

CuChullaine O'Reilly FRGS
longriders@thelongridersguild.com

12th May, 2008

First Lady Laura Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Subject : Bid to establish monopoly over American literary legacy.

Dear Mrs. Bush

Earlier this month the nation's literary liberty came under an unprecedented monopolistic attack when the Amazon corporation attempted to seize control of the production and distribution of America's books.

In a bid to gain financial control of the publishing industry, Amazon presented publishers with an ultimatum. Switch to their company's printing facility or have the "buy" buttons on their famous marketing website disabled in retaliation. The ensuing blitzkrieg saw one publisher alone having 70,000 titles silenced when his company dared to resist.

The Long Riders' Guild Press, which my wife and I own, has published nearly 300 titles in eight languages, making it the world's premier source of equestrian exploration wisdom. Yet our tiny independent company is next in line to be attacked and we are currently awaiting the on-coming destruction of nearly ten years of unprecedented literary labour.

That is why we are writing to you.

As a former librarian, your understanding and appreciation of this country's literary legacy is a ray of hope in a suddenly frightening world. Authors are in a panic. Publishers are watching their life's work be destroyed. The Author's Guild has issued a plea for emergency assistance. Why? Because all of these people realize the enormous damages which will be inflicted upon America's literary community if this monopoly is allowed to proceed.

Mrs. Bush, the symbolic confidence entrusted to the First Lady is one of this nation's treasured traditions. Though the occupant of your office does not pass legislation, nevertheless she wields a great deal of power on behalf of the people her husband was elected to serve.

As equestrian explorers, my wife and I have had to face a multitude of dangers in the saddle. We have done so fearlessly. Yet we realize that the danger facing us, and so many thousands of other publishers and authors, is too enormous to attempt alone.

That is why we are writing to you today, Mrs. Bush, to request you to use the influence of your office to help the book writers, publishers and readers of this nation in our hour of desperate need.

In closing, though we appreciate the complexity of your daily schedule, as well as the international obligations under which you labour, we trust you can have a member of your staff contact us without delay regarding this emergency? In anticipation of your response, and to alleviate the grave concerns of the American publishing community, this letter will be published on the websites listed below and provided to our readers in thirty-nine countries.

Many thanks in advance for your attention and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

CuChullaine O'Reilly FRGS

Enclosures: Editorial by Publisher CuChullaine O'Reilly
Interview with Publisher Basha O'Reilly
Research article by The Long Riders' Guild Academic Foundation

Websites: www.thelongridersguild.com
www.horsetravelbooks.com
www.classictravelbooks.com
www.lrgaf.org