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Title: *PA Rural Gay Caucus Legislation Report*

Date: May 25, 1976

Location: LGBT-001 Joseph W. Burns Collection

Contact:

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DATE: May 25, 1976

SUBJECT: Legislation Report

TO: Members of the Legislation Committee & interested parties

FROM: Mark Segal, convener

The following information was compiled from discussions with Barry Cozy, legislation aide to the Governor, and Bob Kagan assistant to the Speaker of the House.

SENATE Bill #743 remains in the House Labor Relations committee. It seems the bill is dead, but if its Sponsor Senator Nolan decides to push it he can do so by holding up House Legislation in the Senate until the House moves on his bill. He has been known in the past to do this. Our best position is to leave sleeping dogs lie. Do not lobby on Senate Bill #743.

HEARINGS: Instead of hearings on Senate Bill #743 we should use our efforts to push for hearings on House Bill #2220. This of course is a positive bill, and could result in positive coverage by the media, and as we all know educating the public is half of our battle. In order to gain public hearings on 2220 I suggest that we start a letter writing campaign to

Rep. W.W. Wilt: Last week House Representative (the number 1 homophobe in the State Legislature) tried once again to have his amendment, which would result in hiring practices by the State Government that would be discriminatory towards gays attached to a peice of legislation to amend the Administration Code. He was overuled by the Speaker of the House. He then tried to introduce a similar amendment and again was overuled. What this means to us is a victory. He now has exceeded the allowed number of times any one amendment can be introduced in one year. Mr. Wilt is out for this year.

REPEAL EFFORT

Senator Lewis G. Hill is backing out as the sponsor for the repeal of the "voluntary deviate sexual intercourse" bill. He is doing so after taking a poll of his committee, and the Senate itself. In his committee the vote was; 5 would vote for the measure, 4 against, 3 maybe, and 2 undecided. The poll he took of the Senate revealed the following; 19 would vote against, 7 for, the other members of the Senate did not answer. Hill feels that the bill would not pass, and therefore will not introduce a dead issue.

Monday morning May 24th I spoke with Hill's aide Ken Neely who explained that Hill had made his decision that morning from the results received from his poll. Keely suggested that we set up another meeting between Hill and Spencer Cox (Director ACLU of Phila.), and Tony Silvestre. He stated that Hill was very impressed with these two figures after meeting with them several weeks earlier. I call both Tony and Spencer, who agreed to meet again with Hill. I also call Barry Cozzy (Governor's Legislation aide) and asked if he would be willing to attend the meeting representing the Governor, and explaining to Hill that the Governor would support this measure. He agreed. I then called Hill's office to set up the appointment. I was told that I would be called back Tuesday on this matter.

Tuesday Morning May 25th at 10:00am Senator Hill personally called to explain that he would not sponsor the bill. He suggested that I ask the Senators who had agreed to co-sponsor if they would be the main sponsor. He would not set up an appointment, and would not commit himself to be a co-sponsor if we are able to find another sponsor. He did agree to get the bill out of committee, if it goes to his committee once introduced.

Senator H. Craig Lewis will now consider taking the post as the prime sponsor. I spoke with him by phone Tuesday May 25th, and we have set up a meeting in his office for Next Wed. June 2nd. A memo will be sent out to all council members on June 3rd regarding the results of this meeting.

Our poll of the Senate is coming along slowly. Pittsburg, and Philadelphia are about half way through their large lists. We have not received anything from Reading, Lancaster, Allentown, Northumberland, or Edinboro. I hope to see these reports soon.

Next meeting of the Legislation Committee will be held in Philadelphia on Saturday June 5, 1976 at 1:00pm at Dignity House 250 South 12th Street.