

SUGGESTED DRAFT REPLY

August , 1977

Ms. Sally Bennett,
Special Assistant to
The Honourable Ron Basford,
Justice Building - Room 356,
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1A 0H8

Dear Ms. Bennett:

In your letter of June 13, 1977, you have asked for the comments of this department on a letter addressed to the Honourable Justice Minister Ron Basford, dated May 21, 1977, concerning the employment of homosexuals in the Canadian Forces.

On a general note, I am enclosing a copy of a letter sent by Mr. Danson in response to a similar inquiry, which may be of some assistance to Mr. Basford in replying to his constituent. You will note that the letter reflects the rationale behind our policy as enunciated by Mr. Nixon with which Mr. Basford is familiar and with which, I believe, he agrees.

I should note that while Pte. Thornborrow was released from the Canadian Forces compulsorily by reason of her being an admitted homosexual, she had applied for her release on a voluntary basis to take effect in six months, or sooner if she found employment. Even if she hadn't so applied, she would have been released once it was known she was a homosexual. Parenthetically, I would add that, generally speaking, when

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persons are released compulsorily on an honourable basis
(as in the case of homosexuals not convicted of criminal acts),
they can be entitled to greater release benefits than if they
are released at their own request.

Yours sincerely,

M.G. Cloutier
Executive Assistant

Enclosure

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