

c.c. Mr. Pitfield✓ Mr. Massé
Mr. Robertson Mr. Flemming
Mr. Teschke Mr. Gualtieri
Mr. Marchand (2) Ms. L.M. MacDonald
Mr. Coutts PCO File
Miss Macdonald PMO File

LMMacD/SC

January 27, 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

REPLY TO MR. GARMAISE OF THE
NATIONAL GAY RIGHTS COALITION

Mr. David Garmaise of the Coordinating Office, National Gay Rights Coalition, wrote to you on August 23, 1977 on the issue of employment of homosexuals in the public service. The lengthy delay in response was due to the large number of departments which had to be consulted, and the lack of a definitive government policy in this area. We have coordinated this response with Treasury Board, the Public Service Commission, External Affairs, Defence, Justice, Solicitor-General, as well as the Security and Defence Secretariats in PCO, Shirley Popham, and Brian Flemming in your office.

Your office (Brian Flemming) advises that you not send any reply to Mr. Garmaise since the topic is so sensitive as to provoke undesirable public reaction regardless of the substance. We do not agree with this assessment and believe that the proposed reply is both fair and justifiable.

Your reply to Mr. Garmaise does not respond to some specific questions, such as the request for definitions of "Federal Government", "Departments", "Agencies", "Crown Corporations", and "Civil Service". Mr. Garmaise is referred instead to the Financial Administration Act for this information. The status of the R.C.M. Police and the Department of National Defence is, however, clarified.

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The remainder of your reply reviews Mr. Basford's appearance before the Justice and Legal Affairs Committee during discussion of the Human Rights Bill, and outlines the security problems that the government faces with respect to the employment of homosexuals in highly sensitive positions. In addition the special problems of the Armed Forces are touched upon briefly.

Your reply assures Mr. Garmaise of the government's concern to eliminate prejudiced attitudes within the public service toward homosexuals, but also points out that this will be a slow process.

Original Signed
de MONTIGNY MARCHAND

L.M. MacDonald/sc

de Montigny Marchand

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