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August 7, 1979

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

In March of this year, I wrote you a letter in which I expressed three major concerns: 1) the need for an Executive Order prohibiting sexual discrimination in State government, 2) the need for a commission or task force on sexual orientation discrimination to study the need for new legislation and to coordinate statewide efforts at ending such discrimination, and 3) the appointment of qualified openly gay people to the Bench. Along with that letter, I sent you a copy of an article I had written entitled, "Securing Gay Rights Through the Executive Branch."

About three weeks later, I received a telephone call from your Legal Affairs Secretary, Mr. Tony Kline. He told me you would be issuing an Executive Order, and he sought my advise on the wording of the Order. That same afternoon, or the next day, you signed the Executive Order.

First, I would like to commend you for taking such action. Especially in the view of the fact that it is only the second such executive order to be issued by any governor, I feel that this is evidence of your commitment toward this human rights issue, even though it is controversial. Concerned as to the implementation of that order, I worked with Mr. Kline in setting up a meeting (now, an ongoing series of meetings) with the State Personnel Board. An effective and efficient method of enforcing this Order must be developed if the Order is to have any significant meaning to the victims of such discrimination. The next scheduled meeting with the State Personnel Board is in Sacramento at the end of this month.

A few weeks ago, I wrote another letter to Mr. Kline, in which I expressed some major concerns about the role of State government, particularly the Executive Branch, in ending sexual orientation

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discrimination. I requested Mr. Kline to forward a copy of that letter to you. I also requested that a meeting be scheduled between you and me to discuss this matter further. I have been waiting for a response to that request.

The main reason I am writing to you today is because I see that a potentially explosive political situation is developing. I am well aware of the fact that you may choose to seek the office of President of the United States. I am also aware that there are many California Democrats who would use whatever means they could to thwart any such movement on your part. Although I have no desire to become entangled in any bitter internal strife within the Democratic Party, I feel, in all fairness, you should be made aware of what is developing.

Shortly after Assembly Bill 1, the amendment to the State Fair Employment Practices Act, passed the Assembly Labor Committee, an article appeared in the San Francisco newspapers concerning your role, or lack of role, in assisting that legislation to move forward. When asked if you had been of any help on AB 1, Assemblyman Art Agnos responded "of course not." A colleague of mine, Mr. Paul Hardman of San Francisco, took exception with this comment and wrote to Assemblyman Art Agnos. Enclosed is the response of Mr. Agnos. I feel that this response should be carefully reviewed by you and your staff members. Under separate cover, I am sending a copy of this to Mr. Tony Kline and Ms. Bobbie Metzger. However, I think this needs your personal attention. The accusations, the tone, and the potentially damaging impact of this letter is obvious.

I have recently written an article for the Gay Rights Guardian concerning your role in ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. This newsletter is circulating to approximately 5,000 politically-active people in California. Mr. Paul Hardman has recently written two articles which correctly and favorably discuss the role of your office in such matters. Those articles were also distributed to thousands of gay persons in California as well as nationally. We would like to continue in this vein, but we need to have first-hand knowledge of the extent of your commitment to this issue and how you desire to have it handled in the media. We are in a position to cause numerous other articles to appear throughout the country, and to be read by millions, rather than thousands, of people. However, in our attempt to be of service to you, as well as of service to the gay rights movement, we do not want to take action which may be untimely or unwise from your perspective. This is one of the reasons that a personal meeting with you is necessary.

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The other reason that a personal meeting with you is necessary is to discuss the implementation of your Executive Order and similar matters.

I would appreciate hearing from you, and I would like to know when it may be possible for us to get together to discuss this. The meeting need not be lengthy, but it needs to occur in the immediate future.

Very truly yours,

*TS/*  
Thomas F. Coleman

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Enclosures

bcc: Arthur Warner ✓  
Tony Silvestre  
Paul Hardman