

Nov. 28-Dec. 11, 1975

Action Plan

On January 1, 1976, all private sexual acts between consenting adults will be decriminalized. The argument that homosexuals are criminals can no longer be used by our opponents. However, this change in legal status is not a cure-all and is only the beginning for full civil rights for gays. Other areas of discrimination include employment, public accommodations, housing, credit, insurance, child custody, marriage, education and immigration.

One reason that certain changes in criminal laws are occurring on January 1 is that there was a united effort to bring about this result. Another reason was that there was a change in governor. Ronald Reagan surely would have vetoed A.B. 489. The legislators were aware that Jerry Brown was likely to sign it.

I propose that the next major move for reform in California should be an Executive Order issued from Gov. Brown which would prohibit all discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual orientation or preference throughout the state government. This could bring about drastic changes. Such an order was issued by Gov. Shapp in Pennsylvania earlier this year. The changes within that state government are overwhelming.

Shapp's Task Force on Gay Rights shows the extent to which the various state agencies are involved in implementing the Governor's order. I attended a meeting of the Task Force on Oct. 17 and can personally attest that the tone was that of cooperation. Sometime in November the Task Force will become an official Commission, made up of representatives from state agencies as well as gays.

I strongly urge that this idea be discussed by members of the gay community for possible implementation in California. If we unite, we can probably convince our governor. Often, changes in attitudes are more important than changes in laws.

If anyone is interested in forming a Statewide Committee on Executive Implementation of Gay Rights, please contact me at 3701 Wilshire Blvd., Seventh Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90010. Phone [213] 386-7855.
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