

## The Kameny Papers



Banned from federal employment in 1957 solely because he was a gay man, Franklin Edward Kameny became an angry activist. Not only did the Harvard Ph.D. astronomer protest his firing from the U.S. Army Map Service, but he also became the central figure in confronting the federal government's policies against the employment of gays and lesbians, particularly in positions linked to national security. Kameny collected thousands of pages of letters, government correspondence, testimony, photographs and other memorabilia. The Kameny collection is perhaps the most complete record of the gay-rights movement in America.

C19753

# friends of matt

## New Location

TAKE AN EARLY WEEKEND JOIN A VERY SPECIAL FRIEND



AT A VERY SPECIAL PARTY  
ENTERTAINMENT  
and  
MATT (T/SGT LEONARD MATLOVICH)

**Thursday, October 23** **5:30-8:30 PM**

**PIER NINE**  
**1824 Half St. SE**

Free Hors d'oeuvres Door Prizes  
Cocktail Hour Prices Surprise Guests

\$5.00 Minimum Donation At The Door - To Help Defray T/Sgt. Matlovich's Legal Expenses

If you can't be there, please send a contribution (with checks made payable to "Friends of Matt") to this address:

"Friends of Matt"  
5615 Nevada Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20015



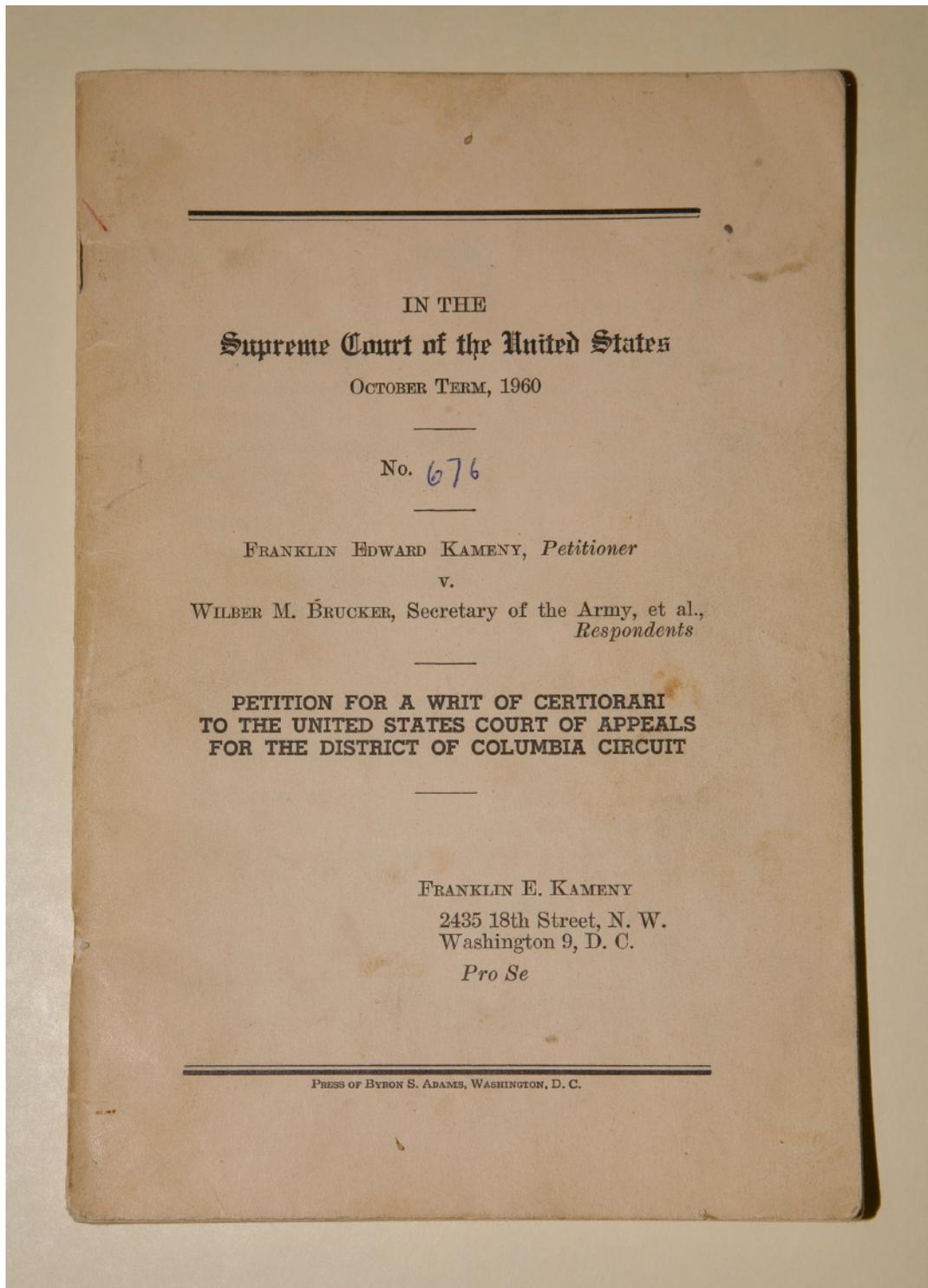
**EX. SGT. LEONARD MATLOVICH**

1426 G STREET, S.E.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20003  
(202) 547-4697

Handbill and ticket advertising personal appearances by Leonard Matlovich at fund-raising events sponsored by "Friends of Matt."



White House pickets and news photographers.



Kameny's petition to the United States Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari, 1960. After being dismissed from the U.S. Army Map Service in 1957, Kameny fought an un successful legal appeal for reinstatement that he petitioned to the United States Supreme Court.



(a)



(b)



(c)

Photographs: (a) Kameny; (b) Kameny in military uniform; (c) Kameny at home with papers.

# NGTF

**National Gay Task Force**

80 Fifth Avenue · New York, New York 10011 · (212) 741-1010

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*Co-Executive Directors*  
Jean O'Leary  
Bruce Voeller, Ph.D.

March 30, 1977

Mr. Frank Kanemey  
5020 Cathedral Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Frank,

We wish to express our most deep and sincere thanks for the role you played at the White House meeting. The work that went into the preparation of your materials and your presentation of the issue helped make the meeting a tremendous success. We have all participated in a truly historic event; and one that will have on-going implications for the gay community.

If you have not already submitted a copy of your materials to the National Gay Task Force please do so immediately. We are anxious to put together "The White House Papers," and have had many requests already for this material. The only papers we now have are Immigration and Naturalization, Federal Prisons, Religion, and Health, Education and Welfare. If there is any problem with this, please contact us at the Task Force.

Once again, thank you for all your efforts. You have made many, many people proud and happy.

Sincerely,



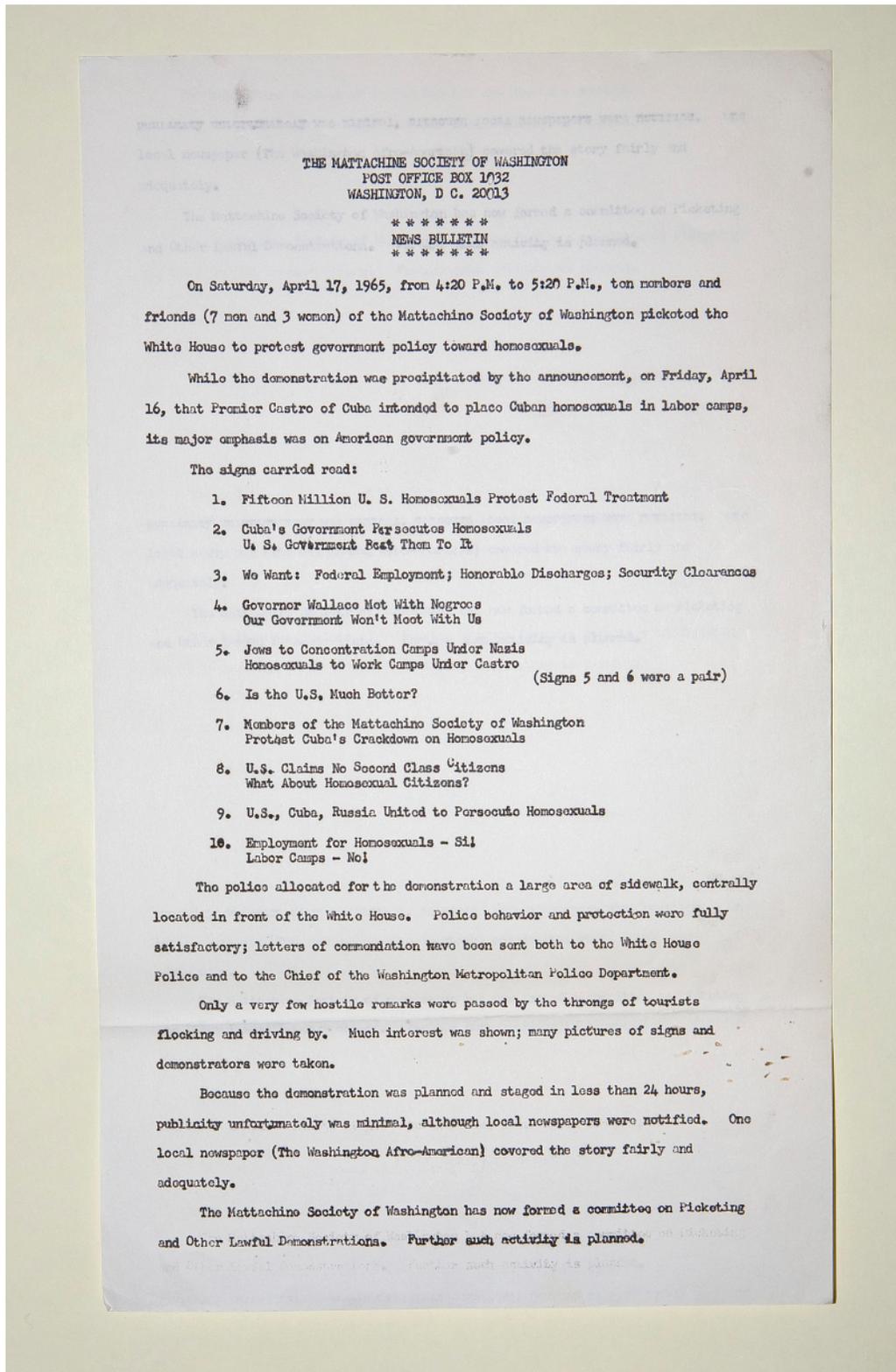
Jean O'Leary



Bruce Voeller

JO'L/BV:fr

Letter from Jean O'Leary and Bruce Voeller, executive directors of the National Gay Task Force, to Kameny, March 30, 1977, in recognition of his participation in the staff level meeting at the White House, the first such meeting achieved by a gay rights organization.



In 1965, Kameny introduced a new level of militancy in the struggle for equality when he led a small group of demonstrators in the first public protests for gay rights at the White House. A news bulletin released by the Mattachine Society of Washington reports the protest.

5020 Cathedral Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20016  
November 9, 1975

Sgt. Leonard Matlovich  
c/20591 Washington Avenue #1214  
Alexandria, Virginia 22303

362-2211; 363-3881

Dear Lenny:

As you may have seen, Marty Duberman's article on your hearing appeared in the Magazine Section of today's New York Times. Although I don't think the article was as good as it might have been ---- he erects a whole thesis on the chance choice of Dr. Money as a witness, and gives his views much greater sociological importance than I believe they deserve ---- the article raises another matter of considerable direct importance (I predict) to you ---- a matter which I raised with you once before.

You are once again quoted as taking the position that "---- he admits that had he the choice ---- he would rather be straight".

Now, you are obviously free to take whatever position you wish on that matter. I would not presume to dictate your feelings to you, even had I the power to do so. I do point out certain things however.

If that IS, in fact, your view, then prepare yourself to defend it. I guarantee you that you WILL be attacked for holding that view by Gays and gay groups wherever you go, as deeply and harmfully undercutting the Gay Movement. Further, you will find that it will place you at a severe disadvantage in making logical, compelling, persuasive pro-Gay and pro-gay-rights arguments with non-Gay audiences.

So IF that IS your position, you should be doing some VERY careful thinking as to the best way to present it and to defend it.

On the other hand: --- If it is NOT your view, then I urge -- STRONGLY -- an IMMEDIATE letter-to-the-Editors (of the Magazine Section of the Times) disavowing that as your position. The letter should be phrased firmly, and absolutely unequivocally and unambiguously, with an absolute minimum of words, phrases and clauses of modification and reservation which could conceivably be interpreted (i.e. mis-interpreted) as evasion or "weasel words", because Gays everywhere will be reading, intensely critically, what you say in this respect.

If you wish, I'll be more than pleased to discuss this with you, at some early date of our mutual convenience

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While I'm writing, I'd like, just briefly, to follow up on some items raised in our conversation of yesterday.

With respect to raising money and the NGTF. I think that it would be a mistake for you to convert yourself simply into a conduit for funds for the NGTF. You would lose effectiveness, and would be going beyond the role into which circumstances have thrust you.

Your issue is a narrow and very specific one. Effective pursuit of the issues and causes raised by that issue --- Gays and the Military --- requires funding. So do you, individually. Fund-raising is always more effective when narrowed to specifics, rather than when broadened to generalities. You have the specificity; make the most of it.

Letter from Kamenny to Leonard Matlovich, November 9, 1975, counseling him on his personal challenge to the military's ban on homosexuals, the specific issue of gays in the military, and the broader implications for the gay rights movement.

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Therefore I suggest strongly that your fund-raising activities and, also, the organizational machinery (Funds; Foundations; Boards, or whatever) be specifically directed to YOUR cause, and not to the Movement generally --- as much as the Movement, and NGTF both need and deserve funds.

(Incidentally, as a side comment, I would suggest that you don't make your endeavors too crassly commercial. That was one of the criticisms of the State of Washington-Dorian people. The measure of your success at (say) William and Mary is NOT that you made a "mere" \$80, as distinguished from \$800; you would have been as successful ---- or as unsuccessful --- if you had LOST \$80 at William and Mary. The measure of your success is your ability to persuade the public of the justness and the rightness of your (our) cause~~s~~. Obviously certain purely practical considerations must be considered. We discussed those to ~~some extent~~ some extent on the phone yesterday. Certainly your out-of-pocket expenses should ALWAYS be reimbursed to you (unless, in particular instances you choose to make an exception). Certainly the flow of funds into support of the Cause, as finally formulated, should always be kept in mind. But there is a difference between a commercial, in-it-for-the-profit performer, and someone fighting for a cause~~s~~ (Don't lose sight of those differences).

Keep in mind the very harsh reality that fame is fleeting. You are riding high --- and properly should be --- on the crest of a wave of publicity created by the immediacy of your case, plus the fortunate publicity which it received in the NY Times and in Time, plus your own personal charisma. But those WILL fade --- and with ~~you~~ a quickness which you may find traumatic. I would suggest that you make the maximum possible use of the fame and of the time it persists, to grind your own particular axe, both in terms of pleading the cause and raising the funds. Naturally, that will rub off onto support for the general Gay cause, and that is all to the good, but --- I feel --- your major effort should remain somewhat narrowed.

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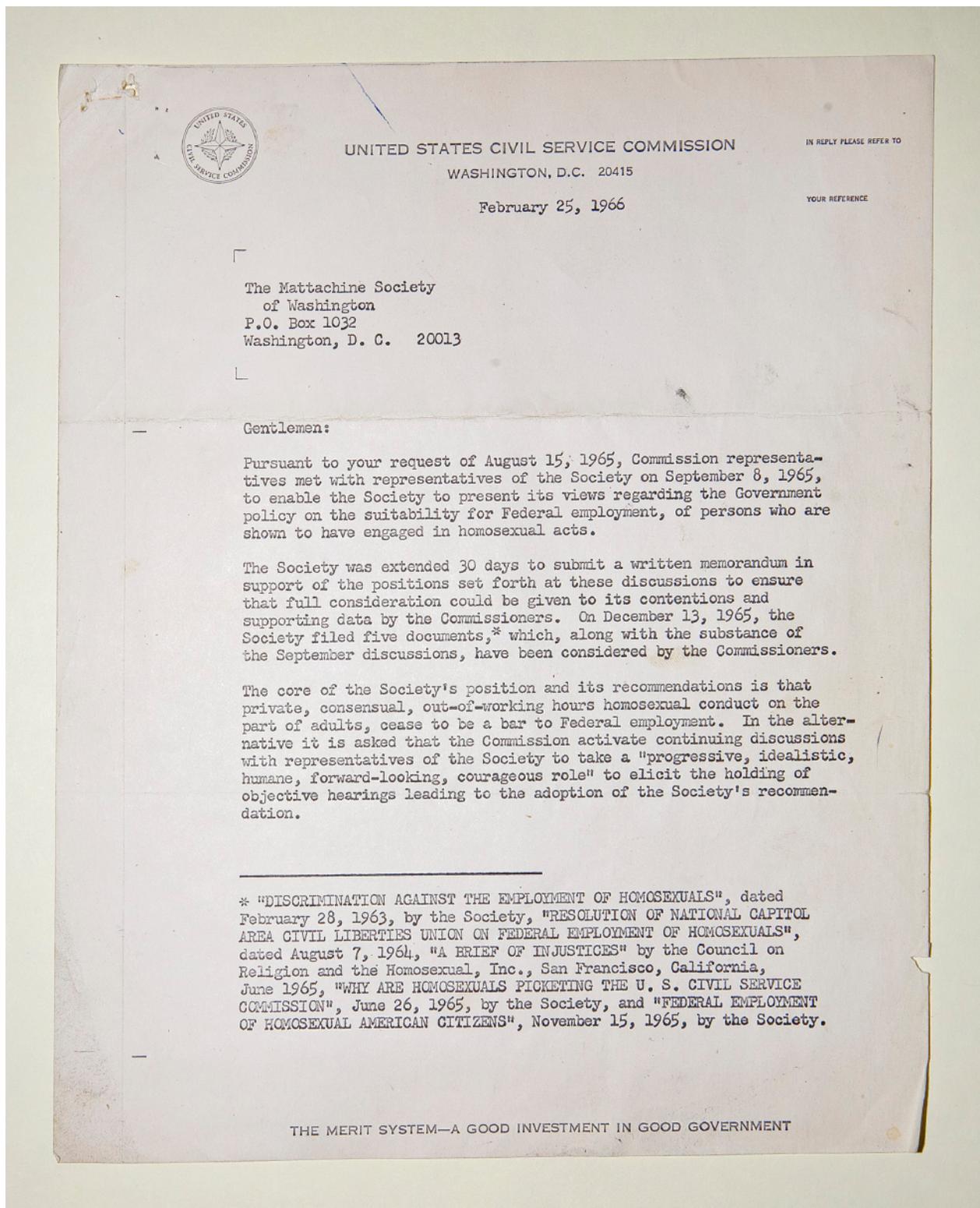
With respect to the foundation and your connections with Patton in Ohio. While I know him only casually at best, and have nothing at all against him in any way whatever, and MAY be doing him an unintended and inadvertent injustice, nevertheless he IS part of the Arthur Warner crew.

I predict that what will happen is that after the whole thing has been set up, you will find Arthur crawling out of the woodwork in a way which you will find most disadvantageous in two ways. First, if he is connected, whether formally or informally, with any foundation or other effort you set up, you will badly "turn off" much of your support, especially in the eastern third of the country, but not that alone. Second, you will find yourself subjected to a control and manipulation which you will find it extremely difficult to escape and which you will not like. While you can accept or reject my advice, and that of others, easily, and as you choose, you will find it much more difficult to do when it comes through the much more formalized channels of an organization or foundation of which you are a part, whether or not Arthur is actually formally connected with it. He is highly manipulative and devious. So I suggest that you walk with care, and don't rush into commitments without VERY careful consideration BEFORE final action has been taken,--- and consultation with others.

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Finally, as I suggested on the phone, I strongly urge you to formulate some substantive speeches. Obviously you can't have a different speech for every occasion --- you will end up with a few "set pieces", modified and with component parts rearranged, from engagement to engagement. But you will need something more substantive than you had in Toronto. Your "shining star" bit is fine for gay audiences; it will hot go for serious non-gay audiences. Both will want facts, both as to your own case and as to the general situation

Letter from Kameny to Leonard Matlovich, November 9, 1975, continued.



Letter from John W. Macy, Jr., chairman, United States Civil Service Commission, to the Mattachine Society of Washington, February 25, 1966, defending the commission's decision to prohibit homosexuals from government employment. The ban was lifted in 1975.

In the light of these pervading requirements it is upon overt conduct that the Commission's policy operates, not upon spurious classification of individuals. The Society apparently represents an effort by certain individuals to classify themselves as "homosexuals" and thence on the basis of asserted discrimination to seek, with the help of others, either complete social acceptance of aberrant sexual conduct or advance absolution of any consequences for homosexual acts which come to the attention of the public authority. Homosexual conduct, including that between consenting adults in private, is a crime in every jurisdiction, except under specified conditions, in Illinois. Such conduct is also considered immoral under the prevailing mores of our society.

We are not unaware of the numerous studies, reports and recommendations pertaining to the criminal aspects of aberrant sexual conduct and the unequal and anomalous impact of the criminal laws and their enforcement upon individuals, who for whatever cause, engage in homosexual conduct.\* It is significant to note, however, that the renowned Wolfenden Report, which recommended that consensual homosexual conduct, in private between persons over 21 years of age, be excluded as an offense under the criminal law of England, nevertheless recognized that such conduct may be a valid ground for exclusion from certain forms of employment. *id.* p. 22. Whether the criminal laws represent an appropriate societal response to such conduct is a matter properly addressed to the state legislatures and the Congress. It is beyond the province of this Commission.

We reject categorically the assertion that the Commission pries into the private sex life of those seeking Federal employment, or that it discriminates in ferreting out homosexual conduct. The standard against criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral, or notoriously disgraceful conduct is uniformly applied and suitability investigations underlying its observance are objectively pursued. We know of no means, consistent with American notions of privacy and fairness, and limitations on governmental authority, which could ascertain the nature of individual private sexual behavior between consenting adults. As long as it remains truly private, that is, it remains undisclosed to all but the participants, it is not the subject of an inquiry. Where, however, due to arrest records, or public disclosure or notoriety, an applicant's sexual behavior, be it heterosexual or homosexual, becomes a matter of public knowledge, an inquiry may be warranted. Criminal or licentious heterosexual conduct may equally be disqualifying, and like homosexual conduct, may become the subject of legitimate concern in a suitability investigation. In all instances the individual is apprised of the matter being investigated and afforded an opportunity to rebut, explain, supplement or verify the information.

\*e.g. SEX OFFENDERS, Gebhard, Gagnon, Pomeroy, Institute of Sex Research (1965); SEXUAL BEHAVIOR AND THE LAW, Samuel G. Kling, Random House (1965); HOMOSEXUALITY AND CITIZENSHIP IN FLORIDA, Legislative Investigation Committee Report (1964); THE AMERICAN LAW INSTITUTE, MODEL PENAL CODE, Proposed Official Draft (1962); PRIVATE CONSENSUAL HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR: THE CRIME AND ITS ENFORCEMENT, Yale Law Journal, 623 (March 1961); REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOMOSEXUAL OFFENSES AND PROSTITUTION BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT AND THE SECRETARY OF SCOTLAND (WOLFENDEN REPORT) (1957); A PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION OF LAWS OF HOMOSEXUALITY, 29 Temple Law Quarterly, 273 (Spring 1956) and SEXUAL DEVIATION RESEARCH, Calif. Legislature, Judiciary Committee, Subcommittee on Sex Research (1952).

Letter from John W. Macy, Jr., to the Mattachine Society of Washington, February 25, 1966, continued.

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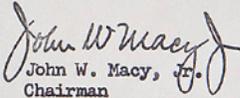
To be sure if an individual applicant were to publicly proclaim that he engages in homosexual conduct, that he prefers such relationships, that he is not sick, or emotionally disturbed, and that he simply has different sexual preferences, as some members of the Mattachine Society openly avow, the Commission would be required to find such an individual unsuitable for Federal employment. The same would be true of an avowed adulterer, or one who engages in incest, illegal fornication, prostitution, or other sexual acts which are criminal and offensive to our mores and our general sense of propriety. The self-revelation by announcement of such private sexual behavior and preferences is itself public conduct which the Commission must consider in assaying an individual's suitability for Federal employment.

Hence it is apparent that the Commission's policy must be judged by its impact in the individual case in the light of all the circumstances, including the individual's overt conduct. Before any determination is reached the matter is carefully reviewed by a panel of three high level, mature, experienced employees, and all factors thoroughly considered. The fairness of this result, in the light of the investigative evidence including the applicant's statements, is subject to administrative review and may also be judicially reviewed. Hence there are safeguards against error and injustice.

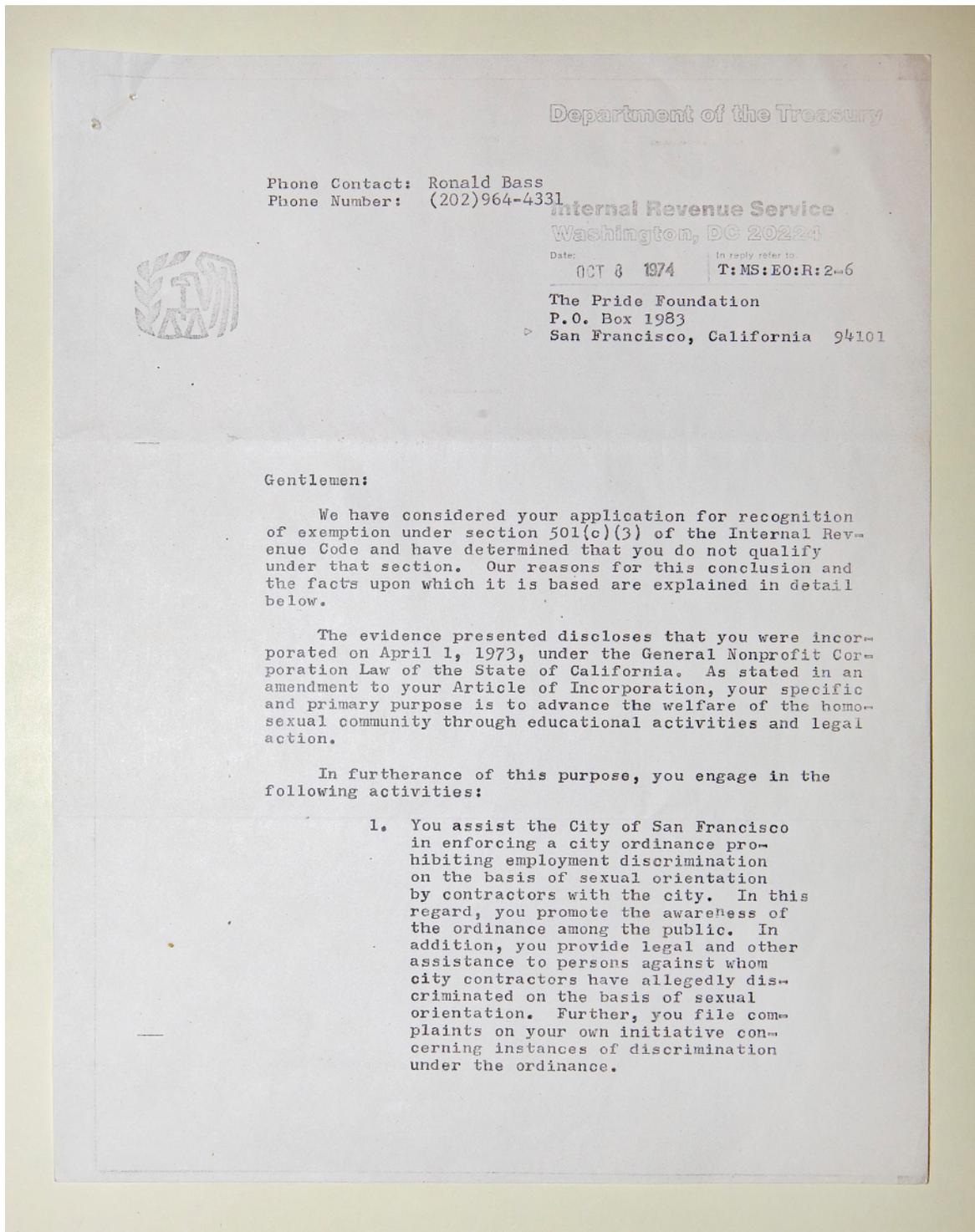
We can neither, consistent with our obligations under the law, absolve individuals of the consequences of their conduct, nor do we propose by attribution of sexual preferences based on such conduct, to create an insidious classification of individuals. We see no third sex, no oppressed minority or secret society, but only individuals; and we judge their suitability for Federal employment in the light of their overt conduct. We must attribute to overt acts whether homosexual or heterosexual, the character ascribed by the laws and mores of our society. Our authority and our duty permit no other course.

By direction of the Commission:

Sincerely yours,

  
John W. Macy, Jr.  
Chairman

Letter from John W. Macy, Jr., to the Mattachine Society of Washington, February 25, 1966, continued.



Letter from E. D. Coleman of the Internal Revenue Service to the Pride Foundation, October 8, 1974, denying the organization's tax-exempt status as a non-profit charitable and educational corporation due to the "general statutory condemnation of homosexual practices."

- 3 -

The Pride Foundation

8. Finally, you conduct a fund raising variety show open to the public, for the purpose of raising money to be used exclusively in furtherance of your other activities.

Further, you have indicated that you do not advocate any particular philosophy, nor do you advocate either homosexuality or heterosexuality as a preferred sexual orientation or life style. However, you adhere to the principle that all persons are entitled to pursue their private and social lives without discrimination irrespective of their sexual orientation. In this regard, you have indicated that your services are available to any person, regardless of sexual orientation, who has been discriminated against on the basis of sexual orientation.

You receive most of your support from membership dues and gross receipts from your lecture/dinners and variety show.

Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code provides for the exemption of organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

Section 1.501(c)(3)-1(d)(2) of the income tax regulations states that the term "charitable" is used in section 501(c)(3) of the Code in its generally accepted legal sense, but includes certain activities enumerated therein.

Section 1.501(c)(3)-1(d)(3) of the regulations defines "educational" to include:

- (b) The instruction of the public on subjects useful to the individual and beneficial to the community.

It is a general principal of the law of charity that all charitable trusts, educational or otherwise, are subject to the requirement that the purpose of the trust may not be illegal or contrary to public policy. Restatement, Second, Trust (1959) Sec. 377.

Letter from E. D. Coleman of the Internal Revenue Service to the Pride Foundation, October 8, 1974, continued.

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The Pride Foundation

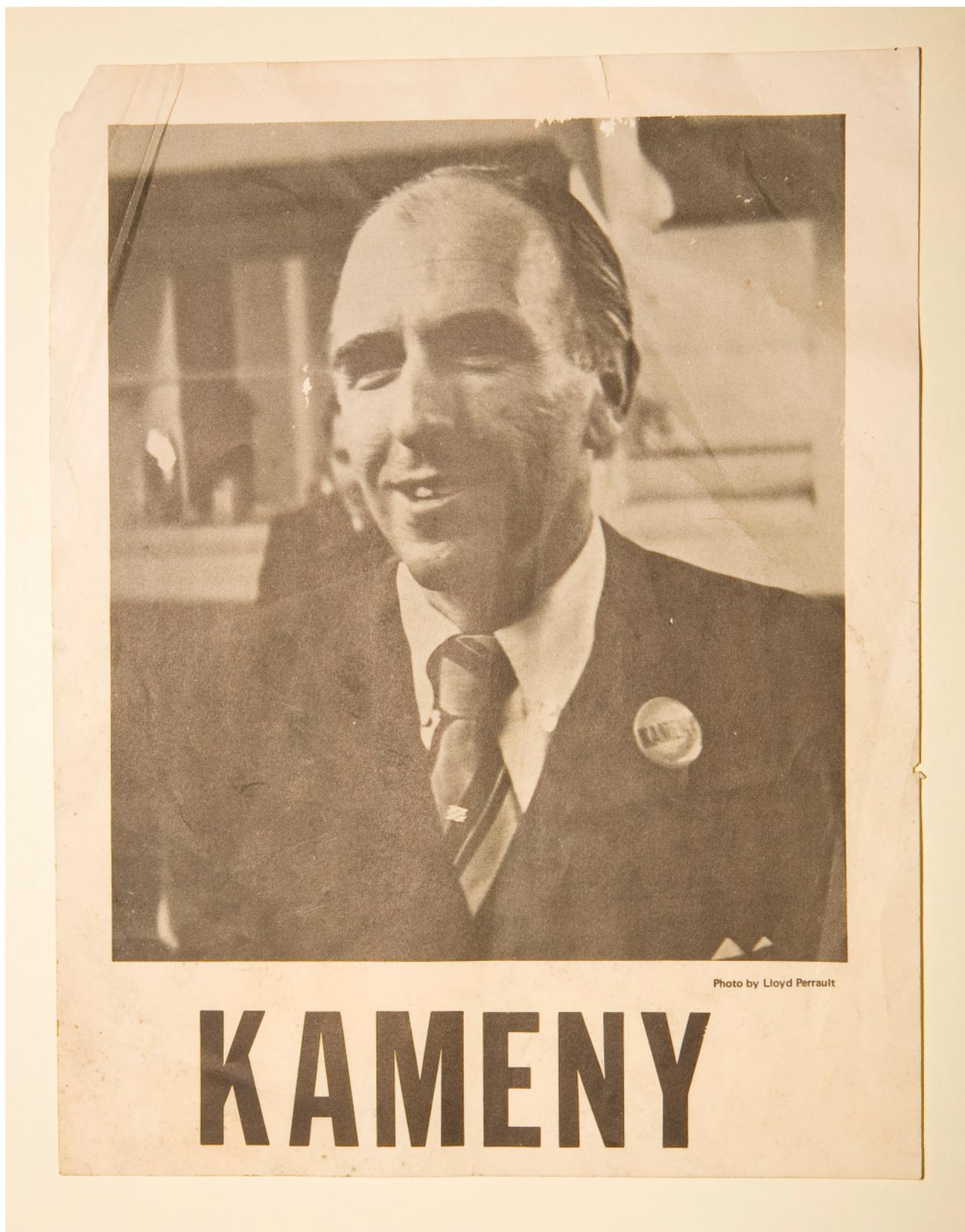
The Supreme Court has continued to characterize homosexual activity as perverted or deviate behavior, the explicit representation or description of which has been repeatedly held to be patently offensive for the purpose of meeting of the established tests of obscenity so as to fall outside the protection of the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution. See Mishkin V. New York, 383 U.S. 502 (1966); Miller V. California, 413 U.S. 15 (1973) and Hamling V. United States, 42 U.S. Law Week 5035 (June 24, 1974).

The maladaptive and at least potentially offensive nature of homosexual activities is borne out by the continuing prohibition of substantially all form of sodomy by the criminal laws of most states, including California.

In addition, certain of your activities, specifically your dinner/lectures and fund raising show are conducted in a format which encourages or facilitates homosexual practices to a substantial degree. This is so because the social aspects of these activities might readily contribute to increased personal relationships among homosexual individuals. In view of the general statutory condemnation of homosexual practices in California these programs may, therefore, encourage and facilitate illegal activity.

Based on the foregoing, we feel that your activities are advancing the unqualified and unrestricted promotion of the alleged normalcy of homosexuality. Thus, we conclude that your activities carry a serious risk of contributing to a more widespread development of homosexual tendencies among certain segments of the public and a consequent increase in the general prevalence of what is still generally regarded as deviant sexual behavior. As such your activities are contrary to public policy and are therefore, not "charitable."

Letter from E. D. Coleman of the Internal Revenue Service to the Pride Foundation, October 8, 1974, continued.



Publicity poster from Kameny's congressional campaign.

TO: Those who contributed to my May, 1973 trip to Honolulu to attend the meeting of the American Psychiatric Association.

FROM: Franklin E. Kameny; 5020 Cathedral Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20016  
202-362-2211; 202-363-3881

SUBJECT: VICTORY !!!! We have been "cured" !

DATE: December 15, 1973

I have delayed, until now, the writing of this report and letter of thanks and appreciation, to all of those whose contributions and assistance, in one way or another, made possible my trip to Honolulu, last May, to serve as Chief Discussant for the special session on Homosexuality held by the American Psychiatric Association, and to lobby and otherwise to work for a change in their Nomenclature to remove the labels of "sick" and "sickness" (or any approximate synonyms) from Homosexuals and Homosexuality.

While there were no immediate results from that trip itself, it did overcome long-standing resistance on the part of the psychiatrists and set into motion the ponderous, extremely intricate and complex, multi-level, internal governance machinery of the American Psychiatric Association, in regard to a policy change in respect to its categorization of homosexuality as an illness. During the May meeting, we drafted and "fed into the mill" (which we set into motion there) preliminary proposals on both the deletion of Homosexuality from the APA Nomenclature (the major issue) and on an APA position on civil rights for Gays.

Following the May meeting, with some of us overseeing every step and detail, and pushing and prodding as necessary, these resolutions moved into and through the Nomenclature Committee (June), the Council on Research and Development (October), the Reference Committee (November) and the Assembly of District Branches (November), plus some of the individual District Branches. Of these, the major single hurdle was the Council. We did extensive lobbying at and before the Council's Washington meeting in mid-October, and got the resolutions passed.

Finally, the matter came before the APA's top-level body, the Board of Trustees, at their semi-annual meeting, held in Washington on December 14-15. On the afternoon of December 14, our old enemies, Drs. Eleber and Socarides, joined by a Dr. McDermott, made an impassioned special presentation to the Board of Trustees, in an effort to prevent passage of the Nomenclature resolution. The Board was unimpressed.

At approximately 8:30 A.M. on Saturday, December 15, 1973, by unanimous vote (with two abstentions) the APA Board of Trustees passed the Nomenclature resolution, and by unanimous vote (one abstention) passed the Civil Rights resolution, making them final, and "curing" us all, instantaneously, en masse, in one fell swoop, by semantics and by vote, instead of by therapy.

~~Copies of the resolutions, in their final, formal, official form are attached.~~

As a careful reading of the cautious and politically-conscious wording of the Nomenclature resolution shows, a Homosexual who is satisfied with his or her homosexuality is not sick, ill, disturbed, disordered, neurotic, pathological, etc., and his or her Homosexuality is not a sickness, illness, disturbance, etc. However, a Homosexual wishing to change to heterosexuality IS sick, as the now-revised APA Nomenclature and policy stand.

The net effect of this resolution is to remove Homosexuality from the APA's Nomenclature (its list of mental and emotional disorders) and from their Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (their "sickness book") thus effecting the miraculous "cure" which I promised you almost a year ago when I solicited your support for my trip to Hawaii. (The

Open letter from Kameny, December 15, 1973, celebrating the American Psychiatric Association's announcement that it had voted to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders.

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presence of the word Homosexuality), in brackets, in the title of the Resolution on "Sexual Orientation Disturbance" is there simply to indicate that in the past this particular numerical category (302.0) was occupied by Homosexuality (and still is in the International Nomenclature, although specifically not any longer in the American Nomenclature). (Since the APA is the largest group, internationally, it is to be expected that the international nomenclature will be cleaned up, in this respect, in due course).

A little queasiness in the APA's wording notwithstanding, in the words of Ronald Gold of the National Gay Task Force: "We've won the ball game".

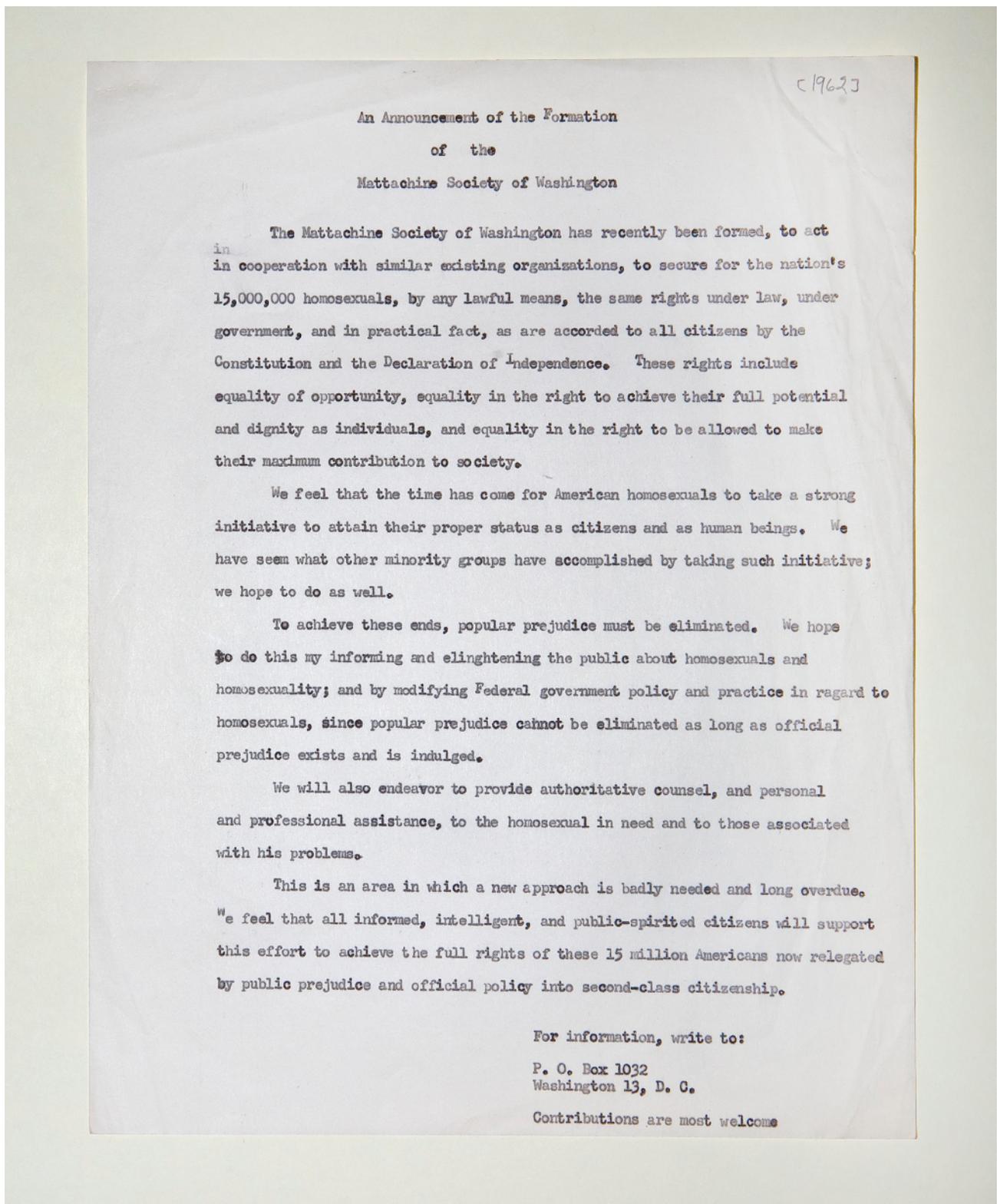
This represents the happy and successful conclusion of a more-than-ten-year effort on my part, at the outset of which I had to persuade my own fellow Gays, in and out of the Movement, to join me, and which almost all of them then opposed. In important matters, it has long been my personal approach to the world that (in pseudo-psychiatric jargon), I have no intention of adjusting myself to society; I will adjust society to me. As these events indicate, this is indeed a possible and practical approach and was exactly what happened here. I commend the approach to you all. It is effective.

But this is certainly not my personal victory alone. Many, many others helped indispensably ---- particularly (but by no means only) Barbara Gittings and Ronald Gold from the Gay Movement, and Drs. Robert Spitzer and Kent Robinson from among the psychiatrists. More important, it is a major victory of vast importance not merely for me and for us, but for all Gay people everywhere. Its implications, and its consequences for good are enormous, as the near future is bound to show. Its ramifications are almost without limit; it will have impact everywhere. It is a victory in which each of you who contributed in any way to my Honolulu trip ---- by money, by services and assistance, by lodging, or whatever -- played a part. It could not and would not have taken place without you.

So I thank you; thank yourselves; you deserve the thanks of the whole Gay community. Have a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Gay IS Good; we have all just made it a lot better.

Frank E. Kameny

Open letter from Kameny, December 15, 1973, page 2.



Announcement of the formation of the Mattachine Society of Washington, [1962], the city's first gay rights group, founded by Kameny as a civil liberties organization promoting gay rights through a program of social action.

the depths of a Victorian era from which he never escaped intellectually, may have done yeoman work as a pioneer and trail-blazer, but trails are necessarily blazed with lack of knowledge of the whole terrain and seldom follow what ultimately turns out to be the optimum route. It is time to realize that much of the psychiatric approach to homosexuality must be recognized for what it is: A misinterpretation of cultural artifacts of the particularly distorted, warped, perverted sexual attitudes of the Victorian era, in which Freud grew up, and shortly following which era most modern "authorities" on this subject were trained.

We must recognize that one of the glories of humankind is its endless diversity and pluralism in all things; that we are not faceless robots all turned out of the same mold, but that we follow different courses of equal value to different goals of equal value—in psychosexual development as in all other areas; that there is no one, single healthy course of psychosexual development.

Finally, we must realize that among the glories of humankind is its brain, which has liberated us from the degrading, demeaning, dehumanizing (and inapplicable, in this context) "anatomy is destiny" theory. Our genital organs are our appendages; we are not appendages of our genital organs.

We take the position that in our pluralistic society, the homosexual has a moral right to be a homosexual, and being a homosexual, has a moral right not only to live his or her homosexuality fully, freely, openly, and with pride, but also has a right to do so free of arrogant and insolent pressures to convert to the prevailing heterosexuality, and in the expectation of the active, affirmative, positive assistance and encouragement of all the official and unofficial arms and agents of society, including psychiatry, in his so living.

Not only do we insist that homosexuals, as people, are in no way inferior to heterosexuals as people (a precept to which we are sure that most psychiatrists will take no exception) but we insist, equally uncompromisingly, that homosexuality—as a condition, a state of being, a way of life or life-style, an expression of love and affection—is fully on par with and in no slightest way inferior to heterosexuality.

We are working to create a sense of community among our people, to create, in turn, a sense of unity, solidarity, militancy, and activism, in order to assist us to achieve our full rights and status in a society which is ours as much as it is that of the heterosexuals. We are working with success to create among our people a sense of *pride* in their homosexuality and a sense of the rightness of what they are and the goodness of what they do.

In order to do this, it is necessary to extract homosexuality from the medical context in which it has long and persistently been placed, and to place it in a *sociological* context of minority group relationships involving prejudice, discrimination, and bigotry. This is the *only* context in which the real problems of real homosexuals in our society today will be constructively and productively addressed. It has been well and truly said that in our society there is no Black problem, there is a white problem. We say that there is no homosexual problem, there is a heterosexual problem. Psychiatry, as it presently deals with homosexuality, is a major part of that problem.

A psychiatric profession which persists in approaching homosexuality as a medical problem and homosexuals, *per se*, as patients, while homosexuals themselves, as *homosexuals* are busy entering politics and running for public office, is singularly out of touch with reality—psychotically so!

We are trying to open dialog with the psychiatric profession on these questions. In past years, it has been necessary, on occasion, to resort to strong measures against a resisting profession in order to achieve such discussion of *our* problems *with* us instead of merely *about* us. We sincerely hope that productive, constructive discussion and dialog, followed by meaningful reform of psychiatry, will now proceed actively.

Psychiatry, in the past—and continuingly—has been *the* major single obstacle in our society to the advancement of homosexuals and to the achievement of our full rights, our full happiness, and our basic human dignity. Psychiatry *can* become our major ally.

Will you assist us?

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Both individually, and collectively as a profession and an Association, re-examine your past positions on homosexuality. Discard the negative attitudes and the biases which have afflicted you in the past.
2. Work for a public renunciation, by psychiatry, of the "sickness theory" of homosexuality in ANY semantic guise.
3. Undertake an active, vigorous campaign to ameliorate and ultimately to eliminate popular prejudice on this question, both through work to change attitudes and in such specific areas as law reform, equal opportunity legislation, etc.
4. Consult on an on-going basis with representatives of the homosexual community.

Our themes are: **GAY, PROUD AND HEALTHY** and **GAY IS GOOD**. With or without you, we will work vigorously toward the acceptance of those precepts, and will fight those who oppose us. We would much prefer to work with you than against you. Will you join us, to our mutual benefit?

Your comments, suggestions, and efforts at dialog and discussion are welcome. Contact:

Dr. Franklin E. Kameny, 5020 Cathedral Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20016. Phone 202-362-2211 or 202-363-3881.

Ms. Barbara B. Gittings, 241 South 21st Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103. Phone 215-LO 7-5406.

Final page of "Gay, Proud and Healthy," a printed manifesto to the psychiatric community distributed by Kameny and Barbara Gittings at the American Psychiatric Association's annual convention in 1972.