CAPITOL REPORT

BY LARRY BUSH

CONGRESS HEARS WHY INS SHOULDN'T BAN GAYS

Foreign, lesbian, and gay representatives gave members of Congress a briefing July 14 on why U.S. immigration law barring homosexuals has been unfair and counter to international agreements. The briefing coincided with the first international Gay Association meeting to take place in the United States (see story page 12).

The briefing, which had been arranged by the Gay Rights National Lobby, was attended by the presence of more than 100 lesbian and gay foreign visitors in Washington to raise once again the issue of reform of the anti-gay immigration exclusion. Although the affair was not part of the official record Congress was in reviewing the immigration proposals now awaiting action, it nevertheless served as a clear statement of the importance lesbian and gay issues.

It was nice to see that congressional support of gay civil rights has a priority on the briefing as well. Six members of Congress showed up to hear the testimony—three of whom are official hearings—despite the sponsor of the measure to reform the anti-gay clause, Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.). Also on the docket were Reps. Phil Burton (D-Calif.), Ted Weiss (D-N.Y.), Bill Green (R-N.Y.), Harry Wexler (D-Calif.), and Marvin Dixdale (D-Calif.).

Testimony given was a mixture of blue-ribbon representatives of American Establishment groups attacking the ban as outdated and inappropriate, and the personal voices of lesbian and gay visitors who told of their own problems in dealing with U.S. officials.

On the American side, a representative of the Unitarian Universalist Church presented religious voices. Georgia Day of the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Freedom Day Parade Committee presented an update on the law and its practical application, and Dr. David Kessler, head of the gay caucus within the American Psychiatric Association, presented that organization's reasons for challenging the outdated medical basis for the ban.

But perhaps the two most important American additions to the testimony this time from Mrs. Margaret Capron, of Arlington, Mass., whose son is now a Dutch citizen and is unable to come to this country to visit his family, joining her in a public challenge to the law was Dr. Charles Gordon, a former general counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and author of the most respected textbook on American immigration law.

The foreign testimony was provided by Henrich Lowo, an openly lesbian member of the Norwegian Parliament, her lover, Kim Friese, who heads a Norwegian gay rights organization, Bob Potter, representing a Dutch gay rights group that has successfully brought the U.S. law into public visibility in Europe, and Sylvia Botten, a dual Dutch-New Zealand national.

The members of Congress were clearly impressed with the quality of testimony offered, particularly as the first-person accounts of brushes with American attitudes and officials. Lowo spoke of her conundrums trying to get a visitor's visa. She was first denied it for being lesbian, but was then issued an "official" visa because of her standing as a member of Parliament. Her lover, Friese, spoke of leaving for a visa request repeatedly denied because of her leadership of a gay civil rights organization, and just won in Norway the first national gay rights legal protection of any country in the world.

According to GHRL, the members of Congress present at the briefing were closely impressed with the unfairness of the issue and pledged to take more steps to ensure that a reform was fully considered in Congress. If that happens, the briefing will have accomplished a small miracle.

PAGING ALL SCANDALS

While foreign gays and lesbians were crowding the hearing room to capacity, most Washington reporters were standing in a hallway two floors above, giving extensive coverage to the gay "scancals" in Washington this summer. That, of course, is the story of the alleged sex scandal now involving Undersecretary of State.

Just about everything surrounding this scandal has been a misstep, including the suggestion that there is a scandal at all. The story only became an issue when two former pages charged that many members of Congress had asked them for sex in return for promised favors, including promotions. This charge should have fallen apart as soon as reporters checked out that page can't be given promotion, and that no member of Congress has ever even asked for any page to get a special assignment. But checking out facts is too boring, so much of the press has been chasing the rubbishes of rumor through Capitol corridors, a practice sure to embarrass anyone.

It has already occurred to other reporters that there is very little behind the charge of page-boy sex scandals. However, instead of shrinking away in embarrassment at having been caught out in such an obviously booby story, the Washington press corps is now turning after a story of high government officials using high boys and possibly failing victim to an alleged Soviet KG3 gay ring designed to entrap homosexuals in Washington.

Never mind, of course, that there has not been a single instance in the history of FBI surveillance of any gay person selling out his country to order maintain the closet. The more 1960s that such a thing might happen is sufficient not only to keep the FBI involved in gay closets, but also to create front-page stories about alleged Soviet attempts to blackmail vulnerable gays across the nation. If a comparison is needed (and apparently the nation's press corps could use guide dogs to find their way across the street), it would be that most spies sell.

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out their country because they want to make money. Why not, then, have the FBI initiate and copy all financial records of everyone with access to classified information, including monthly reports on their mortgage payments and any possible loan defaults. At least the argument could be made that in coming financial weakness there is more suppression to go on.

Anyway, Washington is now awash with lists of alleged homosexuals in Congress, in the White House and at the Pentagon. One can’t help but suspect that circulation of such lists would stop forthwith if they also included alleged homosexual in the Washington press corps, the D.C. police and the FBI. By now nearly every member of Congress has been included on one or another list, as we may now truly say that there are no innocents left in Washington.

This will not prevent the stories from moving still further, to buttress the argument that something was going on that readers should know. The latest chapter has the dredge problem spreading to New York City. It is the first time there has been a high-level sex ring at the United Nations involving the procurement of young boys by foreign diplomats.” According to one Washington investigative reporter, “the ring is said by investigators to involve dozens of prominent U.N. employees, including high consular officials, according to one well-placed source with first-hand knowledge of the allegations.”

According to that reporter, the allegations include the story of a foreign domestic worker who was kept at an embassy against her will and sexually abused (a true “forty in a storm” approach among these foreign diplomats activity) and a rather lurid account of how the ring works. “The normal method of procurement, the source explained, was for U.N. personnel to procure a mother and child to work in a foreign diplomatic mission. Sexual advances are made, and if the child is susceptible, the ‘client’ is passed around by the ring. If the mother com- plicates, she is sent home.

Reservations World


toCriticalSection for all to all: According to gay sources in Washington, the police informant who assisted in the raid of the Washington male escort service here is now in New York; allegedly working with a grand jury there on a similar plot.” Look for the story to open in a theater near you soon.

The FBI and Homos, Cont’d.

Meanwhile, the FBI has sent a note to Congress outlining how it plans to respond to charges that it has been spying on gays for more than 30 years. First, it will provide information only on files opened since January 1977, thus conveniently leaving out all the files opened before that date and perhaps still open at this time. Second, it will research only the area dealing with national security, thus leaving out all the other areas that involve blackmails that are allegedly being managed by the office of counterintelligence, with (for example, in The ADVOCATE, issue 346, it was shown that the Machine Society had been filled under organizations that were using police uniforms.) Anyway, none of that has increased Rep. Dan Edwards (D., Calif.) who requested the FBI response, and it is expected he will ask the FBI to get together as first requested. The FBI had planned to release its sanitized explanation.

It should also be noted that during this entire exchange, the FBI has been telling Washington that it is important to have an FBI presence in gay bars in places like Washington, New York and San Francisco, California. What has been particularly disappointing is the number of reports we have received from these cities by saying it makes sense to them.

FALWELL’S FOLLIES

Rev. Jerry Falwell has been in the news again, this time for telling lies. Apparently Falwell sent out a letter asking for donations to replace a radio transmitter tower that vandals had knocked over. What Falwell forgot to mention in his letter was that the entire loss was covered by insurance. Now Falwell says he will tell those who sent money that the dollars will go for improved facilities, but that if they misunderstood and want their money back, they can request a refund. Meanwhile, another report on Falwell has just surfaced that shows the interest AD- VOCATE readers at the Lauchard Foundation, Dr. Walter Cappe, a professor of religious studies at UC Santa Barbara, spent a week in Lynchburg, Va., to look at Falwell’s work. In a report to the foundation, dated Feb. 4, 1982, Cappe describes a Wednesday night prayer service, attended by more than 4,000 people, which included this episode starting our Friendly Jerry: “He tells of a gay bar that has just opened in downtown Lynchburg, not far from the City Hall. He takes the song leader if he knows the address, startled, his sheepish response no brings laughter to the congregation. Falwell tells about the night he and his wife sat in their car across the street from the bar and watched all of the strange people going in and out of the bar. He tells of two male associates he had directed to go in to a gay bar in Washington, not far from the White House, just to find out what was going on. ‘We dressed up real sweet, he says, got them smoking good, had them wear these bright ties, bought them ass-fisting back and forth, and gave them a small order. A few minutes later comes Bebe’s Beach.located with what they saw that they forgot to get any pictures. (Laughter) You know what I mean? How? I guess I got the right end of the bar and said, Hello, this is Jerry Falwell. I want your photographs? (Laughter) You that should have done more laughter.”

Alia Seltzer, anyone?

CORRECTION: In the recent ADVOCATE article on the FBI (“The FBI in Your Closet” Issue 346), the quotations attributed to Dr. C.A. Tripp regarding the Kinsey Institute’s involvement with the CIA were in error. The quotations should have been attributed to a second source, close to Kinsey at that time, and not to Tripp. Tripp maintains that that Kinsey did have conversations with American security officials, including those from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the FBI, but does not specifically state that advice was given. However, Dr. Tripp was released as the FBI’s liaison with the FBI, but not the other option. The ADVOCATE and Larry Krug do regret the error.

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