

H

May 30, 1965

The Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
Chairman
The President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity
U. S. Department of Labor Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

The Mattachine Society of Washington is a civil liberties, social action organization, devoted to improving the status of the homosexual American citizen. A copy of our formal statement of purpose is enclosed.

A recent newspaper article stated that you have pledged an all-out campaign to wipe out discrimination wherever it exists in government. As shown by the enclosed statement on "Discrimination Against the Employment of Homosexuals", one of the major areas of discrimination in the Federal government is that against members of the homosexual minority -- the nation's largest minority group after the Negro.

We have written, in vain, to many Federal officials, asking, as citizens, to meet with them, to discuss our problems and to seek redress for our grievances. We have been refused. In many instances, we have not even received the common courtesy of a reply.

We realize that this is a difficult and awkward problem. Nevertheless, it can be ignored no more than can the problem of discrimination against the Negro. No one's private, out-of-working hours sexual activities are no more the proper concern of an employer, public or private, than are one's religion or skin color.

Members of our own community are becoming increasingly insistent upon the achievement of our rights, to the point that in April, and again within the past few days, sizable groups of homosexuals and those supporting their goals, picketed before the White House, in protest against discriminatory Government policies against homosexuals; a larger group picketed the United Nations in New York City, for the same reasons. There will be other such demonstrations.

This is an important problem, involving 15,000,000 American citizens. We earnestly request that you give it your careful consideration.

We will be pleased to discuss these matters with you personally, at your convenience.

We look forward to your early reply.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

THE MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

Franklin E. Kameny
Chairman,