

January 5, 1977

RE: DRAFT MEMORANDUM: HOMOSEXUALITY, THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND NATIONAL  
SECURITY

---

COMMENTS:

- (1) Page 2, para. 2, If the goal must be to arrive at policy and practices that will be acceptable to most Canadians, then simply bar homosexuals from employment.
- (2) Page 2, para. 2, The implication that homosexuals could not be permitted to become prominent civil servants and/or be required to represent Canada begs the question at issue since no organization with which I am familiar, places people "ostentatiously different from the norm in their sexual or other behaviour" in positions of responsibility, ~~period~~. The author implies what he later rejects, i.e., that "few, if any categorical statements can be made validly about homosexual activity", by citing behaviour "ostentatiously different ...". Certainly, we do not want our ambassadors wearing lipstick and rouge, at least not abroad. On the other hand, what are we to think of an ambassadress who does not wear lipstick or rouge? The point is that promotion to positions of prominence normally follow "rites of passage" in which ample time exists to evaluate character and proper briefing. I imagine that there are as many well-bred homosexuals per capita as there are well-bred heterosexuals per capita.

In general, and in view of comments in the latter part of the draft respecting the acute lack of knowledge, we have about the condition of homosexuality, I believe each case must be considered on its merits. With the case being made (often by the gay liberation groups) that homosexuality is not a disease, I see no need for a specific policy. I would agree, however, that covert homosexuals not be granted access to secret or top secret information.

S  
E  
C  
R  
E  
T

X

X

X

S  
E  
C  
R  
E  
T

January 5, 1977

RE: DRAFT MEMORANDUM: HOMOSEXUALITY, THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND NATIONAL  
SECURITY

---

COMMENTS:

My only comment is that the author makes the mistake of accepting the terminology of the homosexuals in describing themselves (e.g., "sexual orientation") This is a euphemism used to infer that there exists a "third sex". It is the same error people make when writing about terrorists in prison and calling them "political prisoners" - each time such terms are used, and especially in official documents, their thesis is reinforced. The whole document should be very carefully reviewed to ensure any terms of this nature are excised.

SECRET

X

January 5, 1977

RE: DRAFT MEMORANDUM: HOMOSEXUALITY, THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

COMMENTS:

1. As it is at present, there is no distinct line between overt and covert homosexuals in hiring and/or security clearance procedures. Covert homosexuals are security risks in that they are subject to blackmail and coercion. Over homosexuals are suspect by association, as their "boy friends" may well be covert and subject to pressure tactics.
2. In spite of changing social mores, the granting of a security (S or TS) clearance should not be treated lightly. Homosexuality, which includes lesbianism, lends itself to suspicion, and nay doubts must favour the good of the establishment.

SECRET