



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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TOGETHER



A JOURNAL OF NEWS & OPINION BY THE
MINNESOTA COMMITTEE FOR GAY RIGHTS

VOLUME 1, NO. 3
OCTOBER 1974

MCGR Questionnaire

Response Triples

As part of an effort to determine the positions of elected officials and those running for office, the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights sent out a questionnaire to all candidates and officials asking their opinions on the issue of gay civil rights. As a result of the questionnaire, we can draw the following conclusions: First, out of 350 questionnaires sent, 50 responded (in 1972 only 18 responded) and their reaction to the issue is overwhelmingly supportive. Second, many who supported our efforts in 1973 did not reply to the questionnaire. Third, there is more DFL support, probably due to the modified DFL plank adopted this year. Fourth, in southside Minneapolis gay rights is apparently a "safe issue"; DFL and GOP candidates support gay rights. Fifth, the response to the questionnaire was greater in Minneapolis than in St. Paul or in out-state areas.

The main purpose of the questionnaire was to inform the gay community (and also straight supporters) of those candidates who are supportive of gay rights. Also, the gay community wanted to educate the candidates on the issues that concern gays. One of the most important purposes was to help the Legislative Task Force in their lobbying for fair employment protection and the consenting adults privacy legislation.

It is interesting to note that the candidates are beginning to be responsive to the extent that they are taking ads in newspapers like TOGETHER, which obviously indicates their support for our causes. For example, Hennepin County Attorney candidate Chet Durda felt that it was in his

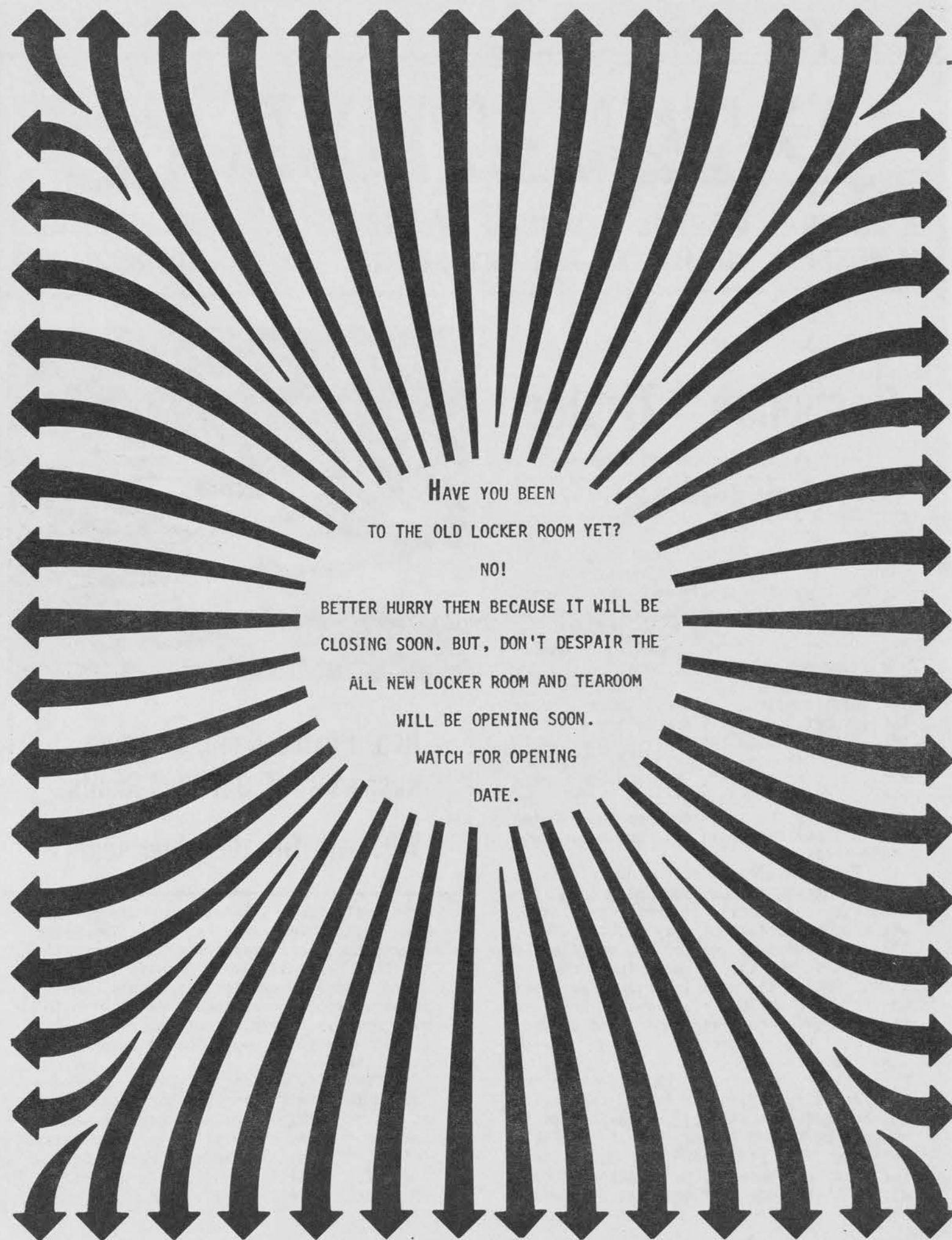


**Rep. Phyllis Kahn, a strong
supporter of Gay Civil Rights.**

Who will fill the other seats?

best political interest to come out for gay rights in order to gain important straight liberal support from his constituents. Hennepin County Sheriff candidate David Lindgren, presently a County Commissioner, supported a county resolution including gays in employment protection because he felt it would hurt him to oppose gay rights.

The results of the survey are contained in this issue. The questions asked of the candidates are reprinted verbatim, and the responses of all the candidates follow. A special thanks to Marcia Greenfield for compiling the data and organizing it in such an efficient manner.



Coordinator's Corner MARCUS WELBY PROTEST:

Censorship or Media Responsibility

The October 8 segment of "Marcus Welby, M.D." dealt with a male high school teacher raping a male student. While ABC contended that the show was not about homosexuality but rather child molestation, the subtleties of the situation were probably lost to most of the audience. For many, the show was about "those queers molesting kids again." Furthermore, there was a continuing questioning of the boy's manhood because of the incident, implying that gayness and manhood cannot go together.

The Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights joined a nationwide protest organized by the National Gay Task Force. One of the goals of this protest was to get local affiliates of ABC to refuse to show the bigoted segment. Due to the efforts of MCGR, KMSP-9 received over one hundred phone calls and letters of protest before the show and many more after. Due to this pressure and that of others, KMSP did give Gay people three minutes of "citizen editorials" to respond. There has been some concern from both within and without the MCGR membership that our attempt to convince KMSP not to show the segment was, in fact, censorship.

It is my feeling that our action was not one of censorship, but rather one demanding restraint and responsibility on the part of the media—a special responsibility under FCC regulation with regard to projecting negative stereotypes of minority groups. The show not only reinforced negative stereotypes but also may jeopardize civil rights legislation for Gay people across the country. An unspoken and inaccurate premise of some of those critical of our action is that the media is open and that all have equal access to it. Such is simply not the case. The real issue of censorship here lies with the media. The media (and particularly ABC) has pretended for years that the 10% of our society which is Gay (Kinsey figures) simply does not exist. What could be more devastating censorship? The three minutes of "citizen editorials" hardly offset either that neglect or the negative stereotypes promoted

by that great paternalistic figure, Dr. Welby, in an hour-long drama. Imagine for a minute that the show was instead about Dr. Welby concluding that Blacks have inferior IQs. Would it be fair to suggest that the show should be aired and the station should give a Black leader three minutes of "citizen editorials" to respond? Of course not.

One measure of the magnitude of this fight was that four local affiliates of ABC around the country (including Philadelphia and Boston, #4 and #6 media markets) refused to air the segment. Several national sponsors including Bayer Aspirin, Listerine, Shell Oil, Lipton Tea, and others canceled their advertising scheduled for that segment of the show. The press release issued by the Philadelphia affiliate about their refusal to show the segment was typical of much of the thinking of the local affiliates and sponsors. They stated that while they were concerned with the issue of censorship they were deeply concerned that the showing of this segment would reinforce negative stereotypes based on ignorance and, in fact, threaten the civil rights of "a newly-emerging minority."

The national effort, coordinated by the National Gay Task Force, was a largely successful one. While the show was broadcast in most areas, it was retaped and watered down three times to cool the protest flames. The defection of those several local affiliates and national sponsors can only have a positive effect on broadcasting relating to Gay people in the future. I was pleased that our organization cooperated with this national effort, rather than serving as a divisive element in their effort. I was proud of the fine job done by Sue Christopherson, Chairperson of our Media and Public Relations Task Force. I was very pleased with the "citizen editorial" done for the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights by Helen Livingston—moderate yet strong. I am pleased that we chose the course that we did—one I believe was in the best interest of Gay people and society as a whole.

A VOTING BOOTH IS THE SAFEST CLOSET!

VOTE

Janet Clark

A Strong Supporter of Gay Civil Rights and Human Dignity

60a

Prepared and inserted by the Campaign Fund
of Janet Clark, 3353 Elliot Ave. So. Mpls.
55407, Kay Brick, Treasurer

Arne Carlson 58a

RE-ELECT A MAN WHO BELIEVES IN EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL IN OUR SOCIETY

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TOGETHER

Women Relating to Children

Helen Livingston-Cohen

(Helen Livingston-Cohen is coordinator of the group, Women Relating to Children, WRTC, a group set up to bring together women who are raising children and relating to children being raised in alternative lifestyles. Besides serving as a meeting place for these women, its primary objective is to educate research and facilitate communication about the problems and successes of this alternative.)

The question of separatism has always been an issue within the Lesbian community. For the Lesbian mother the separatist philosophy becomes more than just an issue, or a choice to make; it can have an influence on her that can drive her to the depths of despair, cause her to question her own sexuality and her own rightness. While this is not true for all Lesbian mothers (for some of the most staunch separatists are indeed also mothers), it does affect a large enough percentage to warrant space here.

The fact that the children of Lesbian mothers symbolize to many non-mothers male oppression is a source of much uneasiness between mothers and non-mothers within the Lesbian community. While the presence of children seems oppressive for many Les-

bians, the presence of male children is a much different and overwhelming problem causing deep conflict in the community.

It seems absurd that women, who are themselves not strangers to the disabling effects of bias and oppression, could oppress, ostracize and condemn another Lesbian simply on the grounds that she is the mother of a male child.

While I can respect a woman's right to hold and live by a philosophy of separatism, I cannot respect this complete disregard for an individual's personhood — that she, or anyone else, is judged by the sex of a child she conceived and gave birth to and chose to raise, is a baffling and disturbing concept of Lesbianism.

When I am confronted with words from a Lesbian mother such as, "I do not feel I can be a mother and an integral part of the Lesbian community," I feel that the Lesbian community must more carefully scrutinize their individual feelings on matters of this sort and come to a more realistic approach to working out negative feelings other than ostracism and condemnation. The Lesbian mother is a woman and a Lesbian — she has gone through the same wringers to come out the non-mother has gone through, and she needs the same sense of solidarity, support, acceptance and understanding that the non-mother Lesbian seeks. If we are really sick of oppression, bigotry and bias, we must start by banishing them from our own community before we try to banish them from society.

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Re-elect

Phyllis Kahn

57a
(S.E. Mpls.)

A Strong & Progressive Legislator working for your Human Rights

Paid for by the Kahn Volunteer Committee, P. Kahn, Treasurer
100 Malcolm S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414

Compliance & Enforcement Organizational Meeting

The Compliance and Enforcement Task force will hold an organizational meeting at 8:00 PM on Monday, October 28 at the home of Ron Albers (3134 Emerson Ave. South, Apt. 3, Minneapolis) All persons interested in working on the Task Force for the next three months are encouraged to attend. If you have ideas, but are unable to attend, please call Ron Albers at 827-3344. Areas of concern for this Task Force include:

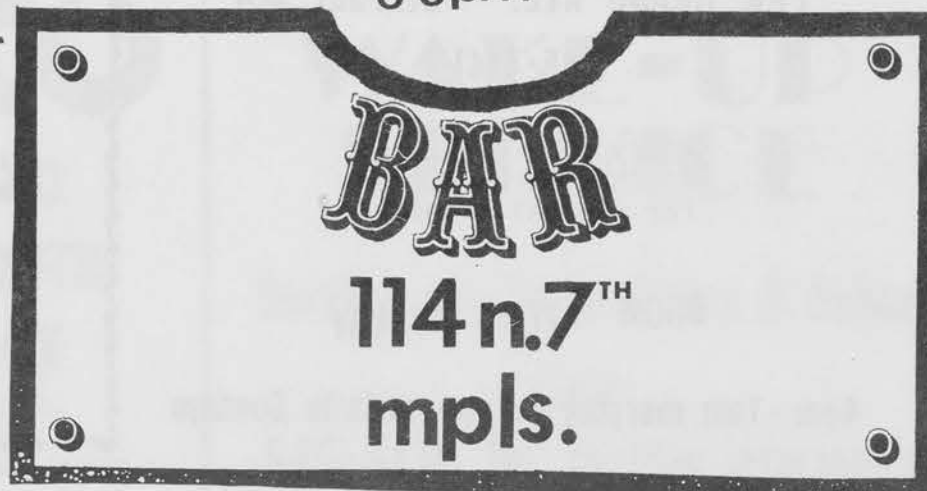
- (1) The communication of the Minneapolis and St. Paul employment protection ordinances to the local business people.
- (2) Communicate the equal employment rights to Gay men and Lesbians.
- (3) Support Lesbians and Gay men who face employment discrimination.

LOBBYISTS NEEDED

The Legislative Action Task Force is looking for people who are interested in doing the actual lobbying of legislators during the upcoming session in January. Anyone interested should contact the MCGR at 721-3738 to arrange for an interview.



LUNCHES & DINNERS 11-2pm
6-9pm



GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

Counseling, Potlucks, Groups, and more

"One might describe the kind of counseling we do by the phrase 'You don't need to be sick to get better,'" said Jim Frost, coordinator of Gay Community Services. "Some people think that if you're a counseling agency you only deal with people who have really heavy problems or people who are emotionally disturbed. Actually the clients who use our services are quite functional and usually just need someone to talk to in order to sort things through or to get through a current crisis."

Counseling with individuals and couples is not the only service that Gay Community Services provides. GCS also sponsors potluck suppers on weekends in private homes. The purpose of the potlucks is to provide an informal atmosphere where gay people can meet, enjoy a meal together and get acquainted. The first potlucks were held every other weekend in Jim Frost's and Jack Yoakam's apartment with about fifteen people attending.

"The idea of the potlucks caught on. Six months after we started the suppers in July of 1973 we were having fifty to sixty people attending. So we started having them every weekend to cut down on the attendance as we couldn't find private homes or apartments large enough to accommodate the crowds," recalled Frost. "Now we have a monthly newsletter that is mailed out to 150 people and lists where the potlucks will be held along with the groups we are currently running or organizing."

Over the past year and a half GCS has sponsored rap groups and growth groups centered around a certain topic or clientele. There have been rap groups for gay professional men, persons interested in religion and the church, bisexuals, men over 30, and a general rap group. Growth groups are different from rap groups in that they focus on the interaction between group members. They are more like a therapy group than a rap group. Another group which has been organized from time to time for persons new to the gay subculture or in the process of "coming out" is the Gay Life Styles group. The purpose of the group is to acquaint the members with various gay life styles and for the members

to talk about their experiences within the gay scene.

The groups are facilitated by members of the GCS counseling staff. The staff is composed of eight volunteer paraprofessional counselors, two persons who answer phones, and Frost, who serves as a part-time paid coordinator. Each counselor has a consultant who is a professional in the area of counseling and whom the counselor consults with once a week on cases or group work.

"The difference between what we do in counseling as paraprofessionals and what 'professionals' do is often very slight," stated Frost. "Usually it's a degree such as a Ph.D. or the amount of experience which accounts for the difference. But the kind of cases we get may be no more or less difficult than those a psychologist or social worker would handle."

In addition to the work with consultants, counselors at GCS also have the opportunity to improve their counseling and communications skills through in-service workshops. There has already been a workshop on facilitating groups, and workshops on crisis intervention, drugs, and counseling with couples are being planned for the near future.

The Gay Community Services office is located at 117 E. 18th Street in Minneapolis, directly across the street from Abbott Hospital. Because GCS is not set up as a drop-in center, persons interested in scheduling an appointment with a counselor or who want more information on GCS programs are asked to call before they come in. Phone hours are from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. To contact GCS call 332-0622 during these hours or leave a message on the tape when calling at other times.

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A BENEFIT FOR
MINNESOTA COMMITTEE FOR GAY RIGHTS

McGraw-Hill
Questionnaire

KEY:

Y = Yes

N = No

U = Undecided or,
in question
10 unknown

* = Additional
comments; *
at the end of
a candidate's
column indi-
cates general
comments.
These can be
obtained by
calling the
office,
724-2093.

Gubernatorial
Response

JANE VAN DEUSEN
SOCIALIST WORKERS
ERMIN MARQUART
COMMUNIST
RICH KLEINOW
LIBERTARIAN

Would you support extension of Minnesota's human rights statutes to prohibit discrimination on the basis of "affectional or sexual preference" in			
(a) employment?	*	Y	Y
(b) housing?	*	Y	Y
(c) public accomodations?	*	Y	Y
Do you favor repeal of current laws which prohibit sexual acts involving only consent- ing adults in private?	Y	Y	Y
Would you support exclusion of "affectional or sexual preference" as a consideration in determin- ing fitness for child custody and visitation rights in divorce cases?	Y	N*	Y
Would you support changes in Minnesota's tax laws to provide joint tax status for joint households regardless of marital status for			
(a) persons over 65?	*	Y	Y
(b) relatives?	*	Y	Y
(c) all joint households?	*	Y	Y
Would you support inclusion of materials about gay life styles in human relations courses for teacher certification and recertification?	*	Y	Y
Would you support requiring human relations training for law enforcement and judicial personnel?	Y*	Y	Y
Would you support inclusion of material about gay life styles in human relations courses for law enforcement and judicial personnel?	Y*	Y	Y
Dou feel gay people are discriminated against in the enforcement of misdemeanors such as laws and ordinances against disturbing the peace and loitering?	Y*	Y	Y
Do you oppose such discrimination and would you support efferts to end it?	Y	Y	Y
To your knowledge, are any gay people working in your campaign?	U	U	Y
If a gay person wished to work in your campaign, would you			
(a) object?	N	N	N
(b) limit his/her campaign activities?	*	Y	N
(c) be concerned?	N		N
(d) be pleased for the help?	Y	*	Y

Legislative Response

1A ART BRAUN (D)	5A HERBERT PEREMMER (R)	6B MATHIAS KASCH (R)	7B MICHAEL KONCZAK (I)	8A EDWARD WILLIE (R)	8B ABDUL I. AHMED (D)	13A RICHARD YEAGER (R)	14B MILTON PELLETIER (I)	
Would you vote to extend Minnesota human rights statutes to prohibit discrimination on the basis of "affectional or sexual preference" in (a) employment?	Y	Y	Y	*	N	Y	U	N
(b) housing?	Y	Y	Y	*	N	Y	U	Y
(c) public accommodations?	Y	Y	Y	*	N	Y	U	N
Would you vote to repeal current laws which prohibit sexual acts involving only consenting adults in private?	Y	U	U	*	Y	Y	N	Y
Would you vote to exclude "affectional or sexual preference" as a consideration in determining parental fitness for child custody and visitation rights in divorce cases?	U	U	U	*	Y	Y	N	N
Would you vote to change Minnesota's tax laws to provide joint tax status for joint households regardless of marital status for (a) persons over 65?	U	N	U	*	N	Y	Y	Y
(b) relatives?	U	N	N	*		Y		Y
(c) all joint households?	U	N	N	*		N		Y
Would you vote to include material about gay life styles in human relations courses for teacher certification and recertification?	N	Y	U		N	N	N	N
Would you vote to require human relations training for law enforcement and judicial personnel?	U	Y	Y		N	Y	U	N
Would you vote to include material about gay life styles in human relations courses for law enforcement and judicial personnel?	N	Y	Y		N	Y	U	N
Do you feel gay people are discriminated against in the enforcement of misdemeanors such as ordinances and laws against disturbing the peace and loitering?	Y	U	Y	U	N	Y	U	Y
Do you oppose such discrimination and would you support efforts to end it?	Y	Y	Y	U	N	Y	*	Y
To your knowledge, are any gay people working in your campaign?	U	U	N	N	N	N	N	U
If a gay person wished to work in your campaign, would you (a) object?	N	N	N	N	Y	N	U	N
(b) limit his/her campaign activities?	N	N	Y	N	Y	U	Y	N
(c) be concerned?	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
(d) be pleased for the help?	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	U	Y

15A WAYNE SCHUMACHER (D)	17A JOHN WEYLAND (R)	19A JOHN CLAMSON (D)	22A RALPH BLACKSTAD (D)	24A ROBERT VANASEK (D)	25A JIM WHITE (D)	25B VICTOR SCHULZ (D)	26B KENNETH SANDVIK (D)	28A DORIS BITTNER (D)	38A BRUCE WILLIAMSON (D)	38B LYLE ABELIN (D)	39A BEVERLY HUSTON (D)	40A JANET YONEHIRO (D)	40B JOHN CARR (D)	41B PETE PETRAFESCO (D)	
N	Y	YU*	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	U	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	N	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	U	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	N	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	U	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	U	Y	Y	Y	N	N	U	Y	Y	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	N	N*	N	U	Y	Y	N	U	U	Y	Y	U	U*	Y	Y
N	Y	U	Y	U	U	U	Y	U	Y	U	U	Y	U*	Y	Y
N	U	U*	Y	U	U	U	Y	U	Y	U	U	Y	U*		
N	N	U	Y	U	U	U	Y	U	Y	U	U	U	U*		
N	U	Y	Y	*	N	U	YU	Y	Y	Y	N	U	Y	Y	Y
N	Y	Y	Y	*	Y	*	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	U	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	U	Y*	Y	U	U	N	U	N	Y	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	U	Y*	Y	Y	Y	*	Y	Y	Y	U	U	Y	Y	Y	Y
N	N	N	U	U	N	N	N	N	N	U	U*	N	U	Y	N
Y	U	N		N	U	*	U	N	N	N	N	N		N	N
	U	Y*		Y	U	*	U		N*	N	U			N	
	U	U*		N	U	*	N		N	N	N			N	
	U	Y	Y	Y	U	*	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	

Legislative Response

Legislative Response	43A EMILY ANN STAPLES (D)	44B LEO ADAMS (D)	45A ROBERT PROSCH (I)	46A JACK KIRKHAM (R)	46B FRED SYRDAL (R)	47Senate ROBERT MYERS (R)	50B DICK KOSTOHRYZ (D)	51B MICHAEL SIEBEN (D)
Would you vote to extend Minnesota human rights statutes to prohibit discrimination on the basis of "affectional or sexual preference" in								
(a) employment?	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	U	Y	Y
(b) housing?	Y	Y	Y	N	U	U	Y	Y
(c) public accommodations?	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	U	Y	Y
Would you vote to repeal current laws which prohibit sexual acts involving only consenting adults in private?	Y	U	Y	N	U	U	Y	Y
Would you vote to exclude "affectional or sexual preference" as a consideration in determining parental fitness for child custody and visitation rights in divorce cases?	Y	Y	Y	U	N	U	N	*
Would you vote to change Minnesota's tax laws to provide joint tax status for joint households regardless of marital status for								
(a) persons over 65?	Y	N	Y	Y	U		U	U
(b) relatives?	Y	N	Y	Y	U		U	U
(c) all joint households?	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	U	U
Would you vote to include material about gay life styles in human relations courses for teacher certification and recertification?	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	U
Would you vote to require human relations training for law enforcement and judicial personnel?	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	U
Would you vote to include material about gay life styles in human relations courses for law enforcement and judicial personnel?	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Do you feel gay people are discriminated against in the enforcement of misdemeanors such as ordinances and laws against disturbing the peace and loitering?	Y	N	U	N	U	N	U	U
Do you oppose such discrimination and would you support efforts to end it?	Y	Y	Y		Y*		Y	Y
To your knowledge, are any gay people working in your campaign?	N	N	N	N	N	U	N	N
If a gay person wished to work in your campaign, would you								
(a) object?	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
(b) limit his/her campaign activities?	N	Y	N		U	Y*	Y	N
(c) be concerned?	N	U	Y		Y	N	Y	N
(d) be pleased for the help?	Y	U	Y		Y	Y	U	Y

*

[illegible]

3

1 ANNIVERSARY

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TOGETHER

15

Why support Gay Rights Candidates?

For too long we have put Gay Rights behind a long list of issues on which we judge candidates for public office. Many Gay people have been conditioned to believe that candidates will not respond to their special needs as Gay people and also that those needs are unimportant and do not deserve consideration. We consider Gay Rights after the lettuce boycott, tenants' rights, the doomed stadium, the energy crisis, judicial reform and so on. All are deserving social issues, but when we put Gay Rights after all these issues it becomes lost at the bottom of the heap. It is considered only after lengthy discussion on whether to replace three squares of sidewalk on some obscure street in St. Paul. We often consider financial concerns when choosing which candidates to support, yet we fail to realize that "financial considerations" includes whether Gay people are employed or fired because of their Gayness.

Who will make Gay Rights a top priority issue if we won't?

Many of us have been involved in other Civil Rights efforts, and we let our vote be heavily influenced by the candidates' positions on Civil Rights for racial minorities. Many of us are increasingly concerned about the right of women to total equality, and we see the issue as so important that candidates who do not support women's issues find it hard to get our vote. Yet it never seems to occur to us that Gay people have rights in need of protection. Who will vote for Gay Rights if we don't?

Candidates respond to groups of people who give an issue high priority in determining how they will vote. The Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, MCCL (a group that many of us disagree with), has made legislators very responsive and attentive on the issue of abortion because the members of MCCL make a candidate's position for or against abortion one of the primary issues which decides how they vote. As a practical matter, we cannot pass Gay Rights legislation unless we elect supporters and defeat others.

Why should legislators even listen to us unless we can affect their re-election? Many of us who are Gay have worked for

virtually every social cause but our own. The time has come to realize that we can affect the quality of our own lives and the lives of many of our friends by how we vote.

Many Gay people protest that sexuality ought not to be such an important issue, that it's just one small part of our lives. Try telling that to the high school teacher who is fired solely because of rumors that he or she is Gay and has no legal recourse. Sexuality should not be an issue, but it is and will be until we are legally guaranteed our rights.

Many other Gay people fear any open support of Gay Rights will jeopardize much which is important in their lives. If this continues Gay Rights will be defeated for the same reason it is needed: fear. A voting booth is the world's safest closet.

Those of us who are not Gay need to show a special devotion to Gay Rights at this time. Until Gay people have legal protection for their jobs and homes most will be too frightened to be open. The time has come when your support can move Gay Rights into the mainstream of the Civil Rights movement, where all people will feel free to support what they know is right.

Whether you are Gay or straight, no one is suggesting that a candidate's position on Gay Rights should be the ONLY issue influencing your decision. The suggestion is merely that you ought to make it a top level priority among the issues you consider. If you don't, who will?

TOGETHER is a monthly publication by the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights. The staff of this publication is volunteers from the Community who are interested in promoting the principles and ideals of the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights and the Gay Community. This publication is printed in the Twin Cities and is distributed free. David Differding, Editor

vote!

MAVITY

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SHERIFF

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Mary, Mary Louise



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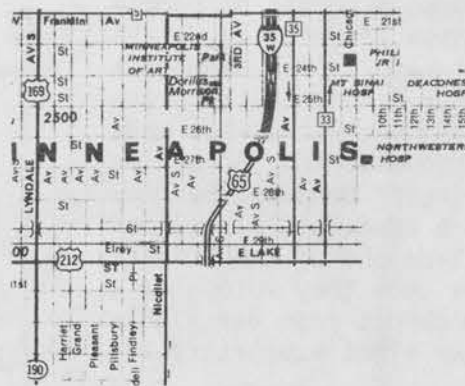
our state representative

State Representative LINDA BERGLIN
has worked and voted for equal
rights for Gay people.

Help re-elect her----VOTE Nov. 5th

You can register at the polls,
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or a registered voter who will
vouch for where you live.

Call 348-2070 for your polling place!



Prepared and paid for by the Berglin Volunteer
Committee. Judy Poseley, Treasurer. 2821
Portland Ave. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 56a

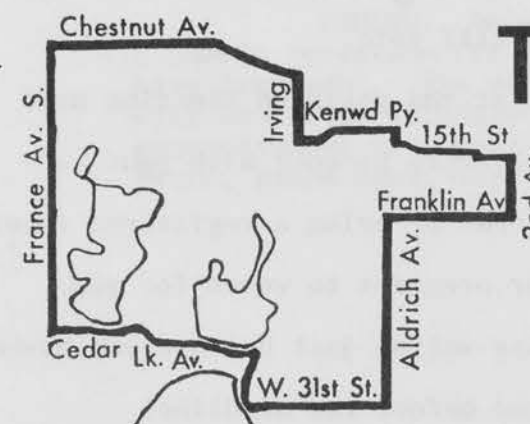
Including much of the Loring Park Neighborhood

"I am deeply committed to correcting injustices against
Gay people. I am particularly concerned about the repeal
of certain victimless crimes which label Gay people as
criminals. I consider your support important to my
campaign, and I hope you will vote for me on Nov. 5th."

Re-elect Jim Casserly

Paid and Prepared by Kevin Casserly, Chairman, 1622 James Ave. No., Mpls 55411

VOTE November 5



Prepared and paid for by Howard Erickson Volunteer Committee,
Chairman George Humphrey, 1936 Irving Av. S., Manager Isabel
Levinson.

Thank You to our many Gay friends for their moral,
financial and volunteer support.

howard
erickson
FOR STATE REP.

...for Undivided Loyalty

THIS SPACE
AVAILABLE
FOR
ADVERTISING

If interested call 721-3738



A leader in the fight for better human rights legislation and for a stronger Department of Human Rights.

★★★

Prepared and paid for at regular advertising rates by the Tom Berg Volunteer Committee, 1617 West Franklin Ave., Mpls., Minn. 55405. David Olson, Chairman.

The Qualified Candidate **Durda** for County Attorney

DFL/LABOR

Prepared and paid for by the Durda Volunteer Committee, Hank Moore, Campaign Manager, 83 South 9th St., Minneapolis. Phone 332-8297.

Speakers Bureau

The Education Task Force is looking for people who are willing to be speakers for MCGR. There will be an information meeting on November 3. If you are interested, call 721-3738

Forget to Register?

You can still vote.

Register at the polls on Election Day!

Bring a Drivers License with your correct address or bring a registered voter from your precinct to vouch for you.

Don't miss voting just because you haven't registered before the deadline!

TOGETHER

612/332-0569

**CLUB
CABARET**



5 South 5th Street
(corner of 5th & Hennepin)
Minneapolis, Minn.

WHEN IN DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

VISIT

THE CLUB CABARET

PRESENTING

THE FINEST IN

FEMALE IMPERSONATORS

AND

GO-GO BOYS

WEEKLY FEATURING:

Monday----- Beer Bash \$1.25 all you can drink (9-11 PM)
50¢ Bar Drinks from 11 PM til closing

Tuesday----- 50¢ Bar Drinks from 5 PM til closing

Wednesday--- Beer Bash and 50¢ Bar Drinks - same as Monday

Thursday---- TALENT NIGHT - Talent Contest open to all
First, second, and third place cash prizes

Friday &
Saturday---- Go-Go Boy from 8 PM til closing
Interpretive Dancing from 8 PM til closing
Female Impersonators

THE SANDBOX GAMEROOM is now open! Featuring: pool, shuffleboard and pin ball.

COMING...October 19th - Saturday

A public reception for the marriage of Dennis and Ray. 150 invitations have been sent. The marriage will take place at 3:00 PM, and the bar will have a party beginning at 8 PM. Everyone is invited. Special entertainment from California, New York, and Texas. (Jamie, Liza Minnelli, Patra, Diana Ross, Alvie, Gladys Knight, and others)

HELP WANTED

Live Entertainers
Bands, Singers
Comedians etc.

See the Management or
Phone 333-6459 days
332-0569 nights
Ask for Fred

MINNESOTA COMMITTEE FOR GAY RIGHTS

A PROFESSIONAL APPROACH TO THE EFFORT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MEN

Since our founding on May 11th of this year, we have grown to over 150 paid members. We are working in a number of areas to improve the lives of Gays, but to do a more effective job, we need YOU!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| * Legislative Action | * Police Relations |
| * Media and Public Relations | * Finance |
| * Compliance and Enforcement | * Outstate |
| * Election of Pro-Gay Candidates | * Publications |
| * Education and Information | * Organization |
| * Gays and Educational Process | * Research and Recommendations |

If you have an interest or a talent in any of these areas we need you! Complete the form below and let us know of your interests.

MINNESOTA COMMITTEE FOR GAY RIGHTS

BOX 4226

ST. ANTHONY FALLS STATION

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55414

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

KEEP ME ON YOUR LIST.

I WANT TO JOIN.

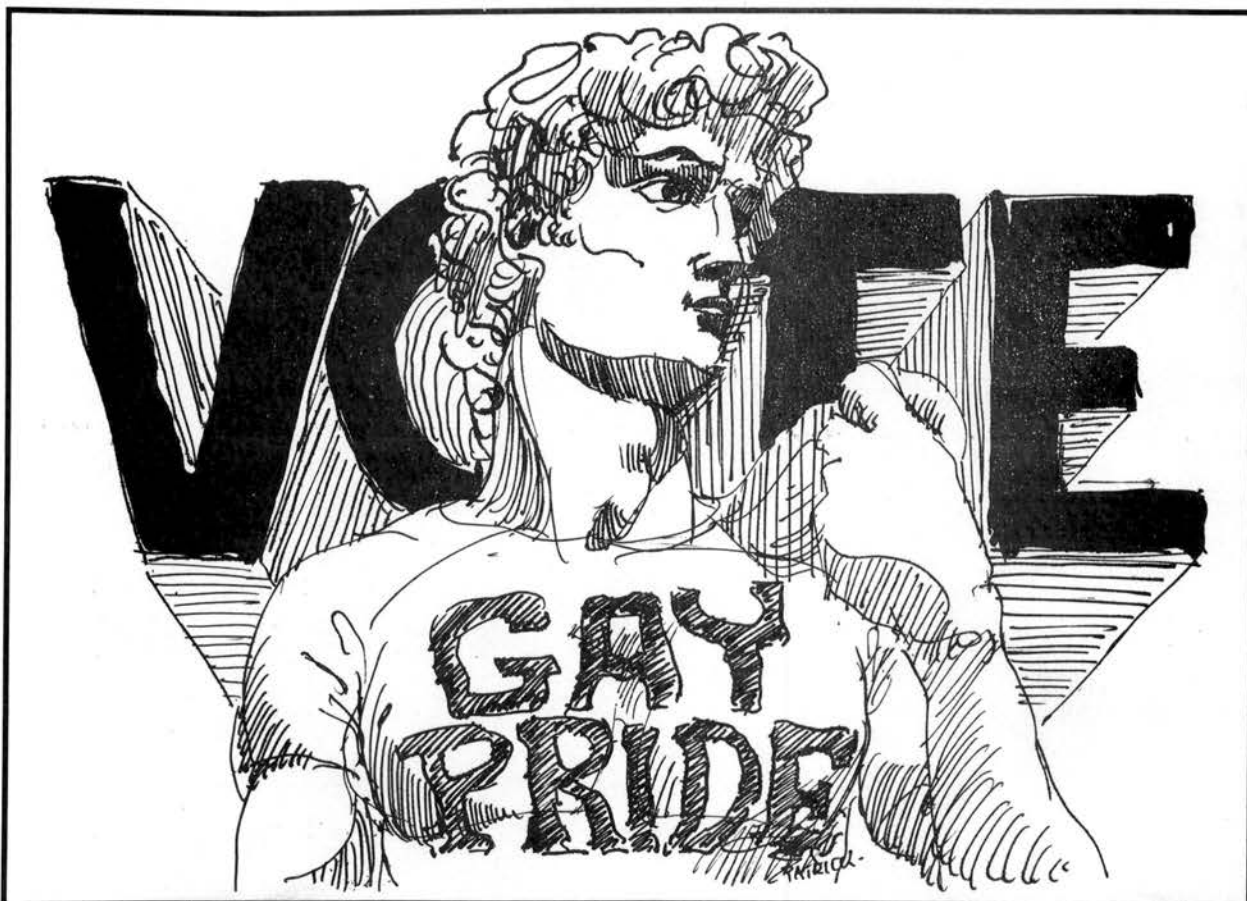
I WANT TO JOIN. PLEASE BILL ME.

LOW INCOME MEMBERSHIPS @ \$5.00 EACH

REGULAR MEMBERSHIPS @ \$10.00 EACH

SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS @ \$25.00 EACH

I REALLY WANT TO GET INVOLVED.



VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 5TH SUPPORT GAY RIGHTS CANDIDATES

THE 1975 LEGISLATURE WILL VOTE ON:

- (1) LEGISLATION PROTECTING GAY MEN AND LESBIANS FROM DISCRIMINATION
IN EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING, AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION.
- (2) LEGISLATION TO REPEAL THE SODOMY LAWS THAT LABEL GAY MEN AND
LESBIAN 'CRIMINALS'.

**BUT TO PASS THIS LEGISLATION, WE MUST HELP ELECT THOSE THAT
SUPPORT OUR RIGHTS!!**

CHECK THE OCTOBER TOGETHER

FOR CANDIDATES' RESPONSES TO THE GAY RIGHTS QUESTIONNAIRE

M 10 10 10

Prepare and distributed by the Elections Task Force (Marcia Greenfield, Chairperson) of the Minnesota Committee For Gay Rights---the organization working with the Candidates to gain support for your rights. Join the Minnesota Committee For Gay Rights (\$10 Regular Membership, \$5 Low Income). Write MCGR, Box 4226, St. Anthony Falls Station, Mpls., Minn. 55414 or call 721-3738.

This leaflet was used in the fight with Northwestern Bell Telephone over discrimination against Gay people in hiring and employment opportunities within their firm. While Northwestern Bell has now reversed this policy following passage of the Minneapolis Gay fair employment amendment, it is one example of the employment discrimination that Gay people face.

Gay people do not face the same type of employment difficulties as do Blacks---we can hide. We can pretend we are heterosexuals, we can smile or laugh when a co-worker makes an anti-Gay joke or slur such as "damned faggots". But to do that is to internalize the guilt and hate that society has put on the Gay person. That is to say, if only to yourself, that there is something wrong with being who you are.

One study by the National Institute of Mental Health indicated that 16% of all Gay people will face employment difficulties because of their socio-sexual orientation and 9% will lose their jobs. It further points out that many of the remaining percent face the cruel choice between honesty and dignity on the one hand and their vocation and livelihood on the other. Policies that prescribe fear and anxiety and proscribe openness and honesty must be reversed. City and state legislation is a necessary first step to ending such discrimination and bigotry.

NORTHWESTERN BELL DISCRIMINATES AGAINST GAYS



(Note: If one has difficulty seeing how irrational and bigoted such a policy statement is or has difficulty thinking of this as a human rights issue, I suggest that you substitute the word "Black" for the word "Homosexual" in the above quote. Further, one might realize that the sentences "Blacks are inferior" and "Gays are sick" are both simply rationalizations for ignorance, insecurities, stereotypes and bigotry.)

Arguments in Brief:

RIGHT TO FAIR EMPLOYMENT

Gay people do not face the same sorts of discrimination in employment as do Blacks--we can hide. We can pretend that we are heterosexuals, laugh at anti-Gay jokes or slurs such as "damned faggots". But to do so, is to internalize all the guilt and hatred society would place upon the Gay person, and it is self-destructive. To hide or pretend that you are something that you are not, is to admit, if only to yourself, that there is something wrong with being who you are. That sort of double life leads people to deny their feelings and deny themselves.

Refusing to hide or to be discovered to be Gay, means that he or she may very well lose their job, housing, or public accommodations without legal recourse until we pass the State fair employment protection included in this plank. Fair employment for Gay people would: 1) provide legal recourse to arbitrary discrimination, 2) alleviate the oppression and alienation caused by being forced to live a double-life in order to maintain one's livelihood, and 3) begin to create a climate of openness which would break down the ignorance and stereotypes that cause discrimination and bigotry.

CONSENTING ADULTS

- (1) RIGHT TO PRIVACY - The American Law Institute stresses the all-importance of privacy and of freedom for the individual to choose his own course of action as long as it does not infringe on the liberty of others. In the view of the prestigious ALI, private sexual acts between consenting adults cannot be shown to have a sufficiently adverse effect upon society to warrant limiting an individual's freedom or invading his or her privacy.
- (2) SIN VERSUS CRIME - Sin and crime are not always identical; Gayness may or may not be a sin, but it should not be a crime; guilt and penalties are matters between the person and his spiritual advisors.
- (3) INEFFECTIVE AND UNENFORCEABLE - a) Leads to discriminatory, arbitrary, and capricious enforcement, b) Could require the police to employ objectionable methods if they were to enforce the laws against private consensual sexual activity, c) Takes valuable time from the important and serious problem of violent crime enforcement, and d) Leads to a disrespect for such laws in particular and a general breakdown of respect for the law.
- (4) By repeal of the present sodomy law you not only remove the stigma of "criminal" for one whose only crime is preference for the same sex, but also eliminate a law that restricts what a man and woman (including married) may do legally in the privacy of their own bedroom.



GAY RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

The Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights

SPECIAL EDITION:
DFL
CONVENTION

HUMAN DIGNITY EQUAL JUSTICE CIVIL RIGHTS HUMAN DIGNITY

FAIR EMPLOYMENT CONSENTING ADULTS EQUAL JUSTICE

TO PRIVACY HUMAN DIGNITY CIVIL RIGHTS

RIGHTS A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

PRIVACY CONSENTING

CIVIL

FAIR

RIGHT TO

ADULTS A

EQUAL JUSTICE

CONSENTING

PRIVACY CIVIL

DIGNITY A PLURAL

EMPLOYMENT EQUAL

CONSENTING ADULTS

PRIVACY CIVIL RIGHTS

HUMAN DIGNITY CONSENT

RIGHT TO PRIVACY FAIR

A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

FAIR EMPLOYMENT CIVIL RIGHTS

RIGHT TO PRIVACY HUMAN DIGNITY

FAIR EMPLOYMENT EQUAL JUSTICE

CIVIL RIGHTS RIGHT TO PRIVACY

PLURALISTIC SOCIETY HUMAN DIGNITY

EQUAL JUSTICE CONSENTING ADULTS

FAIR EMPLOYMENT RIGHT TO PRIVACY

A PLURALISTIC SOCIETY RIGHT

FAIR EMPLOYMENT CIVIL

HUMAN DIGNITY RIGHT TO

ADULTS FAIR EMPLOYMENT

RIGHTS EQUAL JUSTICE

EMPLOYMENT HUMAN DIGNITY

PRIVACY CONSENTING

PLURALISTIC SOCIETY

FAIR EMPLOYMENT

ADULTS RIGHT TO

RIGHTS HUMAN

SOCIETY FAIR

JUSTICE

RIGHT TO

EQUAL JUSTICE

ADULTS

RIGHTS

JUSTICE

ADULTS

PLURALISTIC

HUMAN DIGNITY FAIR

CONSENTING ADULTS CIVIL RIGHTS

PLURALISTIC SOCIETY CIVIL RIGHTS

FAIR EMPLOYMENT HUMAN DIGNITY EQUAL JUSTICE

**the dfl
gay rights caucus**

*Millions of Americans consider themselves Democrats because the Democratic Party has been a leader in the effort for human rights. Will we continue that tradition?

Chairperson: Steve Endean
Treasurer: Robert Halfhill

Fellow DFLer:

We are asking that you support the attached Gay Rights Resolutions (see insert) at the DFL State Convention. We ask that in the belief that such a position is completely consistent with the DFL's historic support of oppressed minorities and the concept of a true pluralistic society which does not condemn those that are different. In Minnesota, such a resolution will directly effect the human rights of 8-10% of our population (Kinsey figures).

In 1972 the DFL State Convention passed a Gay Rights Plank. Although there were many denunciations of that plank and the "radical" convention that passed it, most who denounced the plank chose to limit that denouncement to the most controversial part of the plank, same-sex marriage, which you will notice we have chosen not to list in the plank this year. And in 1972, the year the DFL took the legislature, to my knowledge not one DFLer was beaten by a Republican because of that plank.

In 1970 not one legislator of either party would introduce legislation to provide fair employment protection for Gay people. Following the 1972 DFL Convention, Senator Nick Coleman and the majority of DFL legislators led a courageous fight for human rights for Gay people. Clearly the difference was the strong mandate from the DFL to take action of support for the efforts for human rights already being led by the majority of DFL legislators.

Won't you join us in this effort to reaffirm the DFL's support for human rights for Gay people?

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,
Steve Endean
Chairperson

the dfl gay rights caucus, 34 spruce place, #4, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

71% Favor Fair Employment for Gays

In a recently completed survey conducted by Mid-Continent Surveys, Inc. which is the polling agency for WCCO Television, 71% of those replying indicated that they felt a person should not be refused employment because he or she is Gay.

The scientifically conducted survey of 995 Minnesota adults was completed in November of 1973 and released by Mid-Continent to all state newspapers in March of this year. The results from the Metropolitan area are consistent with the April 20, 1971 METRO-POLL done by the Minneapolis Star which showed 73% favoring fair employment for admitted Gays. The major news of the survey was the overwhelming support for fair employment for Gay people in the outstate areas. An overwhelming 66% favor fair employment for Gays outstate with only 16% opposed.

The results from the poll tend to strengthen Gay activists' claim that Gay rights is NOT an unpopular issue politically, and that candidates need not fear from taking such a position. The citizens of Minnesota appear ready to support fair employment protection for all of our citizens.

"Should a person be refused a job because he or she is a homosexual?"			
	YES	NO	Don't Know/ No Opinion
Twin Cities	13%	77%	10%
Outstate Areas	16%	66%	17%
TOTAL	15%	71%	14%
By age:			
Those under 35	10%	84%	5%
Those over 65	21%	50%	29%

Minneapolis Passes Gay Rights Bill

On March 29th the Minneapolis City Council voted to prohibit discrimination against Gay people, making Minneapolis the 6th city in the nation to take such action. The "Gay Rights Ordinance", which passed 10-0-1, makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of "affectional or sexual preference". This action means that Gay people are entitled to the same opportunities as heterosexuals in employment, housing, and public accommodations. The bill was signed into law the following Thursday by Mayor Albert J. Hofstede.

Full Council action followed the recommendation by the Health and Social Services Committee which held a public hearing on March 21st. At that time, representatives from the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, the ADA, Ripon Society, National Organization for Women, the Department of Human Sexuality of the University, a minister of the United Church of Christ, and a member of the national staff of the American Lutheran Church spoke in favor of the ordinance change for Gay people. Four people, including Rev. Joseph Head, spoke against the ordinance change. Their stress appeared to be that such an ordinance change is part of the "communist conspiracy". It was pointed out to the committee that Rev. Head had said the same thing when the ordinance was first enacted for Blacks. The committee passed the bill on to the full Council by a 5-0 vote.

Alderman William Nieman, 13th Ward, in speaking for the ordinance, stated that it would "protect everyone in this city from the inquiries of those who have no business asking about our private lives." Gay activists heralded the passage as a major step forward in legal protection for Gays and perhaps the first step in breaking down the stereotypes and ignorance which play such a large role in anti-Gay discrimination.

DFLERS SPEAK OUT--

"As the author of the bill to extend basic human rights to Gay people, and as co-author of the Consenting Adults legislation last session, I urge adoption of a basic Gay Rights plank. It is very important that the DFL continue its role as a leader in the fight for human rights."

-Senator NICK COLEMAN, Senate Majority Leader

"I believe we should support this plank because until we have provided equality and justice for all in our society our party has left a task undone."

-Representative LINDA BERGLIN, 59A Legislative District

"I ask the DFL to adopt this Gay rights plank and recommit our party on all other human rights issues as well. I find this plan consistent with the DFL's support of oppressed minorities and a pluralistic society."

-HARRY DAVIS, President of the Minneapolis Board of Education

"I believe strongly that members of a political party have a responsibility to push vigorously for social justice and human rights. Furthermore, the latest poll shows that people are ready to support Gay civil rights. I urge adoption of this plank."

-ALPHA SMABY, Former State Legislator, Consumer Candidate for NSP Board, 1973

"N.O.W.'s policy states, 'Recognizing women's problems are linked to broader questions of social justice and convinced that human rights are indivisible, NOW supports efforts to protect the right to define and express individual sexuality and choose one's own lifestyle. We promote the common cause of equal rights for all who suffer discrimination, and exclusion.' I support that policy and this plank."

-VIRGINIA WATKINS, President of Twin Cities N.O.W.

"As a legislator and a candidate for re-election this fall, I would like to support this Gay Rights Plank. I do not feel that basic human rights for all of our citizens and the right to privacy will be unpopular with the electorate. I hope the convention will vote in favor of this plank."

-Representative JAMES CASSERLY, 56A Legislative District

"Persons of religious sensitivity, whether straight or gay, need to affirm those love relationships of gay adults which are deeply humanizing and enriching. Church members have a particular motivation, that of the Christian Gospel, for working toward a more just and decent society -- one which recognizes and affirms the human dignity and civil rights of all persons. As a church member and as a citizen I commend the Gay Rights DFL platform plank to you."

-Rev. JAMES NELSON, United Church of Christ

AROUND THE NATION

"Resolved, That the legislatures of the several states are urged to repeal all laws which classify as criminal conduct any form of non-commercial sexual conduct between consenting adults in private, saving only those portions which protect minors or public decorum."

Adopted by the House of Delegates, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, August 6-8, 1973

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRIESTS' COUNCILS on March 22, 1974 passed the following resolutions: 1) Opposed "all civil laws that make consensual homosexual acts between adults a crime" and 2) Objected to "discrimination against homosexuals in employment, government service, housing, and child-rearing involving natural and adoptive parents."

**A
REPUBLICAN
POSITION**

**ROLE OF GOVERNMENT
VS.
RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL**

**CONSENTING
ADULTS**

NT
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COLORADO DAVID BRUDNOY OF THE NEW
CODE NORTH DAKOTA POLICE CHIEF
LAWYERS GUILD CONNECTICUT
FOUR REPUBLICAN AUTHORS
BAR ASSOCIATION OREGON
INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH
OF PRIESTS' COUNCILS THE
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL
AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
DAVID BRUDNOY OF THE NEW GUARD
PENAL CODE NORTH DAKOTA POLICE CHIEF



**SPECIAL EDITION:
GOP
CONVENTION**

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PLAINS REGION
P.O. Box 443
Faribault, Minn. 55021
(507) 334-4629

James Newman

Bill for Freedom



James Newman

Faribault, Minn. (507) 334-4444

In late 1972, Minnesota Young Americans for Freedom was asked, along with many other organizations, to take a stand on the legislative proposal to decriminalize sexual acts between consenting adults. Since we had publicly stated our support of this idea over a year prior, we were glad to be among the supporters of this bill.

I understand that it is up for consideration at the conventions this year and I am hopeful that neither political party will make any person's private life part of a partisan football game. If either the Republican or Democratic parties engage in this type of political play, it will be tragic for all concerned.

It is hard to run, it is hard to finance, and it is many times today generally accepted by most people that government has grown too big. However, government is needed.

Among these are the laws concerning private life and again into many of these are the laws concerning private life. I understand. However, government is needed.

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It is today generally accepted by most people that government has grown
to big. It is hard to run, it is hard to finance, and it is many times
hard to understand. However, government is needed.

Unfortunately, government has involved itself time and again into many
areas that it should not. Among these are the laws concerning private
sexual behavior between consenting adults.

We who believe in the rule of law are constantly creating criminals and
(whether in theory or practice) out of adults -- both heterosexual and
homosexual -- for the crime of expressing their love for another.

Conservative, I do not want to see government smother the individual,
to see it let him run wild with no rules to govern his
are talking about consenting adults only, I
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Minnesota Young Americans fo
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to understand the government's position on this issue. Unfortunately, government officials have not been forthcoming in explaining why they believe that it should not be a crime to engage in homosexual behavior between consenting adults. I do not want to see government smother the freedom of expression of those who believe in the rule of law are (whether in theory or practice) out of control. As a conservative, I do not want to see government run wild with no rules to govern its behavior. I do not want to see it let him run wild with no rules to govern its behavior. Personally, as long as we are talking about consenting adults only, I do not believe that any government can prescribe or proscribe any certain type of private expression of love. For two years, the Board of Directors of Minnesota Young Americans for Freedom has studied this issue and we have repeatedly said that this is an area that should be left not with the state, but with the individual. At a national conference on the criminal court system recently, President Nixon said, "We have to find ways to clear the courts of the endless stream of 'victimless crimes' that get in the way of serious consideration of serious crimes".

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<p>CONSENTING ADULTS RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL</p> <p>CONSENTING ADULTS RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>INTERVENTION ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL</p> <p>ADULTS RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>CONSENTING ADULTS RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>INDIVIDUAL VS. GOVERNMENT ROLE</p> <p>CONSENTING ADULTS RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS LESS GOVERNMENT RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL</p> <p>CONSENTING ADULTS PRIVACY AND THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT</p> <p>TO PRIVACY CONSENTING ADULTS AND THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT</p> <p>RIGHT TO PRIVACY LESS GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION</p> <p>ROLE OF GOVERNMENT AND THE CONSENTING ADULTS</p>		<p>Young Americans for Freedom</p> <p>James Newman</p> <p>PLAINS REGION P.O. Box 443 Faribault, Minn. 55021 (507) 334-4629</p> <p>In late 1972, Minnesota Young Americans for Freedom was asked, along with many other organizations, to take a stand on the legislative proposal to decriminalize sexual acts between consenting adults. Since we had publicly stated our support of this idea over a year prior, we were glad to be among the supporters of this bill.</p> <p>I understand that it is up for consideration at the conventions this year and I am hopeful that neither political party will make any person's private life part of a partisan football game. If either the Republican or Democratic parties engage in this type of political ploy, it will be tragic for all concerned.</p> <p>It is today generally accepted by most people that government has grown too big. It is hard to run, it is hard to finance, and it is many times hard to understand. However, government is needed.</p> <p>Unfortunately, government has involved itself time and again into many areas that it should not. Among these are the laws concerning private sexual behavior between consenting adults.</p> <p>We who believe in the rule of law are constantly creating criminals (whether in theory or practice) out of adults -- both heterosexual and homosexual -- for the crime of expressing their love for another.</p> <p>As a conservative, I do not want to see government smother the individual, nor do I want to see it let him run wild with no rules to govern his behavior.</p> <p>Personally, as long as we are talking about consenting adults only, I do not believe that any government can prescribe or proscribe any certain type of private expression of love.</p> <p>For two years, the Board of Directors of Minnesota Young Americans for Freedom has studied this issue and we have repeatedly said that this is an area that should be left not with the state, but with the individual.</p> <p>At a national conference on the criminal court system recently, President Nixon said, "We have to find ways to clear the courts of the endless stream of 'victimless crimes' that get in the way of serious consideration of serious crimes."</p>
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Privacy, the Role of Government & the Rights of the Individual Decriminalizing Crimes Without Victims

BY. David Brudnoy

(Exerpts from an article in the April 1973 issue of New Guard magazine, National Magazine of the YAF)

"The 'well meaning' intervention of government in progressively more aspects of our lives results inevitably in less than more virtue. Yet, what I have to say is important; it is no less than a broadly conceived recommendation for government retrenchment: Let government abandon the role of enforcer of Virtue."

"Three years ago (Playboy, May 1970), William Buckley wrote that he 'favors the legalization of private homosexual acts committed between consenting adults'."

"What is needed is a general, wide-reaching 'decriminalization' of social acts committed by individuals and consenting mature persons. Society does indeed have a right to define what is acceptable conduct in public, but not to do so with regard to consenting individuals in private."

"As a practical matter, decriminalizing crimes without victims (with 'crimes without victims' narrowly defined, as those acts which are not actively forced upon others, which do not violate the guaranteed but, I believe, necessary rights, like privacy) serves to reduce the possibilities of police corruption and to reduce the possible scope of organized crime's operations. The Hollanders and the Danes live happily without Dutch and Danish incarcerations of the Cosa Nostra, primarily because they do not forbid by law many of the things that Americans illegalize...those nations have recognized both the practical sense of decriminalizing consensual human activities and the philosophic wisdom of expanding the area of social freedoms. Freedom should not merely be an end in itself, contrary to the theology of orthodox libertarianism; freedom should be that condition in which man can reach for Virtue. As Aristotle phrased it: to do good one must do so as a result of choice and for the sake of the acts themselves. That is, Virtue in the private sphere cannot be imposed by law, or at least ---SHOULD NOT BE IMPOSED BY LAW. And more: The time is right now, to come to grips with the notion that things also run better with far fewer government regulations concerning... with whom we sleep."

"One need not personally enjoy or wish to see one's friends and loved ones come to...any of a variety of such substances and practices, to recognize both the practical wisdom of decriminalizing their use and enjoyment and the philosophic rightness---CONSERVATIVENESS---of removing their control from the hands of the law. The church and the home and intimate friends and one's own engrained sense of what is in fact Virtue, are the proper regulators, via persuasion and polite condemnation, of the things you and your neighbor believe to be wrong."

"Be that as it may, the whole area of victimless crimes deserves a serious rethinking by conservatives, now."

DAVID BRUDNOY is a leading columnist in conservative magazines and newspapers including William Buckley's "National Review" and is currently teaching a course on the Role of the Conservative in Society at Harvard.

STRONG PREVIOUS REPUBLICAN SUPPORT

During the last legislative session, a bill was introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives to equalize penalties between men and women for adultery, repeal the fornication statute (609.34) and the sodomy statute (609.293 as it pertains to consenting adults in private, Subdivision 5). That bill was authored by FOUR REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS and one DFLer. During the hearing on H.F. 549 before House Judiciary Committee, the bill received strong and vigorous support from former REPUBLICAN Legislator, Ed Brandt, the conservative YOUNG AMERICANS FOR FREEDOM and several other REPUBLICAN leaders. We believe that these individuals and groups are to be congratulated for their consistent support for this legislation following the Republican philosophy of less governmental intervention in the lives of individuals.

We believe that the vigorous support these REPUBLICAN LEADERS have shown will go far in taking the issue outside the realm of partisan political games and force people to consider this issue seriously. We hope that the 1974 STATE REPUBLICAN CONVENTION will take a position in favor of Consenting Adults Legislation.

ARGUMENTS IN BRIEF:

- (1) RIGHT TO PRIVACY - The American Law Institute stresses the all-importance of privacy and of freedom for the individual to choose his own course of action as long as it does not infringe on the liberty of others. In the view of the prestigious ALI, private sexual acts between consenting adults cannot be shown to have a sufficiently adverse effect upon society to warrant limiting an individual's freedom or invading his or her privacy.
- (2) SIN VERSUS CRIME - Sin and crime are not always identical; gayness may or may not be a sin, but it should not be a crime; guilt and penalties are matters between the person and his or her spiritual advisors.
- (3) INEFFECTIVE AND UNENFORCEABLE a) Leads to discriminatory, arbitrary, and capricious enforcement, b) Could require the police to employ objectionable methods (i.e. window-peeping) if they were to enforce laws against private consensual sexual activity, c) Takes valuable time from the important and serious problem of violent crime enforcement and d) Leads to a disrespect for such laws in particular and a general breakdown of respect for the law.

AROUND THE NATION

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRIESTS' COUNCILS on March 22, 1974 at their annual convention, passed the following resolution: Opposed all civil laws that make consensual homosexual acts between adults a crime.

"Resolved, That the legislatures of the several states are urged to repeal all laws which classify as criminal conduct any form of non-commercial sexual conduct between consenting adults in private, saving only those portions which protect minors or public decorum."

Adopted by the House of Delegates, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, August 6-8, 1973

Eight states have thusfar repealed the laws governing private consensual sexual acts between adults. They are: Illinois, Connecticut, Hawaii, Ohio, Oregon, North Dakota, Colorado, and Delaware. They are joined by Canada, most nations in Europe, and many other nations around the world. No breakdown of the moral fabric of society has occurred.

THIS IS NOT STRICTLY A GAY RIGHTS ISSUE BUT RATHER AN ISSUE OF RIGHT TO PRIVACY THAT EFFECTS MANY HETEROSEXUALS INCLUDING MARRIED HETEROSEXUALS!!! THE RESOLUTION WE PROPOSE INCLUDES THE REPEAL OF BOTH THE FORNICATION STATUTE AND THE "SODOMY" STATUTE. BOTH INCLUDE HETEROSEXUALS!!!

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102 - February 1975

Memo to: Local League Presidents

From: Peggy Gross, Judiciary Chairman

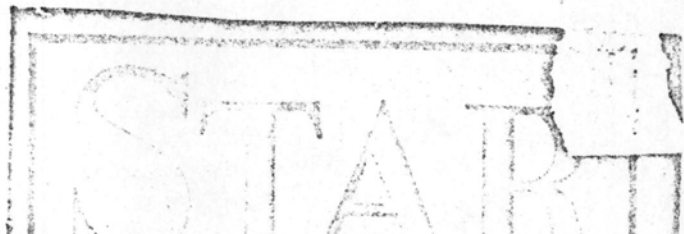
Re: Supplementary Material on Consenting Adults and Fair Employment

February 21, 1975

— Editorials —

A humanitarian milestone

WITHOUT FANFARE, Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. has scuttled a policy of refusing to hire homosexuals. This step comes in the wake of the new Minneapolis "gay rights" ordinance that makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of "affectional or sexual preference."





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MINNESOTA COMMITTEE FOR GAY RIGHTS

THE ISSUE OF GAY TEACHERS

Are There Gay Teachers?

This is indeed an important point. One basis for statistical analysis is the Kinsey Institute figures which indicate that approximately 10% of the population at any given time is Gay (most sex researchers now agree with the Kinsey figures). Those familiar with the Gay community seem to agree that the percentage of Gay teachers is some higher than that ten percent. So, in fact, it is not up to the law to allow Gay teachers or not. There are Gay teachers in the schools and that will not change whether or not a fair employment resolution passes. What will change is that constant fear, that almost unexplainable dread that someone might discover that they are Gay and as a consequence they would lose the job that they have been trained for and is their vocation. We will not attempt to explain just how hard it is to live each day with that fear, only the Gay teacher knows its devastating effect. A policy of discrimination that prescribes lies and anxiety and proscribes honesty and openness must be reversed. Reversing this position would increase the teaching ability of the many Gay people in this field. The fact that there have been no problems with their Gayness interfering with their teaching is borne out by the utter lack of scandal on the subject in Minn. The fact that it is generally impossible to tell whether a teacher is Gay or not goes to prove that most Gays do not differ appreciably from non-Gays in looks, dress, mannerisms, or approaches to teaching.

Child Molesters?

"Gays are just as likely as heterosexuals to like children and to want to help them grow and learn," said Dr. Wardell Pomeroy of the Kinsey Institute. But contrary to old misconceptions about Gays as child-molesters, psychiatrists and experts on the subject agree that the problem of child molestation is not a Gay problem. Psychiatrist Irving Bieber, not generally noted as being supportive of Gay people, agrees, "I find that homosexuals as a group are not sexually oriented toward children. Some individual men may be, but very few. In general, pedophilia...is usually heterosexual." Dr. Wardell Pomeroy says, "Another myth about homosexuality is that the homosexual is likely to be a child molester or at least a seducer of young children. The facts do not warrant such fears. The great majority of homosexual males have no more sexual interest in young boys than the great majority of heterosexual males have in young girls."

But...

Insecurity of Profession

"Should a teacher be discovered to be homosexual, he will very likely lose his job. A heterosexual may lead a wild sex life outside of working hours, may be unfaithful in marriage or break other sexual taboos, but his sexual life is seldom considered to have any bearing on his ability or right to teach. Heterosexuals, by and large, have a right to their own private sex lives---homosexuals do not." 1

What If There Were No Discrimination

What would happen if discrimination against homosexual teachers were made illegal? Some non-Gay people fear that Gays would proselytize among their students. Some say that if a child identified with a Gay teacher he or she would turn out to be Gay also. The bulk of information contradicts that assertion. There may be a fair amount of agreement on when sexual orientation develops (generally accepted as being at age 5 or 6) but there is little agreement on how it develops. Theories of the basis for sexual development include heredity, the parents relationship to each other, the parents relationship to the child, etc. All these theories indicate that sexuality is determined by more than just who a child is exposed to in life. No psychiatrist would ever argue that a child's sexual identity becomes homosexual if he or she is exposed to a Gay person. This would be like concluding that everyone is Gay because ten percent of the people he or she was exposed to in childhood were Gay. With the same sort of "logic" applied conversely, no one is Gay because he or she was exposed to more non-Gay people than Gay people.

Others believe that Gay teachers would argue in favor of homosexuality at the first opportunity, trying to convince their students that it was glamorous, something worth experiencing no matter what the risks. It is said that if we were actually to permit Gays to lead their lives freely, increasing numbers of people would decide to become Gay and the human race would eventually die out. It is perplexing that homosexuality can be portrayed as so grossly unnatural and yet so infinitely appealing in the same breath.

"The argument that to permit is to condon or encourage is a specious one. The law allows individuals to adopt the religion and political philosophy of their choice, but this is seldom interpreted as promoting any particular religion or political affiliation. Homosexuality is not an ideology or a creed in the first place---it is not something that can effectively be taught or preached." 1

Do Gay teachers proselytize at all. The opportunities are certainly limited, and there is no evidence that Gays are any more likely (Indeed, they are LESS likely) to proselytize than are heterosexuals who are anxious to change Gay people's sexual orientation. Role identifications and sexual orientation are likely to solidify in the earliest stages of childhood, and by the time a child reaches school age he or she is unlikely to undergo any significant changes in these areas. "Dr. John Money, Professor of Medical Psychology at Johns Hopkins University Medical School, nationally known for his research on the etiology of homosexuality, took the position that a person's sexual orientation is determined by the age of five or six...Dr. Money's findings are impressive and appear to expand the frontiers of knowledge of the differentiation of gender identity." 2

It should be clear that a Gay teacher is in no position to proselytize, and if he or she were and wished to, he or she wouldn't succeed. Any standards involving removal for cause should therefore be uniformly applied regardless of sexual preference. But Gays should not be removed simply because of their socio-sexual orientation. Denying civil rights to Gay people or a certain professional group of Gay people sets a precedent of denying civil rights to anyone who differs from the norm.

- (1) Peter Fischer, The Gay Mystique, Stein and Day, 1972. Other material in this discussion is also from this book.
- (2) Brief on Joseph Acanfora Vs. Board of Education of Montgomery County, The United States District Court for The District of Maryland.

This article was assembled, written and edited by Steve Endean and Steve Badeau of the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights, Box 4226, St. Anthony Falls Sta., Mpls.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
TWIN CITIES

Department of Psychiatry
Medical School
Box 393 Mayo Memorial Building
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

• 9

January 15, 1974

Superintendent John B. Davis
Board of Education
807 N.E. Broadway
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Davis:

It is my understanding that the Minneapolis Board of Education is considering a change in the school system's policy of discriminating against homosexuals in hiring school teachers. I think such a change is long overdue largely because discrimination of this sort is, for the most part, inappropriate and likely to lose for the school system the services of some very competent teachers.

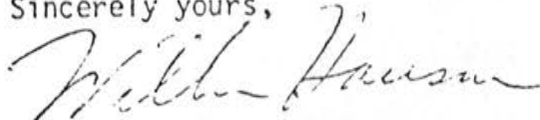
The attitude toward the homosexual is undergoing major revision all across the nation and in many fields of endeavor. One example of this is the recent vote of the Board of Trustees of the American Psychiatric Association to exclude homosexuality from the listing of mental illnesses and disorders. The churches, who had universally viewed the homosexual as unfit for the ministry for the past, have recently demonstrated a change in their views. This is evidenced by two major church denominations, the Unitarian-Universalist Churches and the United Churches of Christ, which have recently made significant policy changes against discrimination in hiring clergy on the basis of sexual orientation.

Despite the important contributions of the Kinsey reports years ago and the development of other studies in several centers the mythology about homosexuality has continued to take precedence over facts in many discipline areas until quite recently and this practice still continues in many geographical and discipline areas. This largely irrational set of standards has been so powerful that only in recent years have homosexual groups begun to express themselves on the national and local scenes. As a result a number of institutions have begun to examine the facts. When this occurs some have recognized the inappropriate basis for discrimination against homosexuals in hiring practices. To the best of my knowledge school systems have tended to avoid the hiring of homosexuals on the assumption that these individuals in some way affect the sexual orientation of their students. I do not believe that there is any evidence to support this thesis and think

Page 2
January 15, 1974

it unlikely that seduction by the homosexual teacher is any more likely to occur than is heterosexual seduction of the student. Where such behavior occurs, of course, the offending teacher should be dealt with within the system regardless of his sexual orientation. In general, then, I believe that whatever discrimination does occur should be related to the competence of the teacher and to his general moral behavior without reference to his personal style or sexual preference. I think that it would be suitable and appropriate for the Minneapolis school system to recognize this concept and to change its policy accordingly. Such a policy change would be a tribute to the rational thinking of the administration and board of the Minneapolis school system. It could not but help to improve the quality of teaching, the high level of education represented by this excellent system and its national reputation.

Sincerely yours,



William Hausman, M.D.
Professor and Head

WH:dsb

cc: Mr. Steve Endean

True False 9. Support for gay rights is pretty much
☐ ☐ limited to gay rights organizations.

A. False. The National Gay Task Force has received resolutions of support from: the American Bar Association, the American Civil Liberties Union, the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the National Organization for Women, the Young Women's Christian Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and many others.

True False 10. Respect for gay rights has grown to
☐ ☐ the point where false and malicious
statements about homosexuality are
rarely made public.

A. Judge for yourself:

"The old-style Chinese have the Year of the Tiger and the Year of the Pig. The new-style Americans have the Year of the Fag."

—Nicholas von Hoffman, syndicated columnist

"It's one thing to be a leper. It's another to be spreading the disease."

—Chief Ed Davis, Los Angeles Police Department

"I believe these people suffer from a severe personality disorder. Granted some are sicker than others, but sick they are."

—Ann Landers, syndicated columnist

"Some homosexuals who could become teachers even want to wear dresses to work and flaunt their homosexuality in front of my children."

—Anita Bryant, television-commercial performer

Why you should help the National Gay Task Force whether or not you're gay.

As you've seen, the injustices committed against gay people are real and many.

They are denied jobs, housing, respect and protection of the laws. They risk their lives on the battlefield only to be denied veterans benefits when they return home.

Their privacy is invaded, their physical well-being threatened, their standing as citizens undercut.

But they *are* fighting back. Leading the fight at the national level is the National Gay Task Force.

NGTF is working to change discriminatory practices and policies in government, private industry and the media.

NGTF won't stop working until gay people are treated as first-class citizens and responsible adults. And until society stops treating them as criminals and freaks.

But NGTF will not succeed until enough people recognize that gay people did not create their own problems; and they cannot solve them on their own.

Your help is needed, whether or not you are gay. Your reward is a society which is freer for us all by respecting the differences among us.

How much do you know about the gay rights issue?

NGTF

National Gay Task Force
80 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011

Take this test and find out.

True ☐ False ☐ 1. Most major cities already have laws on the books prohibiting discrimination against gay men and women. The trouble is, they are not enforced.

A. False. In over 90 percent of America's cities and counties, there are absolutely no laws protecting the rights of gay men and lesbian women. Included in this list are: Chicago, Philadelphia, Houston, San Diego, Dallas, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Denver and New Orleans.

In addition, New York City, Los Angeles and Boston have banned discrimination only in city government hiring practices.

Nevertheless, due to the efforts of local gay rights organizations, often aided by the National Gay Task Force, 39 communities ranging in size from Detroit to Alfred, N.Y. have passed laws to protect gay rights.

True ☐ False ☐ 2. Gay people who feel they've been discriminated against in jobs, housing or public accommodations have no federal agency to turn to—not even the Civil Rights Commission.

A. True. Although the U.S. Civil Rights Commission has acknowledged jurisdiction to research discrimination based on unequal application of the law, this does not cover the fundamental areas of jobs, housing, etc.

In other words, *there is no federal agency to handle cases of discrimination against gay people.*

True ☐ False ☐ 3. Even if gay people do face discrimination, there aren't enough of them to worry about, or pass laws to protect.

A. False. According to reliable estimates, between 10 and 20 million Americans are homosexual. These estimates are based on the data collected by Alfred Kinsey over 30 years ago.

Actual numbers are difficult to obtain because "Gay people are forced to join a conspiracy to pretend they don't exist," the National Gay Task Force points out.

"They're okay unless someone discovers 'their secret.' So most live in fear they'll be discovered and lose their livelihood. That's why legislation is necessary."

True ☐ False ☐ 4. Because Congress has failed to enact gay rights legislation, major corporations refuse to put in writing their employment policies toward gay people.

A. False. At the urging of the National Gay Task Force, a number of major corporations have voluntarily adopted policies of nondiscrimination regarding gay men and lesbian women.

These include: AT&T, Bank of America, Citicorp, Honeywell, IBM, McDonald's, Procter and Gamble, ABC, CBS, NBC, American and Eastern Airlines.

While NGTF recognizes that these statements alone will not end discrimination, they are a valuable beginning.

True ☐ False ☐ 5. Homosexuals who have served in combat and have unblemished service records can be denied veterans benefits.

A. True. Since World War II, an estimated 75,000 American men and women have been denied veterans benefits for being gay, or suspected of being gay. Most received less than honorable discharges which make it difficult for them to get jobs, unemployment insurance, and credit—often for the rest of their lives.

True ☐ False ☐ 6. The Internal Revenue Service denies gay rights groups the same tax privileges it grants to other non-profit minority rights groups.

A. False. But until very recently the answer to this question was "true." Through the efforts of gay groups led by the National Gay Task Force, the IRS has completely reversed its earlier discriminatory policy of depriving gay rights groups of postage discounts and discouraging tax-deductible contributions that other non-profit groups enjoy.

True ☐ False ☐ 7. In many ways, Anita Bryant's anti-gay rights campaign reflects the attitude of the church toward homosexuality.

A. False. Despite Ms. Bryant's loose interpretation of the Bible ("God puts homosexuals in the same category as murderers"), many religious groups have adopted statements of support for gay rights. The National Council of Churches, the Episcopal Church, the Union of Hebrew Congregations (New York), the National Federation of Priests Councils (Roman Catholic), the Lutheran Church, and the United Church of Christ—all are on record as supporting gay rights.

True ☐ False ☐ 8. The American Psychiatric Association no longer considers homosexuality a mental disorder.

A. True. An educational effort conducted by the National Gay Task Force led the APA to issue a formal, written policy that "homosexuality per se does not constitute any form of mental disorder." The Association adopted a strong gay rights resolution as well.

Prior to this change in attitude, APA's listing of homosexuality under mental disorders was often cited as official medical opinion in cases of gay discrimination.

The largest gay rights organization in the country: The National Gay Task Force.

The first national organization with a full-time professional staff working to protect the civil liberties of gay Americans, the National Gay Task Force was founded in 1973.

As the nation's largest gay rights organization, NGTF works with more than 1,800 local groups — providing them with legal, technical, informational and strategic assistance. With NGTF's help, gay rights groups have won anti-discrimination legislation in 39 communities.

As part of its national efforts to end discrimination in the federal government, major corporations and in the national media, NGTF has:

- Arranged an unprecedented White House meeting with the Carter administration that led to follow-up sessions with Cabinet Offices and Federal Agencies.
- Lobbied and secured 24 sponsors in Congress in 1975 for the first federal gay rights bill and helped get it re-introduced in 1977.
- Won complete reversal of a U.S. Job Corps policy which discriminated against gay trainees and staff.
- Secured written statements of non-discrimination against gay workers and job seekers from major employers.
- Improved coverage of gay news from wire services, networks and newsweeklies; and consulted with television programming officials on portrayals of gay people and life.

NGTF

National Gay Task Force
80 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011

WHO IS BEHIND THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT?

President Carter
Cong. Shirley Chisholm

Cong. John Conyers

Sen. Alan Cranston

Karen DeCrow

Shirley MacLaine

Margaret Mead

Bishop Paul Moore

Aryeh Neier

"I oppose all forms of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. As President, I can assure you that all policies of the federal government will reflect this commitment."
— *Jimmy Carter*

"It is only through their exercise that America's rights are given life. The people involved in the National Gay Task Force have had the courage and foresight to speak out in defense of the rights of gay people."
— *U.S. Rep. Shirley Chisholm*

New York

"I don't think we can say discrimination on the basis of sex or race is illegal and then allow discrimination on the basis of sexual preference. This happens in our life in a lot more tragic and real ways than we would like to admit."
— *U.S. Rep. John Conyers,*

Michigan

"It is time for us to make it clear that basic rights and freedoms belong to all Americans — regardless of race, creed, color, handicap, sex, sexual preference or any other factor. We must end all forms of discrimination in our society."
— *Senator Alan Cranston,*

California

"The National Gay Task Force is a strong and forceful voice for the rights of all people. They deserve your support."
— *Karen DeCrow,*

former President, NOW

"Gay men and women face serious constraints on their rights and freedoms. If we don't help eliminate those constraints, then we aren't serious about our commitment to civil liberties and human rights."
— *Shirley MacLaine,*

actress

"Gay men and women are an often abused group in our culture. This abuse is born of ignorance and misunderstanding. Those of us who are committed to human dignity have an obligation to do all that we can to put an end to it."
— *Margaret Mead,*

author

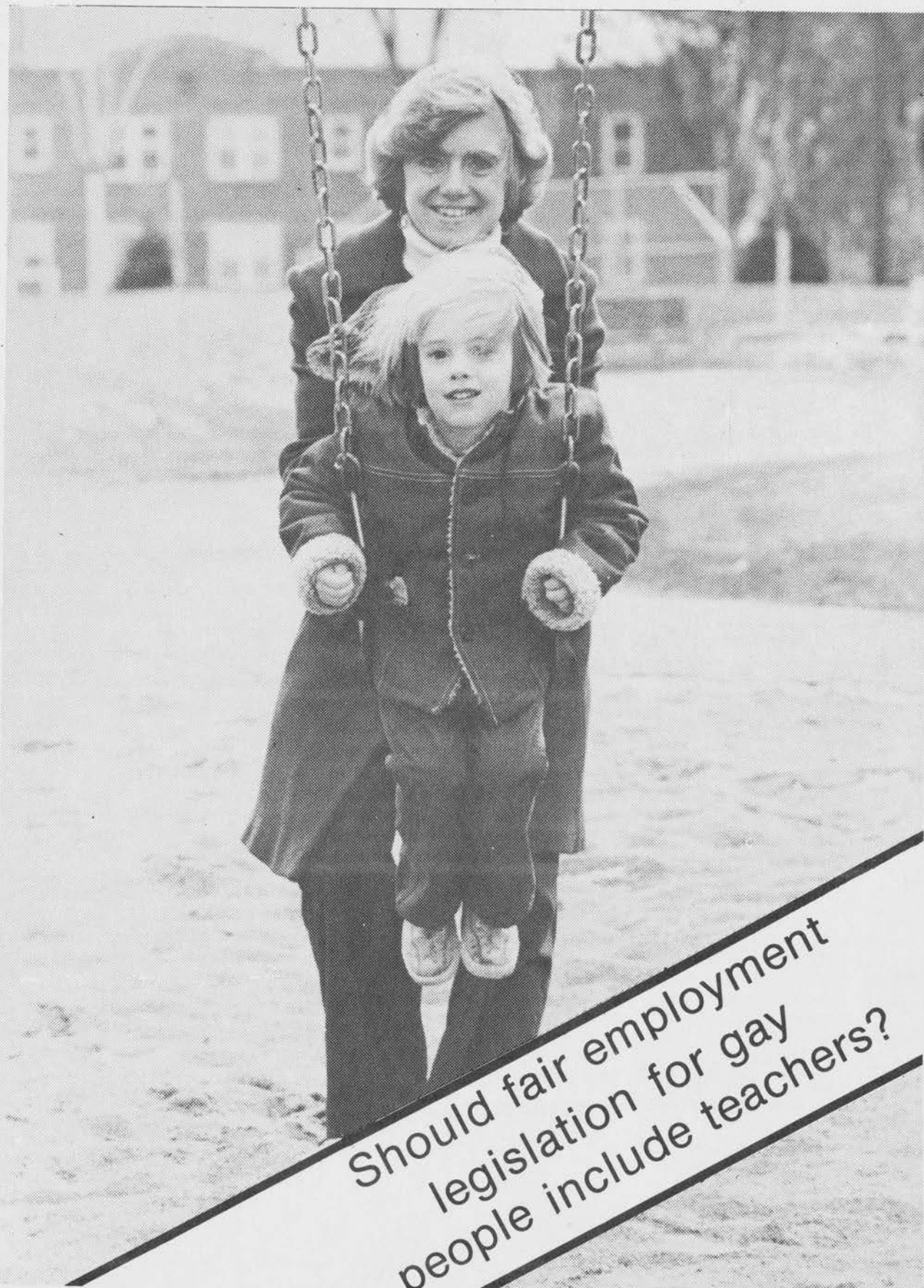
"While there is still much to do in securing full civil rights for racial minorities and women, a beginning needs to be made in behalf of homosexually oriented people who, until recently, have had very few who would speak in behalf of their civil rights."
— *Paul Moore,*

Episcopal Bishop of New York

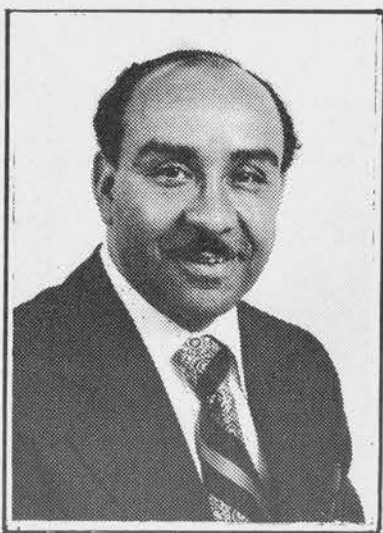
"It is a national disgrace that gays are consistently denied their rights to jobs, housing, privacy and equal protection of the laws. All Americans concerned with individual freedom — not just gays — ought to regard gay rights as their cause."
— *Aryeh Neier*

Executive Director, ACLU

A LOOK AT GAY TEACHERS



Should fair employment
legislation for gay
people include teachers?



"Gay people, like most human beings, are capable of separating their private lives from their public behaviour," says Harry Davis, member and former president of the Minneapolis Board of Education.

AN INTERVIEW WITH A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER REGARDING GAY TEACHERS

- Q.** Do you support the "Gay Fair Employment" bill? And if you do, do you feel that gay teachers should be excluded from this bill?
- A.** Yes, I do support the human rights bill for gay people, and I do not believe that gay teachers should be excluded.
- Q.** Many people are afraid that gay teachers will molest their students. How do you feel about that?
- A.** The statistics I've seen show that gay teachers are no more likely to molest children than heterosexual teachers. Of course, any teacher who attempts to molest a child should be removed immediately, no matter what the sexual orientation of that teacher. But it seems unfair to me to assume in advance that gay people will be guilty of this, especially when the statistics and the experts indicate otherwise.
- Q.** But what about the idea that by allowing gay teachers to teach, their students will become gay?
- A.** I believe that using one's teaching position as a platform to attempt to influence a student's sexuality is wrong, and I think most gay teachers would agree with me. The Human Rights Law allows for teachers to be removed for this reason. I just don't see any problem there.
- Q.** Are there gay teachers in the school system with which you're associated?
- A.** Yes, there certainly are. Most of them keep their private lives a secret. Any many of them are excellent teachers. But it's really all a very individual thing. I would hate to see our system lose some of these teachers because they happen to be gay.
- Q.** Do you see any benefit for the school system if this bill becomes law?
- A.** Yes, I do. Working in a vocation where you are constantly afraid of losing your job because of your private life must be very difficult. I would think that teachers could function much better without that constant fear and anxiety.

AN INTERVIEW WITH A GAY TEACHER

- Q.** What effect would this bill have on gay teachers?
- A.** There are lots of gay teachers now, and there will continue to be gay teachers whether this bill passes or not. What would happen if it passes is that we could stop worrying about being found out and fired, and we could put our full efforts into teaching.
- Q.** Does this mean you would be advocating your homosexuality in school?
- A.** No. We don't advocate our sexuality any more than we advocate a particular religion, political ideology, or any other personal matter. We'd be fired for that, with or without this law, and we know it.
- Q.** Wouldn't your presence in the classroom lead your students to become gay?
- A.** I don't believe that I or the other gay teachers have any effect on our students' sexuality. We don't preach it to our students—we teach the subject matter of our classes. Gay teachers, like most teachers, are capable, dedicated individuals who enjoy working with children and who are concerned for their welfare. As I said a moment ago, we'll be teaching students regardless of the status of the proposed bill. The real question here is whether we, as individuals, will be judged on our abilities as teachers. Our performance on the job is what really matters.

WHAT IF HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION FOR GAY PEOPLE BECOMES LAW?

- Q.** Will this legislation allow gay people to be teachers?
- A.** There are gay teachers now, and there will continue to be gay teachers whether this legislation passes or not.
- Q.** But won't gay teachers molest the children?
- A.** No. Almost all authorities, including the American Psychiatric Association and the National Institute of Mental Health, agree that gay people are no more likely to molest children than are heterosexuals. The statistics bear this out.
- Q.** Won't the presence of gay teachers cause the students to be gay?
- A.** Sexuality is not like a political ideology that can be taught. The leading experts in this country, such as Dr. John Money of Johns Hopkins, agree that sexual orientation is determined by age 3 or 4 and will not change significantly thereafter.
- The idea that people become gay simply by associating with gay people is incorrect. If that were true, most of us would be gay, because most of us have been exposed to gay people whether we know it or not. And once again, there are gay teachers now and it hasn't caused the students to be gay.
- Q.** But what if a gay teacher does attempt to seduce a student or convince his or her students to be gay?
- A.** The State Human Rights Act allows for people to be removed for misconduct. This can and must be strongly enforced to protect the welfare of the children, regardless of the sexual orientation of the teacher.
- Q.** Then what's the real issue concerning gay teachers?
- A.** The real issue here is discrimination. It is very difficult to discard the stereotypes we were raised with. Will gay teachers be judged as individuals, or by their so-called "group characteristics"? In the final analysis, a teacher who does a good job should not be denied the right to teach because of some irrelevant criteria in his or her private life.

WHAT EDUCATIONAL EXPERTS SAY

AFT—March 4, 1974

"Discrimination Against Homosexuals Denounced"

Whereas, professional people insist that they be judged on the basis of professional and not personal criteria; and Resolved, that the American Federation of Teachers protests any personnel actions taken against any teacher merely because he or she practices homosexual behavior in private life.

NEA Chicago, Illinois — July, 1974

E-5 Nondiscriminatory Personnel Policies

The National Education Association believes that personnel policies and practices must guarantee that no person be employed, retained, paid, dismissed, or demoted because of race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, residence, political activities, professional association activities, age, marital status, family relationship, sex or sexual orientation.

Washington, D.C. Board of Education

"The Board of Education of the District of Columbia passed a resolution in the Spring of 1972 prohibiting job discrimination against homosexuals in the public school system. The passage of this resolution has not resulted in any problems within the public school system."

Marion Barry

President, Board of Education

American Personnel and Guidance Association

April 7, 1971—Resolution adopted by APGA Senate

Be it resolved, that the Senate approve the idea of adding sexual orientation of all anti-discrimination based on race, creed, sex and national origin.

American Psychiatric Association

"I realize that many lay persons are concerned about the hiring of homosexuals as teachers. These concerns are the product of misunderstanding, not of scientific knowledge. Some, for instance, have feared that homosexual teachers might affect the sexual orientation of their students. There is no evidence to support this thesis, nor is there evidence to believe that seduction of a student by a homosexual teacher is any more likely to occur than heterosexual seduction . . .

A teacher should be judged on the basis of professional competence, not on the basis of lifestyle or sexual preference."

John Spiegel, M.D.

President, A.P.A.



MCGR

**BOX 4226, ST. ANTHONY FALLS STATION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55414**

DISCRIMINATION

Should gay people be included
in Minnesota's Human Rights Act?

Rob Balfe was fired several months ago.

Not because he wasn't doing his job. And not because he didn't get along with his associates and clients.

He was fired because he's gay. And at present, most gay people are not legally protected against this kind of discrimination. . .



THIS MAN IS GAY. And he was fired because of it.

The Rob Balfe Case is Not An Exception

For seven years, Rob Balfe worked for an insurance company, first as a claims adjuster in the Grand Forks office, and then as a claims examiner at the company's suburban Minneapolis office.

Like most gay people, Rob kept this personal life to himself and nobody suspected he was gay. He was well liked at the office. He worked hard. And he was the kind of guy who finished a job no matter what it took to do it. In 1975, Rob closed more cases than anyone else in the company.

Then his supervisor found out Rob was gay. He tried to "freeze" Rob out of his job by refusing to talk to him except for business matters. Then one Monday morning an associate told Rob that his supervisor wanted to see him.

"You have five minutes to be out," his supervisor told him. "We'll arrange for a time after working hours for you to come in and pack your desk."

Rob realizes that he may never be able to find another job in his professional capacity as a claims examiner. Someone has made sure that Rob will never be hired by another insurance company in Minnesota.

You don't hear a story like Rob's very often. But what happened to one gay man happens to other gay people all the time.

Everyone knows of the uncomfortable feelings, antagonism and hatred which our society often shows to gay women and men.

Discrimination in every sector - jobs, housing, etc. - is a direct result of these feelings.

A study of The National Institute of Mental Health shows that 16% of all gay people have employment difficulties and 9% lose their jobs simply because they are gay.

There are some differences between discrimination against gay people and discrimination against racial minorities and women. Because gay people can and often do hide their sexual orientation, usually employment problems occur once employed rather than at the point of hiring. As the NIMH study and the Rob Balfe case show, if a person is discovered to be gay, he or she may very well lose their jobs simply because they are gay.

However, there are many similarities between the forms of discrimination. They are based on stereotypes and a refusal to judge people as individuals. The net result of anti-gay discrimination, like racial discrimination, is the destruction of human lives and denying employer's the abilities of fine employees.

Mental health experts agree that such discrimination and the fear that it might occur are destructive.

"Discrimination in employment can lead to economic disenfranchisement, thus engendering anxiety and frustrating legitimate achievement motivation."

We ask your help in correcting this unjust discrimination.



730 East 38th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407 (612) 827-5421

Rick Scott
Chair
Ruth Cain
Associate Chair
Tom Muir
Secretary
David Lebedoff
Treasurer

The DFL State Platform has included a plank in support of gay civil rights in 1972, 1974 and again in 1976. In 1976, this plank was considered so moderate and uncontroversial that it passed without opposition.

"Be it resolved that the State Legislature amend the State Human Rights Act and that Congress enact appropriate legislation to provide protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional preference for the areas of employment, housing, public accommodations, public services, education and credit."



mental health association of minnesota, inc.
4510 w. 77th street - room 100 • minneapolis, minnesota 55435 • (612) 835-4282

"...Mental health professionals recognize that homosexuality is not synonymous with mental illness or bad mental health. We do know, however, that forcing a person to live in an environment where loss of job and embarrassing discrimination are constant threats is not conducive to good mental health."

Who Supports Civil Rights for Gay People?



"Public opinion polls have collaborated a general impression that the attitude in Minnesota toward protecting basic rights of people regardless of their 'affectional preference' is now overwhelmingly positiveWe favor the passage of the bill as it stands on elementary humanitarian grounds." EDITORIAL, APRIL 19, 1975



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE
CHURCHES OF CHRIST

475 Riverside Drive, New York, N.Y. 10027 (212) 870-2141
Rev. W. Sterling Cory, President Claire Randall, General Secretary

"The Governing Board reiterates the Christian conviction that all persons are entitled to full civil rights and equal protection and urges its member churches and their constituencies to work to ensure the enactment of legislation at the national, state and local levels that would guarantee the civil rights of all persons without regard to their affectional or sexual preference."

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONS

AN AFFILIATE OF LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA MUNICIPALITIES
300 HANOVER BLDG., 480 CEDAR STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN. 55101
(612) 722-2861

"We believe adoption of this measure will go far in encouraging the development of personnel policies which more properly focus on an individual's job performance."

Six Reasons to Support Civil Rights for Gay People_____

1. BECAUSE THERE IS A NEED!

Many gay people lose their jobs simply because they are gay. Many more live in constant fear that they will lose their jobs because they are gay.

2. BECAUSE PEOPLE MUST BE JUDGED AS INDIVIDUALS.

To judge people by so-called "group characteristics" (stereotypes) is unjust. This legislation is consistent with the concept of all human rights legislation.

3. BECAUSE NON-DISCRIMINATION IS GOOD BUSINESS PRACTICE.

Non-discrimination will ensure that employment concerns are limited to merit and ability on the job.

4. BECAUSE THERE IS GROWING SUPPORT AMONG RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

They understand that discrimination is immoral and contrary to religious convictions.

5. BECAUSE THERE IS OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT FROM MINNESOTA'S VOTERS.

Public opinion polls show strong support for fair employment throughout the state.

6. BECAUSE THE GOAL OF THIS LEGISLATION IS EQUAL RIGHTS.

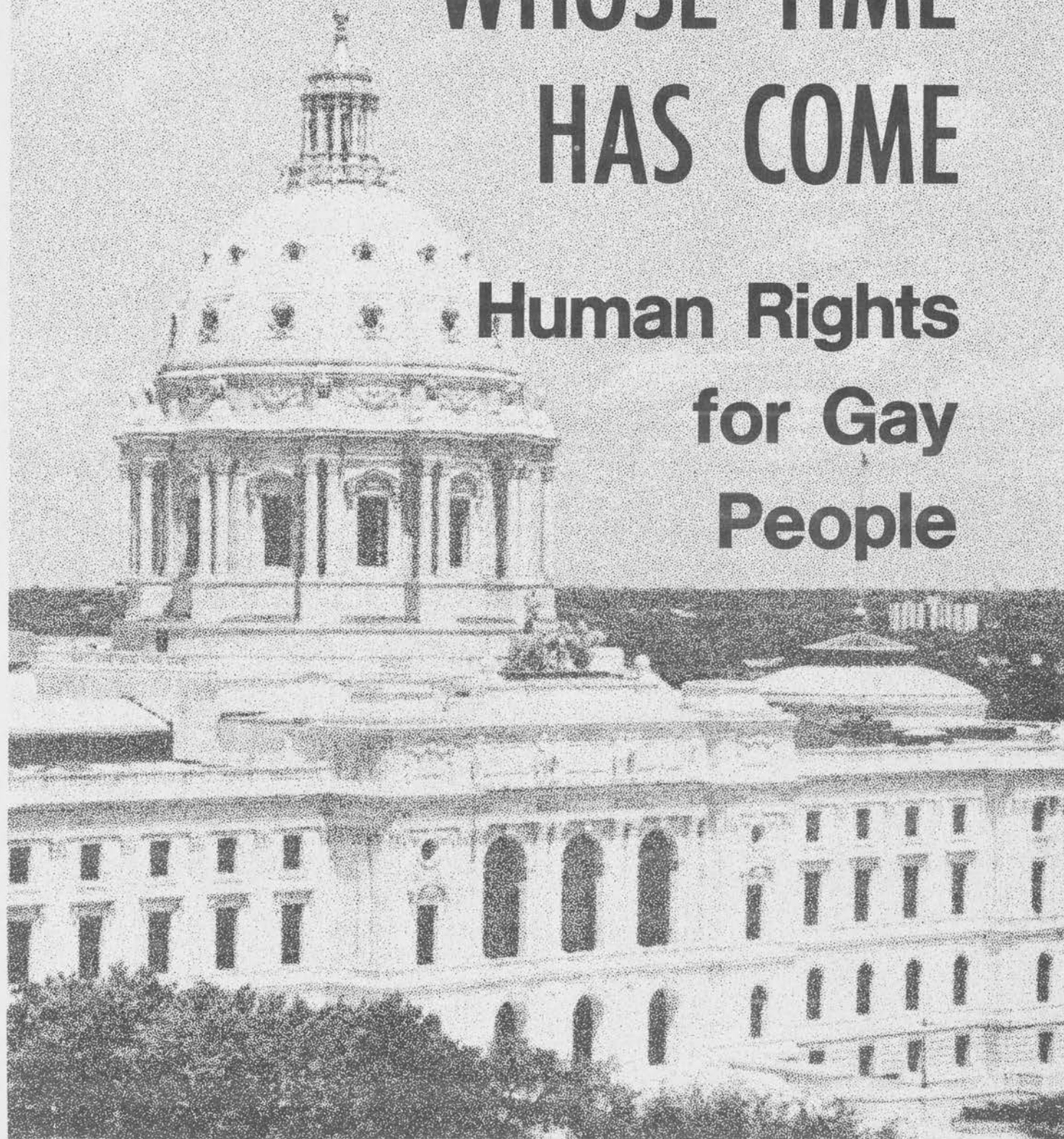
Just as the inclusion of "religion" in human rights legislation does not indicate support for any particular religion, neither would this bill indicate support for "homosexuality" per se.

MCGR_____

MINNESOTA COMMITTEE FOR GAY RIGHTS
BOX 4226, ST. ANTHONY FALLS STATION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. 55414

AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME

**Human Rights
for Gay
People**



The Old Political Myths Need To Be Reconsidered

Myth I

"Gay rights is a politically suicidal issue."

Political Reality:

Maybe once, but not any more. To be sure, there may still be a few people for whom gay rights is an emotional issue. But most voters are concerned with bread and butter issues -- taxes, for example. A leader of one of Minnesota's major farm organizations said that the Gay Rights issue doesn't really upset too many out-state voters. "They just don't see it directly affecting their lives."

Myth II

"Gay Rights only touches the lives of a few people, and not many of them live in my district."

Political Reality:

The Kinsey Institute estimates that about 10% of Americans are gay. The *Minneapolis Tribune* applies this figure to Minnesota, as well. Gay sons and daughters, wherever they live in the State, are discussing their sexual orientation with parents, brothers, sisters, and friends, as never before. The discrimination faced by gays becomes a source of concern for **all** who love them. So the Gay Rights issue affects a **substantial** number of voters, after all.

Myth III

"When election time rolls around again, a pro-gay vote on my record is going to give my opponents ammunition."

Political Reality:

For all the talk about Gay Rights being a political hot potato, the issue almost never comes up at election time. The few times it has, a pro-gay stance has **not** worked against a candidate. This is worth noting: In the 10 races where Gay Rights was an issue, **EVERY pro-gay incumbent was returned to office**. Some with 70% of the vote. In fact, it seems that using a pro-gay record to discredit at election time backfires.

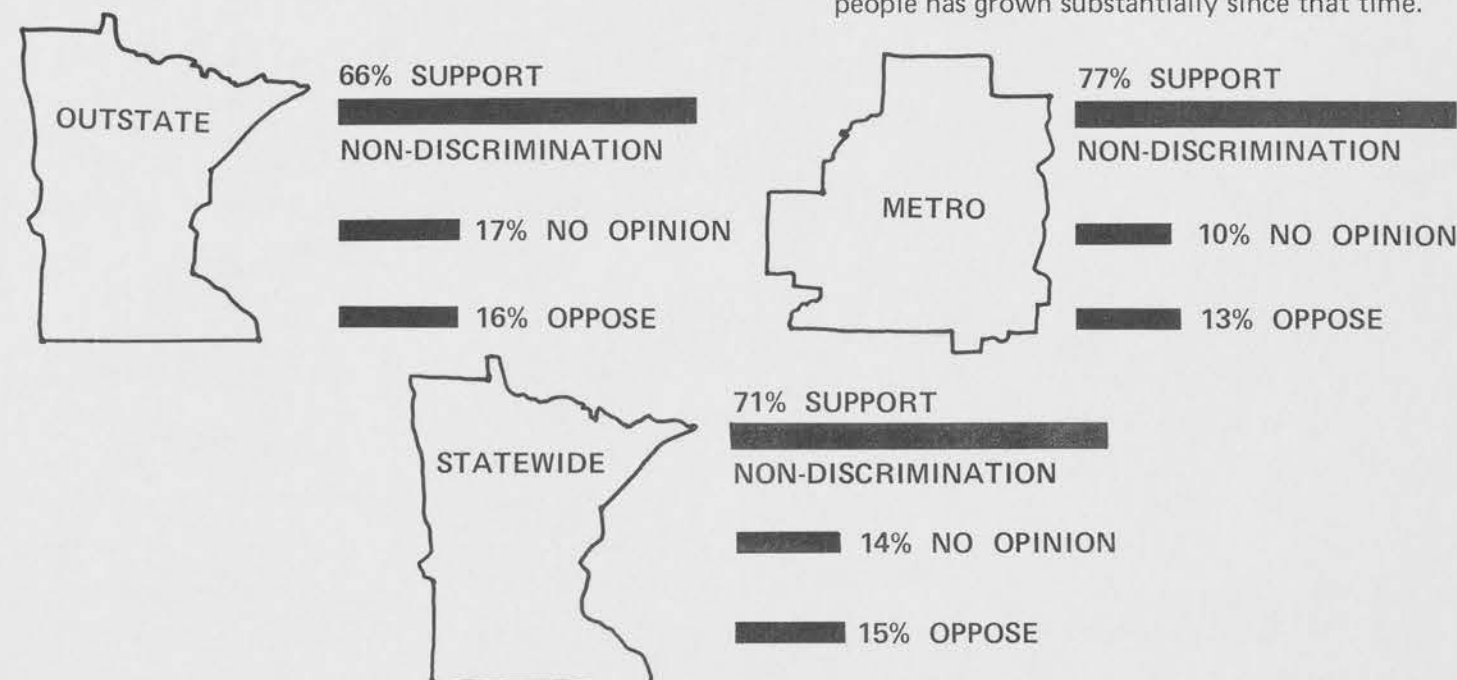
POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS:

A SUMMARY

Opposition to civil rights of any kind won't help a political career -- at least in Minnesota. Perhaps it's the post-Watergate era, perhaps it's the Humphrey tradition; but voters respect courage, and they admire leadership in civil rights. Minnesotans are ready to end discrimination for gay people. This amendment is positive and timely.

HERE'S WHAT THE POLLS SAY:

A statewide poll conducted by Mid-Continent Surveys, a well known polling agency that does most of WCCO TV's polling, asked 1,000 Minnesota citizens whether a person should be refused a job because he or she is a homosexual.



The answer? Overwhelming opposition to discrimination. However, public opinion experts tell us that even these figures may be somewhat misleading because the survey was conducted in 1973, and that public support for basic civil rights for gay people has grown substantially since that time.

The St. Cloud Daily Times

MAJORITY BACKS HOMOSEXUAL RIGHTS

A poll asked 200 residents "Do you think homosexuals should be protected under the St. Cloud Human Rights Ordinance from discrimination in employment and housing?"

Yes	53%
No	30%
No opinion	17%

The date indicated, said Johnson,* that no matter where the respondents resided, or what their income or educational background was, a clear majority favored such a proposal.

Surveys are conducted for the Times Poll by St. John's Center for the study of Local Government.

THE FREE PRESS

MANKATO

"It is a clear-cut sign of something or other that there has been a total absence of public hue and cry over the Mankato area's Human Rights Commission endorsement of gay rights.

One reason might be the precedent established in the Twin Cities, Marshall and possibly elsewhere another might be - and we hope it is - a realization that basic rights can take many forms not imaginable in decades past and that sexual preferences are among them."

1977 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS PROVE GAY RIGHTS ISSUE NOT "POLITICALLY SUICIDAL"

In past legislative sessions one concern for some legislators was that their constituents could not accept this issue and that if they supported it, they would be defeated in the next election. The 1977 legislative elections appear to have now put that myth to rest.

SELDOM USED

Perhaps the most important fact of the '77 elections is that the issue was almost never brought up. We believe that that is because candidates understand that most voters base their votes on "bread-and-butter" issues and how well the legislator maintains contact with his or her constituents.

BUT WAS USED IN ABOUT 10 RACES

They included races in Minneapolis, St. Paul, the suburbs of both cities and in one outstate district.* The issue came up most when linked to other issues, although in one case it was used alone in the get-out-the-vote effort of the opponent. And in virtually every case the result was the same the issue had negligible effect and the pro-gay rights incumbent was re-elected easily (often piling up margins of 65 to 70%). In a couple of cases the issue was viewed by voters as a "cheap-shot" and it backfired on the challengers.

*Complete list of candidates who had gay issue used against them and their margins of victory are available from MCGR office.

CIVIL RIGHTS FOR GAY PEOPLE NOT USED IN MINNEAPOLIS CITY ELECTIONS

The issue of including gay people in the Mpls. Civil Rights Ordinance was not used against any of the candidates for either Mayor or Alderman.

While other gay issues did come up, even those candidates known as most anti-gay never brought up or attacked the inclusion of gay people in the Mpls. Civil Rights Ordinance.

HOW GAY RIGHTS ISSUE WAS USED IN ST. PAUL CITY ELECTIONS

When the gay rights amendment to the St. Paul Human Rights Ordinance passed, many who opposed it flatly predicted that any incumbent who dared to support it would be defeated in the next election. Some supporters were nervous that that prediction could prove correct.

Instead, when the next election came, the only incumbent to be defeated lost because of other issues and because his opponent was very well-known. His support for civil rights for gay people was **never** used against him. But in one race, the issue was raised with a major ad in the St. Paul newspapers attacking an incumbent's support for civil rights for gay people. The incumbent received a number of calls from outraged members of his opponent's party — not outraged at the incumbent's gay rights support but that anyone would use a civil rights issue for political mileage. The incumbent won re-election with over 65% of the vote.

MCGR

MINNESOTA COMMITTEE FOR GAY RIGHTS
BOX 4226, ST. ANTHONY FALLS STATION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. 55414

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Alexandria _____
Anoka _____ P _____
Arden Hills _____
Austin _____
Battle Lake _____
Bemidji _____
Blaine _____ P _____
Bloomington _____
Brooklyn Center _____
Brooklyn Park _____
Buffalo _____
Cass Lake _____
Chaska _____
Cloquet _____ P but _____
Columbia Heights _____
Cottage Grove _____
Crookston _____
Crystal-New Hope _____
Detroit Lakes _____ C _____
Duluth _____
Edina _____
Excelsior-Deephaven Area _____
Fairmont _____
Falcon Heights _____ P _____
Freeborn County _____
Fridley _____ C _____
Golden Valley _____
Granite Falls _____
Hibbing _____
Hutchinson _____
Jackson-Sherburn _____
Mahtomedi _____
Mankato Area _____
Marshall _____
Mid-Mesabi _____
Minneapolis _____ P _____

Minnetonka-Eden Prairie

P

Moorhead

Mounds View

C

New Brighton

P

New Ulm

?

C

Northern Dakota County Area

Northfield

Owatonna

?

Red Wing

Richfield

C

Robbinsdale

Rochester

C

Rock County

Roseville

P

St. Anthony

St. Cloud Area

P

St. Croix Valley

St. Louis Park

St. Paul

St. Peter

P but

Shoreview

but

C

Silver Bay

Stevens County

Wayzata Area

Wells

West Dakota County

Westonka

White Bear Lake

C

Willmar

Winona

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Woodbury

Worthington

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Pg.

FEB 18 1975

League of Women Voters

February 14, 1975

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Attn: State Board Members

Dear State Board Members:

We, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Mounds View, urge you not to lobby for Gay rights legislation. We had an opportunity to poll part of our membership concerning this, and an overwhelming majority of those present were against the state League lobbying for Gay Rights (15 against, 2 abstaining, 1 for). In a couple instances, members indicated that they would quit if this were done.

We appreciate having this opportunity to make our feelings known, and even though we realize the State Board has the authority to go ahead on this issue, we do hope membership reaction will be considered.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Fauchald

Marilyn Fauchald, President
League of Women Voters of Mounds View

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of WINONA

WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

MM
EE
HB. ✓

Route 2
Fountain City, WI 54629
February 22, 1975

Ms. Peggy Gross, State Judiciary Chairman
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Gross:

I am writing to you regarding your memo on "Consenting Adults and Fair Employment." First let me thank you for informing local Leagues of the matter prior to the board's decision on it. Although timing has not permitted me to discuss it with our own local board, I feel that I must write to you as president of our League and as an individual.

We discussed briefly the contents of your memo in two of our five units and encountered many different reactions, but everyone present at both meetings felt that the League should not take a position on the rights of homosexuals, at least not at this time. In my own unit reactions varied, but everyone felt that the members should study and discuss the matter before acting on it.

As president I am concerned because we arrived at our present Equality of Opportunity position--which is the one relating most directly to the stance of the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights--through the back door, by vote of the convention rather than by the consensus process. At the 1973 convention many people strongly opposed the use of the word "persons" precisely because it would imply positions which our members had not come to consensus on. Whatever stand our members would take after study and discussion, I feel very strongly that neither the state board nor the local should speak in their name without giving them the opportunity to do so.

I am not sure how your memo was intended to fit into the League study, consensus, action process, but I feel that for me to try to "inform" our members on this subject by reprinting your one-sided memo would be a mockery of League nonpartisan study. I hope, however, that the state board will have access to and will consider other arguments. Are there psychiatrists who disagree with the trustees of the American Psychiatric Association? Are there prestigious organizations who do not sympathize with the proposed legislation? Are there citizens who believe that our teachers should--and can not help but--teach values as well as facts, by deed as well as word, and that the citizens have a right to determine which values and standards will be taught? The literature you sent me dismisses many real and legitimate questions and challenges in a way is to make it inadequate as the basis of serious study.

But deeper than my concern as a League president for League principles is my concern as an individual for the moral principles in question. Homosexuality

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of WINONA

WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

page 2

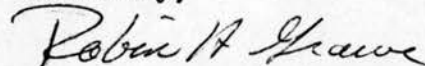
is a perversity, a sin. And the wages of sin are death, eternal death but also death in life, for separation from the living God is death. Homosexuals die to a life in fellowship with God, they die to the joys of true marital relations as God intended; and they die to a complete, whole, purposeful,,joyous life on earth.

Homosexuality is normal in the sense that sinfulness is the normal state for mankind. And it is normal for indulgence in sin to ensnare us, to drive us with greater compulsion and to bring less joy. It blinds us to the needs of those around us and makes un incapable of meeting them; it perverts our minds from the truth by deceiving us into thinking that if we were free to do whatever is right in our own eyes, we would be happy and our needs would be met. Nothing is further from the truth.

Homosexuals need help, but society has nothing to offer them, for it has betrayed truth as well as love. There is a help in the power of Christ dwelling in the one who believes in Him. Christ can overcome attitudes and emotional reactions which took root in childhood and flourished over years of rejection and neglect. In Christ all things are possible.

I sincerely hope that someone on the state board will bring the good news to the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights. But to add to their self-deceit and aid in their self-destruction is not love but cowardice. As a Christian I can not be a part of it.

Sincerely,



Robin A. Grawe, President
League of Women Voters of Winona

MAR 5 1975

league of women voters of white bear lake
white bear lake, minnesota 55110



2338 South Shore Blvd.
March 3, 1975

Dear Members of the State Board:

I write in reference to the request of the Gay Rights Coalition for more visible League support of their bills during the current legislative session. Our Board discussed this matter at our last meeting. Each Board member had the opportunity to look at the material you had sent before our discussion. However, except for two eloquent proponents, our Board was in opposition to active League involvement in this cause.

I meant, but forgot to include under "suggested wording" in our League's first round program suggestions the following: It was pointed out in our discussion on "gay rights" that the wording of #4, the "Equality of Opportunity" position in our present League program should perhaps be changed from "for all persons" to "without regard to sex, race, creed, religion, marital status, physical handicap, or being a recipient of public assistance." Our Board did not feel quite ready to add "sexual preference" to that list or to have it implicitly included. I did not live here at the time of the LWVN original E.O. studies, so I don't know if "sexual preference" was ever discussed in that context or knowingly included in our consensus. I gather from our Board discussion it was not.

This is a very emotionally charged issues, as of course you are all aware. I'm afraid our own Board discussion was not always on a purely rational plane. I personally don't feel very comfortable implying our League Board favors continued discrimination against any group. Nevertheless, it was a very definite and one-sided Board opinion that League should not enter into this commitment of support of gay rights. I pass this feeling on to you as another bit of data, as you wrestle with your decision on the State Board.

I do wish to express some concern about the way this question was handled from the state level. I received the information about the gay rights committee in the mail along with the League background material, but not noticing that any immediate action was requested on the part of our League, I did not give it a great deal of thought that day. The very next day I attended one of Mary Ann's mini presidents' meetings and found that the State Board was actively considering lobbying on this legislation and was waiting to see if there was any local League reaction to the material you had sent. I think this was a misleading procedure. I realize I should have been more alert to the statement at the very end of the memo that "The Board of Directors is reviewing the proposals". However, if you wanted our explicit reaction to the idea of lobbying, I feel you should have asked for it more directly. I usually expect League to be more above-board.

Sincerely yours,

Jeannette D. Kahlenberg
Jeannette D. Kahlenberg, President

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of WINONA

WINONA, MINNESOTA 55987

MAR 14 1975

MM
EE
JJ
HB✓

Route 2
Fountain City, WI 54629
March 12, 1975

Ms. Peggy Gross, Chairman
State Judiciary Committee
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Gross:

I am writing to you because of a letter from one of our members, Charlotte Reidelberger, regarding my letter concerning a League stance on homosexuality and related legislation. I understand you have a copy of her letter. Mrs. Reidelberger stated that I expressed my own views "in such a way as to seem to be speaking for our League." I sincerely hope that the state board did not get this impression since one of my reasons for writing was a respect for the individual opinions of our League members. I hope I made it clear that I did not know what the members would decide were they to study the matter nor did I know what all of the members thought at this time, and I therefore could not possibly speak for them. I did not then nor do I now have any intention or desire to state or imply that my individual views of homosexuality are that of any of our League members.

Lest there be any misunderstanding, let me explain that I was writing as a local League president only in these ways. First, as president I am committed to the League principles of impartial study and consensus based on grassroots member discussion. I believe that as a board member I have an obligation to protect the members of our League from misrepresentation and procedural abuse, and because I feared I would not have time to take the matter to the board before your discussion, I wrote you as president. Second, as a local League president I am asked to co-sign action letters to our legislators and to speak for our League on its positions. I could not personally affirm as president a position which condoned or seemed to condone a practice which has greivous moral implications. I don't want to condemn these people. I want to offer help. But, let me repeat, my personal moral convictions are not be be construed as those of our members or of our board.

Sincerely yours,

Robin A. Grawe

Robin A. Grawe, President
League of Women Voters of Winona

cc: Charlotte Reidelberger

SECOND ROUND PROGRAM MAKING

(Return to state office by May 7, 1975)

League of Women Voters of FALCON HEIGHTS

we - 7
No. of members Am - 11
participating 18

.We accept the March, 1975 1st round Program Recommendations without additional changes.

Yes _____ No X

.We want to change the March, 1975 1st round Program Recommendations as follows:
(See Program for Action 1973-75 for full statement of position.)

CORRECTIONS: Accepted as proposed.

JUDICIARY: Accepted as proposed.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY: Accepted as proposed.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: Almost no interest in the study of migrant workers.
We feel that clarification is needed with respect to the phrase "all persons." We assumed that all persons meant all persons regardless of sexual preference.

EDUCATION: Strong support for reexamination of the foundation aid formula - we feel a need to update in this area. little support for a study of tenure laws. This new study was our first priority.

ELECTION LAWS: Accepted as proposed.

ORGANIZATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT: Accepted as proposed. The study of legislative compensation, size, and full-time legislature with survey by 1977 convention is our second priority

FINANCING GOVERNMENT: Accepted as proposed. This is our third priority

.We propose a new study: (This must be an item(s) from the non-recommended listing on page 2 and 3 of attached material. If it expands one of the items on the other side of this page, it should be listed there and not under this classification.)

ADDITIONAL COMMENT :

At next program planning time it would be helpful if the State Board could give a clear indication as to which support positions were weak and ineffective as a basis for action (For example, our financing government position).

New Ulm — majority says No
Detroit Lakes — No.

Owatonna — 7 of 12 Bdrs 4 No 3 Yes

St. Peter — concern re lack of
mbr. info — only one yes from
Bd.

re — Gay Rights

M TO: McCoy and Borg

E FROM: P. Lucas

M SUBJECT "gay rights"

O

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

PHONE: 224-5445

DATE 3-21-75 2:00 pm

Linda Woodhouse - Rochester - on Feb. 25th the board voted that

"We could not take action on this subject because we have not had a study on this subject".

She has not polled the members and does not have time to do so.

They have put nothing in their bulletin about the legislation or the board (state or local) action.



The League of Women Voters of Fridley, Minnesota

APR 1 1975

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bob's Produce Ranch
Herbert Bacon, Jr.
Comstock & Davis, Inc.
Fridley State Bank
D. W. Harstad Co. Inc.
John E. Meyer
Midland Cooperatives, Inc.
Harvey E. Peterson
Donald C. Savelkoul

March 15, 1975

Members of the State Board:

Some of the members of the Fridley League have become concerned that a number of our positions have been broadened without the approval of the local Leagues. They feel that the grass roots organizational structure is being by-passed, while State and National Boards are making the decisions.

One issue that some of us are concerned about is with "gay rights." Never, in any discussion in our League have we discussed this topic as part of our equal rights position. The consensus we reached did not include mention of sexual preference, and we question whether many other Leagues feel it did, either. This is a decision the individual members and Leagues should make, not the State Board.

We understand the delegates to State Convention voted on this issue. But our delegates, three in number, do not remember voting on this particular question. Possibly the item was worded so that there was some confusion as to the question at hand. None the less, local Leagues had not discussed the issue, and we do not feel convention delegates should make such controversial decisions for the entire membership.

One of the primary benefits of League membership is to know that we, as individuals, have been a part of the decision-making process. This procedure eliminated that process, and we feel that the whole League suffers when a few make decisions for all.

Your comments would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jean Scher
President

Patricia Brennen
Human Resources

Phyllis Whitmore
Local Government

Memo to Peggy Gross, Jerry Jenkins, Liz Ebbott, and Helene Borg
From Mary Ann McCoy -- Re: decision not to support proposed legislation
adding sexual preference to anti-discrimination protection in MN

DRAFT COPY- letter to Steve Endean, Minnesota Committee on Gay Rights

Dear Steve:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is a member organization whose action is directed by informed member agreement; officers and directors keep members informed on emerging issues which may come within areas covered by our broad support positions.

Our present state Program includes "support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons." and "support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all."

However-

in the process cited in paragraph one of informing members on the issues of discrimination on the basis of sexual preference and repealing consensual sodomy, we discover that support of our proposed action is insufficient at this time; opposition to action in the name of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in support of legislation proposed in these areas is expressed in sufficient strength to indicate that member support essential to effective action is not present on these issues now.

Comments from League members indicate that League action against discrimination on basis of sexual preference now would be inappropriate. Members point out that issues in the matter have not been studied and specific member agreement has not been determined; similar comments state opposition to action in regard to the consenting adults legislation as well.

It is of interest to note an existing exception to our support of equality of opportunity "for all persons", based upon member study and member agreement of the nature cited above. This is in regard to state responsibility for Indian citizens; our members support ~~Indian citizens~~ states: "Programs should have the explicit recognition that the basic decisions regarding Indian lives and property are to be made by them. Support of a state agency for Indian affairs which meets the following criteria: acceptable to the Indians themselves, permanent, staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and co-ordinating programs, empowered to use the services of other existing agencies and provided with adequate funds."

Studies by League members in this instance have led to support of separate facilities and programs for Indians, which may or may not indicate discrimination in education, housing, employment, etc. based upon being Indian.

The indication ^{from} that League members that study of discrimination based on sexual preference should precede any action has been expressed by members of Leagues in many different parts of the state; leadership in a member organization heeds member concerns and takes these into consideration in determining application of previously reached agreements to specific new legislation.

DRAFT COPY - page second

League of Women Voters of Minnesota members will complete selection of League Program and action for 1975-1977 when delegates meet in state convention, June 3 and 4, 1975. Biennial assessment of ongoing action and adoption of new studies is an integral part of League member involvement.

Thank you for supplying information to our Action Committee and Board of Directors on the proposed legislation cited above.

Sincerely.

Mary Ann McCoy
President

end of draft copy of letter to Steve Endean.

Continuing memo begun on page one:

Please read this draft and call me before Sunday evening with your comments. WE had agreed to testify Monday, March 24, in support of these bills, according to Board discussion and motion, carried, at our March 11, 1975, Board meeting. This letter explains our reasons for withdrawing our support of the bills and for not testifying Monday, March 24, as agreed. Leagues have been notified today with the attached addendum going along with their first class copy of the April, 1975, Board Memo. As Helene indicated when I talked with her at length today about this difficult decision, our members need to further define what they mean by "all persons" when speaking of equal treatment and equal opportunity. I would hope that such self-assessment would precede convention action in regard to adopted wording of both the Equality of Opportunity item and the Judiciary item for 1975-1977.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this communication with a group who sought our support in these legislative matters after reading our statements in Program for Action, 1973-1975.

*Mary Ann
9pm.
March 21, 1975*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102

C O P Y

March 23, 1975

Steve Endean
2708 E. Lake Street, #231
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55406

Dear Steve:

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is a member organization whose action is directed by informed member agreement; officers and directors keep members informed on emerging issues which may come within areas covered by our broad support positions.

Our present state Program includes "support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons," and "support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all."

However, in the process cited in paragraph one of informing members on the issues of discrimination on the basis of sexual preference and repealing consensual sodomy, we discover that support of our proposed action is insufficient at this time; member opposition to action in the name of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in support of legislation proposed in these areas is expressed in sufficient strength to indicate that member support essential to effective action is not present on these issues now.

Comments from League members indicate that League action against discrimination on basis of sexual preference now would be inappropriate. Members point out that issues in the matter have not been studied and specific member agreement has not been determined; similar comments state opposition to action in regard to the consenting adults legislation as well.

It is of interest to note an existing exception to our support of equality of opportunity "for all persons," based upon member study and member agreement of the nature cited above. This is in regard to state responsibility for Indian citizens; our members support states: "Programs should have the explicit recognition that the basic decisions regarding Indian lives and property are to be made by them. Support of a state agency for Indian affairs which meets the following criteria: acceptable to the Indians themselves, permanent, staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and coordinating programs, empowered to use the services of other existing agencies and provided with adequate funds."

Studies by League members in this instance have led to support of separate facilities and programs for Indians, which may or may not indicate discrimination in education, housing, employment, etc., based upon being Indian.



The indication from League members that study of discrimination based on sexual preference should precede any action has been expressed by members of Leagues in many different parts of the state; leadership in a member organization heeds member concerns and takes these into consideration in determining application of previously reached agreements to specific new legislation.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota members will complete selection of League Program and action for 1975-77 when delegates meet in state Convention, June 3 and 4, 1975. Biennial assessment of ongoing action and adoption of new studies is an integral part of League member involvement.

Thank you for supplying information to our Action Committee and Board Directors on the proposed legislation cited above.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann McCoy
President

APR 3 1975

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BLAINE

April 2, 1975

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Habashe
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Attention: Peggy Gross

RE: Consenting Adults + Fair Employment

Our Board of Directors Voted unanimously to favor support of the proposed legislation regarding Consenting Adults and Fair Employment. Our feeling is that we are opening ourselves to criticism in not supporting equality for all. Our feeling on sexual preference should not enter into it at all.

We sincerely hope the LWNMN will be able to support this action.

Sincerely,

Margaret Langfeld
Pres.

APR 4 1975

MM
EE
JJ
HB

League of Women Voters of Shoreview, 1039 Ingerson Road, Shoreview, MN, 55112

Memo to: State Board, Peggy Gross

From: Ann M. Kirch, Action Chairman

Re: HF 536 and SF 595, Sexual preference legislation

April 2, 1975

I brought the sexual preference legislation to the attention of the board of the Shoreview League. The members expressed great interest in the bill, felt that we needed much more information on the problem, and felt that we certainly do not condone discrimination against a person because of affectional or sexual preference if there are not going to be any adverse effects resulting from his employment. There was some concern, however, that there might be some adverse effects - perhaps just from being an announced homosexual. The main concern seemed to be in the area of employment in the schools.

As you can see we felt the need of more information, but our discussion was not completely from ignorance. We, as individuals, had done some reading on the subject. One person had two close friends who were homosexuals, had attended several of their social functions, and had been very concerned with their problems. One person's husband, as a youngster, had found it necessary to defend himself against the advances of a (troubled perhaps) homosexual, and individuals had had brief contacts with persons of a different sexual preference from their own.

Throughout the discussion there was great concern and sympathy for these individuals but the feeling was that it was premature for the league to support this legislation.

Ann

APR 4 1975



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

NEW BRIGHTON, MINNESOTA

55112

EE
JJ
HB
PA

April 2, 1975

Mrs. Mary Ann McCoy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

Dear Mary Ann:

The addendum to the State Board Memo indicated that the action under Equality of Opportunity regarding sexual preference was not going to be taken. We felt that feedback from local Leagues would be helpful for direction to the State Board.

The League supports a basic concept of equality of opportunity for all as stated in our position. Therefore, those members attending our last month's board meeting generally agreed that they favored our supporting action in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations. It was felt that a law would relieve some of the personal responsibility in this matter.

Sincerely,

Judy Hove, President

JAH:dms

apr. 4th

APR 7 1975

LHV of mrv.

Re: Addendum to Judiciary

Cloquent LHV board's opinion was that tho' theoretically, we should support the legislation to eliminate discrimination of sexual preference, that it would be best not to do so at this time. This is based on our problems with our Sen. Chmielewski.

You are no doubt aware that he is trying to have State Legislature rescind the E.P.A. and until it is ratified ('76 hopefully) we should not give him any further fuel.

He brought two women with him to one of our Leg. breakfasts. One spoke against EPA and the other against sex ed. in schools - but somehow the two ran together - making it sound that women who support EPA are responsible for teaching female masturbation in schools!

Our Supt. of schools took after her, for such half facts, etc. there was not much time for us to reply. I enclose clippings from

local paper - you mentioning wanting them. -

Sen. C. is also mailing out a yellow sheet
printed in Texas with a number of out-
landish statements

Hurriedly

Virginia Tucker

Clergent L & V pres.



TALK EQUAL RIGHTS — Going over material about the Equal Rights Amendment, a topic of discussion at the weekly legislative meeting held at the Viking Steak House, last on Saturday, are from left, County Commissioner Rita Blaisus, Cloquet Mayor Floyd Jaros, Marlene Reid, Shoreview, Minn., State Senator Florian Chmielewski and Mrs. Thresa Todd, South St. Paul. The weekly session continues this week, sponsored by the Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce. (Pine Knot Photo)

Equal rights hot topic at forum here

by James Selleck
Pine Knot Staff

A state amendment recently approved, endorsing the Federal Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), came under fire Saturday, at the weekly Cloquet Area Chamber of Commerce legislative forum

ERA that, he feels, bear scrutiny.

Under Section I of the amendment, which calls for an "equality of rights under the law".

Chmielewski told the citizens and some public officials gathered the words without

ment," the following would happen: girls, 18 years of age, would become eligible for a state militia; homosexual marriages would be legalized and subsequent adoption of children by marriages would be possible; no longer would a husband's

control out of the hands of local people," said Chmielewski. He added, "It would add to Congress's bureaucracy."

Mrs. Reid and Todd, emphasized that at present, there are several women's liberation groups in the Twin Cities area



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- Anoka → disappointed
that not testify-
felt position
right — DON'T
LIKE OUR Backing
off. (Sorry not call
early to let us
know.)

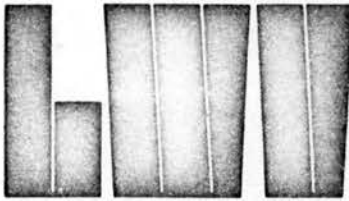
re Gay Rights

League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

The Parliamentarian will be available for consultation in the convention hall prior to and after each business session.

CONVENTION RULES

1. Admission to Convention shall be limited to persons displaying official badges which must be worn at all meetings of the Convention.
2. Voting members and visitors shall sit in areas so designated. Although they may enter the convention hall after the Convention has started, they shall not be seated during an address.
3. Only local delegates and members of the State Board may vote ("voting members").
4. Only voting members and those authorized by the chair, or Convention, may address the assembly. During debate on a motion, no person may speak more than once on that question until all others who wish to speak have done so. After the original presentation, debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker.
5. A speaker shall use a microphone and announce her name and League when addressing the assembly.
6. Main motions and amendments of substantial length must be in writing in triplicate and signed by the mover; two copies shall be sent at once to the secretary and one copy retained by the mover.
7. Resolutions other than of a courtesy nature shall not be permitted.
8. The procedure for Program adoption shall be in the following order:
 - a) Recommended subjects (Proposed Program) shall be moved for adoption at the second session. The presentation by the mover may be no longer than five minutes. Questions for clarification only may be asked at this time.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROSEVILLE

INCLUDING MAPLEWOOD AND LITTLE CANADA UNITS

ROSEVILLE, MINNESOTA 55113

April 10, 1975

Mary Ann Mc Coy, President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Mrs. McCoy,

This letter is in response to your memo of March 21, 1975. At our last board meeting on March 31, 1975 we discussed the matter in Addendum to JUDICIARY regarding League support of Consenting Adults and Fair Employment legislation under our support position of equality of opportunity for all persons.

It was the unanimous consensus of the board that support of equal opportunity "for all persons", was just that, ALL persons. As one person at the board meeting said, "everybody is everybody, period."

This matter was also brought up at our recent Annual Meeting on April 9, the situation reviewed, and the board (Roseville) position stated to the members for a response. No one at that time gave any indication that they felt the position did NOT imply equality of opportunity for all persons.

We are in the process of having members respond to the first round program recommendations and will communicate with your board again by that due date.

On behalf of the Board,

Sally Simundson
Sally Simundson
Secretary

MM
EE
JJ
HB✓
P.9

APR 22 1975

At its annual meeting April 10, 1975, the St. Cloud Area League of Women Voters reaffirmed its support for action by the State League of Women Voters to promote proposed fair employment and consenting adults legislation. This does not need to be interpreted as condoning or approving a life style, but is in recognition of the following:

- 1) That all persons have the right of access to employment, public accommodations and housing.
- 2) That various life styles exist and that attempts to legislate morality are seldom successful. What is legal may or may not be moral...and on whose terms?
- 3) That all law is diminished by unenforceable laws on the books. The Judiciary study found that private behavior of individuals is not enforceable. The LWV would support attempts to increase respect for the law by removing such unenforceable laws from the statutes.

June Rowland

June Rowland, secretary
St. Cloud Area League of
Women Voters

APR 28 1975

4/24/75

✓
Memo to: Mary Ann McCoy, Peggy Gross, Helene Borg, et.al.

From: Jan Jensen, President, St. Peter LWV

Re: Consenting Adults and Fair Employment legislation

Acting on your request, Mary Ann, to discuss the matter of LWVMN support of Consenting Adults and Fair Employment legislation with our membership, I included background information on the issue in our April Leaguer and drafted three questions which were discussed at unit meetings. Those questions and members responses follow:

1. Do you feel LWVMN should take action in support of Consenting Adults and Fair Employment legislation?
Response: strong "yes"
2. Do you feel our position supporting equal opportunity for "all persons" clearly includes homosexuals?
Response: strong "yes"
3. Do you feel that, since we have neither studied the nature of discrimination on the basis of sexual preference nor reached consensus on that issue, we cannot take action to prevent discrimination on that basis?
Response: strong "no"

The membership of the St. Peter LWV obviously supports, in principle, the initial position taken by the State Board. However, my assessment of member feeling would indicate that you can expect no written or vocal support of testimony given from individuals here. Most members are simply not very enthusiastic about it.

One further comment--Much of the caution that was expressed among League members here six weeks ago was dispelled by the background information that appeared in the March Board Memo and, subsequently, in our Leaguer. Members who had no idea of the wording of the legislation being considered and who therefore had no idea of how State positions applied, were reluctant to have LWVMN give testimony on such a sensitive issue. Once they had all of that information, however, members solidly supported the initial Board decision to give testimony. In the future, I would strongly urge that the State Board communicate as much as possible with LL Boards and membership before deciding to take action on sensitive, emotion-packed issues. That might very well avoid a repeat of the situation we have just experienced.

MM
EE
JJ
HB✓

MAY 5 1975

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RICHFIELD / *Richfield, Minnesota*

Affiliated with the League of Women Voters of the U.S.

May 1, 1975

To: League of Women Voters of Minnesota

From: League of Women Voters of Richfield

Re: Position of the League concerning interpretation of the
Equality of Opportunity position

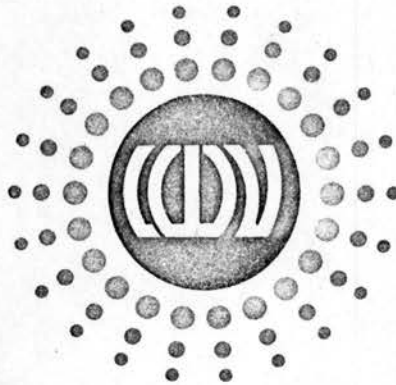
The Board of the Richfield League, at its meeting of April 29, 1975, endorsed the following statement as expressing the view of our members. The issue was discussed at unit meetings and at the annual meeting.

The Richfield LWV urges the State Board to develop a mechanism whereby the local Leagues may be contacted before the LWVMN decides to take action which extends a position, especially when a sensitive issue (such as the bill on antidiscrimination toward homosexuals) is concerned. We realize that it is very difficult to impose restrictions on action without running the risk of making the LWVMN ineffective in its lobbying efforts. However, we hope that a way may be found to ensure member support of positions. We would further urge that time be given at the State Convention for full discussion of how local Leagues can be consulted before action is taken.

Minority Report

The Richfield LWV is divided on this issue. Some members are distressed that the LWVMN did not proceed to take action in this area. Not only does this minority support the State Board's original interpretation of equal opportunity for all persons, but they also feel that the LWV as a whole will "lose face" for backing down on the issue.

cc: Irene Janski
Peggy Gross
Rosemary Rockenbach



MM
EE
JJ
HB✓
PG

MAY 8 1975

May 5, 1975

To: Board of Directors, LWVMN

From: LWV Minnetonka-Eden Prairie Area
Arlene Nystuen, Legislative Action
Karen Anderson, President

Re: Consenting Adults and Fair Employment Legislation

After member consideration at Unit meetings, our Board has instructed us to urge you to support consenting adults and fair employment legislation under our Equality of Opportunity and Judiciary positions.

Our members are overwhelmingly in favor of this support. We realize it is late in this legislative session, but hope you will reconsider the LWVMN decision so we can support such legislation in the future.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNEAPOLIS

1200 Second Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Telephone: 333-6319

MAY 8 1975

May 7, 1975

Mary Ann McCoy
League of Women Voters of Minnesota
555 Wabasha
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Mary Ann:

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis wishes to express our dismay and disappointment with the Action Committee decision to take no action in support of the Consenting Adults and Fair Employment bills in the Legislature. We believe that our current state positions clearly allow action on these matters.

The 1973 State Convention acted with full knowledge of the consequences in affirming that our human resources position did indeed refer to "all persons." Before the vote was taken, the possibility of League support of gay rights was discussed. The Convention acted to clarify the positions for the HR Chairman who believed that she needed direction as to how far our opposition to discrimination extended.

Regarding the Consenting Adults legislation, it is unfortunate that some League members linked this with the Fair Employment bill. We realize these are two separate issues, and we regret that the League did not act to change these unenforceable laws concerning private actions. Our Judiciary position clearly includes support of this bill as an alternative for handling behavior for social (or victimless) crimes.

Unfortunately, convention delegates didn't educate other Leaguers about the possible consequences of the action at convention. We believe that the League lost credibility because of our inaction. This situation must be clarified if the League is going to be effective opposing discrimination in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Barbara Flanigan

Barbara Flanigan
President

BF/PB/w

cc: Jerry Jenkins
Helene Borg
Lois DeSantis

EE
JJ
HB
Pg



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

555 WABASHA • ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102 • TELEPHONE (612) 224-5445

July 6, 1977

Polly Jackson, Human Resources Chairperson
League of Women Voters of Massachusetts
120 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Dear Ms. Jackson:

This is in response to your June 23rd letter to Jerry Jenkins, now retired President of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, requesting information on non-discrimination in public employment based on sexual preference.

The first question you asked was what procedure we used for informing our membership that we would support legislation removing discrimination based on sexual preference. Discussions with Steve Endean, Lobbyist for the Gay Rights Movement in Minnesota, had begun in October of 1974. Ten times a year we send to our local League Boards a Board Memo providing them with background information on proposed activities. Enclosed is a January 27, 1975, memo to local Leagues from Peggy Gross, State Judiciary Chairman, re Consenting Adults and Fair Employment, which was an enclosure with that month's Memo. This was the first information sent to local Leagues stating that the LWVMN Board was reviewing such legislation. Within the body of the Board Memo, we said we would be following the progress of the proposed legislation. Additional information was sent with the February mailing. Local Leagues were asked to send us feedback on our supporting such legislation. The Board made a decision to support the legislation at its March 11 Board meeting. In March-April of 1975, a detailed explanation was sent to local Leagues based on the two positions under which the state Board felt it could indeed support legislation requiring no discrimination based on affectional or sexual preference. However, one local League had contacted all the other local Leagues in the state and asked them to let the state office know if they did not support the state Board's lobbying for "Gay Rights legislation." We heard from about 20 local Leagues in opposition to our support, but none in support of our position so, as you will note, an addendum to that April Memo stated that LWVMN would not take the action indicated in the Memo. We later learned at state Convention that those Leagues from which we had not heard did indeed support LWVMN Board's decision to testify on behalf of such legislation as the copy of the minutes of Convention (enclosed) confirm. The decision that our Equality of Opportunity position did include homosexuals was reaffirmed at the 1975 state Convention.

This legislative session a Fair Employment Bill was again introduced, and the League wrote letters to all legislators stating our support for the bill. The Senators on the day before and also of the vote on the floor were

July 6, 1977

innundated with calls and letters against passage of the legislation. These messages came from conservative church groups and citizens, many of whom were totally uninformed about the effect of the bill. Had the vote been by secret ballot, the principal lobbyist felt it would have passed the Senate by a better than 45-22 margin. However, since the vote was public, the bill was defeated.

We again find ourselves in the process of reinforming our members about the two positions under which the Board feels it has authority to lobby on behalf of no discrimination in employment. We have sent the enclosed pamphlets, DISCRIMINATION and A LOOK AT GAY TEACHERS, prepared by the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights, to all our local Leagues. We have also ordered reprints of NATIONAL OBSERVER articles of April 23 which contain information on homosexuals. When these latter arrive, or they grant us permission to reprint them, these materials will be distributed to our local Leagues. The whole issue of sexual preference is, of course, an extremely touchy and emotional one, so it means a constant procedure of education and re-education of members. This we will continue to do.

You also asked how we handled another program area under the already ballooning umbrella of Human Resources. This biennium the LWVMN has co-chairpersons for each of its four major program areas. In addition, we have a number of off-Board lobbyists who are responsible for various aspects of the Human Resources position, e.g., one lobbyist for Indians, one for ERA, one for Gay Rights.

I hope that this backgrounding is of some help to you. If you need or want more information, feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Harriett Herb
Executive Director

H:M
Enclosures

Memo to: Local Leagues

From: Peggy Gross, State Judiciary Chairman

Re: Consenting Adults and Fair Employment

January 27, 1975

Legislation will be introduced in the 1975 legislative session to remove the offenses of sodomy and fornication between consenting adults in private from the Minnesota criminal statutes. Also to be introduced this session is legislation to include sexual preference in the statutes dealing with fair employment, housing or public accommodations. It would thus be illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexual preference in employment practices, housing or public accommodations just as it is illegal to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, sex, etc.

The trustees of the American Psychiatric Association ruled (1973) that homosexuality "shall no longer be listed as a 'mental disorder' in its official nomenclature of mental disorders. The trustees also urged that homosexuals be given all protections now guaranteed to all other citizens."

Formerly, the Association's official list of mental disorders included homosexuality, listing it as a "sexual deviation" together with fetishism, voyeurism, pedophilia, exhibitionism and others. The category of homosexuality is now replaced by "Sexual orientation disturbance" which is described as follows:

This category is for individuals whose sexual interest are directed primarily toward people of the same sex and who are either disturbed by, in conflict with, or wish to change their sexual orientation. This diagnostic category is distinguished from homosexuality which, by itself, does not constitute a psychiatric disorder. Homosexuality per se is one form of sexual behavior and, like other forms of sexual behavior which are not by themselves psychiatric disorders, is not listed in this nomenclature of mental disorders.

Regarding discrimination against homosexuals, the Association adopted the following resolution:

Whereas homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social or vocational capabilities, therefore, be it resolved that the American Psychiatric Association deploras all public and private discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodation and licensing and declares that no burden of proof of such judgment, capacity, or reliability shall be placed upon homosexuals greater than that imposed on any other persons. Further, the American Psychiatric Association supports and urges the enactment of civil rights legislation at the local, state, and federal level that would offer homosexual citizens the same protections now guaranteed to others on the basis of race, creed, color, etc. Further, the American Psychiatric Association supports and urges the repeal of all discriminatory legislation singling out homosexual acts by consenting adults in private.

The National Gay Task Force answers arguments against enactment of proposed legislation as follows: (May 1974)

1. "Such legislation would endorse homosexual behavior." This is a civil rights bill which deals with the rights of 10% of American women and men to hold jobs and homes. Those who dislike homosexuals will remain free to do so, but will not be allowed to deprive gays of jobs and housing because of personal prejudices. The legislation does not deal with on-the-job behavior, either heterosexual or homosexual. People could still be fired for cause, but not merely for sexual orientation.
2. "This legislation would allow men to dress in women's clothes on the job." This viewpoint is erroneous on two grounds. First, very few gays are transvestites and most transvestites are in fact heterosexual. Second, such legislation does not deal with business or government dress codes and in no way limits the right of employers to prescribe dress codes.

3. "This bill would let gays into schools, summer camps and other situations where children could be harmed by them." All scientific research on the subject agrees that child molestation is primarily the activity of neither homosexuals nor heterosexuals, but of a distinct category of men (child molestation by women, either of males or females, is either extreme rare or, for various reasons, unreported) who are known as "pedophiles." These men are exclusively attracted to children, without regard to their sex, and it is noted in all studies that the majority of those apprehended for molesting young boys also have a history of molesting young girls.

Though some cases of child molestation are not committed by pedophiles, the myth that homosexuals are more likely to have such lapses of judgment is disproved by statistics. Most molestation takes place away from a school or camp setting and no greater percentage of males are molested in these sensitive settings. In the entire history of the New York City school system as of May 1974, there have been many reported cases of molestation of females but only one case of molestation of a male.

Homosexuals join heterosexuals in agreeing that young people as well as adults must be protected from unwanted sexual advances. The idea that a homosexual teacher or counselor is less trustworthy is just another example of the society's refusal to see gay women and men as responsible human beings.

Appropriate bills have already been enacted in Washington, DC, Seattle, Detroit, Toronto, Ann Arbor, Minneapolis, Alfred (NY), Berkeley, Columbus, East Lansing and San Francisco barring discrimination in employment.

According to the National Gay Task Force, the Repeal of the State Laws Against Consensual Sodomy is advocated for the following reasons:

1. Such laws criminalize all those women and men who are suspected of violation, even if they are only presumed to be homosexually oriented. Consequently, parents, friends, employers and gay people themselves find it difficult to judge an individual at his or her own worth, free of the stigmatization of "lawbreaker." The stigmatized include a large number of people. According to the Kinsey reports, 13% of women and 37% of men have engaged in homosexual acts as adults, acts which are presumptively in violation of these laws. Ten percent of all men and women in America are predominately homosexual throughout adulthood.

2. "Equal protection under the law," a constitutional guarantee, is violated. It is impossible to enforce the law uniformly and no attempt is made to do so. Nonmarried heterosexuals to whom the law (in some states) also applies are rarely arrested or convicted even though all research data indicate that a large percentage engage in proscribed activities. Indeed, these acts are encouraged in most serious marriage manuals and counseling guides.

3. They violate constitutional rights to privacy.

4. They constitute an attempt by the state to establish standards of private morality, a morality which is at odds with the standards and practices of an estimated 20 million predominantly homosexual American women and men, and, as evidenced by a wide range of studies, many millions of heterosexual women and men. Church groups have increasingly objected to legal fortification of moral precepts. Among these have been the New York Society of Friends and the Unitarian Church.

5. Knowing they are "lawbreakers" causes many innocent people deep emotional anguish. Within the health field, repeal has been urged by formal resolution of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association and the American Mental Health Foundation.

6. With the legal profession, repeal has been urged by formal resolution of the American Bar Association, the American Law Institute, the International Congress of Criminal Law, the American Law Committee and the National Commission on Revision of the Penal Laws.

7. These laws constitute the foundation for frequent attempts at blackmail and shakedowns.
8. These laws, through their criminalization of gays, are used to bar them from virtually every profession, including practice of law.
9. Minors and nonconsenting adults are fully protected by other laws, just as they are protected from heterosexual offenders.
10. These laws serve no useful purpose.

Several states have eliminated their restrictions on consensual adult relations as of May 1974 and include Illinois, Oregon, Connecticut, North Dakota, Ohio, Delaware, Hawaii and Colorado.

The Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights presents the following arguments in favor of the proposed legislation: *

"RIGHT TO FAIR EMPLOYMENT

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: INCLUDE GAY PEOPLE IN THE STATE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT FOR EMPLOYMENT, HOUSING AND PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS PROTECTION

Gay people do not face the same sorts of discrimination as do Blacks--we can hide. We can pretend that we are heterosexuals, laugh at anti-Gay jokes or slurs such as 'damed faggots.' But to do so is to internatize the guilt and hatred society places on Gay people; self-hate is destructive. For Gay people to hide is to admit, if only to oneself, that there is something wrong with being who we are. Hiding requires that people deny their feelings and deny themselves.

Those who refuse to hide or are discovered to be Gay may well lose their jobs or their housing or be denied equal access to public accommodation without legal recourse until the state Human Rights Act includes Gay people. Such inclusion would: (1) provide legal recourse to arbitrary discrimination, (2) alleviate the alientation caused by being forced to live a double-life in order to maintain one's livelihood, and (3) begin to create a climate of openness which would break down the ignorance and stereotypes that cause discrimination and bigotry.

CONSENTING ADULTS LEGISLATION

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: TO REPEAL THE SODOMY LAW (AND FORNICATION LAWS AS WELL) AS IT PERTAINS TO CONSENTING ADULTS IN PRIVATE

(1) RIGHT TO PRIVACY--The American Law Institute stresses the all-importance of privacy and of freedom for the individual to chose his or her own course of action as long as it does not infringe on the liberty of others. In the view of the prestigious ALI, private sexual acts between consenting adults cannot be shown to have a sufficiently adverse effect upon society to warrant limiting an individual's freedom or invading his or her privacy.

(2) SIN VERSUS CRIME--Sin and crime are not always identical; Gayness may or may not be a sin, but it should not be a crime; guilt and penalties are matters between the person and her/his spiritual advisors.

(3) INEFFECTIVE AND UNENFORCEABLE--(a) Leads to discriminatory, arbitrary, and capricious enforcement, (b) Could require the police to employ objectionable methods if they were to enforce the laws against private consensual sexual activity, (c) Takes valuable time from the important and serious problems of violent crime enforcement, and (d) Leads to a disrespect for such laws in particular and a breakdown of respect for the law in general.

(4) By repeal of the present sodomy law you not only remove the stigma of 'criminal' for one whose only crime is preference for the same sex, but also eliminate a law that restricts what a man and woman (including married) may do legally in the privacy of their own bedroom."

* Quoted from HUMAN DIGNITY, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL IN OUR SOCIETY. Prepared by Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights, 1975.

Action by groups in support of the fair employment proposals:

In May 1972, the Board of Education of the District of Columbia adopted a resolution prohibiting discrimination in hiring based on sexual orientation.

In September 1974, the National Education Association went on record saying that "personnel policies and practices must guarantee that no person be employed, retained, paid, dismissed, or demoted because of race, color, national origin, religious beliefs, residence, political activities, professional association activity, age, marital status, family relationship, sex or sexual orientation." The Association urged governing boards to employ minority persons and women at all administrative levels, saying that it may be necessary to give preference in the hiring, retention and promotion policies to certain racial groups or women or men to overcome past discrimination.

Other groups which have adopted resolutions supporting the concept of such proposed legislation include the American Personnel and Guidance Association, the American Bar Association, National Organization of Women, Minneapolis TRIBUNE, Minneapolis STAR, and a number of church related organizations.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has been contacted by the Minnesota Committee for Gay Rights. LWVMN positions could appear to touch on this issue:

JUDICIARY: "... alternatives for sentencing; alternatives for handling behavior now defined as 'status offenses' and 'social (or victimless) crimes.'" (p. 5, PROGRAM FOR ACTION)

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY: Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons. Support of administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws. (p. 7, PROGRAM FOR ACTION)

The Board of Directors is reviewing the proposals.

If there are any questions about the information included in this memo, call Peggy Gross, (612)926-9087, or the state office.

- * The state should consider centralization of its land use planning process in a single agency, such as the citizen board structure of the EQC.
- * The state Legislature should provide land use policy and direction to state agencies and local units of government.
- * More funding and expertise should be provided by the state to local units of government for the land use planning responsibilities delegated to them.
- * The state should provide guidelines to aid local units of government in making land use related decisions.
- * The state should prepare a land suitability plan to aid local governments in making decisions. Such a plan would not dictate the uses to which land could be put, but would inform local governments of the uses for which land areas of the state are best suited, based upon their natural resource characteristics.

As you can see, many of these recommendations closely parallel our own position. If you would like a copy of the full report, write to:

Citizens Advisory Committee for the Environmental Quality Council
Capitol Square Bldg., 550 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55101.

Public hearings on the proposal for designating the Kettle River as a Wild and Scenic River will be held at Carlton, April 10, Civic Center, 7:00 p.m. and at Pine City, April 12, High School Auditorium, 10 a.m. Copies of the management plan are available in public libraries.

ENERGY CONSERVATION CONFERENCE (Nancy Latimer): Shall we drill the oceans to heat Minnesota? Or dine by candlelight in cold houses? The energy crisis may force some basic restructuring of life-styles. Are citizens aware of the choices to be made or will they be made by default?

Come to the League-sponsored Energy Conservation Conference at the University of Minnesota on April 18th and 19th and learn the possibilities for action. An excellent program is planned, with John Sawhill, former Energy Agency head, as keynote speaker. The program also includes: Rep. Bob Bergland on Minnesota's unique problems, Dean Abrahamson on energy supply alternatives, Joel Schatz on Oregon's energy plan, a "heavy-weight" group of panelists, and a variety of seminars for audience participation.

At least one person from each local League should be present, as the Conference will provide background for our national energy item. Metro Area League members have volunteered sleeping space in their homes, on a first-come--first-served basis, to help keep costs down for outstate Leaguers. Make a weekend of it!

Registration is \$7.00, plus \$3.00 for lunch (optional). Register with Joe Kroll, University of Minnesota Department of Conferences, 373-3685. A brochure will follow with more information.

HUMAN RESOURCES/
EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY 4/75 The Continuing Education for Women program at the University of Minnesota will hold a spring retreat, May 16-18, at St. Croix Heights Motel, Prescott, WI, on subject, "Work" for \$60 fee (includes room and meals); further information: phone (612) 373-9743 or write 200 Westbrook Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis 55455.

JUDICIARY 4/75 The state Board has agreed that the LWV will support the following proposed legislation: Consenting Adults (Repeals Consensual Sodomy) and Fair Employment (No Discrimination Based on Affectional or Sexual Preference).

Our positions on the subject are clear:

- 1) Equality of Opportunity: Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons. Support of administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws.
- 2) Judiciary: Support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all. Support of alternatives for handling behavior now defined as "status offenses" and "social (or victimless) crimes."

At the LWV state Convention in 1973, the wording of the Equality of Opportunity position was changed to read, "Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons." Discussion by the delegates as recorded in the official minutes of the LWVMN state Convention (44th Biennial Convention, May 16-17, 1973 - pp. 12-13) as follows:

MOTION: To affirm that the Equality of Opportunity position does indeed apply to all citizens.

Mover: Pam Berkwitz, Minneapolis

Ms. Berkwitz said the present position does not mean all citizens. She said the League could not help the Department of Human Rights pass a new bill covering discrimination on the basis of marital status, disability, homosexuality, etc. She said the list is infinite, and that the League will be out of step if it can't support such legislation. She said that it does not mean condoning various groups but accepting the philosophy of being against discrimination.

Dee Halberg, St. Cloud Area, said that this was an extremely important thing to do; that we have been tied to the scope given in the past and will be accused of pushing things through without grass roots support because we haven't talked about it in local Leagues.

Marion Watson spoke in favor of the motion and added that she would propose deleting the listing of groups saying that they took the list out of the law. She noted that courts had interpreted strictly by what is said rather than expanded by implication. One delegate stated that she was startled that there should be a question of whether we really meant all citizens.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: To change the word "citizens" to "persons" in the motion.

Mover: Margaret Ueland, Minneapolis Seconded

Vote: The amendment to the motion prevailed.

Vote: The motion as amended prevailed.

LWV support of the proposed fair employment and consenting adults legislation in no way should be seen as condoning or approving of homosexuality, but rather as recognition of the following:

- 1) That various life styles exist and that attempts to legislate morality are seldom successful. What is legal may or may not be moral.
- 2) That all law is diminished by unenforceable laws on the books. The Judiciary study found that private behavior of individuals is not enforceable. The LWV would support attempts to increase respect for the law by removing such unenforceable laws from the statutes.
- 3) That all persons have the right of access to employment, public accommodations and housing.

A state of being - e.g. state of being a prostitute, state of being a homosexual - is not illegal and should not be grounds for discrimination. A sexual preference for one sex or the other indicates orientation and may or may not involve specific acts by the individual.

Various groups supporting the legislation are well aware of the LWV positions espousing "equal opportunity for all persons." To take no action at this time would indicate that the LWV is opposed to discrimination for some people - but not for all people.

The proposed fair employment legislation would prohibit discrimination in the area of employment, public accommodations and housing because of a person's sexual preference or affectional preference. It in no way attempts to restrict an employer's right to govern "on the job conduct."

Many homosexuals currently are employed without their employers or coworkers knowledge of their sexual preference.

Many view teachers as role models for children. Yet school districts are not allowed to discriminate against a teacher who is sexually promiscuous or an alcoholic. When and if teacher's personal orientation - religious beliefs, sexual orientation, alcoholism, drug addiction, political philosophies, etc. - interferes with his performance of his job, then discipline procedures can be followed for "on the job behavior."

The Juvenile Code continues to protect juveniles from sexual - heterosexual or homosexual - advances. The proposed legislation does not affect the protection afforded juveniles.

Minneapolis and St. Paul currently have city ordinances prohibiting discrimination in employment, public accommodations and housing because of sexual preference. Several large firms, including Northwestern Bell, have initiated similar hiring practices.

At this time, we know of no organizations actively opposing the legislation. This is not to be construed to mean there is no opposition, but at this time, none has surfaced of which we are aware.

CORRECTIONS 4/75 Corrections conference (see CORRECTIONS, March Memo), scheduled for April 26 at Hamline University, has been cancelled.

STATE PROGRAM PLANNING 4/75 Memo to: Local Leagues
From: State Program Planning Committee

Program recommendations by the state Board in response to first round 1975-77 Program suggestions are included in this mailing. A listing of nonrecommended* items is also included. Local Leagues can suggest second round preferences which must be sent to the state office before May 7 in order to be considered by the state Board at its May 13th Board meeting. A recommended state Program will be presented to the Convention delegates for consideration, discussion and vote at Convention, June 3-4, 1975.

As you consider the first round Program proposals, try to assess member interest, people-power, money and time.

The January 1975 National Board Report (pp. 2, 3) states the primary and secondary commitments of LWVUS. These commitments, plus your local League Program load, should be considered as you look ahead to state Program adoption for the next two years.

* A nonrecommended item may be adopted by the Convention provided consideration is ordered by a majority vote and on a following day the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifths vote.

Reprinted in brief form below are LWVUS items for local League commitment and action in 1975-76 which you will wish to take into consideration in adopting state Program:

- Concern for unemployment impact on the disadvantaged
(impact statement from local Leagues on unemployment picture in local communities and the state)
- Land use legislation action
(local and state Leagues are asked to identify local groups who support or oppose federal land use legislation)
- Air quality protection
- Foreign assistance to alleviate world hunger
- Extension of the 1970 Voting Rights Act
- ERA commitment
- Voter registration by mail
(reports from local Leagues and LWVMN on Minnesota experiences)

Memo to: Local Leagues

From: Mary Ann McCoy, State President

Re: Additions to Board Memo

March 21, 1975

In Memoriam. It is with deep regret that we inform you that Judy Arney, president of the League of Women Voters of St. Croix Valley, was killed in an automobile accident earlier this month. We extend our deepest sympathy to Judy's family and to the members of the LWV of St. Croix Valley.

(You may address communications with the LWV of St. Croix Valley to Sharon Lammers, nominee for president - her address is: 806 W. Willard, Stillwater 55082 - phone: (612)439-6527.)

Board Resignation: Shirley Westmoreland has found it necessary to resign from the state Board. If any of her consultant Leagues (Golden Valley, Excelsior-Deephaven, Chaska) need advice, please call the state office. Election Laws and Campaign Financing lobbying/observing will be followed by Helene Borg and Karlynn Fronek.

Addendum to JUDICIARY (See p. 3-5 this Board Memo)

Additional responses from local Leagues about the matter of LWVMN support of measures to support Consenting Adults and Fair Employment (no discrimination based on affectional or sexual preference) legislation have been received since the March 11, 1975 Board meeting. Since member support of an interpretation of a position is essential to effective action, we find that such support is not present. Therefore, even though the Board voted action, we shall not take the action indicated.

We hope that we shall continue to hear from Leagues not yet commenting on the matter of how we are to interpret our support of equal opportunity "for all persons."

Do you agree with the Leagues from whom we have heard that we have not studied the nature of discrimination on the basis of sexual preference and that until we have studied and reached consensus on that issue, we cannot take action to prevent discrimination on that basis? You will recall that our study of Indians in Minnesota has led to our position that Indians should be treated differently from other Minnesota residents. Might a study of the issues involved in sexual preference legislation result in another exception to our position in favor of equal treatment for all persons? We hope that you will discuss these matters with your Board and with your members. Remember that you can amend our wording of position by action at Convention '75 and that the Second Round of Program Suggestions is yet to come!"

Berkwitz said ERA is still a vital issue, reminding the delegates that rescission had almost passed the Senate on an amendment to the girls athletic bill, that it only failed by a tie vote. She said some ex-supporters switched and some may honestly have changed their minds or it may have been vote trading. Some legal opinion says that rescission is not possible, but she said it would not help the ERA cause to have it happen here. She added that this issue might come up at precinct caucuses, and each local League should have a person well-versed in ERA to counter false statements about it, and each member must work for it.

Pat Stein talked about lobbying for beverage container deposit legislation, League EQ priority. She said she worked within a coalition which held weekly meetings with legislators. She noted that it was defeated in committee in the Senate but that a House committee passed it.

Borg discussed the problem of difficult decisions on what legislation to support. She said there was no point in supporting legislation which the members don't support. Decisions on what to support start with the Action chairman and president. She said that if there is a problem it goes to the Action committee and, if necessary, to the entire state Board. If there is not time for that procedure, the president, two vice presidents and the Action chairman and the Program chairmen meet to try to reach consensus on what action, if any, should be taken. She said it is hard to anticipate timing and what will be a sensitive issue. For instance, she said it was thought veterans preference would be a sensitive issue, but it proved not to be. Some issues, such as ban the can, affect certain Leagues more than others. She said we have to trust the judgement of the lobbyists and Program chairmen, they have been following the issues and have the facts. She cited three examples of difficult decisions which came up this legislative session which might help in future decision-making.

1. Conflict in League positions: Atchison spoke on the girls athletic bill which caused some conflict between the League's HR and Education positions. Rep. Kahn's bill followed the guidelines of the State Department of Human Rights for girls athletics and would allow separate sex teams for some sports at the secondary level. At a hearing on the bill, the Commissioner of Human Rights said he could not support it, that he did not like "separatism". The issue was resolved by making it a directive to the Department of Education and not a modification of the Human Rights law.

2. Open Meeting law: Knutson said that legislation proposed in this session would allow certain exemptions to the Open Meeting law, such as salary negotiation strategy, seeking legal advice, land acquisition, personnel and hiring discussions. She said we are acting under the League principles in supporting open meetings, but they do not spell out in detail what we should support, and we do not have a background study to determine what, if any, exemptions are justified. The state Board decided that Leagues should monitor the situation and check with public official, the media and citizens to arrive at a position.

3. Gay Rights: Gross said we found the sensitive issue here. She said she met in October with a Gay Rights representative who asked for League support, being aware of League's position on equality of opportunity for all persons. At the February Board meeting it was decided League should support the legislation but not allow the League's name to appear on the Gay Rights brochure or join the coalition. Material was sent to local Leagues for information. Gross said the state Board was not asking

for approval but for feedback. The first reactions were negative, and the issue was discussed again at the March Board meeting. The decision to support this legislation was reaffirmed. It was made clear that the League did not condone this conduct but was supporting equal opportunity. Gross noted that one local League contacted its state representative to tell him that that particular League did not support this legislation. In the face of such vocal opposition from members, it was decided at the last minute not to testify, which resulted in a loss of face. She said expressions of support were received after the testimony was cancelled. In all, she said, about 20 Leagues responded with reactions mixed. The issue got mixed up with support for ERA. Gross said little concern was expressed for the consenting adults bill but neither bill passed. She said while League support might have helped, she did not know if it would have been decisive. She said we have to have member support and that the first reaction was emotional. She added that there was a time problem in getting information out to local Leagues and receiving reactions in time to act.

In the question period, Dottie Stone, New Brighton, asked if anyone had helped create and write legislation successfully. Ebbott responded that it was hard to do. She said on campaign financing the staff of the Joint Religious Legislative Committee (JRLC) helped other groups. She said it would be great if League had that capability but added that it would need paid staff to accomplish it.

Rosemary Isenhardt, Anoka-Coon Rapids Area, said her League was disappointed that the LWVMN did not testify in support of the fair employment bill. Lois Kundel, Duluth, said her League felt the same and had supported a local ordinance on this matter on the basis of the state and national position. She said they wanted affirmation that a local League could support it. Dee Halberg, St. Cloud Area, apologized that her League did not indicate support right away. She said there was no doubt about what the Convention two years ago meant to do. Sharon Lammers, St. Croix Valley, said that Board discussed the issue and decided it could not support the fair employment legislation without the consenting adults legislation being passed first. Gross said that the two were not related and added that the present law is unenforceable. She said League support for it came under the Judiciary position. The other legislation deals with fair employment and comes under the Equality of Opportunity position.

Louisa Holmberg, Golden Valley, said she was concerned about the local League that contacted its representative to dissent from a League position. Donna Peterson, Richfield, suggested that there was a failure to communicate; that the full import of the 1973 Convention action was not carried back to local Leagues. She suggested a mini-consensus before the next session. Borg said this could be included in the Program discussion period. Pam Berkwitz, Minneapolis, said she had a hand in the wording change at the 1973 Convention and felt the import of it was adequately spelled out. She said it was unfortunate that the consenting adults and fair employment bills were tied together. She suggested we may have to change the wording on the EO position and not include all people but instead list those categories which League has studied. Barbara Flanigan, Minneapolis, said she was concerned by the state Board response to what appeared to be an intense minority. She said this problem will come up again and procedures should be developed to try to keep it from happening again. Borg said she considered contacting the district action coordinators to contact local Leagues. She noted that the opposition came on a weekend and that only the opposition reacted at first. Mary Lofy, Mankato Area, said that that League got a call from another League saying that if Mankato wanted to delay testimony on this they should call the state office. She said her League did not want the testimony delayed and therefore did not call. She said local Leagues have to rely on state Board decisions when such matters arise. Irene Nordling, St. Cloud Area, said we elect the state Board to represent local Leagues, and she said she did not believe in polling; that the decision once made should be adhered to. Connie Boltz, Duluth, said we do have a position on this so the decision is in effect made.

McCoy said it would be interesting to see the outcome of this discussion in the Program deliberations the next day. She pointed out that delegates need to explain Convention action to their local Leagues and that this is a two year job.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mary Mantis, St. Paul, presented the following resolution on the United Nations:

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota and United States has a long-standing commitment for supporting the United Nations as a peacekeeping agency.

WHEREAS this potential of the United Nations has not been fully implemented.

BE IT RESOLVED that the League of Women Voters of Minnesota request our representatives at the United Nations, and the League of Women Voters of the United States representative at the United Nations, to seek solutions that will strengthen the United Nations enforcement authority, when acting to make secure international peace and territorial integrity of nations. For example, no substantial action has been taken to enforce the Resolution of November 1, 1974 relating to the Cyprus crisis.

MOTION: To approve the above resolution.

Mover: Mary Mantis, St. Paul

Seconded

Mantis presented material in support of her resolution citing the inactivity concerning refugees on Cyprus. Lois Kundel, Duluth, asked for clarification as to whether the resolution was dealing with the UN or Cyprus. McCoy pointed out that the League does not have a position regarding Cyprus. The Parliamentarian, Rose Rhein, said the section of the resolution dealing with Cyprus should not be part of the main resolution. The mover agreed to delete it. Celia Anderson, St. Louis Park, asked if this would refer to all refugees, Palestine, etc. It was noted that the main resolution does not deal with refugees. Judy Rosenblatt, Roseville, said it was important not to allow the effectiveness and prestige of the UN to be eroded further.

VOTE: The resolution, with the reference to Cyprus deleted, was carried on a voice vote.

MOTION: That the LWVMN establish a Political Accountability Rating (PAR) on the state level.

Mover: Helene Borg, state Board

Seconded

Borg said the information, pro and con, on PAR was in the Workbook, and the committee felt it was up to the delegates to decide whether to go ahead on it. Mary Gover, St. Peter, asked when publication would be. Borg said it would be at the end of the session. Joyce Abramson, St. Louis Park, said she thinks accountability is good but said she doesn't like percentages; that they do not tell what the legislator supported or where work is needed. McCoy said that the individual votes will be listed also. Borg said that before the session the League would inform legislators on which issues they were being rated. It was asked if committee votes were to be included. Borg responded that that was hard to do because of voice votes. In response to a question on cost, Borg said it should not cost too much because a summary is already being done, and the cost of paper would be about the only extra. Harriet Herb, office manager, estimated the extra cost at about \$50. McCoy pointed out that there is an Action item in the budget, and it is up to the Action committee to decide how to use it. Dee Halberg, St. Cloud Area, said it would polarize further opinion in her area where League usually finds itself in opposition. Barbara Maloney, St. Louis Park, asked if the voting records were already available. Borg said the information could be compiled for a local League which wanted it. Barbara Savanick, West Dakota County, asked if League were

IV. Equality of Opportunity:

MOTION: To insert the words "...responsibility for and..." before "...responsiveness to Indian citizens." in the statement of League position on Indians.

Mover: Liz Ebbott, state Board Seconded

Ebbott said the League has had this position since about 1963; that it has been a perceptive and useful position. She said she thinks "responsibility for" has unique features lacking in "responsiveness"; that the state should have a statement of policy towards Indian citizens. She said under the present position League has been able to support specifically Indian areas such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and while League supports retrocession, there is still state responsibility in areas such as welfare and corrections. Amundson responded that the state Board edited the wording because it felt it more nearly reflected the position in Program for Action; that it felt the state could be responsible for Indians while not being responsive to their needs. Ebbott said Indian self-determination is the keystone but state responsibility persists since they are citizens of the state.

VOTE: The motion was carried on a voice vote.

Jeanette Kahlenberg, White Bear Lake, asked how "other public services" would be interpreted in the statement - would it mean League may be asked to support same sex marriages and adoption by homosexual couples. Gross said these are not considered public services; that marriage is specified as between persons of the opposite sex, and adoption is exempt from these provisions.

A point of information about the vote on the Environmental Quality amendment was raised. It was noted that the total vote was 263 while delegates totaled 257. The chair pointed out that state Board members are delegates and could vote and with their addition the total voting could be 272.

Laura Kadwell, Minneapolis, asked if this were the time to reaffirm support of equal opportunity for "all persons" and would a motion be needed. McCoy said the item does affirm such support and a vote to include this item in the Program would include support of action in support of fair employment legislation involving Gay Rights. McCoy called for an informal voice vote to support this interpretation. The delegates' response was overwhelmingly in favor of this interpretation.

V. Education:

MOTION: To delete words "cost of living" and substitute the word "fluctuating" for "declining" in the proposed study of the foundation aid formula.

Mover: Barbara Savanick, West Dakota County Seconded

Savanick pointed out that some areas are experiencing rapidly increasing enrollment while others have declining enrollments. She added, by eliminating the cost of living aspect, we get a broader study. Nancy Roll, Golden Valley, asked if items were voted on as a whole or taken in parts. McCoy said they would be voted on as a whole unless the delegates moved to divide them. Pam Berkwitz, Minneapolis, asked would this item, if adopted, go forward if the tax study item in Financing State Government were defeated. Atchison responded that the reference in the proposed Program is not part of the study but a direction, and there would still be this study if it is adopted. Atchison was asked if the study would be the whole foundation aid formula or just the cost difference. Atchison said she had planned just a look at cost differences as one aspect of the formula. Charee Carlson, New Brighton, reminded the delegates that this would be a new study and that it would cost money. Atchison said the financing schools study was handled for less than \$500.

- With regard to court records, the right of every juvenile and the juvenile's parent or guardian to know the record exists, to see the record unless it is detrimental to the welfare of the juvenile, to correct the record if inaccurate and to safeguard against unwarranted disclosure. (Juvenile court records are defined by law and procedures to include all documents filed with the juvenile court and all documents relating to the apprehension, detention, adjudication or disposition of the subject of a juvenile court case. Included are records of the court, court services, welfare and law enforcement agencies. It excludes records relating to traffic offenses, cases of persons contributing to delinquency or neglect of a child, and adoption records.)
- Mandatory training in development and problems of adolescents for all persons working with youth in the juvenile justice system.

History

A study of the correctional system for both adults and juveniles in Minnesota was adopted as a Program item at the 1973 state convention. Local Leagues studied corrections on the local and county levels as well as the state level. Consensus on adult corrections and concurrence on juvenile corrections were reached in spring, 1975. More changes in the correctional system should be forthcoming as the Legislature continues to expand on the 1973 Community Corrections Act.

Local Action

Local Leagues can work to build public support for community-based facilities.

JUDICIARY

Support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all.

Positions

- Support of administrative reforms that expedite justice: establishment of a unified court system, an intermediate appellate court, and procedures to strengthen and streamline judicial administration; additional staff for prosecution, public defenders and legal services when such needs are established; statewide guidelines on bail-fixing process; standardization of forms and procedures; use of technology in administration; use of juries in civil cases only by request.
- Support of methods to improve judicial quality: a nonpartisan selection with a commission to propose names for all appointments to the bench; mandatory training for all judges; adequate salary increases for judges and related revision of retirement benefits.
- Support of procedural reforms that ensure individual rights and access to due process of law: reform of bail process to recognize methods other than monetary to ensure appearance of accused at trial; strict guarantees to

ensure protection of the defendant and society in the use of plea bargaining; sentencing alternatives; methods to reduce disparity in sentencing; no-fault divorce procedure using irremediable grounds as means for dissolution; guarantees to witnesses in grand jury proceedings re: counsel in proceedings, availability of information to defense counsel and restrictions on waiving immunity in later trials; retention of age 18 for persons under jurisdiction of juvenile court; mandatory first appearance in juvenile court for all persons under jurisdiction of such court; requirement of formal transcript of commitment hearings with a rule or regulation protecting privacy of such records.

- Support of the development of community alternatives as an adjunct to the judicial system: alternatives for sentencing; alternatives for handling behavior now defined as "status offenses" and "social (or victimless) crimes."

History

A study of the state judiciary was adopted as Program in 1971. Local Leagues observed the various levels of the Minnesota courts system and studied their constitutional and statutory requirements. Consensus was reached in March, 1973. League anticipates that the state legislature will consider certain changes in the judiciary system during the 1975 interim and in the 1976 session. League action will emphasize court unification, alternatives for handling behavior now defined as "status offenses" and "social (or victimless) crimes", guarantees to witnesses in grand jury proceedings, and support of community alternatives as an adjunct to the judiciary system.

Local Action

Local Leagues can help develop community understanding and support for such major reforms as merit selection of judges, creation of an intermediate appellate court, and establishment of a uniform court system. They can continue observing their local courts; evaluate the need for more staff — prosecutors, city attorneys, public defenders, legal services; evaluate community alternatives for sentencing and generate interest and acceptance of alternatives by keeping the community informed; set up public meetings and forums to demonstrate the value of nonpartisan selection of judges and a unified court system.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Support positions adopted through national consensus supporting a physical environment beneficial to health; action to promote wise use of water resources and improvement of water and air quality; support of measures to reduce generation of solid waste. State: Support of an overall land use plan with maximum cooperation and implementation at the regional and local level, with state help in developing and exercising land use management, with opportunity for maximum local decision making, and with regional planning and regulation for matters of more than local concern.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons. Support of administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws. Support of state responsibility for Indian Citizens.

Positions

- Support of the principle that the state is responsible for all its citizens on an equal basis and should work to ensure equal treatment for all citizens by all levels of government.
- Support of antidiscrimination legislation as a necessary means of eliminating discrimination.
- Support of the principle of fair housing and antidiscrimination laws governing transactions of all real property regardless of whether the financing is public or private.
- Support of adequately financed enforcement of antidiscrimination laws dealing with employment, housing, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services.
- Support of state legislation to ensure services for Indian citizens which are equal to those provided for other citizens. Where Indians are singled out for special attention, that attention should be directed towards solving existing jurisdictional conflicts in order to guarantee equal treatment of Indian citizens by all levels of government. Programs should have the explicit recognition that the basic decisions regarding Indian lives and property are to be made by them.
- Support of a state agency of Indian affairs which meets the following criteria: acceptable to the Indians themselves, permanent, staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and co-ordinating programs, empowered to use the services of other existing agencies and provided with adequate funds.
- Support of the correction of racial imbalance in the schools.

History

Antidiscrimination and ERA: In 1949 League began a broad study of civil rights in Minnesota. During the 1950's League focused on employment on merit and worked with other groups to secure passage of the Fair Employment Practices Act (1955) which was incorporated into the State Act Against Discrimination in 1961. During the 1960's League continued investigating employment practices, discrimination in housing and public accommodations, the special problems of Minnesota Indians, and two factors contributing to inequality of opportunity in education (the common school district and racial imbalance). League supported formation of the Department of Human Rights in 1967. In 1973 it supported legislation which extended coverage of the Department of Human Rights to all cases of discrimination because of sex, marital status, physical disability or being a recipient of public assistance. In supporting antidiscrimination legislation, League members favor education

and conciliation to change behavior patterns, guarantees of swift redress for the aggrieved citizen, workable enforcement procedures and adequate funding for the Department of Human Rights. The 1972 National Convention authorized action at the state and local level opposing discriminatory practices against women and supporting the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. constitution. In 1973 the Minnesota League (as a member of the state Coalition to Ratify the Equal Rights Amendment) successfully supported ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the Minnesota legislature. In 1975, League, in coalition with other groups, continued to interpret the ERA and prevent rescission in Minnesota. League also lobbied as part of a women's coalition for legislation to give girls an equal chance with boys to participate in school athletic programs. **Merging National and State Positions on Equality of Opportunity:** The League of Women Voters of the United States began to study development of human resources in 1964, reaching consensus in 1966. Unqualified support of equal opportunity in housing was added to the national Position in 1968. Because their Positions are so similar, national and state Programs have been merged for state action purposes on welfare, housing supply, tenants' rights, minimum wage and support of poverty programs. In 1967, League worked to extend opportunities for education of children receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). During the 1973 legislative session, League supported measures to abolish the township system of general relief, apply state standards and 50% state-reimbursement for general relief, and urged higher payment standards for categorical welfare aid programs and supplemental payments for Old Age Assistance, Aid to the Blind and Aid to the Disabled so that federalization of these programs would not result in lower payments. Since 1969, League has supported tenants' rights legislation, a state uniform building code, establishment of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and enabling legislation for agencies which would assist in planning and developing housing. League also testified in support of an increase in the minimum wage. With termination of many federal programs affecting the poor and the advent of federal revenue sharing to partially fund replacements, League realizes the increasing importance of these programs' receiving priority at the local and state level. **Minnesota American Indians:** League supported creation of the Indian Affairs Commission in 1963, and helped it retain its independent identity in 1967, when League supported Indian leaders in their successful effort to keep the Indian Affairs Commission from being merged into the Department of Human Rights. In 1969 League lobbied in favor of urban representation on the Commission, which was reorganized to include four reservation Indians and four urban Indians. This was not entirely satisfactory to the Indians, but it increased their total representation on the Commission from three to eight, giving them control. In principle, League opposes legislation which singles out any race, or provides separate services. However, Indian citizens have historically been singled out for separate consideration, and League feels that special attention must continue to be given them as they work for the right to make basic decisions regarding their lives. In 1971 and 1973, League lobbied for legislation to return to the Indians hunting, fishing and ricing rights guaranteed by early treaties. After a district court decision granted these rights to Leech Lake Indians within the original reservation area, a compromise between the Indians and the state was worked out, and legislation implementing this passed in the 1973 session with League support. League also testified favoring a revolving fund for Indian business development financed by 20% of a new state tax on severed mineral rights. In the 1975 legislature League supported retrocession

- - - League of Women Voters of Minnesota, 555 Wabasha, St. Paul, MN 55102 - August, 1977

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For the Week Ending APRIL 23

What If Your Child Is Gay?



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