

The Publishers Association

Copy of a

MEMORANDUM from THE SECRETARY

To The President Date 27 January 1971

Subject Booksellers Association

I lunched with Gerry Davies on Monday and we had a fairly wide-ranging discussion. There are perhaps three points on which I should report.

First, arising from discussions at our D & M Committee, Gerry Davies has had discussions with Ben Winter-Goodwin, as a result of which Book Centre may be prepared to pay up to £3,500 to enable the BA to appoint a 'Distribution Inspector', a kind of Ombudsman to investigate complaints about bad deliveries. He would be based at the BA, with a car, although most of his work will probably be out of Book Centre. When the appointment is made we shall be free to make it known to publishers that if they have any problems arising out of the Publishers Parcels Delivery Service they can be referred for investigation to the BA 'Inspector'.

Second, there has apparently been some instruction to the G.C. that they must operate more profitably. In other words, they apparently find that they cannot afford the discounts they are giving to their constituent customers. Gerry Davies has promised to send me further particulars of this* I am hopeful that it will support our argument that it is does not pay LEAs to buy direct!

Finally, the brewers, Whitbread, have it in mind to give three literary prizes, each worth £1,000, for, respectively, a novel, a biography and a book of poetry. This was apparently something started by John Newton (believe it or not!) and seems now likely to come to fruition. I think Gerry would gladly have handed the whole thing over to the NBL, but the other BA Officers feel that the BA should administer the prizes, and so it will be for them to select the Judges for the first year, at least. Solely for information.

RHB

* See enclosed document.

cc: Vice-President
Treasurer
J. Y. Huws Davies Esq
Miss Marilyn Edwards ✓

RHB/SJ