

*** KAMENY FOR CONGRESS COMMITTEE ***

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KAMENY ATTACKS FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HIRING, SECURITY POLICIES

D. C. Delegate Candidate Dr. Franklin E. Kameny today lashed out at Federal Government practices directed against homosexuals in the Civil Service employment, security clearances, and Armed Services policies.

He also aimed harsh criticism at what he termed "the neanderthals who make up the State Department who are still quivering in terror from the trauma they suffered at the hands of a psychotic Senator two decades ago, against whom they did not have the guts to stand up then, and from which they are still running." He noted that the continuing decline in prestige, effectiveness and importance of the State Department coincides with its anti-homosexual vendetta.

Kameny spoke before the Pentagon press prior to his own hearing before the Appeal Board of the Defense Department's Industrial Security Clearance Review Office.

Kameny termed the government's policies "politically corrupt," implemented by "frightened, unprincipled little men who have not the slightest concept of what this country stands for or what Americanism is all about," who "must make an annual journey to Capitol Hill to get their appropriations from committees chaired by the senility system, and who must show a quota of homosexual sacrificial victims to get their money."

Kameny characterized the exclusionary policies of the Civil Service Commission as mere "supine submission to bigotry," charging that the Commission, like the remainder of the government, should be working to eliminate prejudice wherever it is found, not submitting to it. He flatly rejected as insulting and totally unacceptable a proposal now informally being considered, to allow homosexuals to serve only in lower-grade positions.

Kameny also charged that the position taken by Kimbell Johnson, Director of the CSC's investigative division that public attitudes toward homosexuality can be a valid factor in

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considering eligibility for employment makes a "popularity contest" out of Civil Service employment. He said that the enjoyment of rights, privileges and prerogatives of American citizenship cannot be allowed to become contingent upon popularity or conformity.

Kameny proposed a total repeal of the ban upon Federal employment of homosexuals on grounds that homosexuality and other aspects of private life are patently irrelevant to a rational assessment of eligibility for employment under any circumstances.

Turning to security clearances, Kameny pointed out that we "do not have a security program at all. We have a social and sexual and intellectual conformity program" which is an affirmative menace to our national security because it deludes the public into believing that our secrets are being protected when they are not. "That we have not suffered catastrophes in this respect is the result of the basic loyalty of our citizenry, sheer good luck, and the grace of God--and the probable lack of a real need for most of our security system at all--but certainly not to our existing security programs," Kameny said.

He proposed a top-to-bottom reassessment of our present security system, including a skeptical look at the need for more than a minimal security system at most, and the removal for patent incompetence of the entire present Defense Department security staff (which administers most of the nation's security clearances) including, among others, Directors Liebling and Scanlon, and Examiners Henretta, Waldman, Klyde and Farr, and others. He suggested that the security system confine itself to assessment of ability to safeguard secrets and not to the conventionality or "respectability" of the clearance-holder's life or his popularity.

Kameny also proposed total abandonment of the armed services' policies of exclusion of homosexuals. He pointed out, by way of example, that a very recent statement by Captain G. H. Rood, Navy Assistant Chief for Performance, justifying the Navy's policies merely because they were promulgated in 1943, "practically commits the Navy to going back to sailboats."

Terming military (and civil service) investigators "human vermin" and "perverts," who (before drugs, desertion and dissent took over) devoted some 90% of their attention to ferreting out homosexuals, Kameny listed by name some of the Army's C.I.D. agents (including James Busha, Terence McCardle, Dan White, Jones, Kern and Green) currently conducting a

full-scale, all-out homosexual witch-hunt among the WACs at Fort Myer, at the instigation of General Gleaser and Major Oakes.

Kameny stated that the women had been advised on how to thwart the investigators; that they would fight at every stage, into the courts if necessary, and would receive full assistance and legal aid, including, if appropriate, court suits against the investigators and officers for petty larceny for stealing personal possessions from the women, court injunctions and other actions.

Kameny proposed (1) Repeal of existing military exclusionary policies; (2) Repeal of Article 125 (Sodomy) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; (3) Equal freedom for homosexual and heterosexual servicemen in the conduct of their personal and sexual lives; and (4) Upgrading to fully-honorable all less-than-fully-honorable discharges issued in the past three decades, because of homosexuality (some 2,000 per year) with retroactive back pay.

As a temporary interim measure, he proposed that, at the very least, under existing policies, homosexuals found in the service be issued fully honorable discharges.

Kameny pointed out that, pragmatically, these policies were demonstrably unnecessary, since 10 per cent of our civil service employees, 10 per cent of our security clearance holders, and 10 per cent of our servicemen in all services and at all ranks, officers and enlisted men both, are homosexuals and always have been, totally without adverse consequences of any kind at all.

Kameny added that "the Federal government has relentlessly waged war against its homosexual citizens," that "we are fed up with having to fight our government," that "as other citizens, we expect our government's assistance, not its hostility," and that homosexuals intend to step up their countermeasures. "We resent having to devote energy and effort at fighting these attacks upon us by our government."

Kameny predicted stepped-up resistance by the homosexual community, both by individual and by group efforts, and the creation of test cases by sending people in to apply, to declare their homosexuality, and to be refused, and then to sue the government. Homosexuals will say that "there are more of us than there are Justice Department lawyers to handle our cases; we will swamp them," and seeking of injunctions to stop governmental investigation and harassment.

He also predicted increasing support from employee unions and various civic groups, and the very early onset of pressure on the Executive Branch from Capitol Hill, for the elimination of government anti-homosexual policies and practices.

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