

Report # 1

LEGAL-LEGISLATURE REPORT

The first meeting of the Legal-Legislature Chapter was held on Saturday afternoon May 14th in the apartment of one of its members.

Inasmuch as the interested persons to legal-legislature matters have been working for some time to develop and establish a functioning chapter in the New York Area Council, the agenda of the first official meeting was to have been the continuation of projects begun earlier. (Due to unavoidable commitments, the persons who were to have outlined the format were not present; as a result this meeting was conducted on an informal basis.)

The Legal-Legislature Chapter is fortunate in that its composition includes persons particularly prepared (academically and/or professionally) for the type of legal planning and experimentation necessary in establishing sound and feasible objectives.

Discussion of the "entrapment" practices of the vice squad in New York City and what could be done concerning this system was given priority.

(It seemed that attacking the unconstitutionality of this action was not advisable for a number of reasons).

A plan which, if successful, would solve this problem without attacking the law enforcement agencies, per se, would be to work on the laws itself which define sodomy and unnatural offenses; laws which, in this day & age, in the opinion of the chapter are sorely out of place.

It was decided that related offenses, (adultery, fornication, etc.) would be included in the proposed revision, for obviously,....taken together, these offenses of sexual nature affect most people, and hence, lends weight and support to the proposed change, which would say, in effect:

Sexual acts (hetero & homo) by consenting adults are not offenses except under the following circumstances:

- (a) when committed under force, violence or duress of any type (including the administering of narcotics or drugs of any nature to perpetrate this act.
- (b) When one of the parties is not capable of reason by virtue of mental deficiency.
- (c) when perpetrated openly, without regard for public decency.

*("By consenting adults" takes care of the minor or under-age issue and automatically excludes persons committing the act with a person who is not of legal age.

Dr. Hym *Manning*