

Cases of Historical Interest In the Southern District of New York

United States v. A Motion Picture Film Entitled "I Am Curious-Yellow"

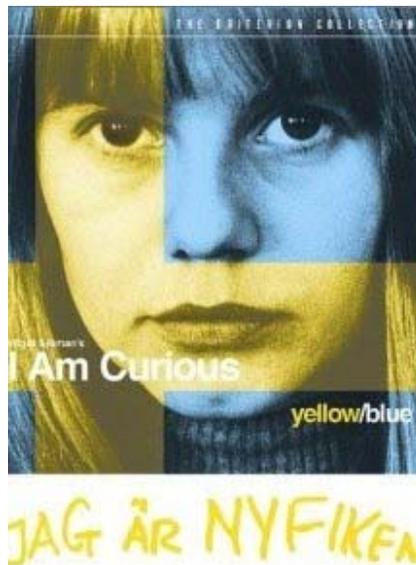
Judge Thomas F. Murphy

After Bureau of Customs officials seized a copy of the Swedish film *I am Curious (Yellow)*, its American distributor sought a court order declaring that the movie had social value and was therefore not obscene. *I am Curious (Yellow)* included calls for European social activism mixed with sequences depicting nudity and sexual contact. Judge Murphy was no fan: “To me, it was repulsive and revolting, the sexual scenes having no relationship to the story line or plot – if there was one.” He nevertheless concluded that “we judges are not critics or censors or literary experts,” and held that a trial was required to determine if the movie was obscene. A jury eventually decided that it was, although the Second Circuit reversed and permitted the film’s distribution. *I am Curious (Yellow)* went on to gross more than \$20 million in the United States.

285 F.Supp. 465 (S.D.N.Y. 1968)

J. Zirin, [The Mother Court](#), 101-04

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0061834/>



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