

## How Alfred Kinsey Armed the Early Gay Rights Movement in America with Research

BEHAVIOR

MALE

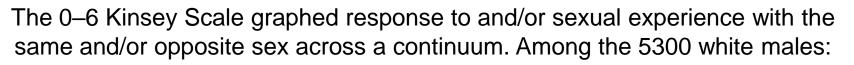
## "Civil rights shouldn't be a matter of numbers, but they are."

- Tom Stoddard, former Lambda Legal Executive Director, The Washington Post, 1993.

> June 27th, 2019. Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey named one of first 50 "pioneers, trailblazers, and heroes who contributed to the advancement of the LGBTQ community in a substantive way" on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor in New York's Stonewall Inn. When his Sexual Behavior in the Human Male was released in 1948, nothing had yet replaced Henry Gerber's Society for Human Rights, quickly snuffed out by Chicago police in 1925, nor Magnus Hirschfeld's unprecedented movement in Berlin that had inspired Gerber but literally went up in Nazi flames in 1933.

> Next to Kinsey's name on the Wall of Honor is Harry Hay's. A perfect juxtaposition as Hay credited Kinsey with something the zoologist probably never imagined—inspiring him to try to form the gay group in Los Angeles he'd long dreamed of. "[His book] was a shocker for us because we had assumed that we were a few hundred in every city. Turned out, we were thousands in every city that even he knew about." - The Progressive magazine,1998.

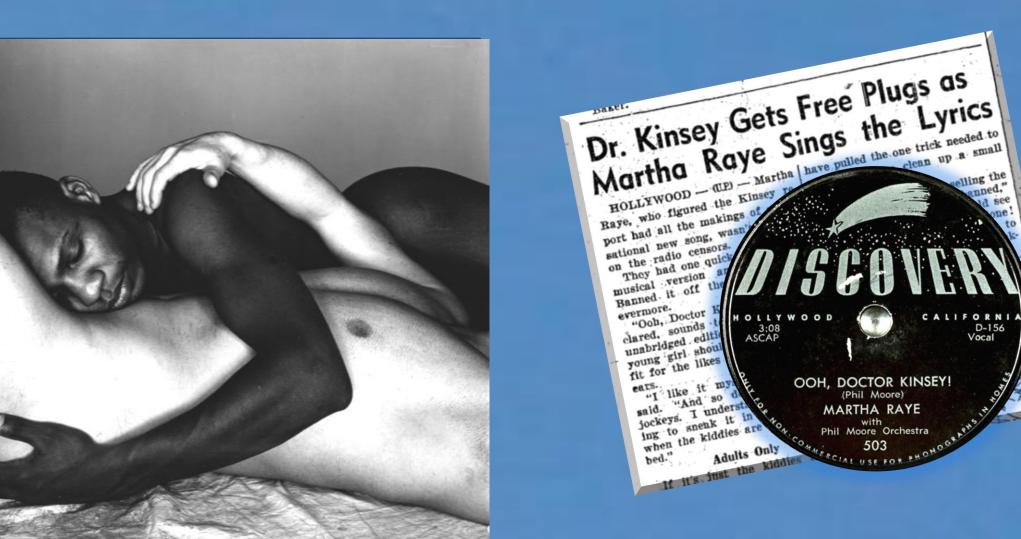
> Also shocking was how many of all persuasions Kinsey convinced to confide in him and his team. Not a crime in New Hampshire, penalties in other states for "sodomy" various non-procreative forms of sex usually but not exclusively applying to acts between men—ranged then from one year to mandatory life in prison."I remember some daring souls who actually read passages from Kinsey aloud in Pershing Square, LA's equivalent to New York's Union Square, a place for political speech that was also a cruising ground." - Wayne Dynes, editor, Encyclopedia of Homosexuality.



46% had "reacted to" or engaged in sexual activities with both sexes in the course of their adult lives 10% were predominantly homosexual between the ages of 16 and 55

8% were exclusively homosexual for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55 4% had been exclusively homosexual after the onset of adolescence up to the time of their interviews.

> Man in His Element George Platt Lynes



Now if he's timid around the girls But around the boys he's so sporty His history is no mystery It's on page two hundred and forty No wonder Bill was always strange And kissed me with such poise When I asked him where he'd been, he'd say: "Oh, out with the boys."



## Six Proposals Supported by **Assembly Group**

Famed Dr. Kinsey Would Reduce, Not Increase Penalties SACRAMENTO, Dec. 14

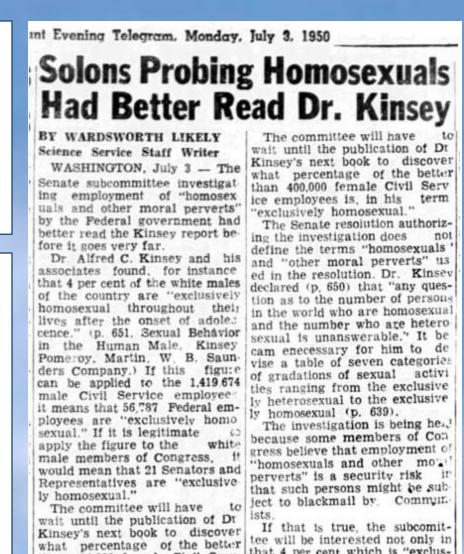
-Six proposals to tighten the laws against sex criminals were recommended by an as sembly committee tonight the current special session o the California legislature. The action came despite a recommendation by the author of the Kinsey report that penal ties should be reduced-not in

one

> December 1949. Kinsey tells California state assembly penalty for sodomy should be reduced not increased as proposed from 1 to 10 years to up to 20 years, and that homosexuals could not be "cured." Three months later, showing the first concrete change results of his research, assembly members quote him to the press that "between 35 and 40 percent of the male population has engaged in some homosexual activity after adolescence," and agree not to increase penalties

> 1950. Following Kinsey's advice, New York's legislature reduces consensual sex between adult males from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Republican US Sen. Joe McCarthy leaps to national fame claiming 205 State Department employees are card-carrying Communists. State Department Deputy Undersecretary John Puerifoy denies McCarthy's claim while noting that a number of employees fired as "security risks" included 91 homosexuals; triggering visions of traitorous perverts dancing in America's heads and a "Lavender Scare"—exploiting Kinsey's research for all the wrong reasons—begins a waltz with McCarthy and the Red Scare that will last for 45 years; costing thousands their jobs and leading some to commit suicide such as Drew Ference who worked at the US Embassy in Paris. His lover found his body on the kitchen floor of their apartment next to the gas



han 400,000 female Civil Serv that 4 per cent which is "exclusce employees is, in his term | ively hemosexual," but

xclusively homosexual."

will have to take an interest

gories in Dr. Kinsey's table

IN THE

WARDELL B. POMERO

CLYDE E. MARTIN

PAUL H. GEBHARD

persons who fall into other cate

Perversion Cases - Department of Commerce To date, the Department of Commerce has received from the Civi Service Commission the names of 22 alleged perverts in the Department

evidence developed in the Department's investigation did not Since the beginning of the calendar year, 6 cases also were developed independently by the Department. Of this group, two employees have been separated and four cases are pending. the Department's Investigations Officer proceeds without delay to conduct a thorough investigation of the individual concerned. This is indicate that the employee is in fact a pervert, he is dropped from the The individual cases, identified by symbols, are as follows: After a thorough investigation by the Department of Commerce and a personal hearing, the allegation was confirmed and his resignation was demanded. Employee resigned 4-27-50. Information received indicating employee was a homosexualist

After a thorough investigation by the Department of Commerce resignation was demanded. Employee resigned April 28, 1950. Case C: Information received that employee had been arrested on charges of perversion. After a thorough investigation by e Department of Commerce and a personal hearing, the allegation was confirmed, whereupon immediate removal charges were preferred against the employee. He will be separated on July 6, 1950. Case D: Arrested on charges of homosexuality. Subject employed in overnment service for 31 years. After a thorough investi-

Information received that employee was a homosexualist. After a thorough investigation by the Department of Commerce and a personal hearing, the allegation was confirmed and his esignation was demanded. Employee resigned effective May

the allegation was confirmed, whereupon steps were taken

to effect the employee's separation by retirement, to be



After two years of multiple failed attempts met with indifference, mockery, and hostility, Harry Hay, upper left, and four others form the Mattachine Foundation in November 1950, the first enduring American gay rights group. Fearful of legal trouble in the growing national gay panic they allowed few pictures

together.

> 1951. Kinsey tells Illinois Commission on Sex Offenders adult consensual sodomy should "SUBJECT:

"TO:

➤ 1952. Mattachine begins to publicly weaponize Kinsey statistics in first-ever gay questionnaire sent to political candidates. The same estimate would be quoted in an article i the Los Angeles *Mirror* about

Mattachine that was positive

enough that they distributed

thousands of copies.

be decriminalized.

"THE MATTACHINE FOUNDATION, INC. P.O. Box 2833, Terminal Annex Los Angeles, Calif.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

"The Mattachine Foundation is a non-partisan service council devoted to the social objective of integrating with the purposes and requirements of the community the enormous potential of valuable civic contributiveness and concern of such ill-understood social minorities as the homosexuals. If only a

conservative percentage of Dr. Alfred Kinsey's testimony before the 1951 California State Legislature's Interim Committee is conceded, there are at least 150,000 such persons in the Los Angeles area alone. Though the Foundation's policy strictly

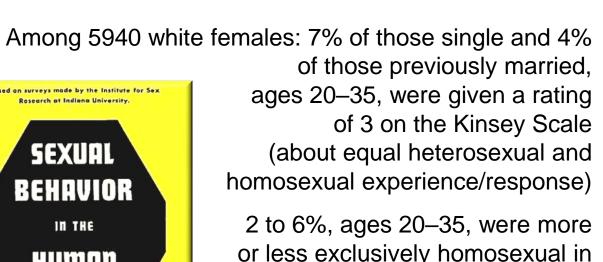


> 1953. ONE magazine, created by former Mattachine members; first enduring US gay periodical (and first to be spied upon by FBI). US Postal officials, who fired Henry Gerber in 1925 for being gay and had long been recording the names of people who received mail that might have been related to homosexuality, hold August issue with cover story on "Homosexual Marriage" from delivery for two months but eventually allow through. Kinsey first subscriber outside of LA. Repeatedly referenced in its pages, the staff was "deeply influenced by his reports and his radical view that homosexuality was merely a benign variation of human sexuality and not some horrible genetic mistake. ONE repeatedly venerated Kinsey as a saint of gay freedom." - Craig Loftin, Masked Voices: Gay Men and Lesbians in Cold War America.

> After considerable correspondence between Kinsey and Mattachine members and in-person meetings and interviews in San Francisco he agrees to be informal adviser after they agree to help him find interview subjects for his next planned book, Sex and the Law about gays "who had had any contact with the police, whether it led to conviction or not."

President Eisenhower, owing his election, in part, to McCarthy touring the country railing against "pinks, punks, and pansies" in the campaign of Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson and a platform whose reference to "immorality" in Washington was a dog whistle for homosexuals, supersizes the Lavender Scare with an Executive Order banning federal employment by anyone guilty of "sexual perversion."

> By the end of Eisenhower's eight years in office, his Navy alone had kicked out at least 8,853 lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. Equal to 63% of the total number that all the branches discharged in the seventeen years of "Don't ask, don't tell." [After two days of meetings with US Army and Navy officials in 1945, they dismissed his arguments for ending their bans on gay service members.]



2 to 6%, ages 20-35, were more or less exclusively homosexual in experience/response

1 to 3% of those unmarried aged 20-35 were exclusively homosexual in experience/response.

> Stereo daguerreotype France 1850–1855 **Kinsey Collections**

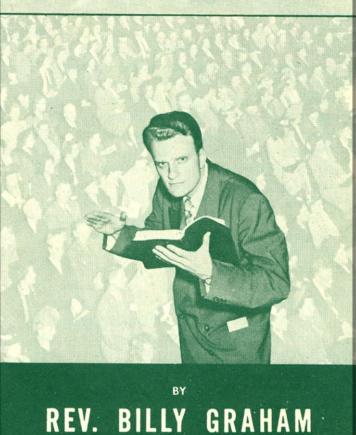


Of all the condemnations of the book, none was louder or more ubiquitous than Rev. Billy Graham, the first superstar evangelist, who raged in print, on his radio program, and to tens of thousands in revival meetings across the country that no CHRISTIAN woman would have participated in the study and that Kinsey was insulting all women and teaching "our young people moral perversions that they'd never even heard of before." Slyly calling Kinsey and his research team "secret agents" amplified the growing charges that Kinsey was "aiding the Reds by weakening Americans' morals."

CLICK LINK TO HEAR SERMON ( ) billygraham.org/audio/the-bible-and-dr-kinsey/

## Graham Harpoons Dr. Kinsey's Aims, Calls Sex Tome Staff 'Secret Agents'

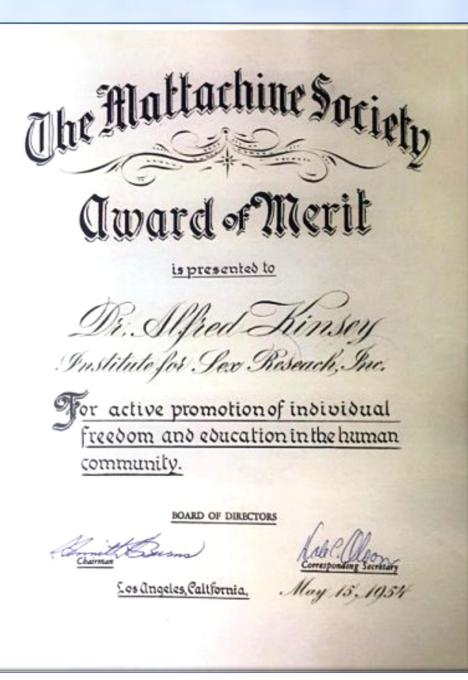
Evangelist Billy Graham last agents," Graham said sarcastically tham shouted, "Only the lowest night tossed an angry harpoon at "have probed into the lives of type of woman would let a re-Dr. Alfred Kinsey's "Sexual Bc-|5,940 women. I want to tell you porter ask her the questions these havior in the Human Female" be-that book will not be read by women did. There is one thing I fore an estimated 5,000 persons in the people of the United States agree with, though," Graham; the Onondaga War Memorial. for scientific reasons!" went on, "the moral condition of Last night's meeting left only "According to Mr. Kinsey." the American is at an all time



The BIBLE

DR. KINSEY

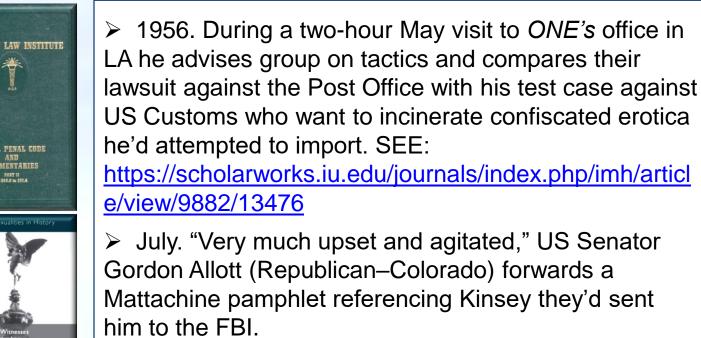
"The Hour of Decision"



> 1954. Five months after Kinsey's Mattachine Award of Merit, Post Office refuses to deliver October issue of ONE declaring it "obscene, lewd, lascivious, and filthy" despite magazine's pro bono attorney having vetted every word. Rebuffed by the ACLU, they sue LA Postmaster alone, and in 1958 the Supreme Court rules in their favor in the community's first great victory.

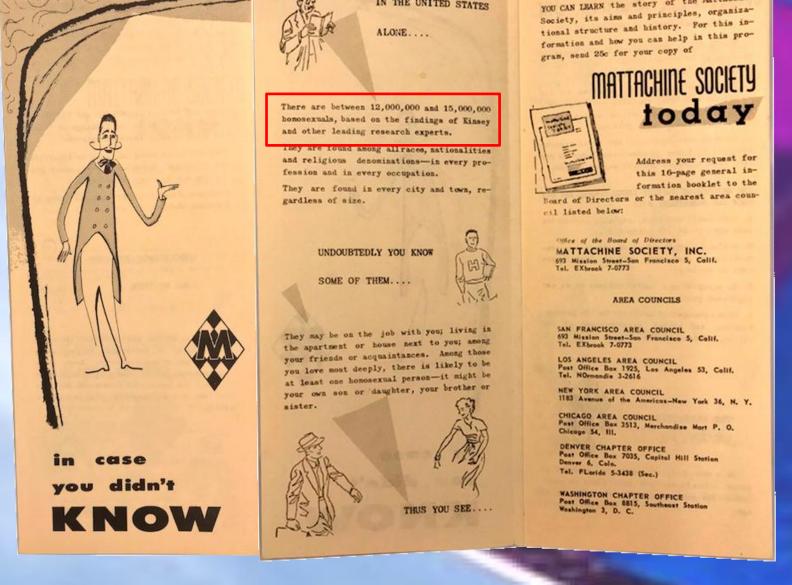
> 1955. Eight women in San Francisco form first American lesbian group, the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB). Explicitly thanking Kinsey, American Law Institute publishes history-changing Model Penal Code leading to decriminalization in several states beginning with Illinois in 1961. "The Code is virtually a Kinsey document." - Kinsey biographer Jonathan Gathorne-

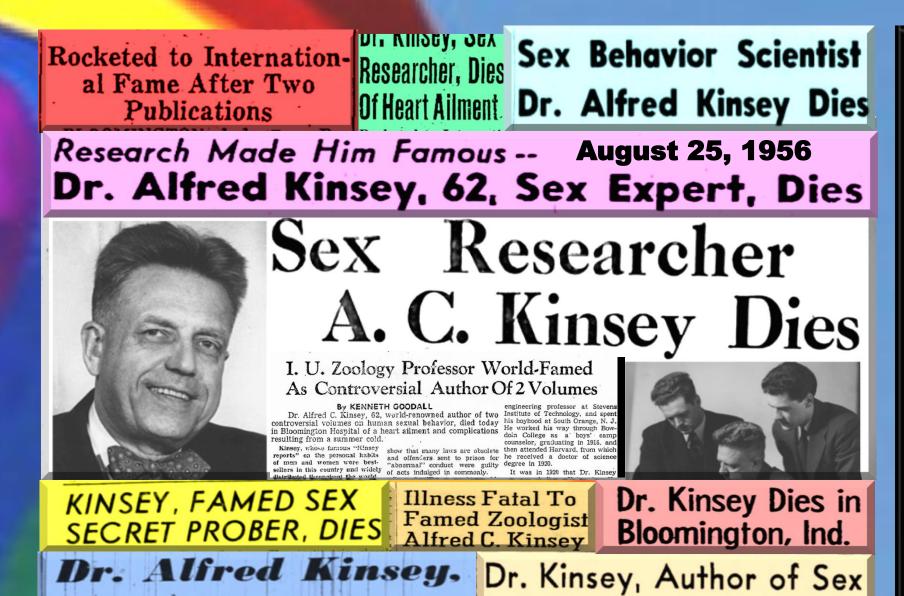
His books already a benchmark for their discussions, Kinsey meets with members of Wolfenden Committee in London urging them to recommend Parliament decriminalize sodomy. "Kinsey's star status ensured that his views would carry weight." - Brian Lewis, Wolfenden's Witnesses: Homosexuality in Postwar Britain. Two years later they do.



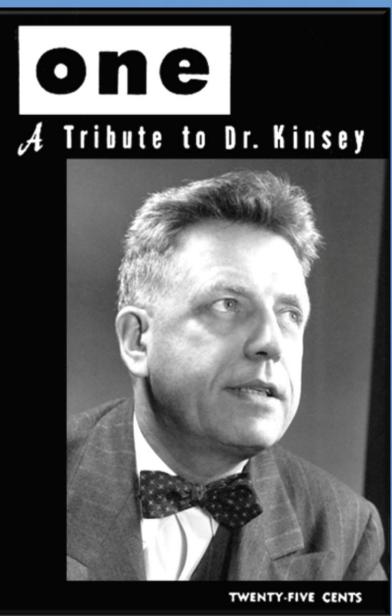








IU Professor, Dies Behavior Books, Is Dead



Their seven-page tribute read, "To the staff and readers of *ONE*, his death is an immeasurable loss, deeply and personally felt. We shall always be grateful for the legacy that he left us. Each of us is richer for having seen and known a truly great man. Society's debt to Kinsey is immeasurable. Homosexuals, above all, are deeply indebted.

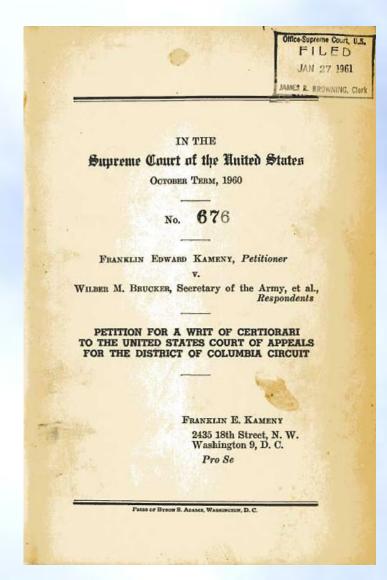
Mattachine Review read: "It goes without saying that Mattachine and all its members and friends have lost a valued counselor and adviser with Dr. Kinsey's passing. His helpfulness to Mattachine leaders will never be forgotten.

In the first issue of DOB's *The Ladder*, Dr. Harry Benjamin whom Kinsey had inspired to devote his practice to transgender people wrote, "The world has lost an outstanding scientist and a champion of human freedom and happiness."

"He was the Rosa Parks and the Martin Luther King and the Thurgood Marshall of the gay rights movement." - Yale Law School professor William Eskridge, Jr.

A year after Kinsey's death, a brilliant Harvard-trained astronomer who dreamed of becoming one of the first astronauts is fired by the Army Map Service and blackballed from any other government job for being gay. He had never been involved in gay activism, but what he did next and for decades after earned him a place on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor. He is the first known Lavender Scare victim to not just fight their firing in court but all the way to the Supreme Court. In his blazing brief he wrote himself, inspired as Harry of Congress and every other senior government official announcing the formation of the Mattachine Society of Washington (MSW). It had no formal relationship to original Mattachine which had abandoned the "chapter" system. More importantly, Kameny fashioned the "chapter" system. More importantly, Kameny fashioned MSW as an aggressive organization that would not plead for but demand equal treat. In 1965 he led the first gay rights protests in Washington at the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, Civil Service Commission, and in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia in which Kinsey references sprang from his letters and speeches to picket signs now in the Smithsonian. "FIFTEEN MILLION HOMOSEXUAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PROTEST CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION POLICY"—"65,000 HOMOSEXUAL SAILORS DEMAND NEW NAVY POLICY"—"QUARTER MILLION HOMOSEXUAL AMERICAN SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN PROTEST ARMED SERVICES POLICIES." Year after year, like Johnny Appleseed, he traveled from town to town planting the seeds of Kinsey's insights among new generations, including at Indiana University in 1974. He succeeded in getting some gays fired by the government reinstated. The Civil Service Commission finally surrendered, calling him to say they would no longer use homosexuality not an illness. Prof. Eskridge credits him with birthing the Gaylegal equality arguments still used in court cases today.





chronistic relic of the Stone Age carried over into th 30% of all males, married and single, have at least year period between the ages of 16 and 55, and (b) "In terms of averages, one male out of approxi mately every four has had or will have such dis tinct and continued homosexual experience.' [Emphasis supplied] (c) At least as much homosexual as heterosexual ex perience has been had for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55 by 18% of the population; (d) 13% have had more homosexual experience than hetero sexual; (e) 10% were more or less exclusively homo sexual and (f) 8% exclusively so for a similar period; and (g) 4% are exclusively homosexual throughout number of homosexuals will recognize that the majority of those certainly in the last five of the seven groups mentioned will have had far more than a mere three rears homosexual experience and that the vast majority of those who have been "more or less exclusively iomosexual for at least three years between ages 1 and 55" have, in fact, been more or less exclusively nomosexual for the majority if not all of their adult

Much more important, and very much more relevant,

all seven of these groups, comprising 30% of the Amer-

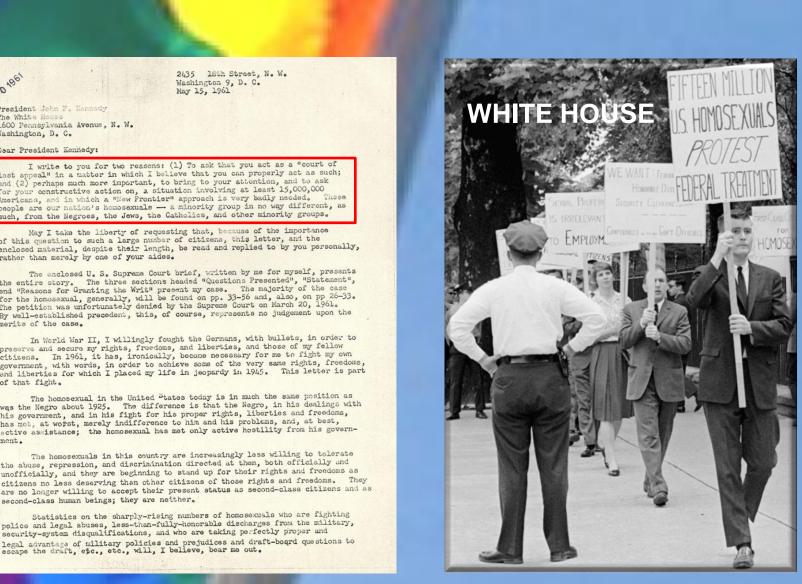
Report
of the Committee on
Homosexual Offences
and
Prostitution

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

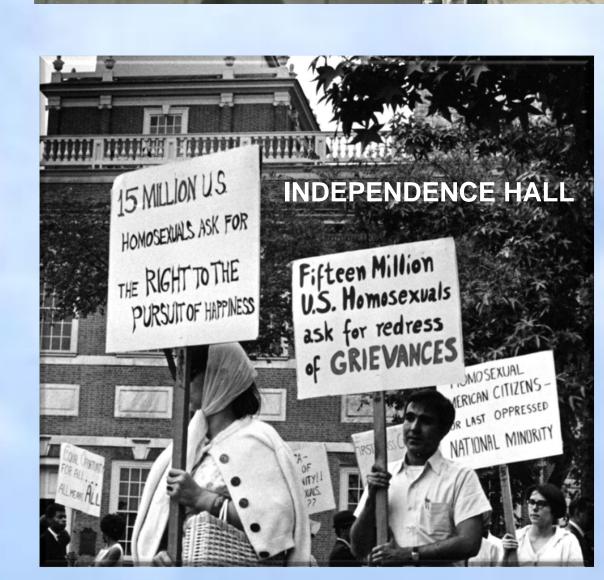
That 13% having had (and, therefore likely to continue having) more homosexual experience than heterothese policies, although the 30% (which includes this 13%) is far from unconcerned. These figures deal with males. Female homosexuals are perhaps less well known to the populace at large, but their incidence is about as great as that of the Thus we may accept as a conservative estimate, that these policies are primarily directed against some 15 or 16 million adult Americans-about 13% of our adult population —and may potentially affect up to 30% about 35,000,000 adults. centage of this 35,000,000 and, correspondingly, only a small percentage of those accepting government positions can ever be known to the Commission, and will ever feel the force of these regulations. While this is perfectly true, it is a completely untenable position and a totally irrational one—to hold that the validity and justification for existence of a regulation are dependent upon its limited enforceability. In the present Federal service, with its more than 2,000,000 employees, there are thus potentially some 260,000 persons intimately affected by these regulations, and 600,000 against whom these regulations could be invoked. Whatever arguments may be brought to

ican male population, are ineligible for federal em-ployment under present Civil Service Commission rules, policies, and regulations, as they are now ad-

The government's regulations, policies, practices and procedures, as applied in the instant case to petitioner specifically, and as applied to homosexuals generally, are a stench in the nostrils of decent people, an offense against morality, an abandonment of reason, an affront to human dignity, an improper restraint upon proper freedom and liberty, a disgrace to any civilized society, and a violation of all that this nation stands for. These policies, practices, procedures, and regulations have gone too long unquestioned, and too long unexamined by the courts.





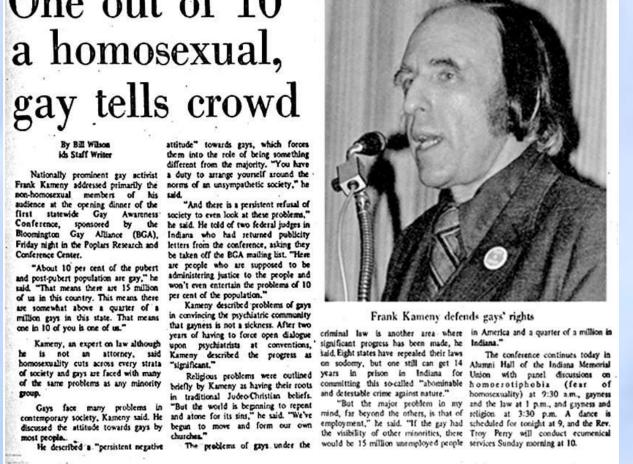


One out of 10 a homosexual, gay tells crowd By Bill Wilson attitude" towards gays, which forces them into the role of being something different from the majority. "You have a duty to arrange yourself around the

Frank Kameny addressed primarily the non-homosexual members of his audience at the opening dinner of the first statewide Gay Awareness society to even look at these problems."

Conference, sponsored by the Bloomington Gay Alliance (BGA), Indiana who had returned publicity Felders and the conference adjoint the problems. Friday night in the Poplars Research and letters from the conference, asking they be taken off the BGA mailing list. "Here "About 10 per cent of the pubert are people who are supposed to be administering justice to the people and won't even entertain the problems of 10 per cent of the population."

Kamerov described problems of save





He also gave the movement its first motto. One we believe Kinsey would agree with. For beyond the ivy-covered walls where others still debate how many homosexuals he actually found on the head of a pin, he armed lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals not just with numbers but with feelings of self-worth, something no court or politician can take away.

"Reaching puberty, in Australia, in about 1950, I did not have to confront a belief in the wickedness of my own homosexual inclination (which somehow seemed perfectly natural to me) in quite such a lonely state as would have been the case before Dr. Kinsey's report was made public. It was a calming thing to learn that I was not, after all, alone." - Hon. Michael Kirby, AC CMG, Retired Justice, High Court of Australia

A middle-aged woman being interviewed toward the close of the 2004 film

Kinsey expresses what countless others in real life must have felt since 1948.

Click link to watch: https://youtube.com/embed/61oNNVyEwTU?autoplay=1





Gay novelist Samuel Steward supplied Kinsey with many contacts and swaths of information, becoming a close friend and calling him "Dr. Prometheus. He brought fire and light to the world. We looked upon him as a savior. He was the liberator. He was OUR Stonewall."