

98 Olden Lane  
Princeton, New Jersey

22 June 1970

Dear Walter,

I hope this finds you returned from a pleasant trip to California.

Most of the enclosures should prove to be self-explanatory. I shall be interested to have your thoughts regarding the legal points which I suggested to both you and Henry in my letter to him of the 10th inst.

In the light of our telephone conversation anent Frank Kameny when you were in California, I have taken the liberty of sending you copies of the most recent correspondence involving that worthy in order that you can begin to appreciate the problem which he poses for the entire homophile movement. A former employee either of the Federal Government or of some firm working for the government, with a Harvard Ph.D. in astronomy, he lost his job many years ago because of some minor homosexual offence, and has been unable to obtain either government or private employment since. He has spent the intervening years in a personal vendetta against the government's employment practices vis-à-vis homosexuals and, in particular, in futile attempts to compel the Federal Civil Service Commission to lift its ban against government employment of homosexuals. Were his personality less abrasive and were he willing to work with others instead of insisting that he knows more about government policy toward the employment of homosexuals than anyone else in the country -- he has publicly so stated -- he would work cooperatively so that it would be possible to mount a well-directed campaign against this form of government discrimination. But Kameny will brook no associates. He insists on working alone and on dominating whatever he is doing, with the result that no lawyers have been permitted to become involved in the administrative cases which he, as an amateur, without any legal training, persists in handling before the U. S. Civil Service Commission.

Kameny's forthrightness years ago in publicly acknowledging his own homosexuality, and his willingness to stand up fearlessly for his rights at a time when few people were willing to do so, earned him deserved plaudits within the movement, which he takes pains to see are never forgotten. But his incredible arrogance and conceit and his invincible stubbornness have alienated the great majority of people who have had anything but the most fleeting contact with him. More serious is the damage to the homophile movement caused by his fantastic ideas regarding the etiology of homosexuality and by his pontifications as to the direction which he thinks the homophile movement should take. These have placed him outside the mainstream of homophile life and have earned him well-deserved opposition and contempt. He has made use of his Harvard doctorate in questionable ways, reprimanding persons within the movement for failing to address him as "Dr.", and deliberately posing as a doctor of medicine or as the holder of a doctorate in one of the sciences which would qualify him to expound authoritatively on the subject of homosexuality.-- to the intense pique of those of us who hold doctorates from the same alma mater but do not believe in their public display for self-serving purposes. There is no field of human knowledge, be it law, government, sociology, psychology or religion, in which he does not venture his ex cathedra pronouncements. His vanity and rudeness are legendary, and he deliberately shies away from all contact with his intellectual peers or betters for fear of being exposed. Thus he has surrounded himself with a very small coterie of sycophants, of which a certain Miss Barbara Gittings of Philadelphia is the best known. For them Kameny's every dictum is the word incarnate. Kameny could be ignored were it not for his continuing attempts to bar heterosexuals from any real participation in the homophile movement and his pathetic misunderstanding of the nature of homosexuality, which leads him to deny the existence of bisexuality and to

posit a rigid dichotomy between homosexuality and heterosexuality. Any attempt to carry out his ideas which derive from his false notions of homosexuality would be tragic for the movement, and would destroy the painstaking efforts of responsible homophile leaders over the years to bring the movement within the mainstream of American life.

In addition to the correspondence involving Kameny, I am enclosing a copy of a report to the Board of the Mattachine Society of New York from its delegates who attended last November the conference in Philadelphia of the Eastern Regional Conference of Homophile Organizations, the so-called "ERCHO". This conference, to which organisations representing over 85% of the membership of the homophile movement in the east were never accredited until this last meeting in Philadelphia, voted to disband itself and be placed in moth-balls for a year. The truth is, as everyone knows, it will never be resuscitated, much to the benefit of the movement, since the ERCHO had never been anything more than a sounding board for Kameny, who still plays on the fiction that he is the "delegate to the NACHO executive committee from the Eastern Region."

I do hope you were successful in meeting with Walter Culpepper while you were in California, and that something fruitful will come of this contact. I also hope that you are making arrangements to send me a supply of copies of your brief. As you will notice from my letter to Henry of the 19th, Dr. Jay Katz of the Yale Law School and Professor Henry Foster of the New York University Law School have been added to Dr. Schwitzgebel's group. However, my letter to Henry does not indicate that the group itself has been transformed into a standing Board of Advisors to our NACHO legal committee for the purpose of providing, on a continuing basis and for all of the committee's work, the same kind of material originally contemplated for use in connection with the Buchanan case.

I plan to take up with the chairman of the NACHO credentials committee the matter of your full accreditation to the August conference as an individual ex merito with voting rights. Robert Martin of New York is the chairman of that committee, but he is presently away on a trip, and I shall therefore have to wait until his return. I expect to do the same for Henry and for Professor Laud Humphreys.

Finally, allow me to welcome you as a full-fledged member of the NACHO legal committee.

All good wishes and kind personal regards.

As ever,

*Arthur*

Arthur