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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES
238 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

BULLETIN...BULLETIN...BULLETIN...BULLETIN...BULLETIN...BULLETIN

TO: All Council and Committee members

FROM: Tony Silvestre

DATE: April 19, 1977

1. Communications among Committee people and Council members are certainly limited because of the constraints on all of our time especially at Council meetings.

In an attempt to increase communications, I will send out a bulletin every few weeks with information that all of us should know about.

If you wish to share information with Council and Committee members, please write to me and the information will be included.

2. Attached please find a letter sent to Jay Snyder and supplied to me by a friendly "informed source". This letter is only one of a number of supportive letters and statements, about Jay's work on individual complaints in Welfare.

3. Randy Forrester and Judy Block organized a very successful news conference in Pittsburgh on Senate Bill 83.

P.S.S.U., A.C.L.U., N.O.W., the Pittsburgh Gay Political Caucus and the New American Movement participated. The conference was

covered by three TV stations, the two major radio stations, one daily newspaper and an AP wire service representative. The conference was reported throughout rural western and central Pennsylvania.

Successful conferences were also held in Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

The Pennsylvania Rural Caucus including Joe Burns, Jan Sweat, Mary NanCarrow, and Bob Woods were active in organizing rural Pennsylvania coverage.

4. For many months, I have been sending congratulatory letters to gays and others. Letters have been sent to:

- 1) The Rural Gay Caucus on their work on S.B. 83;
- 2) Spencer Coxe on his resignation as Pennsylvania Executive Director of the A.C.L.U.;
- 3) Midge Costanza on her appointment as a White House Aide;
- 4) Bruce Voeller and Jean O'Leary for arranging the White House meeting;
- 5) The Portland Town Council on the publication of their legislative guide;
- 6) Thomas Schmidt, Esquire, Harrisburg A.C.L.U., for support in gay-related cases;
- 7) Bill Bua for the social for Council members after our State College meeting;
- 8) Eloise Snyder for speaking at our State College meeting;

- 9) Allen Roskoff an open gay appointed to the Comptroller's office in New York;
- 10) Robert Livingston an open gay appointed by Beame to the New York City Human Relations Committee;
- 11) MCC Pittsburgh on the occasion of their chartering;
- 12) Ellen Barrett an open lesbian ordained as an Episcopal priest; and
- 13) A letter was also sent to the President of Temple, Marvin Wachman, by the Governor suggesting that Wachman support the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Temple Affirmative Action policy. Wachman, of course, decided to do just that.

5. A Correction's guard has offered us information on the conditions of lesbians in the State Correction system. Her information is being taped and will be transcribed for the Correction Committee with a summary for distribution to all Council and Committee members.

6. Our Annual Report will be public in a few weeks. I expect to have NBC national wire and audio service cover the report. A list of all Council members will be sent over the wire. Please let me know if you are approached by the media.

7. Tom Wiestling is trying to inform and organize gay supporting union members to pressure their unions. We need contacts in unions. If you know anyone willing to work on changing their union contracts to include sexual and affectional orientation, please call Tom.

8. A gay teacher has been fired in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. A judge ruled that as a lesbian, she is immoral and unfit to teach. I have written to the heads of P.S.E.A. and N.F.T. asking for a meeting to discuss protection in their contracts for gay teachers.

9. Our next Council meeting is May 4, 1977, at the Human Relations Commission in Harrisburg at 1:30.

10. The Lesbian Connection, Vector, Newswest, the Advocate, Coming Out Tonight, and other publications have been added to our press release list.

11. Barry Kohn no longer works for the Commonwealth. The Council can continue working with the Community Advocate Unit, however.

I guess we can now expect Barry to work more than ever for the movement.

Barry and Jonathan Smith-Cousins deserve much credit for their hours of work which led to the sponsorship of S.B. 531 (our rape and repeal bill) by eight senators.

12. Jeanne Boydston has been accepted as a graduate student by both Brown and Yale Universities. Yale offered a graduate assistantship.

13. Dr. Kenneth George, newly appointed to our Council by the Governor, is published regularly in Gay Life, the resurrected Philadelphia Gaysette.

14. Mark Segal has received a plaque from the North Eastern Pennsylvania Gay Alliance for his work in helping that group form.

15. Marie Keeney has written me with the news that Jean O'Leary of the National Gay Task Force has been appointed by Carter to the International Women's Year Commission.

16. Please remember to send "news" items to Tony for inclusion in this bulletin.

TS:km
Attachments

Mr. Jay Snyder
Director of Social Services
and Program Management
Department of Public Welfare
Room 422
Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Snyder,

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your support in the recent action taken on my case. Although, I am not precisely aware of what actions were taken, I am aware of the unusualness of a Fair Hearing to be cancelled from within. More tangibly, I realized your support through your willingness to listen to my position, your referral to Mr. Mat Marsiglia, and your follow-up phone call. Mr. Marsiglia's ability to interpret the legal assumptions and explanations were gratefully appreciated.

It is very reassuring, that when living within a complex society such as ours', that Pennsylvania has established a means of personal assistance in communication. My initial contact with Mrs. Lisa White, a member of the Governor's Council For Sexual Minorities, served as my introduction to effective communication within the government. Her interest and support and never-ending patience in dealing with my anxieties in conjunction with her contacts with you has increased my awareness of the Governor's interest to reach his constituents. For and to each member of the Governor's liaison I express my deepest gratitude.

I have been informed that the Coatesville office will be in contact with me as to the restitution that will be made by Friday, March 25, 1977. I was so appreciative of the cancellation of the Hearing and seeming settlement that I wished to send this off less it get lost amid term papers.

Again, my earnest appreciation for the efforts of all involved and to the state of Pennsylvania for having such a supportive network of communication and personal interest.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.)

cc:

Nolan's leadership challenged

Support dwindling in Senate

By William Ecenbarger
Inquirer Harrisburg Bureau

HARRISBURG — A group of Senate Democrats, dissatisfied with the conduct of Majority Leader Thomas N. Nolan (D., Pittsburgh), has warned him to change or face ouster from his leadership post.

The dissidents made the point last week in closed-door Democratic caucuses, where Nolan was dealt two personal defeats on procedural questions.

"At this point, we're just telling him that his deodorant isn't working," said one of the rebellious Democrats. "But if we don't see substantial improvement over the next few months, there will be an attempt to remove him from the leadership."

About half of the 30 Senate Democrats are involved in the move against Nolan. Several of the participants agreed to discuss their dissatisfaction with him on the condition that their names not be used.

The basic complaint is that Nolan's leadership is, at various times, non-existent, meandering or despotic, and is seldom productive. During the first three months of the 1977 session, the Senate did not enact a single major bill.

The dissidents also question Nolan's refusal to disclose details of Senate expenditures on out-of-state trips and on food and liquor in Harrisburg restaurants. Many senators felt public backlash from the controversy, and thought that they were being blamed unfairly for Nolan's action.

They also complain that Nolan spends inordinate amounts of time and energy on relatively minor issues while ignoring the larger ones. In this respect, they point out that Nolan's major effort over the past three years has been on behalf of legislation that would ban homosexuals from certain state jobs.

A liability

In addition, they believe that his actions have reflected poorly on all Senate Democrats, and that he is, as a result, a political liability. There are special elections on May 17 for three vacant Senate seats, and in each district the Republican candidate is campaigning on an anti-Nolan plank.

Nolan's control of the Democratic caucus has been tenuous since he was chosen floor leader by his colleagues three years ago by a margin of one vote after five deadlocked ballots. His opponents, chiefly liberals and midstate independents, have chafed under his leadership, which they consider crude and out of step with modern government.

The initial focus of last week's infighting was Nolan's proposal to extend the 6 percent state sales tax to advertising, with the proceeds earmarked for senior citizens. Because of his feud with the news media over the Senate expenditure, the measure was dubbed "Nolan's Revenge."

The original bill was referred to the Senate Local Government Committee, where it was killed by Chairman H. Craig Lewis (D., Philadelphia-Bucks) who said it violated the constitutional requirement that all tax bills originate in the House.

Nolan then offered an identical bill and steered it into the friendly hands of the State Government Committee, which is headed by Sen. Joseph Smith (D., Philadelphia), Nolan's
(See NOLAN on 9-B)



Sen. Thomas N. Nolan
... a deodorant warning

Sen. Nolan shaken by party revolt

NOLAN, From 1-B

subcommittee in Harrisburg. Smith quickly sent the bill to the floor.

The dissidents perceived the situation as an opportunity for a showdown with Nolan, and at last Monday's Democratic caucus Lewis announced that he would request a floor vote on the bill's constitutionality. The battle lines were drawn when Nolan countered by asking that the bill be sent back to committee for public hearings.

Joining Lewis in speaking against Nolan's bill were Democratic Sen. Eugene F. Scanlon (Allegheny), Michael A. O'Pake (Perry), Franklin Kury (Northumberland), W. Louis Coppersmith (Cambria), Robert J. Mellow (Lackawanna) and several others.

After an hour of volatile debate, it became clear that sentiment was overwhelming for killing the bill on constitutional grounds. On Tuesday, Nolan was pressured into joining the other 43 senators on the floor in sending his own bill to the legislative guillotine. Nolan even made the motion to reject the measure.

A second, more violent confrontation occurred in Tuesday's closed-down caucus over three Nolan bills that would revise property assessment policies in his home county of Allegheny.

Again the bills were steered by Nolan to Smith's State Government Committee instead of to their logical destination, Lewis' Local Government Committee. Again, they emerged unscathed for floor action.

The anti-Nolan forces saw this as another example of "arbitrary, one-man leadership," as one dissident said, and in Tuesday's caucus they proposed that Nolan's three-bill package be sent to Lewis' committee.

The ensuing two hours, in the words of one participant, "made Monday's caucus look like a Boy Scout picnic."

"Nolan went bananas when we told him what we were trying to do," one senator said. "It got very vicious and very personal."

Participants said that the debate was punctuated by epithets, threats and denunciations by Nolan. The dissidents aired their complaints about Nolan's leadership to his face.

Finally, Nolan contended that it was the prerogative of the floor leader to assign bills to any committee he wanted, and he asked for defeat of the recommittal motion as "a personal favor to me." He asked for a show of hands from the caucus.

Fewer than half of the Democratic senators supported Nolan by raising their hands. The remainder, plus the 17 Republicans caucusing elsewhere in the Capitol, were more than enough to carry the motion.

At least three senators said that Nolan was "visibly shaken" by the outcome. Later that day, his three bills were assigned to Lewis' commit-