



U.S. Capital Turns On To Gay Power

L.A. Homophile Leaders To Meet With Hollywood Vice Chief

As this issue goes to press, the leaders of LA's homophile organizations are scheduled to meet on Aug. 31 with Captain Crumley, head of the LAPD's Hollywood vice detail. The meeting, at the home of PRIDE president Jerry Joachim, aims to establish communications with the police and to discuss mutual problems. Unless the conversations are cloaked in secrecy, a complete account of what went on will appear in the October issue of the ADVOCATE. For remarks by Joachim on the meeting, see page 7

Male Nudes Not Obscene; DSI Acquitted On 29 Charges

A U.S. Federal Court in Minneapolis has ruled that it is not illegal to produce and mail materials that depict the nude male figure. After a 13-day trial, the Court acquitted the owners of DSI Sales, Conrad Germain and Lloyd Spinar, who were charged by the government on 29 counts of producing and mailing obscene materials. If convicted on all counts, they faced a possible sentence of 145 years in prison and \$145,000 in fines.

During the trial, the government introduced nearly every item distributed by DSI, including promotional brochures and catalogs. According to DSI, the government argued that any materials designed to appeal to homosexuals are obscene because the average person does not tolerate homosexuality and considers homosexual behavior morbid and shameful. DSI's defense, presented by Attorney Ronald Meshbesher, included testimony by such experts as Dr. Wordell Pomeroy, former director of the University of Indiana Institute for Sex Research; Mrs. Sara Harris, sociologist and author; Rev. Robert T. McIlvenna, chairman of CRH; and Dr. Walter Alvarez, former consultant at the Mayo Clinic and writer of a daily newspaper column on medicine.

In a seven-page memorandum, the Court found that "the materials have no appeal to the prurient interests of the intended recipient deviant group; do not exceed the limits of candor tolerated by the contemporary national community; and are not utterly without redeeming social value." About homosexuality itself, the Court stated, "The rights of minorities expressed individually in sexual groups or otherwise must be respected. With increasing research and study, we will in the future come to a better understanding of ourselves, sexual deviants, and others."

In passing out credit for its victory, DSI gives a generous portion to Hal Call, president of the San Francisco Mattachine Society, for securing the help of many of the people throughout the country who took part in the defense.

Nation's Gay Groups Agree At Best Conference Yet

A big success! The most productive and beneficial of the three conferences held so far! These are the reactions of two of the Los Angeles delegates, Jerry Joachim of PRIDE and Jim Kepner of Pursuit and Symposium, on their return from the Third National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations held in Washington, D. C. on Aug. 17, 18, and 19.

In the opinion of Joachim, the conference opened the door to meaningful communication between "eastern ideology" and "western thinking" to such an extent that effective action can now be attained with a minimum of conflict. The conference appeared to start with disagreements as deep as at the previous ones, Kepner says, but the delegates came resolved to find some way to solve them. Both men have high praise for the conference chairman, Rev. Robert Crome of San Francisco, for his deft and efficient handling of the meeting. Rev. Crome was re-elected to preside over the 1968 conference slated for Chicago next summer.

The West was well represented at this year's meeting. Besides Joachim and Kepner, the Los Angeles group included Don Slater of Tangents and Eddie Casaus of the Southern California Council on Religion and the Homophile. From San Francisco came representatives of the Tavern Guild, National Legal Defense Fund, The Council on Religion and the Homosexual, and The Society for Individual Rights. Seventeen organizations from all over the U. S. were present at the start of the sessions, and a few more appeared later.

In addition to scheduling the 1968 conclave, the conference

- Prepared a statement of purpose.
- Passed by unanimous vote a set of guidelines for future conferences.
- Agreed to study the feasibility of a National Federation of Homophile Organizations.

The resolution on the purposes of the conference is, in the view of some delegates, the most interesting of those adopted. Among other things, the conference established itself as a continuing body whose aims are: to eliminate intergroup strife; to stimulate the formation of new homophile organizations; to encourage intergroup projects; to promote the study of sexuality in general; to expose the "sexual sickness" that pervades society and offer meaningful answers to the problems that homosexuals face.

The lengthy credentials resolution is apparently designed to end the almost endless hassles that have marred and almost destroyed previous meetings. It sets up a credentials committee composed of two delegates from each of the three regional conferences. Foster Gunnison of Connecticut, who headed the last committee, is also chairman of the new one. Each accredited organization at a conference will have five

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