

APPENDIX "27"



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1P 371-9

Room 212, North Wing,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Toronto 182, Ontario.

January 24, 1973.

Mr. Warren Allmand,  
Solicitor-General,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Warren:

Little did I realize when I worked for Giff Gifford in 1965 that you would some day be in the Cabinet. Congratulations on your appointment and on the effective way you have worked as a backbencher, even if I do rather wish the government had a different political stripe!

I am writing now about a concern which arose before the election, when I had a meeting with a group of homosexuals called Gays of Ottawa. They are naturally concerned about the government treatment of homosexuals, particularly as regards employment and promotion in the Public Service. Their experience is that homosexuals still suffer discrimination, despite the legalization of homosexual acts between consenting adults in the 1969 Criminal Code Amendments.

The clearest exposition of policy towards homosexuals appears to lie in the Royal Commission on Security Report, paragraph 100. It suggests that the government treatment of homosexuals should depend on the individual's circumstances, but generally recommends against high security clearances or entry into career lines that may lead to a high security clearance being required.

Could you tell me what is the present policy in your Department as regards security clearance for homosexuals. Does it differ from the treatment of persons involved in "illicit sexual behaviour", which I presume probably refers to extra-marital affairs, and if so, in what way? Is there evidence that a significant number of espionage cases in Canada have involved homosexuality, and if so, has that tended to change with changing attitudes towards homosexuality in recent years?

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To continue this line of questioning, can you tell me whether homosexuals are now barred from higher security levels simply on the grounds of their homosexuality, and if so up to what level they can expect to go. If a person above this level were found to be homosexual, would he then be transferred or denied security clearance because of his sexual tendencies?

Finally, is it a policy of the RCMP to identify and survey all homosexuals in Ottawa or elsewhere in Canada, or even to survey selected groups of homosexuals in hopes of identifying people who may be working in positions of high security?

As you know, the homosexuals who have banded together in groups like the one I met have deliberately taken the stand that they should not hide their homosexuality, even though they may also not flaunt it. I believe one of the reasons that homosexuals have been identified as security risks is the fact that they feared dismissal on the grounds of their homosexuality, and therefore were subject to blackmail by a spy who learned of their tendency. Obviously, if assured that his homosexuality will not affect his employment security, a homosexual will thereby become far less open to blackmail from someone who threatens to expose his sexual tendency.

You or your predecessor may already have spelled out policy of the Solicitor-General's department in replying to a direct representation by one of the groups of homosexuals that now exists in Canada. If that is the case, I should be happy to see your reply. The Ottawa group obviously hoped, however, that an MPP's letter might get more attention than one sent directly, so I would appreciate it if you would try to spell out the policy.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

*Mike Cassidy*

Michael Cassidy, MPP,  
Ottawa Centre.

MC:rmw  
opeiu:343

OTTAWA K1A 0P8.  
February 5, 1973.

Mr. Michael Cassidy, M.P.P.,  
Ontario Legislative Assembly,  
Room 212, North Wing,  
Parliament Buildings,  
Toronto 182, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Cassidy:

On behalf of the Solicitor General, the Honourable  
Warren Allmand, I would like to acknowledge receipt  
and thank you for your letter of January 24, 1973,  
in which you ask the Solicitor General what his  
Department's policy is with regard to homosexuals.

The Solicitor General has asked the officials of his  
department for a report on this matter. When it is  
available, he will reply to you directly.

Yours very truly,

ZAVIE LEVINE  
Executive Assistant

Zavie Levine,  
Executive Assistant.

ZL/cc

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