

NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF HOMOPHILE ORGANIZATIONS
CHAIRMAN

P.O. Box 9807 Kansas City, Mo.

May 25, 1970

TO: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The prospects at this time for the 1970 Annual meeting of the NACHO look exceedingly good as to physical site and thorough preparations. I am in continuing contact with Mr. George Mendenhall, vice-chairman of the Western Regional and Chairman of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee for the Western Region of the NACHO and with Mr. Jack Perpich Office Manager of SIR and the Chairman of the NACHO Arrangements Committee. Both of these gentlemen have assured me that, while SIR will participate in the Conference as an observer only, there is considerable excitement and enthusiasm among the general membership and in the membership of other San Francisco organizations. This is indeed heartening.

Mr. Crompton, Religious Committee Chairman, has informed me that unfortunately the SF CRH has dropped its plans to host a Religious Seminar immediately preceding the Conference. Lou, however, is now working on plans to hold a meeting of this type in New York sometime in the Spring of 1971. The location would be better since many of the Churches have their national headquarters in the New York area. In consultation with Mr. Perpich, instead of expanding the business sessions to take in the time previously allotted to the Religious Seminar, and in acknowledgement of the fact that many people find it extremely difficult to take an entire week for the meetings but who do not want to be left out of the strictly business sessions, I agree with him that the Monday and Tuesday of that week should be devoted to informal get-togethers for any and all who want to attend irregardless of their accreditation or non-accreditation to the NACHO so that all views may be aired and opinions exchanged possibly eliminating some of the prejudices against NACHO and giving everyone time to "speak his piece". This might circumvent the spectacles on the floor at the business sessions we have become accustomed to witness at previous Conferences instigated by those who feel that we don't want them to be heard. This, of course, will not stop those whose only purpose is to violently disrupt the Conference but I believe that SIR, the hosting organization, whose quarters we will be using, will be able to keep this kind of confrontation to a minimum. At least this way no one will be able to say that he was not allowed a fair hearing.

I am a little hesitant to raise hopes on this item of news, but it looks hopeful at this time that Mr. McCuskey, the attorney of record in the Texas sodomy case will be able to attend the Conference. The Legal Committee and Mr. Wade, Chairman are working on this and I have sent him a formal letter of invitation. SIR has promised that if he does attend they will get together a panel of lawyers from their area to appear with Mr. McCluskey for the purpose of bringing the delegates up to date on legal activities in the whole field

of sexuality and the Law.

As I have mentioned, the physical preparations for the Conference are proceeding apace and I am very optimistic about them. I wish I could say the same for the PSYCHOLOGICAL preparations. The more I read the correspondence going back and forth across the country the more I am inclined to believe that the fears and apprehensions which have developed since last August are now approaching the point of Hysteria if not paranoia.

I have, in the past four years, come to expect controversy and confrontation in our meetings as a matter of course. I have more or less resigned myself to this phenomenon as distasteful but inevitable. I can see no reason to believe this year will be any different. If the NACHO cannot embrace within its circle all of the existing ideologies in the movement then I see no good reason for ruling out two, or maybe three, supra-local groupings. In fact, a general division of the local organizations into conservative and radical alliances might simplify matters for those who find their political opposites anathema, with the possibility remaining for those who might wish to keep one foot in each camp.

The one thing I regret is the attitude of defeatism which many people seem to be preparing to bring with them to the Conference. I believe we should approach this year's meeting with an attitude that we are willing to change our attitudes if the need for such change is convincingly proposed. After all many things have changed in the past five years, including the appearance of a whole new generation on the political scene. These people deserve to be heard; our goals need to be re-examined and our methods need to be brought up to date. In other words, we need to do what must be done to get the movement moving forward with all possible speed.

I have written an invitational letter to all organizations urging them to attend the Conference. Many are finding the accreditation fee a stumbling-block but are planning to attend as observers if nothing else.

As the time for the Conference approaches, I will try to keep in closer touch with everyone.

Faternally,

Bill
Bill Wynne