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KAMENY ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR D.C. DELEGATE

Dr. Frank Kameny, a well-known campaigner for homosexual rights, announced his candidacy for the District of Columbia Non-Voting Delegate to Congress today.

Kameny, 45, said his broad based campaign "will provide a forum for the first-hand presentation to the public of the feelings, problems, and concerns of the sexually oppressed."

"Although I am a homosexual," he said, "and the focus of my campaign will be sexual oppression, I appeal to all minority groups and to all individuals who differ from the contrived conventions of the majority, whether by desire or by circumstance, by race or by gender or by life style."

Kameny, an articulate Harvard graduate in astronomy and former member of the Washington-area American Civil Liberties Union executive board, demanded that American homosexuals still do not enjoy fair and equal treatment under the law. Homosexuals, he said, are victims of "one of the last, untouched remaining reservoirs of prejudice, discrimination and bigotry." Kameny promised to "expose the criminality of forcing upon a free people the image of a white heterosexual middle-class suburbanite white-collar married male -- an image to which a vast number of Americans can not or do not want to aspire."

"We have broadened our appeal in this campaign to one of general personal freedom in the face of an unfortunately conformist society.

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Kameny also hopes his campaign will be a rallying point for homosexual political action. "We hope that this will serve as a further spur to solidarity, activism, and a sense of brother and sisterhood among homosexuals."

Kameny says his campaign is the first time a homosexual has openly sought a seat in Congress. Noting the long history of homosexual suppression, the fiery campaigner vowed that homosexuals "are starting to shove back and we're going to keep shoving back until we are guaranteed our rights."

Recognizing the larger impact of his candidacy, Kameny stated: "This is in the best American tradition of enlightened self-interest, in which the totality of the efforts of each group, looking primarily after its own interests, works to the best interests of all."

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Dr. Kameny, a physicist and astronomer, received his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He has taught at Georgetown University and worked in the aerospace industry. He is a combat veteran of World War II, and has resided in the District of Columbia since 1969. He is a former member of the executive board of the Civil Liberties Union of the National Capital Area, and has been renominated for that position.

In 1961, Dr. Kameny founded the Mattachine Society of Washington, a homosexual civil liberties, information-education and community service group. He has testified before Congressional committees, made numerous public, radio, and television appearances and otherwise worked tirelessly to extend full rights of citizenship to homosexuals. Involved in many legal actions on behalf of homosexuals, Kameny is a prime figure in the Ulrich case, subject of an editorial in yesterday's (February 2) Washington Post.