

LGBT History Project of the LGBT Center of Central PA

**Located at Dickinson College
Archives & Special Collections**

<http://archives.dickinson.edu/>

Documents Online

Title: Letter from “Tom” to Robert Rains, Esquire Justice Department

Date: September 7, 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

LGBT History Project
Archives & Special Collections
Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu

tom wilson

1934 Delancey Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
September 7, 1976

Robert Rains, Esquire
Justice Department
Capitol Annex
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Bob,

I have explored the question of funding for the Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities with Bill Taylor who works on grants and funding for the American Friends Service Committee. After consulting with others Mr. Taylor has concluded that there would be no real legal problems with a foundation giving money to a council appointed by a governor of a state. He cites the South Carolina Council on Human Relations as an example of a similar body which has received foundation support.

Any grants for which we apply would have to be used for educational purposes as opposed to lobbying. Foundations, of course, cannot involve themselves in political issues and maintain their tax exemptions. Our education program could be directed at legislators, among others, but could not deal with specific legislation.

I would appreciate knowing whether or not you agree with the above. In a recent letter Tony Silvestre indicated to me that you had doubts about the legality of seeking foundation money for the Council.

I'll continue exploring this question with others, prior to next Friday's meeting of the full Council, and would really appreciate any light you can shed on it before that time. Please respond to my home address (above) or give me a call at (215) KI5-5110. Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

Tom

cc: Helmuth Baerwald } Finance Committee Members
Joseph Burns
Tony Silvestre