

Gay attorney stuns council, calls for cut in police budget

The Los Angeles City Council and County Board of Supervisors appeared stunned when two speakers identifying themselves as being gay testified at budget hearings.

Both elected bodies listened to the speakers in a state of awe, according to reports, and when they were finished, silence prevailed. No councilman or supervisor asked any questions.

Attorney Tom Coleman showed up at the City Council hearing on May 7 to urge a cut in police monies for vice squad activities, which he claimed are directed almost exclusively against Gays. The police reacted strongly to his testimony, saying homosexuals are criminals.

Morris Kight of the Gay Community Service Center testified before the Board of Supervisors on the need for a community share, in general, and a gay share, in particular, of the \$32 million available in revenue-sharing funds.

Kight was acknowledged by community leaders at the county hearing as being the moving force behind a grass roots coalition that packed the supervisors' chambers with about 1000 people.

Minority Lobby

The community coalition is the first organized attempt to pressure the county into truly sharing its revenue-sharing funds, which over the past three years have been expended solely for county programs and agencies.

In addition to calling for a reduction in the city's police vice squad funds, attorney Coleman suggested that a liaison office with the gay community be established and financed out of the vice squad budget.

"The Los Angeles Police Department, and particularly its chief, doesn't believe we need a liaison office between the police and the so-called homosexuals," responded Police Cmdr. Pete Hagen to a query from a Los Angeles *Daily Journal* reporter.

"The chief would probably be negligent, would be guilty of malfeasance in office if he set up a liaison office with people who break the law." Then Hagen cited the multiple Houston killings to counter what he called the "myth" of victimless crimes.

Coleman also attacked the Department of Recreation and Parks for conspiring with the police to entrap Gays in tearoom busts. He claimed the department agreed, at the insistence of the police, to leave holes in park restroom stall dividers unrepaired.

Police Claims

The attorney then referred to a study he conducted while in Loyola Law School, in which he found that out of 664 lewd conduct arrests made in a four-month period in 1972, only five were prompted by citizen complaints.

"People are not outraged by the conduct of Gays," he told the councilmen. "It is a question of whether the City Council has the guts to see that."

Foot patrolmen to cruise park.

The grass roots crowd at the county revenue-sharing hearing before the Board of Supervisors was so impressive, said Kight, that he believes the supervisors might give a

few community groups financial aid for the first time out of those special funds, to quiet the community uproar over recommendations that the county get all the money.

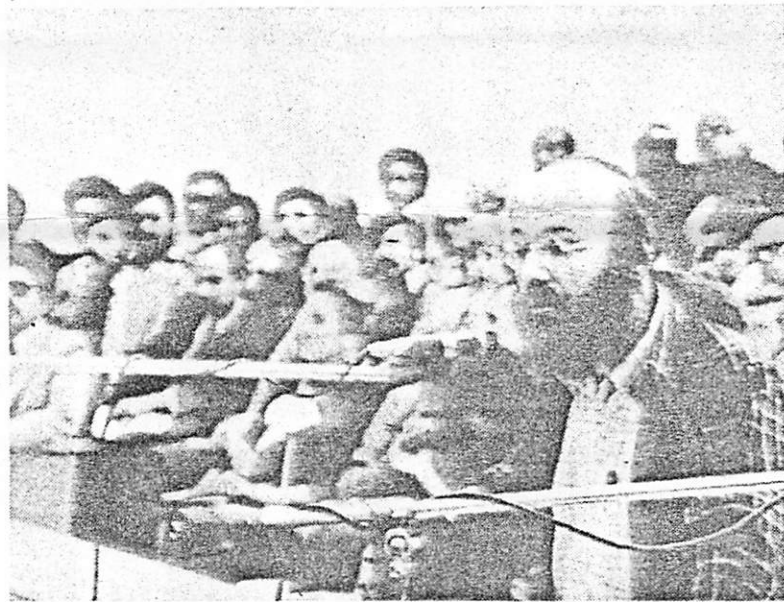


Photo by Walt Blumoff

KILHEFNER APPEALS . . . money for people

L.A. bans nude body in

The nude body, which neither the U.S. Supreme Court nor the State of California thinks is obscene in itself, is suddenly very disturbing to the Los Angeles City Council.

All those buttocks and breasts, for example, displayed on front pages of some publications in newsracks throughout the city didn't bother the City Council for quite a long time.

After all, Section 313 of the California Penal Code prohibits the display and sale of harmful and obscene literature, which it even defines. And newspapers have been careful to give only glimpses of the nude body and avoid depicting sexual uses of the body, nude or clothed, both of which are obscene and illegal under the code.

But a group called the Coalition of Fathers, representing PTAs, service organizations, and mothers, thought differently, and pressured the council into passing an ordinance banning the nude body entirely from newsracks.

Pines Opposed

It didn't matter to the 12 councilmen who voted for such an ordinance that the city attorney's office, which had to draft the law, recommended against it because it appeared to be unconstitutional.

Also, the state, through the penal code, may have already pre-empted the field, meaning that a city could not take over jurisdiction covered by a larger entity, the state.

These arguments by the city attorney's office, as well as appeals by attorney Kenneth Chotiner of the American Civil Liberties Union, were brushed aside.

The ordinance's ostensible purpose is to prevent minors from having ready access to publications containing nudes or parts of nude bodies. As several councilmen put it, the constitutionality of the ordinance didn't matter. A vote for it was a vote against filth, they said, and

the subject would face a stiff constitutional challenge.

Gearing Up

ACLU attorney Chotiner said precisely that. And when the ordinance did pass the council, the ACLU started preparing a suit to challenge it if Mayor Bradley decides to approve it or if the council overrules a veto.

Chotiner said after the council vote that Los Angeles County has a similar ordinance on the books, but the sheriff has refused to enforce it so far. The ACLU has already been granted court orders restraining bans on all newsracks, including those containing the regular daily newspapers, in Burbank and Lynwood pending court rulings on the

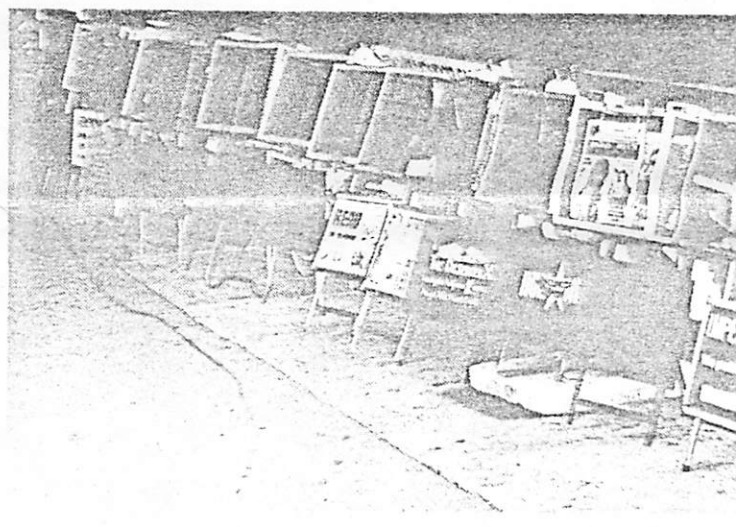
question of freedom of the press and speech rights.

Just how emotional the issue became was seen when the Los Angeles City Council voted on the ordinance the first time around. It needed a unanimous vote to be passed on a first try, and councilmen appealed to Edelman to vote "yes."

But when Edelman registered a "no" vote, several mothers in the audience representing the fathers group couldn't resist coming forward with a few expletives directed at the dissenting councilman.

A week later, on May 2, the council voted again, and the ordinance passed by 12-1.

Here are the parts of b



THE OPEN MARKETPLACE . . . freedom of

LIBERAL PAPERS

Advocate ads ar

Supposedly "liberal" major daily newspapers on both the east and west coasts have refused to publish

All the *Globe* would say in regarding the proposed advertising and the *ADVOCATE's* ch

An upstate N.Y. City on

ALFRED, N.Y.—Gotham has upstaged by this rural Allegany County village in upstate New York

While a four-year-old controversy over a proposed gay rights ordinance continued to grow in violence among the sophisticated New York City, the Alfred Village Board calmly passed by a 3-2 vote the first equal rights ordinance in New York State which includes protection for sexual preferences.

Alfred is not only the first of any size in New York to adopt such a measure; it is believed to be the first small town anywhere in the nation to provide legal guarantees for Gays. With a permanent population of less than 500, Alfred appears miniscule alongside municipalities which have previously taken similar action:

Even the student population on the campuses of Alfred University and an agricultural branch of the State University of New York has the town's inhabitants to number more than 4000. But among those are persons who came together for the Alfred Gay Liberation.

They noted that the Equal R