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December 5, 1979

Mr. Burt Pines
Los Angeles City Attorney
17th Floor
City Hall East
Los Angeles, California 90012

Attention: Mr. George Eskin

Re: The Status of Current Prostitution Laws and Proposed Changes
in those Laws for the 1980's

Dear George,

Although I am writing this letter to Burt Pines, I am directing it to your attention so that you might personally make sure that he receives this letter and is aware of the interest which Jay Kohorn and I have in the area of prostitution and its regulation by the state.

Since Mr. Pines is undertaking a project which involves the re-analysis of the current position of society to prostitution and its regulation of prostitution, I feel that we might be of assistance to him and vice versa. We too have undertaken a project concerning a re-analysis of the prostitution laws. This project includes many aspects. One aspect is extensive research concerning the history of the regulation of prostitution from the common law through early American history to the present day. One of our associates will be writing a short treatise on the subject of prostitution from the historical legal perspective. In addition, another associate will be surveying the prostitution laws as they presently exist in each of the fifty states. I will personally be reviewing the legislative and judicial history regarding prostitution in California. We will also be analyzing the major law review articles on the subject. Another colleague will be surveying the sociological and psychological literature on the subject. We will be analyzing the rights of the individual from a constitutional prospective and the secular interests of the state or possible interests in regulating prostitution. All of this material will be synthesized into a brief which we will use in support of our challenges to the prostitution laws of California. Needless to say, this material will be available to you.

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One of the cases in which the material will be used is People v. Fabian Farnia, which is pending in Division 82 of the Los Angeles Municipal Court. There will also be other cases in which the material will be filed. We are using this material in support of a demurrer to the complaints charging a violation of the prostitution law.

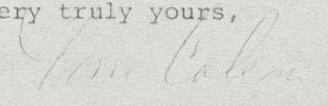
As I discussed with you briefly, Jay and I are members of a group called the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties. The committee is comprised of some forty individuals from around the country who are committed to the concept of sexual civil liberties. These members include practicing attorneys, law professors, students of the law, educators, theologians, historians, sociologists, psychologists, and other professional and non-professional people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The National Committee holds an annual conference each year during which selected topics are covered in a very thorough and comprehensive manner. These meetings are not open to the general public but only to committee members and invitees from around the country. One of our panels for this coming year will deal with the whole area of prostitution and its regulation by the state. We are inviting the Honorable Margaret Taylor, Judge of the Civil Court of New York City, to be a presenter on that panel. Judge Taylor declared the New York prostitution laws unconstitutional last year and wrote a scholarly and comprehensive opinion. We would also like to extend an invitation to Mr. Pines to be a presenter on that panel. I think that this may help us in formulating policies with respect to prostitution and its regulation in the 1980's and beyond and may also be of great help to Mr. Pines in developing his own proposals for change. The meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. over the Memorial Day weekend in 1980. We hope that you will bring this to Mr. Pines' attention and we hope that he would accept our invitation to be a presenter.

In the meantime, we would be most happy to review anything that Mr. Pines is proposing to release to the public or to anyone else. We would be happy to participate in his re-evaluation of the current state of affairs.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to begin the dialogue with Mr. Pines and with your office on this most important but difficult area of concern.

Very truly yours,


Thomas F. Coleman

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