

Homosexual Citizen:
BY LIGE AND JACK

Vote The Straight Party Ticket--



THE STARS WENT OUT for Dr. Frank Kameny when the government decided homosexuals weren't 'qualified' for astrophysics. What's left, then, but politics?

Gay All The Way

For the first time in U.S. history, an avowed homosexual is running for a seat in Congress. We hope every freedom-loving resident of the District of Columbia will work hard to get him elected. Why? He's a *great* man.

His name is Dr. Franklin E. Kameny. The seat he seeks is that of Washington D.C.'s Non-Voting Delegate to Congress. He is being backed by Washington's united gay community—the bars, the Homophile Social League, Mattachine, GLF and hordes of enthusiastic citizens.

We've known Dr. Kameny (Frank) for nearly seven years. Jack has known him since 1961 and credits Frank with instilling in him (during Jack's early twenties) many of his clearer notions about homosexuality.

Dr. Kameny is a physicist and astronomer who received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, taught at Georgetown University and worked in the aerospace industry. He is a combat veteran of World War II who once told us of climbing over piles of dead bodies while exchanging bullets with the Nazis. He was a Founder of the Mattachine Society of Washington, and is a brilliant, forceful speaker, logician, activist as well as a tireless worker for sexual freedom. He has been the nation's most persistent thorn in the sides of government bureaucrats who snoop in the beds of federal employees and pry into their sex lives.

In the late 1950's, Frank was fired as a "security risk" by the Government because he was *suspected* of being homosexual. No facts were presented. Because he was believed to be "gay" he couldn't look through telescopes anymore. Not with sputniks in the sky, no. Such telescopic knowledge required an OK by the Department of Defense, and the Generals in the Pentagon (who fear homosexuals more than the Viet Cong) blacklisted Frank. His Ph.D. in astronomy became useless. The Government of the good ole U.S.A., for which he'd risked his life, took away his livelihood and turned its sordid back on him, leaving him to live on beans and franks.

Then, Frank Kameny dared to become the first homosexual in history to talk back to Uncle Sam. He said, "You can't take my security clearance away. I'll fight

you in the courts." He did. Singlehandedly, he took his case to the Supreme Court who refused to review it in 1961. Frank called Jack with the sad news the day the refusal was handed down. "I have a feeling that I'm going to be rather down in the dumps for two or three days," he said, "but I'm coming out of my depression fighting mad!"

Fighting for Freedom

That's the kind of gut spirit we admire. You just don't get Frank down. He struck back by founding the nation's first civil liberties gay activist group: The Mattachine Society of Washington. Jack worked at his side from 1961 until 1967, Lige too, starting in 1964. Those were proud years, spanning our twenties, sparking them with trailblazing excitement. Together we appeared with Frank on TV and radio programs, spoke to religious groups, and threw spirited picket lines in front of the White House, the Pentagon, the Civil Service

Commission and the State Department.

In the meantime, Frank became the nation's number one expert on the government and the homosexual. He initiated one test case after another designed to crack the anti-homosexual policies of benighted federal agencies. Currently, he is a moving force behind the Ulrich case, which is being pursued by the ACLU. He was also an engineer of the Wentworth case mentioned in the *Times*, in *Newsweek*, and the *Wall Street Journal*. He helped with the case of *Scott Vs. Macy*, in which a homosexual sued the Civil Service Commission and won.

His Congressional platform is well-planned. He asked for an end to employment discrimination, not only for homosexuals, but for women and blacks (and other minority groups).

More important, however, is this fact: *Kameny is one of those rare, extraordinarily brilliant men who truly cares what happens to his fellow men.* He

has always been accessible day or night to give information and assistance. He has always given honest advice; qualifying himself carefully, so as not to mislead.

Frank is absolutely color blind. What a fit he gave D.C.'s Department of Vehicles because he refused to tell them what *race* he was. In Washington, where many voters are black, it is well known that Kameny is a friend to the oppressed. We know this because we know *him*.

To date, Frank's orderly campaign has been highly successful. Washington's TV stations and newspapers are covering his activities closely. He needed 5,000 signatures to get onto the ballot. Busloads of gay activists and liberationists from New York and Philadelphia got 7,500 signatures for him, so he is now considered a major candidate.

The Rev. Troy Perry has also lent a hand. He was scheduled to address a rally at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church on 16th Street, N.W. Although the local priest had okayed the rally, Washington's stodgy Episcopal Bishop Creighton nixed it. He ordered the doors to the church *locked*. While TV cameras ground away, the Rev. Perry led campaigners to the National Cathedral to pray for the errant Bishop's soul.

These are exciting times in our nation's capital.

Even if Kameny should lose, one thing is certain. He will utilize media—the radio and TV stations—fully in order to speak clearly about those ideals and freedoms we all hold dear. His status as a candidate gives him that right: equal TV and radio time.

Write to your friends in Washington D.C. *now* and tell them to vote for him. A great many people in the "straight" community will be voting for him. Most of those who signed to put him on the ballot were no doubt "straight." Spread the word that he's a fine candidate. *He is*. His campaign poster says, "*We can count on Kameny. Can we count on You?*"

If you wish to help or if you need voting information, call (area code 202) 628-5233, or 554-4006 before March 20th.

Kameny is showing the whole political structure that the gay community is a force to be reckoned with. Please help him.

Lige and Jack are male lovers who laugh at silly prejudices and laws that make love a crime and look forward to the day when straights and gays are happily integrated. They co-edit GAY, a newspaper to which you may subscribe by sending \$6 (for 13 issues) to Four Swords, P. O. Box 431, Old Chelsea Station, New York, 10011