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JT

4th May, 1965

Paramount British Pictures Limited

My dear Howard,

I am now in a position to send you our comments on the screenplay of "ALFIE." Obviously the film could be considered only for the 'X' category. It is, however, a basically moral theme, and if it is made with integrity, as I have every reason to think that it will be, it should not give us much trouble.

There are, however, some points that I would like to raise on the present screenplay. These are as follows:-

Pages 1-3 - Scene 7

We would not object to seeing dogs sniffing each other, but there might be trouble if the behaviour of the dogs was a close parallel of what was going on in the car! We are a bit concerned about the script direction "..... adjusts his trousers and generally makes himself less uncomfortable." Discretion should be used here. The same applies to Siddie " ... hitching up her skirt, and tidying herself up."

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Page 4 - Scene 7

We think that you should omit the shot of Alfie taking the pair of panties from his pocket and tossing them across to Siddie with his line "'Ere mind you don't catch cold." This is more suggestive than we would like.

Page 6 - Scene 10

Although this is not a censorship point, I am doubtful whether you can get a train from Waterloo Station to Forest Hill Station. I would have thought that Victoria was more likely.

Page 6 - Scene 10

Siddie's line "So long as you don't have to give it to him," and Alfie's reply "I would if I were built that way," may pass, but I think that you should shoot this scene in a way that would enable these lines to be removed if necessary.

Page 12 - Scene 16

The same applies to the explicit references to menstruation. They may pass, but you should provide for the possibility that they may not.

Page 14 - Scene 17

Here Alfie "makes a sign" which appears to be a visual illustration of the fact that he has made his girl pregnant. I have no idea what sign is intended, but obviously care should be used.

Page 51 - Scene 50

I do not know whether the choice of a banana in this scene is intended to have any visual significance or not. Since it might possibly give this impression I suggest that you might well substitute an apple or something of this kind!

Page 79 - Scene 88

I would have thought that there was no need for nudity in this scene. This kind of thing has become a cliché. It will certainly be cut if nudity is clearly visible, and at the most only a backview would be accepted. I hope, however, that you will omit this entirely.

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Page 81 - Scene 95

Ruby's costume should be adequate and not transparent.

Page 83 - Scene 95

I think the whole of this dialogue should be modified. As it stands it is descriptive of ardent love-making, and I think it would probably be cut if shot as it stands.

Page 84 - Scene 95

The script direction reads "Alfie and Ruby embrace with some extravagant love-making preamble." It should not be too extravagant. We are not too happy about the phrase "lust-box" (also on page 111 - scene 138). If you make use of this I think that you should have an alternative available.

Pages 93-100 - Scenes 111-112

These are strong scenes, but they will probably be acceptable in the context, since they do make a valid point against abortion. We would not want any really harrowing moans and screams from Lily.

Pages 102-103 - Scenes
124-125

These could be very moving scenes. Obviously we shall not see what Alfie sees in the bathroom.

Page 109 - Scene 135

We are not sure about the lines "What, you doin' it with groups now then?" and "Don't be disgusting." These should be shot in a way that would enable them to be removed without difficulty if necessary.

I have one other general point. I think that the phrase "having it off with", which is used from time to time, will probably be acceptable, but here again you might have an alternative for post-synching if it should not be.

I return your screenplay herewith.

Yours

Enclosure