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12th May, 2008

Senators Clinton, McCain and Obama
United States Senate
476 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Subject : Bid to establish monopoly over American literary legacy.

Dear Senators,

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.

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, on behalf of the readers, writers and publishers of this nation, so as to ascertain each of your views in regards to this extraordinary assault on the integrity of American literature.

It was President Teddy Roosevelt who, in order to curb abuses throughout industry, ordered the Anti Trust Act against the most powerful corporations in the country, even though he was a pro-business Republican. Yet that courageous leader was also blessed with the ability to see the simple truth in a complex problem.

"The best thing," President Roosevelt said, "that you can do is the right thing. The second best thing you can do is the wrong thing. But the worst thing you can do is nothing."

Senators, it is our hope that you will individually and collectively consider this petition for aid in our hour of desperate need, by ordering an immediate investigation into this assault on America's literary legacy and to publicize your individual view on this critical situation without delay.

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

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