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Title: Governor's Council for Sexual Minorities Meeting Minutes

Date: February 4, 1977

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

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COUNCIL FOR SEXUAL MINORITIES

Minutes - February 4, 1977

Present: Walter Lear, Bob Rains, Tom Wilson, Janet Cooper, Sam Deetz, David March, Jay Snyder, Jonathan Smith-Cousins, Tony Silvestre, Marilyn Hewitt, Lisa White, Jeanne Boydston

1. The agenda was approved.
2. Dr. Eloise Snyder was the featured speaker and spoke about "The Androgynous Society".
3. Tony Silvestre gave the chairperson's report which included the following:
 - a) The Steering Committee met with the Attorney General about Council concerns.
 - b) Lisa White has been speaking to the Department of Health regarding payment for transsexual operations. She is obtaining similar regulations in effect in New York. The Special Minority Concerns Task Force will follow up on this issue.
 - c) The issue of child custody cases was assigned to the Welfare Committee.
 - d) Tony Carozza was introduced. He had been fired as a dorm resident assistant by Penn State but was rehired after pressure from HOPS.

OVER

4. Legislation Report - Ken Burke

Ken reviewed the present status of legislation to repeal Pennsylvania's Voluntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse statute. The bill is expected to be introduced in early March. We need coordinators for suburban Philadelphia and suburban Pittsburgh.

Senate Bill 83 which prohibits homosexuals from being hired for specific state jobs was reviewed by Barry Kohn. People were urged to write letters to their Senators.

5. Recommendations for Annual Report to Governor.

The Annual Report is in final stages. We reviewed the recommendations and changes were suggested and voted upon. The final recommendations adopted are attached to these minutes.

6. Department of Education - Jeanne Boydston

Jeanne stated that a draft of a Department brochure on homosexuality is available for review. She asked for comments by February 18, 1977.

7. It was announced that the Department of Welfare, Health and the Office of Administration would be issuing statements opposed to Senate Bill 83.

8. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 28, 1977, Human Relations Conference Room, Harrisburg, at 1:30 p.m.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 1977

1. The highest legislative priority should be given to repeal of the Voluntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse section of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code. This law is the most discriminatory law against sexual minorities in Pennsylvania, both in its language and in enforcement.
2. Departments, councils, agencies, and bureaus in the Commonwealth should work with the Council for Sexual Minorities to establish programs for state employee training on the concerns of sexual minorities. All such programs should be coordinated with the Office of Administration. The Governor should urge departments, councils, bureaus, and agencies to comply with this recommendation.
3. Consistent with the personnel rules, sexual minorities should not be discriminated against in employment; recruitment programs should actively seek out members of sexual minorities. In particular, open members of sexual minorities who are qualified should be recruited and hired for jobs at all levels. These efforts are most important for key commonwealth jobs (top-level positions, Affirmative Actions Officers, and others) which influence the lives of sexual minorities. A criteria in hiring all key commonwealth personnel should be sensitivity to sexual minority issues.
4. All departments, councils, bureaus, and agencies in the Commonwealth should insure that Commonwealth contracts (including collective bargaining agreements) include consistent wording prohibiting discrimination against sexual minorities.
5. All departments, councils, bureaus, and agencies should review their service programs and assess their availability to members of sexual minorities and work towards maximizing their availability.
6. The Pennsylvania Council for Sexual Minorities should receive an office, administrative help, and paid travel expenses for committee members who are not Council members for attendance at official Council and committee meetings. State employees should be given part-time assignments to work as Council technical staff.