

GAY ALLIANCE TOWARDS EQUALITY

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VANCOUVER 8 B.C. 681-4760

July 24, 1973

Rt. Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau
Prime Minister
Ottawa, Ont. K1A 0A2

Mr. Prime Minister:

We wish to protest the total operation of the Security Planning and Research Group. This is in regard to the information tabled by you in the House of Commons on July 11th in response to the questions on security posed by Eric Nielsen (PC-Yukon). In the first instance, we find it totally unacceptable and misleading that in a democratic society the citing of public interest or national security can be used as an excuse to withhold the scope of the operations of this secret agency from the public. As the recent Water-gate hearing in the United States demonstrates so eloquently, ordinary citizens have every right to be suspicious and apprehensive about such threats to their fundamental civil liberties and rights of privacy.

In particular, we find it repugnant and insulting that "suspected homosexuality" should be employed as a means of perpetuating discriminatory practices and denying gay people the same employment considerations as heterosexual citizens in the federal Public Service. It had been our understanding that, according to J. J. Carson, Chairman, Public Service Commission (Ottawa), there is no absolute bar to the employment of homosexuals in the federal Public Service, and that employees found to be homosexual are not normally released from employment or barred from promotion; in fact, that individual cases are treated on their own merits. This, however, is not the case.

Your absurd attitude is consistent with the illogical reasoning of Paragraph 100 of the Report of the Royal Commission on Security, which subverts the very intention of the Commission, itself, in that it states that homosexuals are supposedly special targets for attention from foreign intelligence services due to the threat of dismissal from employment.

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The effect of Paragraph 100, which recommends that homosexuals should not normally be granted clearances to higher levels, is to force homosexuals into a furtive situation, thereby becoming more susceptible to coercion. The fact is that gay people make as great a contribution to society as heterosexuals.

We demand, therefore, that this practice of government-- which is nothing less than the enforcement of social prejudice directed against a minority group--cease. This can only be done by the admission of homosexuals to all areas of the federal Public Service.

We remain,

Yours very truly

Maurice J. Flood

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Chairperson F-420

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