



Thomas F. Coleman

**N C S C L ATTORNEY
SUCCESSFUL AGAINST POLICE
BIGOTS**

Long Beach, Ca. — Thomas F. Coleman, Co-chairman of The National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties, was successful in bringing charges against two Long Beach police officers who abused a gay man, and wrongfully took him into custody.

As reported in The Voice, Page 3, of the April 11, 1980, issue, Vol. 2, No. 8, Stanley Drury was harrassed by two plain clothes police officers at approxiamtely 12 midnight in the evening of December 29, 1979, as he was leaving the Man's Country Bar in Long Beach.

To the taunts of "fags ... queers" officers Ronald L. Myers, badge no. 3416 and J. Engelke, badge no. 3442, arrested Drury for allegedly interfering in their pursuit of suspected jaywalkers who crossed against a red light before entering the Man's Country Bar as Drury was leaving.

The officers lost sight of their "suspects", their frustration must have become obvious to Drury and those looking on. When Drury exclaimed "Do you believe these cops?", he was arrested.

The officers regarded the remark as enough to incite the crowd to hostility.

Coleman took on the battle against the police harrassment and began legal action against the officers. Since the police department itself appeared to be embarrassed by the incident and would not permit charges to be filed against the "suspect", the matter was referred to Internal Affairs where it was determined that Drury was within his rights and ought not to have been detained or harrassed by the offending officers.

The following letter was issued by the City of Long Beach Police Dept. over the signature of C. B. Ussery, Chief of Police:

Dear Mr. Drury:

Your complaint regarding the misconduct of officers J. Engelke and R. Myers has been investigated. Your allegations have been sustained, and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

We appreciate your interest in this matter. It is only through the involvement of citizens such as you that we are able to improve the quality of police service to our community.

In you have any questions regarding this matter, you may contact the Internal Affairs Section, Lieutenant K. Schack, at 590-7343.

Yours very truly,

C. B. Ussery, Chief of Police

The Voice contacted the Long Beach Police Department and attempted to speak to Lieutenant K. Schack of Internal Affairs; Schack would not respond. A spokesperson for the department refused to give any information.

The Voice asked: "Since the allegations of Stanley Drury were sustained, based on an investigation conducted by the Long Beach Police Department, and appropriate disciplinary action is to be taken, will you tell us what "appropriate disciplinary action" will in fact be meted out?"

"As a matter of policy, we donot divulge the nature of disciplinary action taken against police officers," the spokesperson responded.

Coleman commented, ". . . the offense was public, and thepunishment should be made known to the public."

Coleman insisted that the police department ought to indicate what remedial action is planned by the department to prevent such offensive police conduct in the future.

by Paul D. Hardman



KNOW YOUR FRIENDS — CONGRESSMAN HENRY WAXMAN

Pictured here, from left to right, are Thomas F. Coleman, Esq., Co-chairman of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties; Congressman Henry Waxman of Los Angeles; Jay Kohorn, Esq., also of Los Angeles; and Voice publisher Paul D. Hardman.

Coleman, Kohorn and Hardman met with Congressman Waxman just before a meeting at the White House. Waxman has long been a friend to the gay community. It was Waxman who worked to get the Right of Privacy statement added to the California State Constitution by getting the State Legislature to put it on the ballot as an initiative a few years ago when he was in the State Legislature. The protection of privacy in California is a unique benefit not found in the United States Constitution, thanks to Waxman.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 2, 1980

Dear Mr. Coleman:

Thank you for your letter and the background information on the National Committee for Sexual Liberties.

I have designated Allison Thomas on my staff to work on matters of special concern to the lesbian and gay community. She, and Robert Malson, Assistant Director of the Domestic Policy Staff for Civil Rights and Justice, would be happy to meet with you, Tony Silvestre, Paul Hardman and Arthur Warner on May 22. Before such a meeting would take place, we would require further information on the specific items which you would like to discuss. You may contact Ms. Thomas at (202) 456-2800 to discuss these arrangements.

Sincerely,



Anne Wexler

Assistant to the President

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