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By JH NARA Date 3/17/18

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JUN 23 1950

TO: U - Mr. Webb  
FROM: A - Carlisle H. Humelsine  
SUBJECT: Problem of Homosexuals and Sex Perverts in the  
Department of State.

Homosexuality, which is sexual attraction to a person of the same sex, is as old as the history of mankind. From time immemorial all races of man have had to deal with the subject. Some have condoned it and some have condemned it. Studies have been made which purport to relate the strong rise of homosexuality with the accompanying decline of the Egyptian, Greek and Roman Empires. Some experts hold that where the mores of a people have condoned homosexuality through apathy, the vigor and virility of that people have been emasculated, and that where the homosexuality of an individual has been established in a society where modesty demands concealment, the position of that individual has been weakened psychologically and sociologically.

Many of the men who have studied homosexuality tell us that homosexuals are neurotic, characterized by emotional instability, that they represent a type of regression to man's primitive instincts and that they live a life of flight from their inversion and of fear of detection. They are content and at ease only when surrounded with other homosexuals. They meet at known homosexual gathering places, seek each other in cocktail lounges and public parks, and rarely live with anyone other than another homosexual. They come from all walks of life and all strata of society. They often disassociate themselves with their early childhood and family connections and endeavor to build a pseudo-cultural background around them. Many of them develop strong hate fixations which often colors and affects their thinking and behavior. These fixations may be on the mother, father, a brother or sister, or on all members of the opposite sex.

Until very recent years the Department of State, as well as the several agencies of the Federal Government, tolerated homosexuals in its employment solely because not much was known about them or who they were. Occasionally when one was found he was dismissed or reassigned, depending upon the circumstances surrounding the individual case. It was the type of problem that most officers of the Federal Government, not conversant in the subject, would rather not consider. It therefore was allowed to exist and to grow.

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It was not until January 1947 when Mr. Peurifoy became Assistant Secretary for Administration that the problem of homosexuality in the Department of State was dealt with in a direct and forthright manner. It came about through the investigation of a homosexual which lead our investigators to other homosexuals in the Department, which in turn enabled investigators to discover still others on the Department rolls. With this knowledge it was determined that there probably were a number of such people on the rolls. Since Civil Service rules preclude the appointment of anyone who is guilty of "criminal, infamous, dishonest, immoral or notoriously disgraceful conduct", the Department concluded that it was within its power to separate an individual who was found through investigation to be homosexual. The same reasoning was adopted with respect to the Foreign Service.

*Suggests  
channel*

Our investigations and studies of the subject revealed that homosexuals are, generally speaking, undesirable as employees for a number of reasons: (1) They create a morale problem, i.e., most men who are considered by the majority of us to be normal desire not to work or associate with homosexuals; (2) They are emotionally unstable, i.e., many of them have told our investigators of the inexorable pain and humiliation they would suffer if exposed to family and friends, and some have even threatened suicide; (3) Usually they live in a world all to themselves associating and consorting with other homosexuals; (4) They indulge in acts of perversion which are legion and which are abhorrent and repugnant to the folkways and mores of our American society; (5) They are immoral in their sexual behavior seeking sexual gratification from one person one night and from another person the next in a paltry and endless gesture at a happiness they never realize.

Why homosexuals have been employed in the Department of State is a question in which we have been profoundly interested. It has been found that many of them leave their family and childhood surroundings in an attempt to create a pseudo-cultural background around them. Many of them are therefore attracted to the Department of State because of its cultural atmosphere and attainments, both in the Department and the Foreign Service. We have found that most of those discovered in the Department hope for a career in the Foreign Service. Many of them have told our investigators that they believe the chances of detection in a foreign country are far less than in this country. It is known that some of them attract other homosexual friends into the service. We are aware of this possibility and do our best to prevent it.

The Department determines whether a person is a homosexual or sex pervert through the media of investigation. There are two investigators on the staff of the Security Division who devote full

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time to the detection of such individuals and the study of the problem. There are several cases under consideration at the moment. When information or evidence is received that an employee is suspected of being a homosexual, an investigation is assigned to one of these two investigators. A thorough and comprehensive inquiry into the matter is made to ascertain all the facts in the case, bearing in mind the peculiar susceptibility of such cases to possible malicious charges. The investigation entails inquiries at all places of employment, all residences and habitats. The investigation also attempts to determine with whom the person associates and whether any of his friends or associates is homosexual. All available records, including school, credit, police and other investigative agency records are checked. All character references and other people who may know the subject of the investigation are interviewed personally. If the circumstances warrant it, he may be placed under surveillance to determine whether he frequents known homosexual places or associates with other known homosexuals. In all cases the person under investigation is accorded a personal interview not only by the investigator but often by the Chief of either the Division of Departmental Personnel or Foreign Service Personnel, depending upon the service in which he is employed. If the person is determined to be a homosexual through investigation or admission, he is promptly separated from the Department.

The human element of the problem has always caused us considerable concern and has been made more difficult of resolution because the medical profession itself is at such sharp variance as to the cause and the possibility of cure of homosexuality. One school of thought holds to the theory that homosexuality is congenital. Other schools hold that it is acquired. While a great number admit that evidence is lacking that it is either. Some, especially in the psychiatric field, contend that homosexuals can be cured while others who have studied the problem maintain that there is no cure.

We believe that most homosexuals are weak, unstable and fickle people who fear detection and who are therefore susceptible to the wanton designs of others.

We have no evidence, however, that these designs of others have caused a breach of the security of the Department. Yet the tendency toward character weaknesses has led us to the conclusion that the known homosexual is unsuited for employment in the Department.

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