

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR
SEXUAL CIVIL LIBERTIES

N/c

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March 15, 1979

Honorable Edmond Brown, Jr.
Governor's Office
State of California
Sacramento, CA

Dear Governor Brown:

Last night I attended the dinner sponsored by the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles. I was happy to hear that you had sent a representative from your office to attend that dinner. I hope your representative reports to you, concerning the keynote address given by Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy. It was a most moving speech and it directly concerns you.

In his speech, Speaker McCarthy urged gay people to seek executive solutions as well as legislative solutions to the problems facing gay people in society today. Specifically, he recommended the establishment of a commission on sexual minorities. He suggested that you issue an executive order prohibiting discrimination by state agencies, for reasons of sexual orientation. He also suggested that you establish such a commission on sexual minorities. He further urged that it is time for judicial appointments of openly gay people to be made.

I am enclosing a copy of the Sexual Law Reporter. In this issue I authored an article concerning gay rights through executive action. I would hope that you might find the time to read this article, or have one of your staff members do so. I would appreciate hearing from you, with respect to what I might do to assist you in developing a program of executive action in this area. I feel that the program of former Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp might serve as a role model. I am most eager to work with you or your staff members on such a program.

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Honorable Edmond Brown, Jr.
Governor
State of California

I am mindful of the positive statements that you have made, with respect to gay employment rights, in both your Inaugural Address and in your State of the State message to the legislature. This is certainly a step in the right direction. However, the problems facing gay people in society today are so numerous that even ending employment discrimination is only scratching the surface. Therefore, I hope you would seriously consider establishing a statewide commission on sexual minorities. Such a commission could examine the multitude of problems and suggest various solutions to those problems. This could be done on a very modest budget, as has been done in Pennsylvania. The Chairperson of the Pennsylvania Council on Sexual Minorities is a member of this committee and is the President of the Sexual Law Reporter. We would therefore be able to assist you in a most meaningful way in establishing such a commission, or in formulating an executive order.

I hope to hear from you in the near future as to how I may be of assistance to you in using your executive power to help end discrimination against gay people.

Very truly yours,



Thomas F. Coleman

TFC/bb