

ONE LETTER

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The May 4 ONE Institute Extension Lecture given by brilliant young attorney Thomas F. Coleman was an event long to be remembered, virtually a crash course in intensive legal study. First section of the "class" (Extension Lectures are in fact classes) was a detailed account of the March 31 session of the U. S. Supreme Court, the case of the Attorney General of Georgia v. Michael Hardwick who was challenging the anti-sodomy statute of Georgia.

Tom had been present and so could give a point-by-point commentary upon the Transcript of the Proceedings, including such delightful exchanges as the question by Justice Blackmun, "Di you say the last prosecution was in the '30s or '40s?" Or, Justice Stevens, "Does the state really have an interest in stopping this kind of conduct? If not, why wouldn't they enforce the statute?" (The quirming of the Georgia Attorney General can well be imagined.)

The fencing and parrying continued along such lines. Then the defender of Hardwick, who had been arrested, Professor Lawrence Tribe of Harvard presented a very learned response to all of this with other questions from the Justices. It was in all a most enlightening insight into the way the U. S. Supreme Court goes at the cases which come before it. A decision should be coming along before the current session closes in later June or early July. Tom Coleman gave a summary of the reasons for supporting both a favorable and an unfavorable decision. If favorable, it will be the first time the Supreme Court has taken any position directly on homosexual conduct, as such.

After many questions from his listeners Tom moved on to the next portion of the program, The Task Force on Family Diversity which has been established by LA City Councilman Michael Woo (hollywood) for which Tom Coleman is Special Consultant. Because of the extremely novel nature of this Task Force its "Mandate" and membership have been published on pages following.

Tom Coleman explained that the idea for it arose from a somewhat similar proposal tried out in San Francisco but vetoed by Mayor Diane Feinstein, and a very sketchy attempt made for West Hollywood which in his opinion would not be very effective.

Then he spoke about the April 1986 FINAL REPORT of the California Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Ethnic, Religious and Minority Violence, a massive 155 pp volume prepared by Commission of which Tom was a Member. He next described the Attorney General's Opinion No. 85-404 of April 30, 1986 on Discrimination in Employment. His final reference was to the California Department of Justice 87 pp. UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION; Your Rights and Remedies, and impressive summary of housing and employment rights. Any of these can be received free by calling 1 (800) 952-5225 and are well worth having for anyone who wishes to be well informed in these fields.

All-in-all Tom Coleman's listeners felt indebted to him for such an outstandingly valuable ONE Institute Extension Lecture.

TASK FORCE ON FAMILY DIVERSITY

Mandate

WHEREAS, the family, as an institution, has played and continues to play an important role in the development of our city, state, and nation; and

WHEREAS, "family" is a broad and expansive concept, capable of encompassing a wide range of committed relationships; and

WHEREAS, most individuals, in furtherance of their inalienable rights to life, liberty, privacy, and pursuit of happiness, have formed and continue to form family relationships; and

WHEREAS, our city is rich in family diversity; and

WHEREAS, government should encourage the formation and development of family relationships; and

WHEREAS, government itself should not foster discrimination against families, nor should it tolerate unfair private discrimination against families; and

WHEREAS, in furtherance of our commitment to family life and individual freedom, the City of Los Angeles and its affiliated political entities should adopt reasonable measures to address the legitimate needs of families; and

WHEREAS, government authority to remedy family problems is vested in various levels and branches of government;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Woo, by virtue of the power vested in me as a member of the Los Angeles City Council and as Chairman of the City Council's Intergovernmental Relations Committee, do hereby convene a TASK FORCE ON FAMILY DIVERSITY:

1. Said Task Force shall consist of two co-chairs and 29 members appointed by me.

2. The co-chairs and members shall serve without compensation.

3. The Task Force shall study the nature and extent of family diversity in the City of Los Angeles and shall investigate any evident problems experienced by variable family groups, such as single-parent families, foster families, unmarried couples, gay or lesbian couples, or families with senior or disabled members.

4. The Task Force shall issue a final report approximately by June, 1987, documenting its findings, noting demographic and legal trends, and making recommendations for legislative, administrative, educational, or other appropriate actions which should be undertaken within the public or private sectors to address the special problems of families in Los Angeles.

Dated: April 9, 1986

COUNCILMAN MICHAEL WOO

(Rev. 5-2-86)

TASK FORCE ON FAMILY DIVERSITY

Co-Chairs:

Nora Baladerian, Ph.D.
Mental Health Consultant

Christopher McCauley
Senior Consumer Affairs Representative
Southern California Gas Company

Members:

Walter Backstrom
General Business Manager
S.C.I.U. Local 347

Russell Blackstone
Governmental Consultant
Afriat & Blackstone Consultants

Ivy Bottini
Fred Sands Realtor Associate

Father Robert Brown
St. James Episcopal Church

Lee Campbell
Associate Dean,
The Law Center
University of Southern California

Tom David
Director,
Bush Program in
Child & Family Policy
UCLA School of Social Welfare

E.H. Duncan Donovan
Vice-President,
Southern California A.C.L.U.

Kathy Escobedo
Assistant Director,
Health Professions Resource Center

Rabbi Allen Freehling
President,
Board of Rabbis
of Southern California

P. Catlin Fullwood
Director,
Southern California
Coalition on Battered Women

Terry Gock, Ph.D.
Department of Mental Health
County of Los Angeles

Commissioner Diane Goodman
Commission on the Status of Women,
City of Los Angeles

Kathy Hamilton
Board Member,
Southern California Women
for Understanding

Claudia Hampton
Trustee,
California State Colleges

Diane Himes
Board Member,
Municipal Elections Committee
of Los Angeles

Mary Kelly
Director,
Hilltop Nursery School

Hon. Steve Lachs
Supervising Judge,
Family Law Department
Los Angeles Superior Court

Howard S. Landun
Life Insurance Agent,
Massachusetts Mutual Life
Insurance Company

Luis Maura Jr.
Director of Client-
Community Relations,
AIDS Project Los Angeles

Mario Perez
Graduate Student,
Department of Psychology
Occidental College

Professor Wayne Plaseck
Sociology Department
California State University - Northridge

Frank Ricchiazzi
Board Officer,
Log Cabin Republican Club

Elaine Siegel, M.S.W.
Licensed Clinical Social Worker,
Vista Del Mar Child Care Services

Adelle Starr
President,
Parents and Friends of
Lesbians and Gays

Paula Starr
Family Life Project Director,
Los Angeles Indian Health Center

Chris Uszler
Executive Director,
Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Artists
in the Entertainment Industry

Louis Verdugo
Deputy Attorney General,
State of California

Betty Hanna-Webb
Executive Director,
Fair Housing Council
of San Fernando Valley

Cathy Wong
President,
Beverly-Fairfax Chamber of Commerce

Coordinator:

Tom Fulton
Field Deputy,
Councilman Michael Woo

Advisors:

Thomas F. Coleman, Esq.
Special Consultant

Roslyn Carter
Legislative Analyst
Chief Legislative Analyst's Office

Office of the Attorney General — John K. Van de Kamp

April 17, 1986

SAN FRANCISCO — Attorney General John K. Van de Kamp today said he would propose civil rights legislation to impose criminal penalties for hate violence directed against minorities and gays.

Responding to a major recommendation of the Attorney General's Commission on Racial, Ethnic, Religious and Minority Violence, the Attorney General also said his office would develop legislation to strengthen existing laws enabling victims of such violence to gain civil relief in cases where criminal remedies are inappropriate or unavailable.

The two recommendations are among 38 contained in the commission's final report presented to the Attorney General today in San Francisco.

"This has been a week of high international drama," Van de Kamp

said at a news conference to announce the commission recommendations. "The religious and ethnic hatreds which have terrorized the Middle East for so many years have finally led us into military action against Libya."

"Those events may seem far removed from California," he added.

"But they have their roots in passions that are no strangers to this state. We have only to look at our newspapers to see that hatred and hate violence are very much at home in California."

He cited numerous incidents of threats and violence against members of ethnic and religious minorities as well as cases of "gay-bashing" in California.

"Last month in Los Angeles, the University of Southern California suspended a fraternity and sorority for what the Examiner called an 'anti-Semitic mob outburst'," he said. "In San Francisco a wave of gay-bashing born of the A.I.D.S. hysteria has made front page news around the state and around the nation."

He noted that the "gay-bashing" incidents included attacks in San Francisco and the beating death of a gay minister in Stockton just two months ago.

"In Concord, a city that has been racked with racial controversy in recent months," he added, "a 23-year-old man was convicted last month for attacking and stabbing two black men outside a local bar. He was wearing Ku Klux Klan robes at the time."

Van de Kamp said similar acts against Hispanics and Asians "are also commonplace both here and across the country."

The Attorney General formed the 16-member commission in May of 1984, in response to the murder of a Chinese-American, Vincent Chin, in Detroit and similar cases of hate violence in California.

"I quickly discovered that no one had any hard data on the subject," he said. "No separate statistics were kept on these types of

crimes. There was no way to know how serious the situation might be."

The commission was directed to obtain more accurate information as to the extent of such violence, develop guidelines for reporting incidents, and encourage measures to halt similar occurrences.

"We have no shortage of the practitioners of hate violence here at home," Van de Kamp said. "That is a reality which contradicts the ideals and the promise of a nation built of immigrants. It is a stain we must remove from the fabric of life in this the most diverse state in the most diverse nation in the world."

Van de Kamp said the Attorney General's office will develop legislation to enact a comprehensive civil rights statute with criminal penalties "to deter and punish crimes of hate violence."

The commission also recommended major improvements in the Ralph Civil Rights Act, which provides civil relief for victims of hate violence in cases where criminal remedies are inappropriate or unavailable. Van de Kamp said several of the most important changes have been incorporated into S.B. 1961, sponsored by the Attorney General's Office and carried by Sen. Diane Watson, D-Los Angeles.

Van de Kamp said the Attorney General's Office has also updated a handbook on "Unlawful Discrimination," which details the remedies available under state and federal law to victims of discrimination. In addition, the Attorney General's office is working with the commission to prepare uniform guidelines and procedures for reporting hate violence under provisions of S.B. 2080.

He said other commission recommendations are being addressed administratively. He said he would personally present the report's findings next week to the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission.

"In short," he added, "I will thoroughly review each of the 38 recommendations and take every possible step to protect the citizens of this state from bigotry and violence."