

THE HOMOSEXUAL CITIZEN

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- NEWS OF CIVIL LIBERTIES
 - AND SOCIAL RIGHTS
 - FOR HOMOSEXUALS

SPECIAL FEATURES

**BLACKMAIL
PICKETING**

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WASHINGTON SECTION

HOW TO STOP BLACKMAILERS

by Michael Fox

(NOTE: The Mattachine Society of Washington is currently surveying the incidence and nature of blackmail in the homosexual community. Although this project is at present still in an exploratory phase, The Homosexual Citizen has chosen the following case history as perhaps typical. The intended victim gave permission for his story to be printed with a pseudonym.)

On a Monday morning two years ago, just as Arthur was about to leave the house, the telephone rang. "This is Sgt. Wilson of the Park Police. One of our officers saw you making a homosexual pickup about two weeks ago at Dupont Circle. Now if you could come down to the station and answer a few questions for us. . . ." Intimidated, Arthur responded almost mechanically at first to the questions fired at him by the harsh voice at the other end of the line: "What's your full name?" "Where do you work?" "What sort of work do you do?"

When Arthur, his security-consciousness aroused, began to evade the questions, the "sergeant" threatened to send a squad car to bring him to the station. Like the average citizen, ignorant about non-standard police procedure, Arthur relented and revealed the vital information. Apparently pacified, "Sgt. Wilson" softened. Since Arthur had "cooperated", he might not have to appear at the station. The impersonator promised to discuss the matter with the complaining officer and relay his decision to the victim in the evening.

The caller phoned as promised and, in Arthur's words, "said I probably wouldn't have to come down to the station, and that he would continue to plead my cause with the complaining officer. He promised to report his progress to me the next night (Tuesday)."

"After hanging up, my suspicion began to overtake my fear. The more I thought about what was happening, the more fishy it sounded."

Arthur then made the first rational move since his nightmare began: he confided in a close friend. The friend happened to know Dr. Franklin Kameny of The Mattachine Society of Washington, who is probably the most knowledgeable individual in America on the police and their treatment of the homosexual.

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Upon receiving Arthur's frantic plea for help and listening to the facts, Dr. Kameny immediately suspected that the "Park Policeman" was a blackmailer. Arthur's case was fairly typical. The blackmailer of homosexuals often picks up or is picked up by his victim in a public place--like a street, park, or bus station.

Another typical blackmail technique is to observe a person who has stepped out of his car. If he seems to be searching for a pickup and has D.C. license tags, the blackmailer notes the license number and looks up the driver's name in the book of D.C. license tags, which is easily available. As in the first blackmailing technique, the extortionist usually consults the directory for his victim's telephone number and then poses as a policeman.

"Contrary to what might be expected," Dr. Kameny told Arthur, "the Metropolitan Police take a dimmer view of the blackmailer than they do of the homosexual." Dr. Kameny advised that Roy Blick, Chief of the Morals Division, Metropolitan Police be contacted [present head of the Morals Division is Detective Moyer] "I will set up a meeting and come along, if it would make you feel better. In the meantime, don't pay--stall!"

The "Park Policeman" was punctual: He called the next night telling Arthur that he was having difficulty getting him off the hook, and probably would need some money "to grease the wheels." Arthur asked him to set a price. It was \$500. Arthur asked for time, to which his tormentor agreed. The impatient blackmailer called again the following night. Arthur put him off once more with a plea for time.

The next night was Thursday, the date of Arthur's and Dr. Kameny's appointment with Chief Blick. Arthur related the details of the incident. Upon checking with the Park Police, Chief Blick received the expected denial of the existence of a "Sgt Wilson." A plan was formulated, two vice squad men would be present on Monday to witness the blackmailer's telephone call, after which they would accompany Arthur to the rendezvous agreed upon. A marked bill under and one above a wad of newspaper would be stuffed in the envelope Arthur was to hand the blackmailer. At that point the vice squad men would arrest the man. If the contact were to be made in Maryland [where Arthur lived], the Maryland police would be on hand to make the arrest, one Maryland police detective to be stationed with the two District police vice squad men.

The only personal information requested by Chief Blick was Arthur's name -- and that was requested as a matter of procedure for any criminal case. Chief Blick did not ask where Arthur worked: His only interest was in ferreting out the blackmailer.

"If any blackmailer when caught were to sign a statement admitting his guilt, I wouldn't have had to appear in court for my blackmailer's trial or even have my name mentioned in court," Arthur said. [Two weeks later, a blackmailer signed a confession, and the victim and his name were kept out of the trial.]

The policemen arrived at Arthur's house Monday at 6:00 P.M. to wait for the announced telephone call. [They knew only that this was a blackmail case - not the reason for blackmail.]

Arthur sat uneasily by the telephone and waited. Each time it rang, it startled him, but the blackmailer failed to call that night. At 10:00 p.m., the detectives left. They returned for two consecutive nights, but still Arthur's tormentor kept his silence. The detectives gave Arthur their cards in case the call ever came. It never did.

"I don't know why my blackmailer didn't call back, but since he mentioned my picking up someone, I suspect my blackmailer was the person I'd picked up. His voice sounded similar. He may have been watching the house, or may just have gotten discouraged when I stalled.

"This is the only time that I have been threatened with blackmail. I still have my job [two and a half years later], and my \$500. Nevertheless, I would have lost a lot if Mattachine and the Morals Division of the Metropolitan Police didn't cooperate in trapping blackmailers."

Nationwide Attack on Draft Injustices

by John Marshall

THE HOMOSEXUAL'S RESPONSE TO THE DRAFT CALL -- A MORAL DILEMMA, was the theme for the nationwide protest proposed by the Council on Religion and the Homosexual and adopted by the delegates to the first National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations. The individual organizations which participated possessed great latitude in developing their program and interpreting the aims and philosophy of the protest to their local communities.

The participating San Francisco and Los Angeles organizations coordinated their activities under the name Committee to Fight Exclusion of Homosexuals from the Armed Services.

A well reasoned statement entitled "Are Homosexuals Unfit to Defend Our Country?" was issued in a compact, appealing format by the Los Angeles headquarters of the Committee. This pamphlet featured a point-by-point rationale for removal of the "sex question" from draft examinations. It also suggested that readers could do something to help change the current situation: write the President at the White House.

The Committee's work and aims were the subject of discussion by Don Slater of Tangents on a radio program which was broadcast in Los Angeles on March 29. Also through the efforts of Mr. Slater, the April 17th (Sunday) edition of The New York Times contained an article headed "War Role Sought for Homosexuals," by reporter Peter Bart. This article, of moderate length, also dealt with the Com-

mittee's activities and the national plans as well as the meeting in Kansas City, some general conditions faced by the homosexual in our society, and information on Tangents. The article unfortunately was slanted toward the position that homosexuals were "eager to fight for their country." (Apparently Mr. Slater is in no way culpable for this.) While this might well be the situation, it was intended that the protest would remain strictly neutral with regard to the merits of the draft and the war in Viet Nam, limiting itself to the discriminatory aspects of present military regulations and procedures.

The May 21st issue of The New Republic magazine contained an excellent, understanding, and sympathetic short article, "Boxed In," by staff member David Sanford. The dilemmas posed by military policies and attitudes were cogently and succinctly handled. The article's closing paragraph masterfully summed up our position by offering the following quotation from the National Capital Area Civil Liberties Union's position paper on the federal employment of homosexuals as also being applicable to their military service: "'Disruptive and improper behavior on the job is easily and rapidly ascertained by supervisory personnel and is clearly grounds for dismissal....But there is no valid justification for policies which discriminate against capable people on the supposition that they might present personnel problems when there is no clear indication to this effect in the individual case.'"

A television program featuring Clark Polak of the Janus Society of America was arranged by Tangents through the auspices of the Committee. The program again dealt with the protest and the reasons for the movement's unity of action at this time in an effort to bring our case to public attention. It was shown in Los Angeles on Tuesday night, April 19, and later rebroadcast in several cities including Washington, D.C., prior to May 21. Tangents was also instrumental in the taping of an hour-long radio broadcast featuring two Committee members, including its chairman Harry Hay, which was scheduled for broadcast in more than 200 cities throughout the country. The Los Angeles Free Press reprinted the Committee's statement. This statement or the Times article were picked up by several newspapers located in various parts of the country. Mainly as a result of the Times article, several interviews were held by representatives of the communications media with members of the Committee.

In Los Angeles, Tangent's work with the Committee culminated in a two-hour motorcade which began at approximately 2:00 P.M. on May 21. This motorcade which also distributed literature covered an extensive section of "downtown" L.A.

The Committee's protest in San Francisco was jointly sponsored by the Council on Religion and the Homosexual, the Daughters of Bilitis, the Mattachine Society (San Francisco), the Society for Individual Rights, Strait and Associates, and the Tavern Guild of San Francisco. Members of the Association for Responsible Citizenship participated in this demonstration and the Association paid for a quarter-page adver-

tisement of the protest which appeared in the May 21 edition of the Sacramento Bee. Twenty thousand printed leaflets were widely distributed in advance of the demonstration. The leaflet contained a notice of the public rally held at 2:00 P.M. on the steps of the Federal Building in San Francisco, relevant portions of the statement adopted in Kansas City, and brief rationales for the major points around which the protest was planned, in addition to suggestions as to what action the concerned citizen might take to help right the injustices being perpetrated against homosexuals.

The six points were: 1) The issuance of less-than-honorable discharges to homosexuals in the armed forces; 2) Total exclusion of homosexuals from service in the armed forces; 3) Inadequate protection of confidentiality of draft records; 4) Wasting taxpayers' money in training and then needlessly separating homosexuals from the armed forces; 5) Gestapo-like witch hunts for homosexuals in the armed forces; and 6) Continuing refusal by the departments of Defense, Army, Navy and Air Force to meet with spokesmen for the homosexual community to engage in constructive discussion of the policies and procedures at issue.

The picketing portion of the demonstration had been initiated prior to the scheduled 2:00 P.M. starting time. The number of picketers reached a total of about 45 people marching at one point. Some of the picketers carried their honorable discharges from one or another of the armed services. Close to 500 people were on hand for the speaking portion of the protest. Speakers, who utilized the facilities of a sound truck, included several clergymen and representatives of the homophile movement.

There was some newspaper coverage the following day. One TV station devoted five minutes news time to the demonstration including interviews with the Rev. Cecil Williams of the Glide Urban Center, who served as speakers chairman for the event, and Larry Littlejohn, a member of the Board of Directors of the Society for Individual Rights.

The New York Chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis began their activity by distributing flyers in midtown Manhattan during the afternoon. The flyer invited attendance at a public meeting in the Central Plaza Hall Annex at 8:30 P.M. which featured several speakers on the topic at hand. The flyer also announced the various organizations across the nation which were participating in the protest and outlined the tragic problems besetting millions of homosexual American citizens because of unjust armed forces policies.

The Janus Society of America issued several press releases periodically before May 21. On Armed Forces Day, Janus distributed ten thousand copies of a well produced leaflet which bore "Homosexuals and the Armed Forces -- A Moral Dilemma" as its title, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. This pamphlet featured a slogan which had found widespread use by the organizations involved in the demonstrations: "We Don't Dodge the Draft; the Draft Dodges Us." Later that evening the Janus Society sponsored a public meeting.

In conclusion, it can safely be stated that many participants experienced a renewed feeling of "movement" resulting from the joint efforts of innumerable individuals affiliated with many organizations and groups. Although it is premature to expect to see concrete results at the present time, most of us are optimistic that this protest and future activities of the movement will definitely influence the people of our nation as well as our political and military leadership. Slowly our efforts will lead to the changes for which we are working, struggling, and fighting.

• MARCHING TO THE PENTAGON

by Dr. Franklin E. Kameny

On May 21, 1966, Armed Forces Day, approximately 17 homosexuals and others supporting their cause (12 men; five women) -- including one clergyman -- demonstrated in Washington to protest the policies of the Armed Services toward homosexual American citizens.

The grievances in question were four:

1. Issuance of less-than-fully-honorable discharges to homosexuals found in the Armed Services, regardless of the quality or merit of their service. ("If you don't want a man, let him go; don't ruin the remainder of his life in the process.")
2. Total exclusion of homosexuals from the Armed Services. ("We don't dodge the draft; the draft dodges us".)
3. Offensively and insultingly worded military regulations aimed at homosexual citizens. (No citizens of the United States should ever be the objects of insulting and degrading language used by their government.)
4. Refusal of officials of the departments of Defense, Army, Navy, and Air Force to meet with spokesmen for the homosexual community in an attempt to resolve problems and grievances -- surely a right of all American citizens.

The Washington demonstration commenced with an hour's picketing in front of the White House. Carrying their signs, the demonstrators then marched three miles from the White House, through downtown Washington, past the Tidal Basin and the Jefferson Memorial, over the Potomac, to the Pentagon. There they picketed for half an hour. Leaflets were distributed throughout.

The demonstration was lawful, orderly, and dignified. The necessary permit was obtained in advance for that portion of the march which crossed National Capital Parks territory. All three police forces involved were informed of the demon-

stration beforehand. Police protection was adequate at the least, and full and extensive at the best -- especially during the downtown portion of the march, when a police escort, in relays, accompanied the marchers and stopped traffic when necessary to facilitate street crossings. At all times the police were courteous, cooperative, and helpful.

Among those present as onlookers were reporters from several magazines and newspapers, and from the communications media. The demonstration was reported on the late evening television news of that day.

The Government : From Within

by Evan Colodny

While additional information is being collected on recent court cases and pertinent Civil Service Commission regulations, the lull will be filled with news and views on the phenomena known in the trade as "monitoring" and otherwise known as wire-tapping.

In the past week evidence has been uncovered of two more instances of bugged telephones. In the first case, the individual had great difficulty obtaining a dial tone, and then heard very distinct clicking noises on the line. Afterwards he was fortunate enough to hear a male voice counting the clicks as the dial was turned and repeating to someone else the telephone number which had just been dialed.

In the second case the caller was conducting a very private non-business conversation with a friend. There was absolutely no discussion involving government or military secrets. In fact there was no mention of anything which might be construed as concerning the government -- or anyone else, for that matter. This private conversation was interrupted suddenly by the sound of a male voice asking the individual (also a man) if he would like to go to bed. The identity of the voice remained unknown, as well as the purpose of the interruption.

The morality of any government agency which monitors conversations of its employees is certainly in doubt. The logic of any credit bureau tapping conversations of credit applicants is also to be questioned. But, most of all, when it appears that the privacy of a citizen is being violated by someone to whom he owes no allegiance, then obviously serious questions arise.

The first of these questions regards the legality of the issue of wire-tapping. Just last month (according to the May 29, 1966 issue The Sunday Star) the Federal Communications Commission banned use of wireless transmitters and similar devices for recording private conversations by

anyone EXCEPT (emphasis supplied) law enforcement officers, and set a penalty of \$500 for each day of violation. The article states that only seven states have laws on the subject, and five of the seven, in conflict with the FCC rule, permit eavesdropping if the eavesdropper has the permission of at least one of the persons overheard. It seems that although such intrusion obviously violates constitutional guarantees of privacy, there are no state or federal laws against wire-tapping per se.

The second question might well concern the issue of morality. It seems that once again, the government which claims to be the greatest moralist of all time and the benign protector (and in some cases the initiator) of public and private morality is continuing to act in the most immoral manner.

The third question might explore what can be done by the individual who suspects that his telephone is being tapped.

1. Call the repair service (611) (from another telephone, of course) and report the suspected tap. A repairman will be sent to check the telephone itself and, also, to put a counter on the line to determine if any power is being drawn by an illegal (against phone company regulations) device. If nothing is uncovered the tap may exist at a more central location, but such a search would require the approval of the telephone company.

2. If you can offer concrete evidence of wire-tap and not merely suspicions, then your duty as a citizen (and a very outraged one at that) would be to contact Rep. Cornelius Gallagher (D-N.J.) who heads one of five congressional subcommittees involved with just such invasions of privacy. If you have a congressman, write and call him, so that he will be prepared to vote "ay" when a bill to ban such invasion is introduced.

3. Another committee is headed by Sen. Edward V. Long (D-Mo.). There is no paucity of places to register well documented complaints.

In the event that such invasion of privacy is prompted by an information search for blackmail purposes, then it becomes a problem of blackmail pure and simple -- and not a weighty problem at that. All threats of blackmail should be reported to the police immediately. If for some reason an individual is hesitant to do so, he should allow a representative of MSW to act as an initial intermediary. Especially in Washington, D.C., the police have been more than cooperative in protecting all citizens who report blackmail attempts (see "Stop Blackmailers!" in this issue).

Monitored conversations need not be commonplace or accepted as part of life. If you are having any problems in this area, feel free to contact the MSW office. Remember that it is important to report such invasion of your privacy.

FLORIDA SECTION

Recent Books

SOCIOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF HOMOSEXUALITY

by MICHAEL SCHOFIELD
(Longmans, Green & Co. Ltd., 1965, 35s.)

is one of the most important pieces of research upon this subject yet undertaken in Britain. Working under the auspices of the Home Office and Birkbeck College (University of London) Mr. Schofield studied three groups of homosexuals—the first consisting of men in prison, the second of psychiatric patients and the third of those who had neither been arrested nor had treatment—and compared them with each other and with matched non-homosexual groups. He also studied paedophiliacs in prison and compared them with the convicted homosexuals. Mr. Schofield's book is discussed for 'MAN AND SOCIETY' by

I. Eva Bene, M.A., Ph.D.*

The great value of Mr. Schofield's investigation is that it helps to clarify some of the controversial issues connected with homosexuality. The most important of these concerns the question whether or not homosexuality is an illness. The view that all homosexuals are emotionally ill is held by many psychiatrists and psychoanalysts, and is mainly based on the assumption that all homosexuals are emotionally unstable and immature. Mr. Schofield's findings indicate that homosexual men who have never consulted a psychiatrist are, with the exception of their sexual attitudes, very similar to heterosexual men of comparable age and education but have a number of characteristics differing from those of homosexuals who are psychiatric patients. Indeed, the homosexual psychiatric patients had more similarities with heterosexual patients, save for their different sexual problems.

Comparing homosexuals who have neither been convicted nor under psychiatric care with those who have, Mr. Schofield found that they were more intelligent, better educated, had better incomes, and were more frequently moving up in the social scale. They tended to enjoy their work more and to get on better with

*Author of "On the Genesis of Male Homosexuality: An Attempt at Clarifying the Role of the Parents" and "On the Genesis of Female Homosexuality", *British Journal of Psychiatry*, Vol. 111, No. 478, September, 1965.

their employers and fellow workers than any of the other homosexual or even the non-homosexual groups. They accepted their homosexual condition and arranged their lives accordingly. Many of them had homes where they could conduct homosexual activities, and so had less need to commit homosexual acts in public places than had those homosexuals who were serving sentences or were psychiatric patients. Their sexual partners tended more often to be friends and less often pick-ups than those of the other two homosexual groups. The majority of them were having, or had had in the past, affairs which had lasted for over a year, and a third of them were having affairs which had lasted for over five years. Considering the strong social pressures which act towards breaking up a prolonged intimacy between two men, this finding suggests that these homosexuals were capable of having lasting emotional relationships with their sexual partners, which, together with their good work records, speaks against the assumption that homosexuality precludes emotional maturity. It seems that psychiatrists and psychoanalysts, who only tend to see homosexuals who are unstable and immature, have made undue generalisations from their patients.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental health can be defined as the ability to live in harmony with oneself and with one's environment, and this group of homosexuals, as described by Mr. Schofield, does not seem to have much less of this ability than other people have. What disharmony there was between them and their environment seems to have originated more from the negative attitudes society adopted towards them than from their own personalities. This confirms the opinion of Freud, who said that homosexuals are often "men and women who otherwise have reached an irreproachably high standard of mental growth and development, intellectually and ethically, and are only inflicted with this one fateful peculiarity."¹

The questions discussed by Mr. Schofield also include the relationship between early homosexual experiences and later sexual development. While he found that far more homosexuals than heterosexuals had homosexual experiences in boyhood, he also found that some men who as adults were entirely heterosexual had had such experiences, while some of those who subsequently were homosexual did not. Many of the homosexuals were still on good terms with schoolfriends with whom they had had homosexual activities as boys, and felt certain that these friends had not become homosexuals. Mr. Schofield therefore concludes that early homosexual behaviour is not necessarily a prelude to adult homosexuality.

Many people believe that some homosexuals are dangerous because they are sexually interested in young boys. Mr. Schofield's

¹Sigmund Freud: *A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis*. Garden City Publishing Co. Inc., New York, 1943, p. 267.

findings show that paedophiliacs, apart from being interested in children, are more likely to be heterosexual than homosexual. Quite often they are married men. Some seem to have led quite blameless lives until they became sexually attracted to children as they became older and stopped having sexual relations with their wives. Indeed, homosexual men seem to be even less interested in young people than normal heterosexuals are. For, while the heterosexual men of Mr. Schofield's sample thought that girls were most attractive before they were 21, the homosexuals thought that the most attractive age for their partners was between 21 and 30.

CAREFUL COMPARISONS

These and Mr. Schofield's other research results will do much to clarify current notions about homosexuality. They are based on careful comparisons with suitable controls, and can be accepted with confidence.

In countering the assumption that homosexuality is a disease Mr. Schofield writes that it is not the homosexual condition as such, but the hostility of society towards it, which has an adverse effect on the personality of many homosexuals. The most frequent reason why homosexuals get into clinics and prisons is that they break down under the social pressures directed against their condition or, in reaction, they develop antisocial attitudes. But elsewhere, Mr. Schofield notes that most of the homosexuals in prison were lonely men, drifting along in a spineless way, with poor work records and histories of drunkenness and gambling, and would probably have got into prison for some other offence even if they were not homosexuals. These men would seem to have had inadequate personalities resulting from unfavourable experiences in childhood which stunted their development; and while it may be that social pressures precipitated their offence their early background obviously made it more likely that they would encounter trouble.

Again, when investigating the home background of homosexual psychiatric patients, Mr. Schofield found that three-quarters of them—a much higher proportion than in the "well-adjusted" homosexual group—came from fatherless homes or had had bad relations with ineffectual fathers. This is in line with what is to be expected of psychiatric patients because most of them, whether homosexual or not, come from broken homes or had unsatisfactory relations with their parents. It would therefore appear that an unfortunate childhood is likely to be the precursor of mental illness for both homosexuals and heterosexuals.

It seems that neither is homosexuality in itself a disease, as claimed by some psychiatrists, nor are the mental illnesses of homosexuals due only to social hostility; in these patients both the homosexual condition and the illness would appear most often to

originate from conflicts, stresses and emotional deprivation in childhood.

A child which does not have satisfactory relations with his parents and cannot find some sort of compensation for this lack is likely to grow up either emotionally unstable, or homosexual, or both, depending upon the kind and intensity of emotional stresses and deprivations it has suffered. This does not mean that the social hostility directed against homosexuals has no grave consequences, but only that these consequences involve pain and suffering rather than actual illness. In addition, as Mr. Schofield has pointed out, they make it difficult for the homosexual to become a well-integrated, useful member of society.

Although not everyone is likely to agree with all the inferences which Mr. Schofield draws from his research, there can be no doubt that this book contains one of the most thoroughgoing and enlightening studies of homosexuality which has so far been made.

2. Antony Grey *

Mr. Schofield's is not merely one of the most careful, scientifically-based studies of homosexuality which has yet been made; it is also most effective in exploding many of the irrational myths which cling to the subject, and in addition provides—under the impeccable auspices of the Home Office—an unequivocal endorsement of homosexual law reform.

Among the book's findings are that *the law can be the direct cause of homosexual behaviour*. Once a man comes before the courts for such an offence he is labelled and tagged; all his future behaviour will be influenced by this event, and his chances of marriage and of heterosexual adjustment are seriously prejudiced. *The law offers no solution to the problem*—it cannot prevent a man from being or becoming homosexual, and there is virtually no treatment available for homosexuals in prison (only one of the 100 men interviewed in prison was receiving any psychological treatment). *The law is capricious. The law encourages anti-social acts*. The victims of blackmail, robbery and assault are frightened to go to the police, whilst the risks attaching to private relationships make promiscuity seem preferable to some men. *The law underpins harmful social attitudes. The law may be the cause of bad police practice*: "In this report there have been allegations of entrapment, false evidence by the police, the use of agents provocateurs . . . as well as genuine mistakes by the police."

"It is one of the problems of research in prisons that so many prisoners protest that they are innocent", says Mr. Schofield. Yet if some of the things he was told by convicted men are to be believed, disquiet about the methods of some policemen would seem to be

* Secretary of the Homosexual Law Reform Society.

justified. Several of his informants were very bitter. A married man convicted of indecency in a public place (his first offence) said: "What I didn't realize is that the law is heavily weighted against the honest". Another first offender told how the police "wrote out a statement for me to sign, and when I refused because half of it was lies, they punched me in the face. When I complained to the inspector, he said it was all a person like me could expect." A man who was arrested because of a complaint by a 15-year-old boy whom he had hit after the boy threatened to accuse him of a homosexual assault if he did not give him money concluded his story by remarking: "I was the sort of person who'd have gone to help a policeman if he was in trouble. But now I wouldn't cross the road if I saw a policeman lying there in a pool of blood".

ARCHAIC SEVERITY

Eight of the 50 homosexual prisoners interviewed by Mr. Schofield were first offenders all of whom had pleaded guilty to homosexual acts committed in private with other consenting adults. Six of them had admitted to buggery, and of these one had been sentenced to 7 years, two to 5 years and the remaining three to 4 years each. Commenting on the severity of these terms of imprisonment for first offenders, Mr. Schofield points out that "once a man has agreed to make a statement, he can be led on to admit buggery without being aware that this is regarded as a much more serious crime and subject to far severer penalties". Only four of the 16 prisoners who had committed homosexual acts in public were serving sentences of more than two years. "Most people would regard a homosexual act in public as the more objectionable offence, but only those with previous convictions were serving long sentences. First offenders for this offence received shorter sentences than men whose first offence was in private with another consenting adult".

Ignorance of the law is no excuse: but such is the archaic severity of our existing laws against homosexual behaviour that it is not surprising to find many men responding to police questioning about their private lives with considerable naivete. One young man who had been sentenced to 18 months in prison for homosexual offences committed in private when he was 19 said: "I told the police everything. Why shouldn't I? I can honestly say that up to that moment, I didn't know it was against the law".

Mr. Schofield thinks that in some ways the law on importuning may be the cause of even more injustice than the law which prohibits homosexual acts between consenting adults in private. "Two statements are used time after time by policemen in importuning cases; first that the arrested man took out his penis which was erect, and second that this was seen by a young person who was upset by the sight . . . The phrases are repeated by one

policeman after another until it appears to be, almost a formula for getting a conviction for importuning". The fact that homosexual acts, but not homosexuals, are criminal is not always understood even by the police, he adds. "One of the most disquieting things found in this report is the apparent relationship between effeminate appearance and the likelihood of being arrested for importuning."

WISE OR JUST?

This research has much that is new, interesting and thought-provoking to say about paedophiliacs—who, it demonstrates, have few characteristics in common with adult-seeking homosexuals. Their emotional maladjustment is clearly more severe than that usually found among homosexuals, and indeed is regarded by most authorities as a grossly pathological condition. Yet we still treat paedophiliacs more severely than men convicted of rape, manslaughter, violent robbery or assault with a lethal weapon. Is this either wise or just? "It is difficult to feel any sympathy for a man who molests children . . . yet at times it seems as if the seriousness with which this offence is viewed is out of all proportion to its real effects. . . . It is not certain that prison is the best solution", says Mr. Schofield with studied moderation, pointing out that treatment and help would often be more rewarding in such cases than prison and disgrace. Three of the paedophiliacs he saw protested their innocence, but had nonetheless pleaded guilty. One (a schoolmaster) said: "One has as much chance of fairness in a trial of this sort as someone accused of being a witch in the times of James I."

Perhaps this is because of the exaggerated significance which many Judges still attach to a boy's first homosexual experience. No doubt this may be more psychologically harmful if it occurs with an adult than with a contemporary; but even so, in Mr. Schofield's words, "there seems to be little doubt that homosexual seduction does not have the traumatic effect that was once feared." Nearly half (43 out of 100) of his non-homosexual groups admitted to having taken part in youthful homosexual activities—twelve of them before the age of 13. Mr. Schofield deduces from this and from the early histories of his homosexual groups that "homosexual behaviour when young is neither a sign that a boy will grow up to be a homosexual, nor is the absence of such behaviour a guarantee that a boy will make a heterosexual adjustment." Yet "it is unfortunately true that sometimes a boy is given the impression that he is doomed to become a homosexual after he has been caught indulging in an act of sexual curiosity which is fairly common among boys." Places of detention, for adolescents as well as for adults, may with some justice be regarded as the most effective breeding grounds for homosexuality. Mr. Schofield found that all the men he interviewed

who had attended an approved school or borstal reported extensive homosexuality at these institutions, and usually in situations associated with bullying and violence.

MYTHS AND CONFUSIONS

Most discussions about homosexuality are bedevilled by persistent myths and confusions. Mr. Schofield singles out four basic ones. They are: failure to distinguish between the homosexual condition and homosexual acts, between homosexuality and paedophilia, or between the medical and the social aspects of the problem; and the confusions engendered in the public mind by the law, which by its classification of offences creates arbitrary distinctions that do not exist in reality whilst punishing an unrepresentative minority of homosexuals—or men who commit homosexual acts, which is not necessarily the same thing. The homosexual person's desires are psychosexual: he seeks an emotional attachment with another of his own sex, including love and close friendship, whereas the 'facultative' practitioner of homosexuality requires only physical release and may actively despise his sexual partner. Mr. Schofield thinks that whilst most homosexual acts are committed by homosexuals, it is doubtful whether most of the homosexual acts known to the police are.

On the confusions surrounding the notion of all homosexuality as a 'disease', Mr. Schofield has this to say: "If homosexuality itself is a pathological condition, then it must be one of the most common psychological disorders known. It would be an illness from which over a million men and probably as many women were suffering, and would constitute a far bigger health problem than cancer, heart conditions or any other single disease. Lindner felt that the increasingly prevalent idea of referring to homosexuality as a sickness is part of a common approach in modern society to regard nonconformity and mental illness as synonymous . . . It is certainly noticeable that most of the papers that assume that homosexuality is a medical problem are printed in Great Britain and America, where the laws against homosexual activities are most strict." It is a mistake, he adds, to seek for a single specific cause of the homosexual condition. It is more likely to be the product of a multicausal network. It may be that there are several different forms of homosexuality, with different aetiologies and therefore requiring different forms of treatment, social as well as medical.

This leads Mr. Schofield to an important if controversial examination of the social aspects of the problem. It is unrealistic, he says, for society to attempt (as it has hitherto done) to *eradicate* homosexuality; no amount of moral indignation will succeed in doing so. The alternative is to *control* or *contain* its effects, with the object of preventing the homosexual condition from leading to the deterioration of the individual in other ways. Many of the problems that beset the homosexual are created by the hostility of society towards

him, and the extreme isolation which he consequently experiences, as well as the "introverted groups" into which he sometimes retreats in face of social pressures, are destructive both for the individual and for the community.

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Because the homosexual's isolation from 'respectable' society often prevents his attainment of social integration, however much he may wish for this, one of the first constructive tasks to remedy the situation must be a community education programme using all the available techniques of modern social science in order to change social attitudes towards homosexuality and reduce what is at present an often excessive and irrational degree of hostility. "To fulminate against homosexuals in general and treat them as if they were social aliens is as unprofitable as it is invidious". Ideas about the social significance of a particular problem sometimes get badly distorted; Mr. Schofield thinks that just as witches were excessively feared in the Middle Ages because of a misjudgment of their powers, it is possibly a contemporary mistake to regard homosexuality as a serious, sordid and intractable problem. "Perhaps things would be better if we worried about it less."

In the final chapter he formulates the following theory:

"Homosexuality is a condition which in itself has only minor effects upon the development of the personality. But the attitudes, not of the homosexual, but of other people towards his condition, create a stress situation which can have a profound effect upon personality development and can lead to character deterioration of a kind which prohibits effective integration with the community.

"A proportion of homosexuals are unable to withstand the pressures from outside and become social casualties. These are the homosexuals most often found in prisons and clinics. Their difficulties may take a form not directly associated with the homosexual condition, although originally caused by the social hostility shown towards homosexuality. On the other hand the homosexuals who have learnt to contend with these social pressures can become adjusted to their condition and integrated with the community. These men are hardly ever found in prisons and clinics."

In short, we would do best to concentrate upon dealing with the distressed or maladjusted homosexuals, and leave the others alone.

It is not the least virtue of his book that Mr. Schofield even dares to suggest that the nonconformism of the homosexual may be of positive value to society:

"Every social adjustment, including every development in the arts and sciences, is sparked by a small minority of social isolates. In some people a homosexual disposition brings out a tough intellectualism that rejects many things accepted without question by the majority. The value of men who feel the need to question our old moral laws and customs is probably more necessary today than ever before, because the pressures towards conformism are greater than ever before . . . The rebel against an over-organized authority is often the distinguishing characteristic of the young homosexual. There is no need to fear these rebels for their influence is valuable, but on a small scale.

Many of them fail to survive the rebuffs, for the crowd gives an awful battering to anyone who does not conform. But homosexuals will continue to seek for self-realization. They drive against all in their society that brands them as inferior, and in so doing are often the indirect cause of reform. This assertion of the ego against the total social threat is often a lively and valuable safeguard to the freedoms of the community."

The above article has been re-printed with the kind permission of "MAN and SOCIETY", the publication of the ALBANY TRUST, London, England.

"Sociological Aspects of Homosexuality" has been published in the U.S. by Little, Brown & Company, Boston, 1965.

Italy Since the Merlin Law. Seven years ago the Merlin Law to end prostitution was passed, at the urging of Senator Teresa Merlin. Her purpose was to redeem thousands of women from the bondage of the bordello. What have been the results of the law? According to Giuseppe Grazzini, writing in *Epoca*, Milan, the result has been the opposite: prostitution has mushroomed. Before the passage of the law, police estimated that about 18,000 women were engaged in prostitution; today the estimate is 200,000.

Venereal disease has also jumped. A year after the law was passed, syphilis had increased by almost 25 percent. By 1961, the rate was highest in Europe.

—Atlas, January 1965

☐ I enclose \$10 for Membership in MSF for one year.. This fee includes a one year subscription to the VIEWPOINT newsletter, and to THE HOMOSEXUAL CITIZEN magazine.

☐ I enclose \$7 for one year's subscription to BOTH of the above publications and understand that I will be listed as a subscriber and not as a member.

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I understand that all mailing lists are kept STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL and that all mail addressed to me will be delivered in a plain envelope, sent by First Class mail. I understand and sympathize with the aims and purposes of the Mattachine Society of Florida, Inc. and I am over 21 years of age.

(Name or Pseudonym) _____

(Mailing Address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip Code) _____

(Date) _____ (Signature) _____

HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATIONS

This listing includes American and Canadian homophile organizations of all types and emphases. For information on activities, publications, and membership contact the organization directly.

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| <p>Association for Responsible
Citizenship
P.O. Box 895
Sacramento, California 95814</p> <p>Citizens News
P.O. Box 792
San Francisco, California 94101</p> <p>Council on Religion & the
Homosexual
330 Ellis Street
San Francisco, California 94102</p> <p>Daughters of Bilitis
3470 Mission Street
San Francisco, California 94110</p> <p>Chicago Chapter
P.O. Box 4497
Chicago, Illinois 60680</p> <p>New York Chapter
P.O. Box 3629
Grand Central Station
New York, New York 10017</p> <p>Demophil Center
15 Lindall Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02114</p> <p>Dionysus
P.O. Box 804
Huntington Beach, Calif. 92648</p> <p>Homosexual Voter's Advisory
Service
P.O. Box 5131, Terminal Annex
Station
Denver, Colorado 80217</p> <p>The Janus Society of America
34 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103</p> <p>Mattachine Midwest
4753 Broadway
Chicago, Illinois 60640</p> <p>Mattachine Society, Inc.
693 Mission Street
San Francisco, California 94105</p> <p>Mattachine Society of Florida,
Inc.
P.O. Box 301
Miami, Florida 33101</p> | <p>Mattachine Society, Inc. of
New York
1133 Broadway - Suite 410
New York, New York 10010</p> <p>The Mattachine Society of
Washington
P.O. Box 1032
Washington, D.C. 20013</p> <p>National League for Social
Understanding
9201 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, California</p> <p>One, Inc.
2256 Venice Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90006</p> <p>The Phoenix
P.O. Box 1191
Kansas City, Missouri 64141</p> <p>Society for Individual Rights
83 Sixth Street
San Francisco, California 94103</p> <p>Tangents
3473½ Cahuenga Boulevard
Hollywood, California 90028</p> <p>Washington Area Council on
Religion and the Homosexual
P.O. Box 5618
Washington, D.C. 20016</p> <p>Association for Social
Knowledge
P.O. Box 4277
Vancouver 9, British Columbia,
CANADA</p> <p>Canadian Council on Religion &
the Homosexual
P.O. Box 741, Station B
Ottawa 4,
CANADA</p> <p>Gay Publishing Company
980 Queen Street, East
Toronto, Ontario,
CANADA</p> <p>Two
292 Young Street
Toronto, Ontario,
CANADA</p> |
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