

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

FOR

SEXUAL CIVIL LIBERTIES

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MEMORANDUM

This is intended to convey the undersigned's understanding of what was discussed and tentatively agreed upon during his recent meeting with Mrs. Marilyn Haft.

Both Mrs. Haft and Dr. Warner recognized the great need for the establishment of a national sexual law reporter. Mrs. Haft pointed out that her A.C.L.U. Sexual Privacy Project was very anxious to set up such a reporter, but that she did not have the staff to undertake it. Dr. Warner stated that the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties had already done extensive preparatory work looking toward the establishment of such a reporter and that Mr. Thomas F. Coleman, a member of the Committee from Glendale, California, was being considered by the Committee to head the proposed project. (Mr. Coleman joined the Committee about a year ago when still a law student, and he is presently awaiting the results of his bar examination prior to his anticipated admission to the California bar.) Dr. Warner also stated that commitments had already been obtained from several law students who were willing to work on the project, office space in the Los Angeles area was to be made available, and that tentative plans had been made to approach certain law publishers, if necessary, who might be willing to publish the reporter on a commercial basis.

The National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties had contemplated the establishment of a separate entity, under its auspices -- to be incorporated, if needed -- which would have its own Board of Directors and Editorial Board. After the discussion with Mrs. Haft, it was the feeling of both she and Dr. Warner that this should be made a joint project under the sponsorship of both the A.C.L.U.'s Sexual Privacy Project and the National Committee. It was also their position that its scope should be broadened so as to include victimless crimes as well as sexual civil liberties. Victimless crimes, however, would be defined for the purpose of this project as excluding drug cases. It would therefore encompass adultery, fornication, sodomy, sexual solicitations, public lewdness, prostitution, obscenity, gambling, and drunkenness, as well as government and private discrimination because of sexual orientation in areas such as employment, housing, and licensing.

There appeared to be agreement that Mr. Coleman should head the project, and that he should be assisted by law students

to be recruited for this purpose. It was felt that the Board of Directors and the Editorial Board should be composed of persons prepared to work actively in the project, each of whom could make a contribution from his or her particular area of knowledge. Thus, for example, it was hoped that Professor Walter Barnett, as a Board member, would be able to assist in the area of sodomy. Dr. Warner reported that Dr. Laud Humphreys of Pitzer College, Claremont, California and Professor Louis Crompton of the University of Nebraska were prepared to serve on the Editorial Board.

The exact title of the project could not be decided upon. Nor was it possible at this initial meeting to come to any firm conclusions as to the exact role of the Board of Directors in setting general policy. It was recognized that funding would be necessary to pay Mr. Coleman's salary, and for other ancillary expenses, and it was hoped that this might be obtained through A.C.L.U. connections. It was hoped, too, that the Playboy Foundation would manifest an interest in the project and that its attorney, Mr. Burton Joseph, might be persuaded to become involved in it in some way. Several days after this meeting, Mrs. Haft reported that Mr. Joseph had indicated that Playboy would be willing to underwrite the publication and distribution of the reporter.

The above is intended as a synopsis of the discussions to date.

Princeton, New Jersey
20 October 1973

Arthur C. Warner

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