

## Document #8

Letter from John Hanes, Administrator,  
Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs, U.S.  
Department of State to Dr. Franklin Kameny.

November 7, 1960

*Description:* A letter from a top security official at the Department of State describing the basis for its policy against hiring homosexuals. The letter claims “the homosexual is automatically a security risk” and “because of the prevailing mores of our society, the homosexual frequently becomes a disruptive personnel factor within any organization,” among other discriminatory reasons.



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
ADMINISTRATOR  
BUREAU OF SECURITY AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

November 7, 1960

Dear Dr. Kameny:

It should be perfectly apparent to you, as it was to me upon receipt of your first letter, that I am unable to make any reply that will be satisfactory to you. You are equally aware as I of the reasons why the Department of State does not hire homosexuals and will not permit their employment. I am quite prepared to agree that a substantial amount of the reason behind this policy results from the attitude of our society in general toward any behavior which it considers undesirable and which it does not accept. Homosexuality is one such behavior.

So long as this is the attitude of our society -- and you are well aware that it is, as expressed both formally in laws, regulations and ordinances, and informally in the average reaction of people toward homosexuals -- the homosexual is automatically a security risk because of the social and emotional pressures to which he is subject from society, and because of the ever present risk that such pressures can be utilized by hostile elements to coerce him into activities other than those which he would undertake of his own free will. Also because of the prevailing mores of our society, the homosexual frequently becomes a disruptive personnel factor within any organization.

The above arguments, which I am quite certain you will not agree with, deal solely with elements of homosexuality entirely outside of the control of the individual to influence. They are quite sufficient,

in my

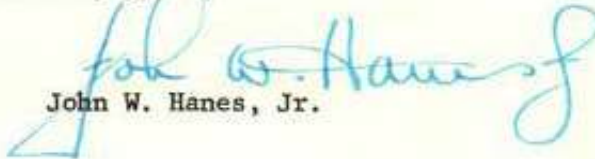
Dr. Franklin E. Kameny,  
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in my judgment, as a basis for our policy toward the employment of homosexuals without even getting into any examination of the psychology, weaknesses or strengths of the individual homosexual himself. Indeed, I do not feel competent to discuss that aspect of the situation, nor have I any interest in doing so.

I do not intend to change the present policy of the Department of State toward the employment of homosexuals. I must respectfully suggest that I can see no usefulness to a continuation of this correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

  
John W. Hanes, Jr.