July 1971.

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*Decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal*

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963, and in the matter of an application by the Comptroller of Customs for a decision in respect of the book *Psychodynamics of Unconventional Sex Behaviour and Unusual Sex Practices* by Paul J. Gillette, published by Holloway House, California.

There was no appearance of the applicant. Mr P. J. Downey, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the New Zealand distributors and made submissions.

DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL

THIS was an application by the Comptroller of Customs. On behalf of the distributors we were supplied with copies of reviews of the book as an indication of its critical reception.

The case histories and explanations are typical of those normally included in publications of this kind, and there can be no question of the author's competence. Originally published as a textbook it is equipped with the scholarly apparatus of bibliography, glossary, and annotation throughout. The cover is unexceptionable, the style is not dramatised, there are no illustrations. We believe, however, that the place of the book is among textbooks and not as popular reading in paperback form.

The final third of the book deals largely with perversions and aberrations of a kind few people will encounter in a lifetime. While it is perfectly possible that the book might help people whose sexual make-up is unusual to reduce their feelings of guilt to more reasonable dimensions and to regard themselves in a more objective and healthier light, it is still true that this is a practitioner's book and that there could very well be a risk, of the kind we are required to take into account, of its being harmful and corrupting to some who might encounter it. We are of opinion that its circulation should be restricted.

The Tribunal classifies it as indecent except in the hands of persons concerned, either professionally, or as students, with sexual abnormalities.

R. S. V. SIMPSON, Chairman.

30 July 1971.

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*Decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal*

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963, and in the matter of an application by the Comptroller of Customs for a decision in respect of the book *Hidden Gems of Erotica* by James Pounce, published by Riverhaven Ltd., London.

There was no appearance of the applicant. Mr P. J. Downey, solicitor, appeared on behalf of the distributors in New Zealand and made submissions.

DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL

THE back cover of this book states that "here are unveiled and examined for the first time, seven startling, often shocking, examples of writing. These are 'sex stories'—suppressed until now—specially designed to please readers in search of what some people call 'pornography'".

Each story is presented by James Pounce and in so doing he gives a brief account of the story with his observations and explanations. Lengthy passages from the text are quoted and one would surmise that the more lurid passages have been selected.

The purpose of the book is frankly commercial and the extracts are chosen for excitement and for their pornographic content.

The Tribunal classifies it as indecent.

R. S. V. SIMPSON, Chairman.

30 July 1971.

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*Decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal*

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963, and in the matter of an application by the Comptroller of Customs for a decision in respect of the book *The Klansman* by William B Huie, published by Sphere Books Ltd., London.

There was no appearance of the applicant nor of the publisher's representative in New Zealand. Accordingly no submissions were made.

DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL

THIS is an account of racism in Alabama in the United States of America told through the medium of a novel in which the