

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
FOR
SEXUAL CIVIL LIBERTIES

Thomas F. Coleman, Esq.
Co-Chairman

Dr. Arthur C. Warner
Co-Chairman

1800 North Highland Avenue, Suite 106
Los Angeles, California 90028
(213) 464-6666

January 11, 1980

Mr. Burton Joseph
Playboy Foundation
919 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Mr. Joseph:

This letter is intended to supercede the letter of December 26, 1979, in which I requested funding for the Sexual Law Reporter (SLR). I have discussed the issue I presented to you in that letter with the Board of Directors of the SLR and members of the National Committee for Sexual Civil Liberties (National Committee), and we have re-evaluated the publication as well as the many projects of the SLR and the National Committee.

We are in agreement that proper priorities dictate that our resources—in time, energy, and finances—be used to ensure the continuity of the projects rather than the periodical.

The work that I have done with the SLR since its formation five years ago has given me a special insight into the past, present, and future of the sexual civil liberties movement in this country. During that time, I have done research, writing, publishing, public speaking, and conference participation with academics and activists involving the following issues: the constitutionality of statutes regulating private sexual behavior between consenting adults; the constitutionality of statutes regulating public sexual or affectional behavior; the constitutionality of statutes regulating conversations and speech pertaining to human sexual behavior; procedure and strategy in changing these laws through either the courts and/or the legislatures; refocusing attention so that the Executive Branch of government becomes active in these matters; developing arguments for statutory or judicial protection of the civil rights of homosexuals; and many more.

Over the past several years, my office and the National Committee have been involved in important litigation concerning many of these issues as they have arisen throughout the country. We have participated in constitutional litigation in California, Colorado, Ohio, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, and other states. We have also been working very diligently in having gubernatorial executive orders issued prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination. We have been successful in this regard in Pennsylvania and California.

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At this time, because of severe financial limitations, my associates and I must limit and prioritize our activities. Over the last several years, we have educated ourselves so that we have a unique grasp on the relatively complex area of sexual law and sexual civil liberties. We have shared this information with the general public and with the legal profession and others by publishing the SLR. That information is and will continue to be available to interested parties who wish to purchase the past issues of the SLR.

In the future, the SLR will remain available, through my office, as a consulting service to those in need of its expertise in drafting legislation, administrative guidelines, preparing court briefs, implementing executive orders, or conducting educational seminars.

In addition to this consulting service of the SLR, we will continue the Litigation Project of the National Committee. It is in this respect that we need and request the financial assistance of the Playboy Foundation. I am enclosing a fact sheet concerning the National Committee and many of its achievements. This includes a list of "some test cases for the 1980's." The cases which I think will most interest the Foundation are the prostitution case (People v. Farnia, et al.) and the sex registration case (People v. Ripley).

I am requesting that the Playboy Foundation consider assisting with the funding of these two cases. To do a proper job, we need approximately \$5,000.00 for the early stages of the sex registration case. With respect to the prostitution case, a minimum of \$15,000.00 is necessary to take the case through the Supreme Court. These are very modest figures and take into account our use of many volunteers. The amounts are especially modest considering the overall impact on society if we win one or both of the cases.

I am, therefore, withdrawing the request for funding for the publication of the Sexual Law Reporter, and, instead, request that the Playboy Foundation contribute to the prostitution and sex registration cases. If you have any questions in this regard or would like any further documentation regarding these cases, please let me know. I sincerely appreciate your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

Thomas F. Coleman

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enclosure