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PRESS RELEASES

DEFENSE DIALOG



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TUESDAY, July 20, 1993

Radio & TV Reports, Washington, D.C.
Summary not to be quoted.

(Broadcasts of Monday, July 19, 1993)

SUMMARY OF NETWORK NEWS IN THIS EDITION

HOMOSEXUALS IN THE MILITARY: President Clinton announced his policy on homosexuals in the military. Speaking to an audience of high-ranking officers, he outlined the major points of the new approach, which he said would probably not fully satisfy anyone. The practice of not asking recruits about their sexual orientation will be continued. The open acknowledgment of one's homosexuality will not necessarily be grounds for discharge if the person involved can prove that he has not and does not intend to engage in homosexual acts. Also, the Defense Department has defined the types of activities that are and are not acceptable, and it will discontinue its intensive investigations aimed at determining if someone is a homosexual. Several gay rights activists said they are disappointed that the President did not lift all restrictions on homosexuals in the military, and they plan to pursue the matter in the courts. Senator Sam Nunn said his initial reaction was positive but that he will reserve judgment until the Senate Armed Services Committee completes hearings on the matter. However, it was reported that he is upset by the provision permitting non-practicing homosexuals to openly serve. Reports by Brit Hume, ABC; Andrea Mitchell, NBC; Susan Spencer, CBS; Jill Dougherty, Jamie McIntyre and Greg Lamotte, CNN. Representatives Pat Schroeder and Steve Buyer interviewed by Frank Sesno, CNN.



ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT ABC-TV
6:30 P.M. JULY 19

Homosexuals in the Military

RENEE POUSSAINT: The President calls it an honorable compromise. The Defense Secretary says it's a substantial advance. A spokesman for one gay rights group calls it insulting. Those were the initial reactions today to Mr. Clinton's long-awaited policy on gays in the military. The President, who once promised to remove all the barriers keeping gays out of the service, had to settle for a modification of what's been called "don't ask, don't tell."

Here's ABC's Brit Hume.

BRIT HUME: The new policy he was about to announce to a roomful of senior military officers was not the one he had promised, but it may have been the most he could do and still have the support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who were arrayed behind him on the platform. The President was at once ordering the new policy and trying to convince his audience to accept it.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: The policy I am announcing today is, in my judgment, the right thing to do and the best way to do it. Servicemen and -women will be judged based on their conduct, not their sexual orientation.

HUME: Accordingly, he said, the military will continue the six-month-old practice of not asking recruits their sexual orientation. What is new is that those who reveal their orientation will be able to defend themselves by showing they do not engage in homosexual acts, which remain prohibited. But the military's intense investigative pursuits of rumored homosexuals, the so-called witch hunts, will be discontinued.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: It is not a perfect solution. It is not identical with some of my own goals. And it certainly will not please everyone, perhaps not anyone.

This is a major step forward.

HUME: High on the list of those not pleased by what they saw the President announce were gay groups which had pressed for an outright end to the ban on gay behavior.

THOMAS STODDARD [Campaign for Military Service]: The Administration labels its new policy "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue." The policy is more aptly called "let's pretend." Let's pretend gay people simply don't exist, even though we know they do.

HUME: On Capitol Hill, leading gay members were also disappointed, though more sympathetic to Mr. Clinton.

REP. BARNEY FRANK [D-MA]: I have to say, in fairness to the President, anything beyond this, I am afraid, would have lost.

HUME: What that meant is that any stronger action by the President would have run afoul of Senate Armed Services Chairman Sam Nunn, and Nunn's opposition would have condemned the President's policy, almost certainly, to reversal by Congress. Today, to sighs of relief here, Nunn said his initial reaction was positive.

Brit Hume, ABC News, the White House.

POUSSAINT: Defense Secretary Aspin has sent a memo to the services outlining some details of the new policy. Homosexual acts, which the memo says would include kissing or holding hands with members of the same sex, would be grounds for discharge. But going to a gay or lesbian bar or marching in a gay rights parade would not, as long as the individual was out of uniform. Neither would subscribing to homosexual publications. Such behavior would not be enough to trigger an investigation.

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS
7:00 P.M.

NBC-TV
JULY 19

Homosexuals in the Military

TOM BROKAW: It was a three-alarm

day in Washington, with the President finally announcing his compromise policy for gays in the military one hour and firing the FBI Director the next. And one of the President's most important allies on the Hill is the big unspoken name in tonight's developments on the House post office scandal.

We begin tonight with gays in the military and NBC's Andrea Mitchell.

ANDREA MITCHELL: The military brass forced the President to retreat from his campaign promise, disappointing gay activists who had raised millions of dollars for Clinton's campaign. Instead of lifting the ban entirely, Clinton told a military audience that he has chosen "an honorable compromise."

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Just as is the case under current policy, unacceptable conduct, either heterosexual or homosexual, will be unacceptable 24 hours a day, seven days a week, from the time a recruit joins the service until the day he or she is discharged.

MITCHELL: But there will be changes. Commanders will be ordered to end witch hunts against homosexuals and investigate misconduct by gay and straight service members evenhandedly. Homosexuals will not be discharged for simply going to gay bars or parades. Military personnel will not be asked their sexual orientation and are expected not to tell. But the President said they can speak openly if they are willing to prove they have not misbehaved.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: A person can say, "I am a homosexual but I am going to strictly adhere to the code of conduct."

MITCHELL: NBC News has learned that that comment upset Armed Services Chairman Sam Nunn, who wants a strict "don't tell" policy. But the President got the blessing he wanted from the Joint Chiefs.

GENERAL COLIN POWELL: I am very, very pleased with this decision of the President, and it's one we can fully support.

MITCHELL: The reaction was very different at an off-limits gay bar near Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

CLAUDE MAUDLIN [former Marine]:

I think it's a cop-out from what he planned to do. It's just a [unintelligible] limitation.

MITCHELL: On base, many people seemed willing to accept some change.

PFC ROBERT HELSO: The only time that it would affect me or bother me is if it was a question of sexual harassment.

MITCHELL: Clinton said he hoped Senator Nunn would accept this policy and not insist on Congress drafting its own version. But Nunn opens hearings tomorrow to do just that.

So, this controversy is not about to go away.

Andrea Mitchell, NBC News, at the White House.

BROKAW: And this evening the ACLU, the American Civil Liberties Union, announced that it would file suit later in the week in an attempt to overturn the President's new policy on gays in the military.

CBS EVENING NEWS
7:00 P.M.

CBS-TV
JULY 19

Homosexuals in the Military

CONNIE CHUNG: President Clinton finally made it official today. As expected, he retreated from his campaign promise to lift the ban on gays in the military. As White House correspondent Susan Spencer reports, what Mr. Clinton did do fell far short of that.

SUSAN SPENCER: Hoping to end one of the most politically damaging controversies of his presidency, Mr. Clinton today assembled a roomful of military brass to applaud his plan, one he defended as the best possible, given strong opposition to lifting the ban.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: It is an honorable compromise that advances the cause of people who are called to serve our country by their patriotism.

SPENCER: The new policy does not penalize anyone for being gay, but only for engaging in homosexual conduct. That was the

price for Pentagon approval. And given his own shaky relations with the military, Mr. Clinton had to fashion a policy the Joint Chiefs would buy.

GENERAL POWELL: It was a very difficult issue for all of us. There were strong feelings on both sides. And I think we have come up with a solution that we can all live with.

SPENCER: Recruits will not be asked about their sexuality, but gays who discuss it may trigger an investigation. That, gay Congressman Barney Frank says, is the problem.

REP. FRANK: It says that any expression, essentially, of your sexual orientation, anywhere, anytime, any place, kicks you out.

SPENCER: Other gay activists who wanted the President to lift the ban despite the opposition declared this just another cave-in.

THOMAS STODDARD: President Truman had a favorite saying. We all know what it was, "The buck stops here." President Clinton: "Let's pass the buck around and see where it lands."

SPENCER: At a late-afternoon press conference, the President bristled at the idea that he had compromised his principles.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: First of all, I think I did stand by my principles. Under this policy, a person can say, "I am a homosexual but I am going to strictly adhere to the code of conduct."

SPENCER: Opponents of the compromise predicted a political disaster lies ahead for Mr. Clinton.

REP. ROBERT DORNAN [R-CA]: He hopes this will end it. The blazes it will! The fight is on.

SPENCER: But Mr. Clinton wants no fight, since this subject combines elements of military service, broken promises and gay rights. His fervent wish is that the Senate will give it a nod and the issue, finally, will go away.

Susan Spencer, CBS News, the White House.

THE WORLD TODAY
6:00 P.M.

CNN-TV
JULY 19

Homosexuals in the Military

JUDY WOODRUFF: We begin our expanded coverage tonight in Washington, where today, surrounded by some of the military's top brass, President Clinton announced his policy of whether or not gays can serve in the military. The decision? Yes, but.

Joining us now from the White House to explain, CNN's Jill Dougherty.

Jill?

JILL DOUGHERTY: Well, Judy, the White House may be hoping that the President's announcement today of his policy on gays in the military would put an end to the controversy over that issue, but there's no guarantee of that.

Against a backdrop of military service flags and flanked by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, President Clinton unveiled his long-awaited policy on gays in the military, calling it a real step forward, one that balances individual rights with military objectives, but a policy that is certain to raise questions.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: It is not a perfect solution. It is not identical with some of my own goals. And it certainly will not please everyone, perhaps not anyone, and clearly not those who hold the most adamant opinions on either side of this issue. But those who wish to ignore the issue must understand that it is already tearing at the cohesion of the military, and it is today being considered by the federal courts in ways that may not be to the liking of those who oppose any change.

DOUGHERTY: Outlining four major points of his policy, President Clinton said that servicemen and -women will be judged on conduct, not status. The practice of the past six months, not asking recruits about their sexual orientation, will continue. But in a subtle legal point that could raise questions, the President said that open statements by someone that he or

she is gay will allow the military to presume that person is gay. However, they can rebut that and stay in the military if they can prove they never have nor will engage in homosexual conduct. Finally, all provisions of the military code of justice will be applied to homosexuals and heterosexuals equally.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: It is an honorable compromise that advances the cause of people who are called to serve our country by their patriotism, the cause of our national security and our national interest in resolving an issue that has divided our military and our nation and diverted our attention from other matters for too long.

DOUGHERTY: Senator Sam Nunn, who's promising to put into law a similar but perhaps even stronger policy, said his initial reaction is positive, but he's reserving judgment until he can see details.

Back at the White House, President Clinton defended himself, claiming he had stuck with his principles.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Under this policy, a person can say, "I am a homosexual but I am going to strictly adhere to the code of conduct." If you go back through every statement I have made, I never said that I would be in favor of changing any of the rules of conduct.

DOUGHERTY: But gay rights groups claim the new policy contradicts the President's own words.

THOMAS STODDARD: He could have filled the country's yearning for moral leadership. Instead, he acceded, without even a fight, to the stereotypes and prejudices he himself disparaged.

TIM MCFEELEY [Human Rights Campaign Fund]: We elected a leader and we got a barometer.

DOUGHERTY: President Clinton says that his policy tries to balance individual rights with military objectives, and he's also trying to balance his two roles as Commander-in-Chief of the military and as protector of those individual rights.

Judy?

WOODRUFF: Jill, you said initially that the White House hopes that this puts the controversy to an end. Do they really believe that, or are they just saying that, hoping that it's going to come true?

DOUGHERTY: Well, that's probably the latter. The relationship with Senator Nunn, to put it mildly, has not been exactly a smooth one. And at this point, it seems that they do not want to give any indication other than, as he says, he has the right to look at the language, see how he reacts. Initially, he's reacting positively, but nobody really knows what ultimately he might try to put into law.

WOODRUFF: All right, Jill Dougherty. Thanks.

* * *

FRANK SESNO: As we continue our expanded coverage now of gays in the military, we move across the Potomac and over to the Pentagon. There, CNN's Jamie McIntyre has been following reaction to President Clinton's decision on gays in the military. He joins us now.

Jamie?

JAMIE MCINTYRE: Well, Frank, here at the Pentagon the spin has been "less is more," that the modest changes proposed by President Clinton in his gays-in-the-military policy represent a real step forward. But what the Pentagon insists on seeing as a promise half fulfilled, gay rights advocates still see as a promise still empty.

The reality of the policy is that homosexuals in the military may still have to lie to serve, unless they are celibate.

PRESIDENT CLINTON: Under this policy, a person can say, "I am a homosexual but I am going to strictly adhere to the code of conduct."

MCINTYRE: While homosexuals can't be asked whether they're gay, they can be asked if they've engaged in homosexual conduct and discharged for the admission. That's the most the Joint Chiefs would salute.

GENERAL POWELL: I think we have come up with a solution that we can all live with.

MCINTYRE: Homosexuals in the military would be allowed to march in a gay rights parade, go to a gay bar and have gay friends, and their commanders are barred from investigating them. In fact, military investigators can no longer watch gay bars to see who goes in and out, or act on someone's charge of homosexuality unless they believe the charge is based on credible evidence of conduct.

GENERAL CARL MUNDY: It's a policy that can be implemented, and it is a courageous policy.

GENERAL GORDON SULLIVAN: We believe we can implement this policy. It's one that the troops down in the field will understand.

MCINTYRE: But service members can neither say they are gay nor engage in any same-sex bodily contact that indicates intent to engage in homosexual acts, on or off base, in public or private. And gays say the silent drill amounts to discrimination.

REP. FRANK: I think people who say that they do not distinguish between off-base and on-base conduct do not distinguish very well between truth and fiction.

MCINTYRE: While the policy curbs so-called witch hunts, investigators can still pressure admitted homosexuals to name their lovers, a method used in the past to root out large numbers of homosexuals.

Pentagon officials say the next move will be to investigate the investigators, to make sure that military agencies charged with enforcing the policy aren't overzealous in carrying out their duties.

Frank?

SESNO: Jamie, obviously there's some very substantial gray area here, where it seems very vague and it would seem, at least at first blush, to be hard to enforce.

Let me ask you about this one. According to President Clinton, someone can declare their homosexuality but then say that they will adhere to the military code of justice. Now, doesn't that, on its face, clash?

MCINTYRE: Well, that's sort of the celibacy defense. And frankly, it's sort of

mystifying that President Clinton would focus on that. Because in the case like that, the presumption would be that an admission of being homosexual would be tantamount to admitting a propensity to commit homosexual acts. If someone admitted that, they would be out. However, there's a slight exception. If they could prove that they're celibate, that they adhere to the code of justice, they could possibly still remain in the service. But the burden of proof would be on them to prove the negative, and it would be a very, very hard test to meet in order to make that burden of proof.

So, to say that you could say you're homosexual and still serve, under this policy, is stretching it just a bit, I would say.

SESNO: Time-consuming and difficult, it would seem, also.

Let me ask you another question on the subject of gay rights advocates. They have some -- the ACLU and others have said that they intend to pursue this matter, even this policy, in the courts. What is next, so far as we know it, from their point of view?

MCINTYRE: Well, there are several cases pending. There's somewhere between a dozen and two dozen cases. Probably the most prominent one is the Keith Meinhold case progressing through California. But lawyers I've talked to who are experts in this subject frankly, on both sides of the issue, say that this new policy really changes so little that it doesn't really change the legal arguments. And the key legal argument used to challenge this ban is that, simply, homosexuals are treated differently than heterosexuals, and that violates the equal protection laws of the Constitution.

SESNO: Okay. Jamie McIntyre, at the Pentagon, thanks very much.

WOODRUFF: The Marines based at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station are, of course, obligated to obey the orders of the Commander-in-Chief. But they also have personal opinions on today's announcement by President Clinton.

CNN's Greg Lamotte heard a lot of them today.

GREG LAMOTTE: There are 5200 Marines at the El Toro base in Southern

California. And given the fact they've had months to consider the issue of gays in the military, their views are quite varied.

SGT. ROBERT HAZELWOOD: Well, I'm opposed to it. I think it's a moral issue. I think every religion's against it, whether you're Islamic or Christian or Jewish. And to me, it's just a moral issue. And I don't think it will help the morale or the cohesiveness of the military units.

CPL. HECTOR SAAVETRE: I don't see what the big deal is. There's always been gays in the military.

LAMOTTE: For many, the issue is morality. For others, there is fear regarding combat duty.

SGT. MICHAEL MYRICK: They've always been in the military, you know, since the inception of the military, I'm assuming. But my concern with it is, when you're on a front-line combat situation, your blood supply is your buddy next to you.

LANCE CPL. DAMON HARVEY: They're going to lose more people over this issue than they're going to be gaining by allowing the gays to come in. I've even thought, myself, about go ahead and getting out, just because I personally can't tolerate gays. It's a totally morally wrong.

LAMOTTE: The President's announcement appears to set policy of "We don't ask. You don't tell," but still bans any acts of homosexuality. And despite fears some may leave the military over this issue, others believe it's just another rule to follow.

LT. BETH CARRIERO: I think the main point to make is that, heterosexual or homosexual, Marines live by a pretty strict standard of conduct on a daily basis, more so than your average civilian. Their lifestyle, particularly in the barracks as single Marines, is restricted a great deal. They can't have overnight guests. Their drinking and things like that are restricted.

So, I think they're used to abiding by a certain code of conduct, and this will be just one more thing to add to that.

LAMOTTE: Now that policy has been

set, much like the issue of women in the military or women in combat, most believe it will take years to determine if the policy is a good one.

Greg Lamotte, CNN, El Toro Marine Base.

* * *
SESNO: Joining us now are two members of the House Armed Services Committee who come down on different sides of this issue: Representative Pat Schroeder of Colorado and Representative Steve Buyer of Indiana.

Thanks to both of you for joining us.

Congressman Buyer, I'd like to start with you, and then hear from Congresswoman Schroeder on this.

President Clinton calls this "an honorable compromise." Do you agree?

REP. STEVE BUYER: No, I disagree with that. President Clinton backed himself into this corner by having a campaign promise, and it's really unfair to jeopardize our national security and the integrity of the military because of a bad promise.

SESNO: You feel this jeopardizes national security.

REP. BUYER: Well, the military is an instrument of our national security policy, and therefore the military should not be used as that social experimentation ground. We're not dealing with an issue of minority rights, the civil rights legislation. If we were, we could have that kind of conversation. We're dealing with the military here.

SESNO: Pat Schroeder, honorable compromise?

REP. PAT SCHROEDER: I think the President tried very hard to come up with an honorable compromise, but I think the Joint Chiefs just aren't going to play. And that's what they've been doing, kind of thumbing their noses at the President on this and many other issues. I'm beginning to feel like I live in a banana republic. I thought we were under civilian control of the military.

But I think he tried. It's a little better than where we are, but it's a long way from being what I think is constitutional, what I think

is right, and what I think the law of the land should be.

SESNO: Are you suggesting that Les Aspin, the President caved to the Joint Chiefs, should have gone further in pushing them farther down the road?

REP. SCHROEDER: Well, if you look at any number of issues that we've had in front of us this year, the Joint Chiefs have just dug in and said no. You never hear the cement cracking from around their feet. It's everybody else's to yield to them. And I think it's because for 12 years no one in this town ever said no to them, and they're not going to have anyone say no now.

I think that's very unfortunate, because one of the strengths of our government has been the constitutional insistence upon civilian control of the military.

I think the President tried very hard to say he thought this was the right and fair thing to do, and now could it possibly be implemented? And they kind of said it can't be, so we're not going to do it. And I think that's wrong, and I think everybody would disagree [sic].

SESNO: Let me ask you both about the implementation of the policy, as currently crafted and announced by the President.

Is a "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy enforceable? The Joint Chiefs seem to think it is, but many others say there is a lot here that is very vague and would be very difficult to police.

Congressman buyer, why don't you begin?

REP. BUYER: Well, let's not get lost in the woods here. You have to back off from this. And you say, "Well, why are we even discussing this issue?"

SESNO: Well, you're discussing this issue because the President announced it today.

REP. BUYER: I understand that. But we need to say, "Well, wait a minute. We have an effective military before the President ever stepped forward and said let's lift the ban." And now he's tweaked the system so much that it has created some inconsistencies. And also, it

includes some unrealistic assumptions. It's basically defining a new class. He's defining those by defining sexual orientation and saying that you can come into the military so long as you don't act upon your sexual desire. And that is an unrealistic assumption.

REP. SCHROEDER [Laughter] Well, I hope not. I hope it's very realistic to assume that people can come into the military, be they homosexual or heterosexual, and be able to concentrate on what the duty at hand is, rather than their sexual desires. That should be in their private life. That's what the President was trying to do, to say conduct should be the basis of how you evaluate what everyone is doing. I think both things are totally irrelevant to what's going on in the workplace. And if they can't do it in the workplace, then they shouldn't be there.

But the idea that you should pierce people's private life is something that Americans don't like. Even Barry Goldwater doesn't like that.

SESNO: Congressmen Buyer and Schroeder, both of you, please hold your thoughts.

* * *

SESNO: Congressman Buyer, I'm sorry. I cut you off a moment ago. You were making a point, and I'd like to let you...

REP. BUYER: That's all right. What I've learned quickly is that you have two members of Congress here that, for whatever reasons now that we've talked about it, don't like the present policy. Congresswoman Schroeder made my argument for me when I said that the present policy creates an unrealistic assumption, to say that a homosexual can come into the military if never acting upon a sexual desire, and she goes, "You're absolutely right." Because that which identifies them, they should be able to in the privacy of their lives to do that.

Well, this policy, it creates that inconsistency.

SESNO: Well, therein lies the problem.

Congresswoman Schroeder, do you have a response to that? Because there would appear to be an inconsistency there. If people are permitted their private lives, let 'em have their

private life.

REP. SCHROEDER: That's exactly right, and that's the problem that the policy doesn't allow right now, is they pursue people right into their private lives, where you have spent, as taxpayers, over a half a billion dollars just in the last few years on these witch hunts, chasing people off base, trying to see what they do with their spare time. I think that's offensive to everyone.

I also think we should get the Rand Commission report, which is one of the final reports. We've had so many, and they all say lift the ban. All objective sources have said lift the ban. And I think it's a shame we can't just do it.

SESNO: Let me ask you both, if you could in the 15 seconds or so remaining for each of you, take a look down and give some indication as to where you think this issue is going to go in Congress and beyond.

REP. BUYER: Well, this Thurs -- either Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, on the Military Forces Personnel Subcommittee that I sit on of the House Armed Services Committee, we'll bring in the Chiefs to be able to talk about this policy and to talk about these inconsistencies. And after that, we'll discuss on what type of ban will be laid down.

I intend to codify the ban into law.

REP. SCHROEDER: Well, no one ever said Congress is a body of enlightenment, and so probably the ban has got a chance of becoming the law. Let us hope that the courts speak up for constitutional rights and what America is really all about. And that's liberty and justice for all.

SESNO: So you think this will still be resolved in the courts, potentially.

REP. SCHROEDER: I think it's still probably going to end up in the courts.

SESNO: Pat Schroeder and Steve Buyer, thanks both very much.

The following transcripts are available to read or copy on the premises, CNARS 4C-881.

Homosexuals in the Military
The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, PBS-TV
July 19, 7:00 P.M. TR-267

Homosexuals in the Military
Crossfire, CNN-TV
July 19, 7:30 P.M. TR-268

Homosexuals in the Military
Nightline, ABC-TV
July 19, 11:35 P.M. TR-269

NBC's "TODAY SHOW" with Gov. Terry Branstad (R-IA) and Missouri Gov. Mel Carnahan on the continuing flood crisis in the Midwest and military involvement. July 19, 7:00 A.M. Reuter Transcript Report.

News conference presenting views in opposition to the "Don't ask, don't tell" military policy with Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA), et al. July 16, 1993. Reuter Transcript Report.

News conference with Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) on the new military policy on gays. July 19, 1993. Reuter Transcript Report.

"THE MCLAUGHLIN GROUP" discusses the gay ban and the "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Recorded on July 16, 1993. Reuter Transcript Report.



Inquiry on Sailor's Killing Tests Navy in Dealing With Gay Issues

By ERIC SCHMITT

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 9 — When Allen R. Schindler was beaten to death in a public restroom in Japan last October, the Navy told his mother that he had fallen on his head in a fight. Only after friends of the dead sailor wrote to a military newspaper did the Navy acknowledge that a shipmate might have killed Mr. Schindler because he was gay.

The inquiry into the fatal beating of Mr. Schindler, a 22-year-old radioman on the amphibious ship Belleau Wood, illustrates the difficulties the Navy has had in dealing with the issue of allowing homosexuals in the military. Both sides have seized on the case as evidence for their arguments.

Navy officials say they have aggressively investigated the Schindler case as a murder, rather than as a hate crime. But to gay-rights groups, that approach means the Navy did not understand the case's broader significance or was avoiding a fair and thorough inquiry.

Early in its inquiry, the Navy authorities reduced charges against a young airman, Charles E. Vins, in exchange for his testimony against the sailor accused of killing Mr. Schindler, Airman Apprentice Terry M. Helvey. Both men were shipmates of Mr. Schindler. Only later did Navy investigators learn that Airman Vins had also assaulted Mr. Schindler.

Rights Groups Criticize Navy

In February, a new affidavit suggested that Airman Helvey himself might be homosexual. The affidavit's author, an unidentified sailor who said he had sex twice with Airman Helvey, later failed a lie-detector test and recanted his statement. Gay-rights groups said disclosure of the affidavit was part of a campaign by some Navy officials to undermine President Clinton's effort to allow homosexuals in the armed services. Navy officials deny that.

At a hearing last week, Airman Helvey admitted that he killed Mr. Schindler, but he gave no reason. He previously had entered no plea.

If a Navy judge in Japan accepts the plea at a hearing on May 24, the case may end with its most salient question still unanswered: Why did Airman Helvey do it?

Tim McFeeley, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a gay-rights group, said last week in a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno, "Only an impartial investigation can determine whether criminal prosecutions are justified." Mr. McFeeley asked for an independent investigation by the Attorney General's office.

Senior Navy officials deny any deliberate efforts to undermine the inquiry or use it to discredit efforts to allow homosexuals in the military.

"Throughout this ordeal, the Navy has maintained a delicate balance of keeping the public informed to the greatest extent possible without jeopardizing the investigation and military justice processes," Adm. Robert J. Kelly, commander of the Navy's Pacific Fleet, said in a statement.

But other Navy officials concede that

misstep by granting immunity to Airman Vins. They also say it fumbled efforts to protect Mr. Schindler's privacy and failed to keep details about the case from dribbling out.

"It's been a tortured process," one Navy officer familiar with the case said. "The Navy winds up hamstrung in what it can say so it looks like we're trying to hide something, which I don't think we are. It's clear, though, that some people have let out some facts that tend to hurt our credibility."

Earlier Criticisms of Navy

Complicating the matter is that the Navy was roundly criticized for its handling of two recent major inquiries: the assaults of women at the Tailhook Association naval aviators convention in 1991 and the explosion aboard the battleship Iowa in 1989, which killed 47 sailors.

"This investigation seems fairly clear on who did what when, but it's being played out against a difficult political backdrop," an officer said.

The Navy had charged Airman Helvey, 20, with premeditated murder, under which he could have faced the death penalty if found guilty. So it is not difficult to understand why he would agree to plead guilty to a lesser count, murder with intent to inflict great bodily harm. Under military law, that charge carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

Navy and civilian lawyers said the prosecutor had an incentive to settle because there was always the risk of losing a trial verdict. Gay-rights groups said they did not believe that the Navy deliberately struck a deal with Airman Helvey to cut short the case.

Advocacy Groups Concerned

But these advocacy groups express concern that if David P. Holcombe, a Navy judge who holds the rank of commander, accepts Airman Helvey's plea, the authorities will not have reached the bottom of the case.

Mr. Schindler's mother, Dorothy Hajdys of Chicago Heights, Ill., said she feared that Airman Helvey could be paroled. "I want them to put him away for the rest of his life," she said.

Mrs. Hajdys has criticized the Navy for not telling her immediately after her son's death that there was a possible homosexual motive for it. A Navy spokeswoman, Lieut. Comdr. Betsy Bird, said Navy officials debated telling Mrs. Hajdys but worried about how she would react to learning that her son was homosexual.

"We've never denied information to the family when they've asked," Commander Bird said.

The Navy acknowledged that bias against homosexuals was being investigated as a possible motive in the killing after several friends of Mr. Schindler wrote a letter to Pacific Stars and Stripes, the military newspaper, which published an article on the subject last December.

Some Navy officials not involved in the case said they were more troubled with the handling of Airman Vins.

Airman Vins, 20, was court-martialed last November and, in effect, was given a four-month sentence and a bad-conduct discharge for not reporting a serious crime and resisting an

result of an agreement between the sailor and the prosecution, which required the approval of the Navy commander in Japan, Rear Adm. Jesse J. Hernandez. Investigators later determined that Airman Vins had joined Airman Helvey in kicking Mr. Schindler.

Commander Bird said the Navy acted on the best information it had at the

Rocco Claps
Minyon Moore

DNC, Liaison to the Lesbian and Gay Community
DNC, Director, Constituency Outreach

~~Torie Osborn~~
~~Pere Jude Radecic~~
~~Derek Livingston~~

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

✓ Andrew E. Barrer

Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund

~~/~~ Fred P. Hochberg

Stonewall Foundation, New York

✓ Nadine Smith
✓ Billy Hileman
Scout Wechler

March on Washington Committee

Paul Kawata

National Minority AIDS Council

✓ Tom Stoddard
✓ Tom Sheridan
Chai Feldblum
David Smith

Campaign for Military Service

~~Phil Wilson~~

Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum

Karen Ringen
Jess Levi

AIDS Action Council

· CMS meeting w/ Rahm

address: "Segregation"

contracts in W/H Pub. Liaison, etc.

4. Letter of support

④ Accruals

Better to
Settle into Capital Hill

near of the March

~~Handwritten~~ ^{to} Henry next week
perhaps

⑤

②

Can the President
do for us

reform movement, but if President Yeltsin is removed, either constitutionally or unconstitutionally, it affect the package of aid, both the size the specific package that the United States would offer Russia without a President Yeltsin? Should the conservatives, the nationalists in the parliament be on notice that it could affect the kind of aid we'd contribute?

Well, let me say again I don't want to get into hypothetical situations because I don't want anything I say or do to either undermine or rigidify the situation there. I mean, this is something the Russians are going to have to develop.

The United States has three interests in our cooperation with Russia. One is to make the world a safer place, continue to reduce the threat of nuclear war and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Two is to support the development of democracy and freedom for the people of Russia. . . . And three is to support the development of a market economy.

At every step along the way, with or without President Yeltsin in authority, from now I suppose for—until the end of time, or for—at least for the foreseeable future, the United States will have those interests. And we will be guided by those interests.

Mr. President, you seem to be having some difficulty with the Pentagon. When you went to the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the sailors there were mocking you before your arrival, even though you are the commander in chief. The services have been undercutting your proposal for permitting gays to be in the military. There's been no Pentagon creation of the task force that was supposed to be created, the hearings are to start a week from now, and Congress has gotten any advice from the Pentagon or from the services as to what to propose. Do you have a problem, perhaps because of your lack of military service, perhaps because of issues such as gays in the military, in being effective in your role as commander in chief, and what do you propose to do about it?

No. No, I don't have a problem being commander in chief. You knew that just—you knew that a lot of the service officers disagreed with the position on gays in the military before I ever took office.

The secretary of defense has not been in the best of health. I think he is either fully recovered now or on the verge of it, and I asked him to give me a report on June the 15th. Sen. Nunn said back in January that he would have hearings sometime probably in March, so I think we're at the outer limits of the time that he was going to have hearings. And his schedule to have hearings, in my view, has nothing to do with the fact that I asked the secretary of defense to present to me on June the 15th a report which I expect to receive.

The task force was supposed to be created by now. The Pentagon has not created the task force, and there's been no report to the Hill, and in fact, Sen. Nunn has indicated that he thinks some of the compromises that might have been possible, such as not having gays go to sea or be in combat, are not constitutional. Does that give you problems?

Well, I don't want to get into a constitutional debate, but if you can discriminate against people in terms of whether they get into the service or not based on not what they are but what they say they are, then I would think you could make appropriate distinctions on duty assignments once they're in. The courts have historically given quite wide berth to the military to make judgments of that kind in terms of duty assignments.

Mr. President, on another topic, you've laid out some of the criteria you're going to use to choose the next Supreme Court justice: a fine mind, experience in the law, experience dealing with people and a big heart. Does [New York] Gov. Mario Cuomo fit that criteria, and do you think that he make a good Supreme Court justice?

Well, I'm on record on that, but the last time I said it,

But what I'm trying to do now is to reconcile—the key financial conflict in the health care issue is this: We've got to give the American people the right to know they're going to be covered with health insurance, that they're not going to have their costs going up two or three times the rate of inflation, and they're not going to lose the right to pick their doctor. And we know that if we do it in any one of three or four ways it will save literally hundreds of billions of dollars between now and the end of the decade of tax money and, more importantly, of private money; massive amounts of money will be saved. So the question is, how much do you have to raise now in order to save all that money later? Those are the judgments we'll be making in the next month. We've still got about five weeks to make the decision.

I wanted to ask you if long-term care would absolutely be included in that package of benefits that you're talking about everybody having by the end of the first term.

To what extent it will be hasn't been resolved because of the cost questions there.

Are you prepared to support restrictions on . . . the deployment of homosexual members of the service? And if you are, do you think that fulfills the criteria that you laid out that discrimination should be on the basis of conduct not orientation?

That depends on what the report says. That's why I'm waiting for the secretary of defense to issue the report. But I wouldn't rule that out, depending on what the grounds and arguments were.

Mr. President, your own advisers have said that your health care reform might cost from \$30 billion to \$90 billion more a year, cost the government more. And that's in addition to the tax hikes you've proposed for your economic program. Are you saying you cannot tell the middle class and working people that you will not seek higher taxes for health care reform?

I am saying that I have not made a judgment yet about how to recover what monies it would take to provide the security to all families that they would have some health insurance. That's right, I have not made that decision yet. . . . I have sat through now probably 10, 12 hours maybe, of intense staff briefings on the health care issue, and I would say we have 12 to 15 hours to go before I will be in a position to make some of these calls.

I can tell you this, I will not ask the American people to pay for a health care plan until the people who have—who will be making money out of the changes that we propose are asked to give back some of the money they will make. Keep in mind these changes will save massive amounts of money immediately to some of the health care providers.

If I may return to Russia for a moment, as your spokespersons have told us over the past few days, there are other reformers there. Is there a danger in putting too much American weight behind Boris Yeltsin?

I don't think so. . . . And I've tried to be supportive of reformers throughout Russia and, indeed, throughout all the former communist countries and the former republics of the Soviet Union.

But he is, after all, the first elected president in a thousand years. He has the mandate of having been voted on in a free and open election where people were free to vote and free to stay home, something that was not true previously. And that is something you would expect me to do.

Let's put it in a different context. Suppose—well, we just had the prime minister of Great Britain here. And the United States and Great Britain have had historic ties and shared values. You expect me to work with the prime minister of Great Britain even if he is of a party

of talk that your administration's characteristics do statement? Is there are seeing neg

Well, I wouldn't call it intend to try to get a tra best interests of both And keep in mind this is this is also an investme whether, when we mal the United States to in secure, shouldn't we al economies of Mexico a basic environmental sta observed, and shouldn greater than those emb in the event that there a because of unintended should, and I believe th And I would just poi ple. We have examples United States spent ta American companies to then went down there instead of raising them trying to do is to promof efits of them to both cou The second thing, let miration for President [C for what he's doing. I w to remind all of you that the NAFTA agreement eral reductions by the S riers took the United S from a \$6 billion trade surplus with Mexico. S trade provisions. But the be used in ways that wi the border instead of lo border and pollute the ei to avoid.

Among the people I charmed President Fidel I view with a TV station . Would you be willing to n administration might chan a Republican?

I have no change in C supported the Cuban De day that we'll all be al Cuba. . . .

Mr. President, on paign last year in Michiga a Bush administration mini-vans—MPVs—to rates. This led the auto i lieve that you would take a to do something this that subject, or do still

No, I haven't changed that issue is now under others relating to our tra

We once had huge tr South Korea, but they've move up and down. But the Japanese enjoy with rest of the developed w conclusion that the possib cess to the Japanese mar

And I was—and I will that the Bush administrat office and gave a \$300 m anese for no apparent rea emphasize nothing, in ret

TEX

Clinton Would Consider Segregating Gay Troops

Remarks Are a Contrast With Earlier Stand on the Military

By RICHARD L. BERKE
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 23 — Facing resistance from the military over his pledge to allow homosexuals to serve in the armed forces, President Clinton said for the first time today that he would consider proposals to segregate troops by sexual orientation.

Mr. Clinton's comments at a White House news conference contrasted sharply with his public statements during the Presidential campaign and in the first days after he was elected. Mr. Clinton said then without qualification that he would end discrimination against homosexuals in the military.

The President's remarks surprised people on both sides of the issue and raised eyebrows in the Pentagon, where officials studying ways to deploy gay soldiers said they had never considered segregation a serious option.

Alarm and Welcome

Organizations that had been urging Mr. Clinton to reverse the ban on homosexuals expressed alarm, saying his comments reflected a retreat. But opponents welcomed the President's remarks for the same reason, citing them as evidence that Mr. Clinton was giving in to pressure from top generals who have asserted that the ban was needed to preserve military discipline and spirit.

Shortly after taking office, Mr. Clinton had sought to put the controversy to rest by delaying immediate action on his pledge, instructing Les Aspin, the Defense Secretary, to write a new policy by July 15 that would examine whether homosexuals should be barred from ground combat and warships, as women are now. In recent weeks, Mr. Clinton has avoided public discussion of the issue.

Asked by reporters whether he would support segregation of homosexual members of the service, Mr. Clinton referred to the report being drafted



Paul Hasefros/The New York Times

President Clinton during his news conference yesterday.

in the Pentagon. "That depends on what the report says," he said. "That's why I'm waiting for the Secretary of Defense to issue the report. But I wouldn't rule that out, depending on what the grounds and arguments were." [Transcript, pages A9-A10.]

Supreme Court Nomination

Mr. Clinton did not comment on how homosexuals might be separated from heterosexuals — in separate units or separate living quarters within the same unit.

Mr. Clinton addressed several other domestic issues, including how he would select a replacement for Justice Byron R. White, who has announced his retirement from the Supreme Court. Asked whether he would ask potential nominees their position on abortion, Mr. Clinton said: "I will not ask anybody how they will vote in a specific case. I will endeavor to appoint someone who has an attachment to a belief

Continued on Page A11, Column 1



Paul Hase/roa/The New York Times

George Stephanopoulos, left, the White House communications director, and Thomas F. McLarty 3d, right, the White House chief of staff, listening as President Clinton discussed his plans regarding homosexuals in the military at a news conference at the White House.

Clinton Says He'd Consider Segregation of Gay Soldiers

Continued From Page A1

in a strong and broad right to constitutional privacy."

The President also said he thought that most Americans would pay "a little more" in taxes for a better health-care system. As the Senate voted today on the framework of his budget, he predicted that he would persuade reluctant Senators to vote for his economic plan this week.

He also said that in the coming days he would propose eliminating the practice of evading campaign spending limits through big contributions to political parties rather than candidates. And he said his efforts to resolve the long-standing dispute over protection of spotted owls in the Northwest's timber country "will probably make everybody mad."

On the Defensive

It was the questions on homosexuals in the military that seemed to put the President the most on the defensive, to the point that he found himself defending his ability to lead the armed forces. "No, I don't have a problem being Commander in Chief," he insisted. Dismissing the notion that his not having served in the military had generated some opposition to his proposal to end the ban against homosexuals, he said, "A lot of service officers disagreed with the position on gays in the military before I even took office."

While Mr. Clinton said he would wait until the Pentagon report was completed before making a decision on whether gay soldiers should be treated differently from heterosexual ones, groups on both sides said his comments raised the prospect that he was backing away from his initial stand, that soldiers should be punished or rewarded on the basis of conduct and job performance, not sexual orientation.

Senator Sam Nunn of Georgia, the chairman of the Armed Forces Committee who is Mr. Clinton's chief foe on allowing openly gay people in the military, suggested recently that he opposed even permitting the segregation of homosexual soldiers. He said he feared that would be unconstitutional.

Mr. Clinton disputed that notion today, saying, "The courts have traditionally given wide berth to the military to make judgments of that kind in terms of duty assignments."

Recently, Mr. Clinton toured a warship for the first time when he flew to the carrier Theodore Roosevelt off Norfolk, Va. During the tour he viewed

the triple-decker berths in the crew's sleeping quarters. Administration officials said that caused the President to begin rethinking his position.

Thomas S. Stoddard, coordinator of the Campaign for Military Service, a coalition opposing the military's ban, said the President's comments were "slightly alarming." But he added, "I believe on study and reflection, the President would reject any distinction based on sexual orientation."

Senator Dan Coats, an Indiana Republican who favors keeping the ban and opposes a compromise on segregation, said: "I'm hoping that this is a thoughtful reconsideration of whether

Clinton shows new flexibility on on a strong campaign pledge.

or not this is the time to have the Pentagon preoccupied with this subject. The President is discovering that this is a far more complex and difficult issue than he initially realized."

Criticism of Japan

George Stephanopoulos, the White House communications director, said the President had not made any decision about whether to support segregating the troops, but that "he's certainly saying that he's open to it."

Fielding questions on other topics at the news conference, Mr. Clinton issued a surprisingly harsh condemnation of Japan's trade surplus with the United States, which reached \$49.42 billion last year. "The persistence of the surplus the Japanese enjoy with the United States and with the rest of the developed world can only lead one to the conclusion that the possibility of obtaining real, even access to the Japanese market is somewhat remote," he said.

By contrast, the Bush Administration and many economists have contended that the size of the trade surplus has less to do with the openness of the Japanese market than with macroeconomic problems in the United States, such as a low savings rate here.

Larry Kramer Advocate Column #1
Faxed 17 March 93
981 words

Unhappily, I have come to the reluctant conclusion that William Jefferson Clinton cares as much for homosexuals as Franklin Delano Roosevelt cared for Jews. Roosevelt said all the right things and the desperate Jews fell for it hook, line, and sinker and when those still alive woke up in 1945, six million of their brothers and sisters were dead.

So far Bill Clinton has been just like FDR—a smiling, back-slapping fraud.

This is what he's done for us:

- not appointed an AIDS czar;
- not appointed a head of AIDS research;
- not even uttered the words "Manhattan Project;"
- not announced any plans at all for ending the AIDS plague;
- appointed as Secretary of Health and Human Services one Donna Shalala, who knows absolutely nothing about health, gays, lesbians (she denied she was one with such vehemence that I got very worried very fast), or AIDS;
- sat by while Sec. Shalala appointed as her assistant secretary one Dr. Phil Lee, whose specialty is cost-cutting;
- sat by while Sec. Shalala appointed as her assistant one Patsy Fleming, AIDS "person" to the late Rep. Ted Weiss; Ted was a good friend to the gay community but a rotten, blind bastard to the AIDS community, fighting us tooth and nail on our attempted reform of the FDA and our desperate need to get drugs out to patients faster;
- sat by while Sen. Ted Kennedy played dirty pool revamping NIH with a plan so dumb and stupid (it creates yet another bureaucracy) that one can only marvel at who the idiots must be who conceived it (until one finds out that the idiots who conceived it are none other than our very own idiots: Treatment Action Group, Gay Men's Health Crisis, AIDS Action Council, and Dr. Mathilde Krim;
- bought off, I guess, David Mixner, who was one grandstanding hero of mine before the election but who must have smelled the shit in the fans and gone back to hide in some closet in California;
- cut the AIDS budget; that's right, the AIDS research budget, along with all other AIDS activities, has been savaged;
- not responded to one letter, plea, or FAX, a rudeness that can also be levelled against Sec. Shalala, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Patsy Fleming, and Kevin Thurm (Donna's other lackey);
- not made one single courtesy call or inquiry to any of the important players in this plague that is ravaging his country—anyone at NIH, any AIDS researcher, bureaucrat, activist.

It is abundantly, appalling clear that President William Jefferson Clinton does not have AIDS on his mind; that anyone with knowledge useful for ending the plague has been shut out of any decision making process, should any be going on, which it would appear it is not; and that all the money and energy we expended getting this man into the White House has been, so far, worth nothing.

As always, our own lesbian and gay and AIDS organizations are utterly out to lunch. A recent rumbling that the San Francisco AIDS Foundation had called for the wholesale resignation of the entire staff of AIDS Action Council is woefully understandable.

Indeed, as always, our boys and girls in Washington are USELESS. I met a Human Rights Campaign Fund board member who told me how ashamed they are of their wimp executive director. "Why don't you get rid of him" was my obvious question. "It takes time," she said.

One billion infected people by decade's end don't have time.

Meanwhile, for the first time I can remember, scientists are beginning to feel hopeful, sensing there are, at last, some legitimate research leads to follow. Some of this new stuff seems to have shown up, if you can believe it, (and who can't), *accidentally*, and some of it has laid around for a year or so (what's an extra month here and there with a billion facing death?) on somebody's desk, or conscience; and some of it is the long overdue result of years of uncoordinated and unsupervised doodling, diddling, and daddling.

But it's there and it's real and I am sensing excitement and, God damn it, it needs supervision, encouragement, and the blessing of the White House.

For twelve long stupid idiotic senseless years there has been no one in charge of a **Plague**. You want to know what genocide looks like? Come to New York. The gay male community is decimated. The New York gay community is a ghost town. There are fewer and fewer of us left as every day goes by. And this new President, William Jefferson Clinton, whom we put in office because he made promises to us for which we paid him millions of dollars to keep, has done **nothing** to honor these promises.

Billy boy, the honeymoon is over. To hell with those who say, Hey, he's just been elected. Give him a few minutes. *There have been meetings in the White House about every human issue you can think of except AIDS.*

Bill Clinton is proving no better at saving our lives than Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Mark my words: the Right Wing bigots who hate us will continue with unabated success to make sure we are eaten alive. Not only by AIDS, not only in Colorado, not only by the military, but in the White House. And Bill Clinton will smile his lovely smile and say, as he did about gays in the military "Well, I tried, but the American people wouldn't let me."

My prediction for the next four years? What we're going to wind up with is less and worse than what we had. But Bill Clinton and all his lackeys will say the right things. And those of us still alive in 2000 will wake up and discover that a billion people are dead.

ACT UP, where are you now that we need you? We should be protesting more, not less.

###

CLINTON ON GAYS/LESBIANS IN THE MILITARY DURING THE CAMPAIGN

CLINTON'S POLICY ON GAYS/LESBIANS NOT BASED ON POLITICS:

- ◆ In an interview with the New York Times Magazine, Clinton said he became a supporter of gay rights partly because of knowing people with AIDS and having friends who are homosexual:

"See, this is more about saying than doing, this whole thing. It's not so much whether you're gay or not, but whether you can own up to being gay and still have your job or serve your country." [Washington Times, 10/13/92]

CLINTON CITED PENTAGON STUDY SUPPORTING GAYS IN THE MILITARY:

- ◆ "Yes. I support repeal of the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the United States armed forces, in accord with the Pentagon study, which stated that allowing gays and lesbians to serve would have no detrimental impact on our military strength." [St. Petersburg Times, 9/30/92]
- ◆ "[W]hen the Pentagon issued its report saying that there was no basis for the ban on homosexual men and women in the military, I said that I would act to repeal the ban. The Secretary of Defense said it ought to be repealed, but he wouldn't do it. But they stopped kicking people out while the Gulf War was going on, and then started again after the Gulf War was over. I don't think it's right. I think everybody ought to have the right to work and should be required to work. I think people should have the right to serve their country. And if denied the right to serve their country, it should be on the basis of behavior, not status." [Federal News Service, 11/20/92]

CLINTON TOLD MILITARY HE OPPOSED BAN:

- ◆ In an interview with the Army Times, Navy Times and Air Force Times, Mr. Clinton did not shy away from his position to remove the ban on gays in the military:

"Right now (homosexuals) are not required to disclose that (status) when they join the service. There's no form to check off whether you're gay or not. So the issue is whether you should be able to stay if you acknowledge you are gay. I don't believe that alone should be justification for kicking you out." [PR Newswire, 9/27/92]

CLINTON CAMPAIGNED WITH GAY/LESBIAN COMMUNITY:

- ◆ "I have a vision and you are part of it," said Clinton at a Hollywood fund-raiser of over 600 gay supporters. "You represent a community of our nation's gifted people whom we have been willing to squander. We can't afford to waste the capacities, the contributions, the hearts, the souls, the minds of the gay and lesbian Americans." [Boston Globe, 5/31/92]

CLINTON SAID BAN WASTED TALENTS OF AMERICANS:

- ◆ "I believe we have to have a tolerant, but not a permissive society...to use the talents of all Americans. There ought to be a presumption that people are able to serve their country ... in the military or any other way. We cannot afford to waste the talents of any Americans." [UPI, 6/9/92]

CLINTON SAID BAN COST TAXPAYERS \$500 MILLION:

- ◆ In a live television town meeting in Florida, Clinton pointed to the amount of money squandered on the enforcement of the current ban:

"My own view on that is that simple status alone should not be enough for excluding somebody from the military. We spent \$500 million in tax money in the last 10 years to get about 16,300 homosexual men and women out of the military, in the absence of any proof that they'd done anything wrong--that there was any behavior that was objectionable. So my position would be that behavior alone should not be enough and that people should be considered for reentry on a case by case basis. " [The Reuter Transcript Report, 9/9/92]

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman David Wilhelm
FROM: Rocco Claps
RE: New York City Gay and Lesbian Community Meeting
DA: 25 March 1993

Attendees:

Fred Hochberg, President, Lillian Vernon Corporation
Executive Director, Stonewall Foundation
Big fundraiser from the Campaign
Talked to you at our constituency meeting last month
has been helpful on the economic plan
Part of a DCCC fundraiser in Washington during the
March on Washington Weekend which will be at
Congressman Barney Frank's home.
Vivian Shapiro, Stonewall Foundation
Marty Rouse, Strong, early Clinton supporter
Works for Manhattan borough president
Ruth Messenger
Jeff Zoruff
Jeff Drummond
Jim Pepper
Dennis Monagan

Topics:

MILITARY BAN:

There is well-known furor over the President's remarks on Tuesday. When discussing the topic, remember to point out the following:

- * The President's commitment to oppose discrimination is unchanged;
- * The President has already done a lot by disallowing the military from asking if applicants for service are gay or lesbian and from suspending legal action against individuals;
- * The President made a commitment in January that he would listen to all sides of the argument--including the military's. He will not go back on that decision.
- * The DNC is committed to aiding the President in his executive order and any necessary lobbying and grassroots efforts. This includes working closely with groups such as the Campaign for Military Service, the Human Rights Campaign Fund and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force with which Craig Smith, Minyon Moore and Rocco Claps have been meeting regularly.

We need to go over specific criticisms made by people opposed to lifting the ban and your responses to them.

NUNN HEARINGS:

On Monday, Senator Nunn will begin hearings on the following subject matters concerning the lifting of the ban:

- * Unit Cohesion--how military units interconnect;
- * History of the Ban
- * Legal Issues

THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

April 25th--Expected attendance: 800,000 to 1 million

Because of recent criticisms of the military issue, this has the potential of being an anti-Clinton rally. This may be the warning the group discusses.

Other problems have been caused by the Park Service decision to reseed the mall, possibly forcing marchers to move to the Pentagon Parking lot for their rally. They within a few days.

OTHER CRITICISM OF THE WHITE HOUSE:

No clear course of ascertaining information at the White House. This has been made two groups,

The Campaign for Military Service

Made up of most of the National Gay and Lesbian groups and funded by them--to the tune of \$3 million.

The Human Rights Campaign Fund

Heavy contributors to Democrats, big commitment to the Texas Senate race.

MEMORANDUM

**To: Chairman David Wilhelm
Craig Smith**

From: Rocco Claps

**Re: Meeting with Leaders of Lesbian and Gay
HIV/AIDS Health Care Communities**

ISSUES

The following issues will most likely NOT come up at the meeting, but you should be aware of these areas of concern:

- * **Uneasiness with supporting the Clinton plan without knowing the specifics.** This is particularly important to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force which wants to know specifics (such as how much additional funding will be spent on AIDS) before committing to a phone banking program for the State of the Union Address.
- * **Repeal of State Sodomy Laws.** The Democrats are talking about support for a grass-roots political strategy nationwide. Does this mean that the DNC is going to only help state house candidates, gubernatorial candidates, etc. who support repeal of the sodomy laws?
- * **Gay and Lesbian-inclusive Human Rights Legislation** (on both state-by-state and federal levels). The same questions above apply to this issue except it expands to include support for Congressmen and Senators.
- * **Lifting Ban on HIV-infected foreigners.** Understanding that the community is supportive of statements made by the President and administration officials, this is a very definite watch topic about which meeting attendees may need to be reassured.
- * **Lifting Ban on Military Service.** Another obvious watch topic.
- * **Family Leave Amendment Roll Call.** Many in the community take the question of whether or not a Senator is supportive of anti-gay/lesbian legislation by reviewing the recent amendment roll call. Senators Howell Heflin (D-Alabama) and Richard Shelby (D-Alabama) were the only Democrats who voted for the Republican amendment--what will the DNC do to change their minds when it comes to other gay and lesbian supportive legislation?
- * **March on Washington.** On April 25, Washington will be the location for a human rights march inclusive of gays, lesbians and bisexuals. The March on Washington committee should be represented

at the meeting. They may also expect participation by either the DNC or the administration.

RESPONSE

I believe that a response to the question of support for specific candidates who are not necessarily supportive of lesbian and gay issues should include the following:

The DNC is interested in being the guide by which Democrats across the nation can look to. This does not always mean that candidates will support the Democratic platform word-for-word. This meeting indicates the willingness not only to expand the dialogue between the Party and lesbian and gay, AIDS/HIV-related groups, but to act as an educational tool and guide by which the Party should be headed.

KEEP IN MIND

When addressing this group it's important to keep several things in mind:

- * Use the terms "Lesbian and Gay," being careful not to use what many consider to be code words such as "you all" or "this community" or "the people in this room." Many speakers have a difficult time actually saying the words and its a quick tip-off if they don't.

- * Throw in an acknowledgment that there are representatives from groups at this meeting which have worked many years at bringing about understanding and equal rights for the community.

- * Not everyone in the room is necessarily gay or lesbian. For example: be sensitive to the fact that when addressing these people, clients of the AIDS/HIV groups are not all gay. Despite the fact that many of the AIDS-related groups were initiated by the gay community, people with AIDS (PWAs) are not strictly gay men. Women, children, and straight men get the disease too. When people lump the groups strictly together it sends the message that AIDS is a gay disease--which it is not.

LIKELY ATTENDEES

AIDS Action Council--Laura Fote
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund--Andrew Barrer
William Waybourn
Human Rights Campaign Fund--Representative from Tim McFeeley
National Association of PWAs--William Freeman
Campaign for Military Service--(David Mixner's group)
Denny Maust
March on Washington--Billy Hileman
Nadine Smith
National Minority AIDS Council--Carlos Velez
Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays--Sandra Gillis
Congressman Gary Studds' office--Mark Agrast
Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation--Ellen Carton

Please note that because of a conference in California and the holiday weekend many representatives could not make the meeting, especially a larger group from the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR MILITARY SERVICE

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COPY

ENDORING AND PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Project Los Angeles
 American Civil Liberties Union*
 American Federation of Teachers
 American Jewish Committee
 American Jewish Congress
 American Psychiatric Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Sociological Association
 Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum*
 Council of Jewish Federations
 Federation of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
 Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation
 Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund*
 Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America*
 Gay Men's Health Crisis
 Hollywood Women's Political Committee
 Human Rights Campaign Fund*
 Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
 Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
 NAACP
 National Gay and Lesbian Task Force*
 National Lesbian and Gay Law Association
 People for the American Way*
 Sex Information & Education Council of the U.S.
 Union of American Hebrew Congregations
 Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations in North America
 United Church of Christ
 United Federation of Metropolitan Community Churches
 United Methodist Board of Church and Society
 U.S. Student Association
 (list in formation)

*Executive Committee

March 24, 1993

The President
 The White House
 Washington, D.C.

HAND DELIVERED

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to express our deep concern over your remarks yesterday on the issue of discrimination against lesbians and gay men in the military.

In the absence of clarification, your remarks laid the groundwork for the possible segregation of lesbians and gay men in the military. Segregation is morally unacceptable. Remarks on your part that give the appearance of considering such an approach, even if not intended as such, are damaging to the goals I believe we share. Indeed, on the eve of Senator Nunn's hearings, and exactly one month before a million gay people come to Washington to demand their rights to equality and justice, such remarks can only give hope to those who wish to oppose your own stated policy.

The Campaign for Military Service knows that you are committed to issuing an Executive Order that would lift the ban on gay people in the military. We have pledged to work with you in this endeavor. However, we believe certain principles are essential for that effort to be effective. You, as President, must be in the forefront of articulating these principles.

Equality. Justice. Liberty. These are the principles you so eloquently espoused during your campaign. In the context of allowing openly gay people to serve in the military, these principles mean two things to us. First, any form of segregation within the military of lesbians, gay men and bisexuals is morally wrong and politically and constitutionally unacceptable. Apartheid of any kind is repugnant and certainly has no place in the armed forces of the United States.

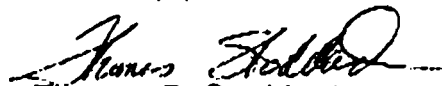
Secondly, your policy must firmly establish the principle of non-discrimination. Gay people in the military must be allowed to live as gay people and not simply "be" gay in some abstract sense. We have always understood, and supported, your statements that lesbian and gay men should be allowed to serve openly in the military, but that sexual conduct that could impair the military mission, both gay and not-gay, could be regulated. We believe this principle must be articulated with specificity and clarity. Otherwise, a mirage will have been created -- a mere facade of equality.

You have established this issue as a test of the nation's moral character and, indeed, as an example of your moral leadership. With mistaken words and misinterpreted intent, however, you run the risk of surrendering that moral leadership.

The Campaign for Military Service knows you have "a vision" and we know that "we are part of it." But we seek to be part of that vision in a very real sense now. We request an immediate opportunity to work with a senior policy team from the White House to achieve a clarification of your recent remarks and to build a partnership for future success on this issue.

An Executive Order without your moral and political leadership is destined to fail. But an Executive Order with the moral and political power of your commitment and your office will make history.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas B. Stoddard

Coordinator

Campaign for Military Service

PRESS RELEASE • PRESS RELEASE • PRESS RELEASE

*News from the Nation's Largest Lesbian and Gay Political Organization*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Gregory King
202-6268-4160 workHUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND OPPOSES RESTRICTIONS
ON COMBAT ROLE FOR LESBIAN AND GAY TROOPS

WASHINGTON, DC (March 23, 1993) In response to questions at a press conference today, President Clinton indicated that a policy of discriminating against lesbian and gay troops in combat roles might be an "appropriate distinction." Tim McFeeley, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest lesbian and gay political group, issued the following statement criticizing the President's assertion:

"We strongly oppose any policy change which would give lesbian and gay personnel the special privilege of exemption from service in combat. Every Pentagon study on this issue has documented that lesbian and gay personnel are just as competent than their non-gay peers and are just as able to serve. Restrictions on combat service by lesbian and gay personnel are based solely on prejudice and intolerance and have no relation to the competence of lesbian and gay individuals to perform their duties with courage, determination and effectiveness.

"There is absolutely no basis for discrimination against lesbian and gay Americans in the armed forces or in any job within the armed forces. During the Persian Gulf War, the Pentagon halted discharges against lesbian and gay personnel, many of whom served with distinction during the conflict. To suggest that lesbian and gay personnel are suited for peacetime roles and not suitable for combat positions is nonsense. We will not support any proposal which endorses discrimination against lesbian and gay personnel. We urge President Clinton to make clear his opposition to discrimination at all levels of the military. We regret that the President missed an opportunity today to strongly reaffirm his support for an end to a policy which denies our country the service of competent and qualified patriotic personnel who wish to serve our country free from arbitrary and unnecessary restrictions."

- 30 -

THE CAMPAIGN FOR MILITARY SERVICE

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FACT SHEET GAY MEN, LESBIANS AND BISEXUALS IN THE MILITARY

*** THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MILITARY BAN**

The Department of Defense (DOD) excludes all gay men, lesbians and bisexuals from serving in the armed forces. DOD Directive 1332.14 states flatly that: "Homosexuality is incompatible with military service." The Directive also states that: "The presence in the military environment of persons who engage in homosexual conduct or who, by their statements, demonstrate a propensity to engage in homosexual conduct, seriously impairs the accomplishment of the military mission." Under the Reagan Administration, not only homosexual conduct but a servicemember's mere identification as being gay, lesbian or bisexual became grounds for dismissal.

*** THE MILITARY'S RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY**

The DOD's stated rationale for the policy is not based on an argument that gay people are not good fighting soldiers. The military now openly acknowledges that there are thousands of gay men, lesbians, and bisexuals who are currently serving in the armed forces with valor and merit.

Instead, the military's argument is based on simple discrimination. Without presenting any verified justifications, the exclusion policy merely asserts that the following elements in the military will inevitably be undermined by the presence of openly gay personnel: discipline, good order and morale; mutual trust and confidence; unit cohesion; the system of rank and command; assignment, deployment, recruitment and retention.

*** WHAT IS WRONG WITH THE MILITARY'S RATIONALE?**

The military's rationale is unsupported by any evidence that gay servicemembers, by their very presence, will adversely affect good order and morale. Rather, the policy is premised on two unproven assumptions: 1) straight servicemembers will have such adverse reactions to openly gay servicemembers that the military mission will necessarily be compromised, and 2) there is no way to reduce these adverse reactions through strong military leadership so that adverse effects do not occur.

These assumptions are exactly the ones that were used to argue against integrating African-Americans into the military. Bottom line -- these assumptions are wrong. First, many straight servicemembers currently know and work with comrades who are gay and have no difficulty with that fact. Second, consistent with our experience with race integra-

tion, strong military leadership against discrimination and harassment does mitigate adverse responses from others. The Defense Department's own internal studies, which on at least three occasions have found gay people to be suitable for military service, support this assessment.

The fact that prejudice exists among some people has never been a valid reason to cater to that prejudice and reaffirm it. Rather, it is the responsibility of the government to take active steps to counter such prejudice.

* WHAT WOULD BE THE RAMIFICATIONS OF LIFTING THE BAN?

Ending the ban would increase, not decrease, military effectiveness. Readiness is increased when each servicemember is free to perform at his or her most effective level, unburdened by fear of disclosure of sexual orientation that will result in discharge. Existing military policies adequately address concerns such as discipline, good order and the system of command. These measures include strict sanctions against fraternization between the ranks, sexual harassment, abuse of authority and other conduct that could undermine unit readiness. "Ending the ban would also save millions of dollars. A 1992 GAO study found that it cost \$493,195,968 just to replace gay military personnel discharged from 1980-1990.

* WHAT IS THE MILITARY'S POLICY UNDER THE "COMPROMISE"
VOTED ON BY THE SENATE?

Under the compromise provision, the military's policy is essentially the same as before. The only two changes are: 1) applicants are no longer asked if they are gay, and 2) servicemembers who say they are gay continue to be processed through the discharge system, but may ultimately have that discharge suspended and be placed in "standby reserve." Servicemembers who acknowledge they have engaged in gay conduct are still subject to full discharge. While the existing military policy is thus effectively the same for the next few months, President Clinton's commitment to changing this policy within the coming months, and his belief that this policy is unconstitutional, has not changed.

* WHY SHOULD CONGRESS SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT'S PLEDGE TO
OVERTURN THE BAN?

The ban against gay people in the military runs counter to the basic principles of fairness and justice on which our Nation stands. The way to deal with fears and stereotypes is to send a message that such prejudice will not be countenanced, rather than affirm the prejudice through a discriminatory policy that is unnecessary for a strong and effective military force. Gay people should not have to fight their country in order to defend it.

- April 5th - Copy of journal
- Report
- 2/8 pm

- Saturday + Sunday -

~~///~~ Arrived at -

~~///~~

A.

The New York Times

229 WEST 43 STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10036

APR 22 1993

MAX FRANKEL
Executive Editor

4/19

Dear Ms. Herman -

My sincerest apology
about our misidentification
of you and the discomfort
this caused.

As we will say in
tomorrow's paper, we clearly
should have asked you
about this report and erred
in naming you in our
account.

Only a violation of our
customary practice could
have produced this error.
We are most sorry. Sincerely,
Max Frankel

The Source Interview

A Murder Story
Dunne Up Right

Okay, so Dominick Dunne's new destined-to-be-best-selling novel is the portrait of a clannish Irish Catholic family, its ruthless patriarch, the ridiculously religious wife who knows nothing but priests and Paris couture, a politically ambitious son accused of murdering a young woman and then covering it up, a retarded sister, a sensational trial that feels uncomfortably like the Willie Smith rape case. . . and on and on and on.

But not so fast in making those direct Kennedy analogies, advised the author of "A Season in Purgatory" over breakfast yesterday.

"The genesis of this book was an actual unsolved murder of a 15-year-old girl in Connecticut 18 years ago," he says. (Lest the analogy get too far away—the prime suspect in that murder has always been Tommy Skakel, son of Ethel Kennedy's brother.) "That family [the Skakels] is also a large, Catholic family. And I am from a huge Catholic family. This is a world that I know."

"It's not a book about the Kennedys—although of course there are elements that are," says the man who has made quite a name for himself chronicling the moral atrocities of the privileged. "The Kennedys are the greatest soap opera in American history. . . . And let me tell you something about huge families: They have more tragedies than other families."

And Dunne, 67, has had his share. Successes aside—three hot novels and talked-about stories of riveting trials for Vanity Fair—he has endured the worst kind of tragedy. His daughter was strangled by her boyfriend a decade ago.

He doesn't hesitate when asked how this has affected his writings. A mist covers his eyes instantly. "A lot," he says quietly. "It changed my life. It shook my life."

Dunne says that when he began work on this book, he wrote Dorothy Moxley, mother of the Greenwich girl murdered in

Dominick Dunne
A Season In Purgatory



Dominick Dunne on "Purgatory": "This is a world I know."

'75. She refused to see him. He wrote back and told her of his own tragedy; she then met with him. "She was the first person who read the completed manuscript, and if she had disapproved, I would not have gone ahead with it. I know how she suffered."

Once a successful Hollywood producer, Dunne makes no secret of the fact that he was a wreck by the end of the '70s—broke, drunk and ingesting "whatever was offered at the party." But by the mid-'80s, thanks to the success of "The Two Mrs. Grenvilles," Dunne had effectively inherited the mantle of Truman Capote as the official disher of the misdeeds of the rich. But the big

difference is Capote was ostracized in the final years of his life for writing about his friends in thinly veiled fiction, and those Dunne writes about *still invite him to their homes*. "What Truman did was as alcoholic a thing as one could do. He had an ax to grind. I have never gone out to settle a score."

"People like Jerry Zipkin got upset with their portrayal in [Dunne's book] 'People Like Us.' But there was nothing hurtful in it. Did I show those people to be silly? Yes. Were they silly? Yes. But I have never betrayed a confidence."

Still, he's not expecting an invitation to Ted Kennedy's home soon.

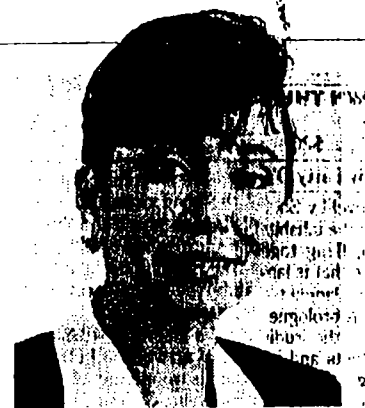
The Times' About Face

■ The New York Times got a bit of egg on its face Sunday when, in a story about President Clinton's meeting with leaders in the gay community, Alexis Herman was mistakenly characterized as one of three "gay and lesbian White House staff members who were present."

Herman was said to be upset by the scores of calls she received on her home answering machine—some of them tasteless and hostile.

The reporter, Jeffrey Schmalz, said yesterday that he had written a correction to appear in today's Times explaining that he had "misidentified the sexual orientation" of the White House director of public liaison—and that she is heterosexual.

"Last week I was called Jewish, and



Alexis Herman: Get it straight, guys.

the week before that I was identified as Italian," Herman said yesterday. "Anyone who knows me knows I am a heterosexual Afro-American. Once again, this proves it's hard to get fact and fiction straight in Washington."

■ Justice Clarence Thomas came to work on crutches yesterday after tearing an Achilles' tendon in his left foot during a basketball game with law clerks Friday at the Supreme Court's gym. He underwent surgery at Bethesda Naval Hospital and will be on crutches for three weeks and in a cast for about three months. "He said he had a little discomfort but no real pain," allowed a court spokeswoman.

■ Watching the Los Angeles police beating trial verdict come in over breakfast

Saturday, at the Capitol City Brewing Co., were none other than Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith.

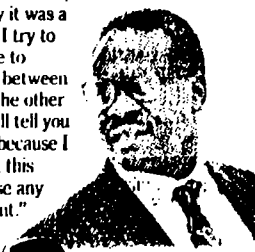
■ The upcoming spring issue of the Hillary Clinton Quarterly promises to tell "the real story" behind that rumor of a lamp-tossing incident between the president and First Lady. We can't wait.

■ This evening at the Folger Shakespeare Library, novelist Gore Vidal will wax nostalgic about growing up in Washington. Benefiting from the event—the PEN/Faulkner Award.

■ Sergei Khrushchev, former Soviet scientist and son of the Soviet leader, became a permanent U.S. resident yesterday. Asked what his father would have thought of his decision to remain here, Khrushchev told the Associated Press from his Rhode Island home, "I think he could say it was a good thing because I try to put something more to improving relations between our countries." On the other hand, "Maybe he will tell you he doesn't like this because I leave my country at this time. You can choose any answer that you want."

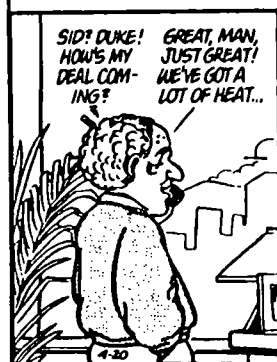


Griffith and Thomas, below.

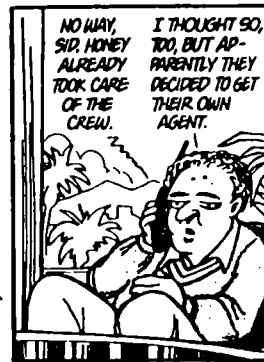


DOONESBURY

By G.B. Trudeau



BUT WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO MOVE FAST! PARAMOUNT HAS ALREADY PICKED UP THE RIGHTS TO THE RESCUE CREW'S STORY...!



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A HARD LIFE IN A NEW I

Children of the Shadows: Asenhat Gomez, an 18-year-old immigrant from the Dominican Republic, ventures tentatively into a future that beckons with equal measures of promise and fear. A1

\$60 MILLION GIFT TO COLUMBIA

John W. Kluge, the chairman of the Metromedia Company, presented Columbia University with \$60 million for minority scholarships, the largest gift the university has ever received. A1

Business Digest

D1

Science Times

C1-10

Sports

B10-15

Obituaries

B7-8

Editorials/Op-Ed

A28-29

Editorials

Apocalypse in Waco.

Mr. Clinton, meet Mr. Gore.

Smart steps on peddling.

Letters

A. M. Rosenthal: A day at City College.

Russell Baker: Exploitation piece.

Ephraim Sneh: Nostalgia for Shamir doesn't help.

P. Roy Vagelos: A shot in the (wrong) arm.

Corrections

An article on Saturday about a series of shootings in Northwest Washington referred incorrectly to a visit to the Columbia Heights neighborhood by Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly. Her appearance there on April 15 was her second, not her first.

Because of an editing error, an article on Sunday about a Republican town meeting in New Hampshire misstated the purpose of a political fund-raising event last October. It raised money for Representative Bill Zeff of New Hampshire, not Senator Phil Gramm of Texas.

An article by Reuters in some editions of Business Day on April 12, about the scheduling of a trial in connection with the deadly 1984 gas leak in Bhopal, India, erroneously included an executive and two companies among those ordered to stand trial. The trial order issued by Judge Wajahat Ali Shah did not cover Warren Anderson, the former chairman of the Union Carbide Corporation; the company itself, or its Hong Kong subsidiary. Last year, a different Indian court ordered Mr. Anderson to stand trial, and it has asked the Indian Government to begin extradition proceedings against him.

A news analysis article in Business Day on April 12, about the Government's request for a recall of 4.7 million full-size General Motors pickup trucks, misstated the position of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety on the trucks' safety. The institute, a research group supported by insurance companies, contends that the incidence of fire in collisions of full-size G.M. pickup trucks provides enough basis for a Government investigation of defects. But it has taken no position on whether the trucks pose a particular hazard and has not asserted that G.M. trucks may be safer than other models in accidents that do not involve fire.

An article on Saturday about tuition at Trenton State College misidentified one college in listing the New Jersey public system's eight other regional four-year campuses. It is William Paterson College.

An obituary on Sunday about Robert L. Jennings, retired president of the United States Woolworth division of the F. W. Woolworth Company, who died on Thursday in Edgewater, N.J., misidentified a surviving daughter. She is Margaret Mary South, of La Canada, Calif.

Editors' Note

An article on Sunday about plans for a gay march on Washington next Sunday described a White House meeting last Friday between President Clinton and leaders of gay and lesbian groups. The article said the President pointed "to three gay and lesbian White House staff members" at the meeting, and it gave three names.

The description of Mr. Clinton's action was not attributed in the arti-

cle, and was based on a misunderstanding of a report by someone at the meeting. Two of the three named staff members had publicly discussed their sexuality. But the third, Alexis Herman, had not, and she said yesterday that she was not homosexual.

The Times erred in failing to ask Ms. Herman about the report, and in naming her in this list.

New York Times 4/20/93

a Steve

AmH's

DATE:

4/15/93

TO:

Alexis Herman

FROM:

Fred Hochberg

2 pgs follow

FRED PHILIP HOCHBERG

April 14, 1993

Ms. Alexis Herman
Assistant to the President for Public Liaison
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

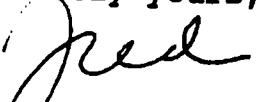
Dear Alexis,

At the meeting with the members of the gay and lesbian community in Washington on March 26 I promised to send on to you a copy of a letter I sent to the editor of our Gannett newspaper regarding President Clinton's economic plan. I've attached a copy of a letter as it appeared in the newspaper a week ago.

Furthermore I wanted to thank you for the time we spent at that meeting. Although I'm not sure the meeting accomplished all that we had hoped for, it was important in that it opened a dialogue between the White House and the gay and lesbian community.

I would certainly welcome opportunities in the future and only hope that we can keep the size of the meeting down so that we can deal more substantially with the issues. I still have great concerns about the sufficiency of our efforts to fully support the President in lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military. This issue is critical in order to bond gay and lesbian voters to the Democratic Party. In the past election, gays and lesbians voted overwhelmingly for the President because of his position on the military and gays and lesbians and their role in America. I would appreciate any advice you can lend in support of that endeavor.

Sincerely yours,



Fred P. Hochberg

P.S. Last week I had the opportunity to attend a White House briefing with YPO. I only regret that we didn't get a chance to say hello.

Monday, April 5, 1993 **25A**

ould happen

LETTERS

Support economic plan

I am writing as president and chief operating officer of the Lillian Vernon Corp. My company, with sales of approximately \$170 million and more than 2,500 employees in both New York and Virginia, is a catalog firm that sells nationwide. As a result, I clearly have a very strong interest in the economy and its strength in the coming years.

It is in that light and in that context that I urge you to support the president in his economic plan. We elected Bill Clinton and rejected the policies of President Bush in recognition of the fact that we need to change many of the fundamentals in our economy.

Some may argue that the Clinton plan goes too far in some directions and not enough in others. However, putting sensible debate aside, and there will be debate and adjustments, it is important that we adopt this plan and move forward and create a stronger economy.

Yes, I as an individual and my company will pay more taxes and I'm certainly not happy about that. I'm particularly unhappy that as a service industry, many of the tax benefits such as an investment tax credit and others will not accrue to my company, so that there will be very little offsets to the tax increase. Nonetheless, I believe we will have a stronger economy in the years to come and a strong economy will mean better business conditions for my company, more employment and prosperity. It is for these reasons that I urge you to support the president.

— Fred P. Hochberg
New Rochelle

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FROM
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

6xV/m

5/18/93

Alexis,
I think this is going to be
a big problem for us.

Keith, x7151

Also, I attached POST ARTICLE 5/19/93

AM Gays-Military, 510

Compromise Offered to Lift Homosexual Ban in Military

By DONNA CASSATA= Associated Press Writer=

WASHINGTON (AP) A homosexual congressman offered a compromise Tuesday to allow homosexuals to serve in the military and do as they please off base so long as they keep their sexual orientation secret while on duty.

Asserting that President Clinton lacks the votes in Congress to end the ban, Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., proposed his solution that makes a distinction between a service member's actions on and off duty.

"It's a policy that says 'don't ask, don't tell, and don't listen, and don't investigate,'" Frank told a Capitol Hill news conference. "Basically the policy ... is 'don't start, don't get into the whole thing.'"

Under the plan, a gay service member would keep sexual preference hidden while in uniform but be allowed privately and off duty to engage in homosexual activities.

If someone finds out about off-duty behavior and turns the individual in, the military's answer should be "we don't want to hear about it," Frank said.

The congressman acknowledged that a gay service member on a submarine would have less of an opportunity to express his or her sexuality than someone working as an Army clerk in an office.

Frank discussed his compromise with reporters following a report this weekend in The Boston Globe in which he hinted that he would support some version of the "don't ask, don't tell" compromise circulating in Congress.

At the news conference, he said his reason for accommodation was based on political reality.

"If Congress now chooses between a complete and total removal of the ban and a statutory enforcement of the ban, I am not optimistic that the side I would like to see would win and that I think is reality," Frank said.

Sam Nunn, D-Ga., the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee and a proponent of the ban, has suggested a compromise of not questioning recruits about their sexual orientation, imposing a strict code of conduct and not ferreting out homosexuals.

The plan would retain the ban on those who openly assert their homosexuality.

Frank said the current practice of not asking recruits about their sexual preference is unacceptable. He said that while it is a step forward it falls short of a complete policy.

Frank's move toward a compromise rather than an outright end to the 50-year-old prohibition was viewed as a betrayal by the gay rights group Queer Nation, which held a small protest outside the congressman's office earlier in the day.

Mike Petrulis of the group called Frank an "Uncle Tom," and accused him of caving in to Democratic pressure to avoid further embarrassment for Clinton.

"He's a happy homosexual houseman on the Democratic plantation," Petrulis said.

Questioned about the group's charges, Frank said: "The only think bigger than the deficit is the gap between Queer Nation and reality."

He added: "Those who insist on no compromise at all likely will see the enactment into law of the total ban."

Rep. Frank Urges Deal on Gay Ban

Proposal Akin to 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Staff Writer

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), a leading advocate of homosexual rights, yesterday urged the gay community to accept a compromise that would fall short of President Clinton's pledge to allow homosexuals to serve openly in the military.

Frank, who is openly homosexual, described his proposal as a concession to political reality. Congress will not support the president's intention to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military, he said, adding that without a workable compromise, the gay community could be left with nothing.

"Self delusion is not a good basis for making important policy," Frank said in an interview. "I don't know anyone who follows this regularly who thinks we can win. . . . I am thoroughly convinced that this is the best we can do given the way the political forces have arrayed themselves."

At a Capitol Hill news conference, Frank outlined a compromise that would allow gays to remain in the military as long as they did not reveal their sexual orientation while on duty. They would, however, be prohibited from conducting an openly homosexual lifestyle while off base with no fear of investigation or reprisal, Frank said.

"It's a policy that says, 'Don't ask, don't tell, and don't listen, and don't investigate,'" Frank told reporters. "Basically, the policy is 'Don't start, don't get into the whole thing.'"

Frank's plan is similar in some respects to the compromise pushed by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.), chair-

man of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the most prominent congressional obstacle to Clinton's

Nunn's proposal, dubbed "don't ask, don't tell," has gained favor among Clinton administration officials who share Frank's conclusion that the president would not succeed in forcing a total lifting of the ban past Congress—or would suffer unacceptable political consequences if he did.

With the outspoken Frank now supporting a compromise, the president has gained some valuable political cover that should help protect him against charges of reneging on an explicit pledge to end discrimination against homosexuals in uniform.

"It's important in two ways," an administration official said. See MILITARY, A13, Col. 1

MILITARY, From A1

administration official said of Frank's proposal. "It represents a seasoned judgment by someone who wants to lift the ban about what the traffic will bear in Congress, and it should serve to restrain some of the more unrealistic expectations of gays and lesbians about what can be done on a practical level."

But Frank's comments yesterday, amplifying an interview he gave over the weekend to the Boston Globe, prompted expressions of dismay from gay rights advocates who have mounted a fervent campaign to hold the president to his word.

"I don't think we need to accede to this particular version of reality," said Thomas B. Stoddard, director of the Campaign for Military Service, a coalition of gay rights groups. "We're in the fourth inning. We don't know what's going to happen at the end of the game."

Stoddard said, moreover, that Frank's compromise was both unworkable and unconstitutional because it would subject homosexuals in uniform to a double standard. "It's ultimately untenable, because it fails to recognize a daily life for people who go to work and reveal something about themselves," Stoddard said. "Why should someone lose her job because she goes to work and happens to reveal that the night before she went to a gay bar?"

Other gay activists also criticized with the campaign acknowledged that their efforts have undercut by opponents in Congress, especially Nunn, whose high-profile hearings and a recent field trip to Navy ships in Norfolk have highlighted intense military opposition to Clinton's plan. They said they are planning a major media counterattack beginning Memorial Day that will include television ads featuring

"It's a policy that says, 'Don't ask, don't tell, and don't listen, and don't investigate.'"

—Rep. Barney Frank

the story of a gay Vietnam War hero, among others.

Frank, however, said the battle already has been lost. "I don't think the campaigning has been productive," said Frank, who described the recent gay rights march on Washington as a political failure. "The grass-roots organization hasn't been there. . . . The fact is that members of Congress have heard far more from opponents [of the president's plan] than from supporters."

Frank said that while Congress seems willing to accept that homosexuals in the armed forces are here to stay, lawmakers remain concerned that openly gay service personnel would be a disruptive presence.

"My answer is, you make the distinction on-duty and off-duty," Frank said. "The rule will be: on-duty, in uniform, on-base, in effect you're asexual." But Frank said his plan is more permissive than Nunn's because it would allow homosexuals to be open about their preferences while off duty and off base.

The Pentagon also is studying a compromise modeled on Nunn's proposal. An internal working group is slated to make a recommendation to Defense Secretary Les Aspin by next week, with the goal of submitting a draft executive order to the White House by July 15.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON
ROUTING SLIP

DATE: 3/29

MAR 29 1993

FROM: Cum

TO: Alexis

Amy Zisook _____

Doris Matsui _____

Andrew Morin _____

Flo McAfee _____

Chris Lin _____

Howie Davis _____

Dan Wexler _____

Marilyn DiGiacobbe _____

Dana Wyckoff _____

Mike Lux _____

Paul Jackson _____

Wendy Nishikawa _____

Debbie Fine _____

Ruby Moy _____

Steve Hilton _____

Other _____

THE ATTACHED IS FOR YOUR:

INFORMATION X

ADVICE _____

ACTION _____

COMMENTS:

I don't know if you've seen this

White House Gets a Warning Against Retreat on Gay Issue

By RICHARD L. BERKE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 26 — Leaders of homosexual rights organizations warned White House officials at a meeting today that unless President Clinton better demonstrates his support for homosexuals in the military, a gay and lesbian march on Washington next month would turn into an embarrassing protest.

The meeting came as organizations of homosexuals that provided enthusiastic support for Mr. Clinton in last year's campaign were threatening to withhold political and financial support from the Democratic Party.

White House officials had initially scheduled a meeting next week with nearly 20 representatives of the groups, but instead hastily called the meeting for today in an apparent effort to contain the potential damage from President Clinton's remarks.

"Some Hurt Feelings"

Mr. Clinton touched off the latest furor over this issue in his news conference on Tuesday when, in response to a question, he said that he would not rule out restrictions on the deployment of homosexual soldiers — an assertion that he later said did not represent a change of heart.

Andrew E. Barrer, a major Democratic fund raiser and board member of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, said: "We said that the march could either be a celebration or a protest that we're not getting equal treatment. 'There were some hurt feelings but I don't think there was any anger.'"

David C. Wilhelm, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, met with party fund-raisers in New York on Thursday and they told him they would stop collecting money until the President took action to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military.

Several representatives of the groups said White House officials blamed the press for the dispute over Mr. Clinton's position and reassured them that the President would not back away from his plan to overturn the ban.

The session was called by Alexis Herman, the White House director of public liaison, and attended by several other Administration officials who for nearly two hours listened to complaints from the homosexual organizations about Mr. Clinton's policies.

Ms. Herman said she made no guar-

antees to the groups on the issue of separating troops, which Mr. Clinton now says is merely something he would consider if it was proposed by the Pentagon. Ms. Herman said she did make clear that Mr. Clinton would not back down from his commitment to overturn the full ban on homosexuals in the military.

"I thought it was a good dialogue and a good discussion," she said in an interview. "I basically just reconfirmed what the President has said: that he's against discrimination in the military."

But some participants said that while Ms. Herman did not offer them specific assurances, they left the meeting with the clear understanding that the President would oppose separating troops by sexual orientation.

"Everybody's interpretation was that separating troops was not acceptable," said Torie Osborn, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. "The clearest piece of the meeting I thought was the clear affirmation of the President's position of lifting the ban. Alexis Herman was wearing a 'Stop discrimination, lift the ban,' button."

Gathering on the Mall

As the meeting got under way, participants said, the White House officials sought to mollify the groups by telling them that efforts were being made to insure that participants at the gay liberation march scheduled for April 25 could gather on the Mall. The National Park Service had denied permission for people in the march — which organizers said they expect to draw a crowd of one million — to gather there be-

In a White House meeting, 'hurt feelings,' but no real anger.

cause the area closed so the
g) be reseeded.

A. Herman later said that she made any guarantees, saying the Park Service was out of her jurisdiction. "I was there to listen to their recommendations," she said.

Though concerns about the military ban dominated the session, participants said they also raised other issues: that the President has been slow to appoint an AIDS coordinator and needs to do more to show the public his support for ending discrimination against homosexuals.

"We made clear to the President's representatives that our people are very angry and must have assurances of the President's commitment to eliminate the policy of discrimination," said Thomas B. Stoddard, coordinator of the Campaign for Military Service, a coalition that opposes the ban. "This issue is in a sense the proxy for all other lesbian and gay issues. We received a definitive reaffirmation of the President's pledge."

Describing the session, Ms. Herman said: "I did not sense any feelings of anger in the meeting. I understand the concern that we need to put forth a program to help deal with the AIDS epidemic in this country. I expressed the President's support in particular on AIDS."

But many gay leaders said they have

grown impatient with the time it has taken the President to act on his pledge to overturn the military ban. Faced with opposition on Capitol Hill and among top military officials, Mr. Clinton in January ordered the Pentagon to begin reviewing possible implications of lifting the ban and to come up with a report by July 15.

Warning on Party Money

Mr. Barrer said that at the meeting Thursday with Mr. Wilhelm, about 15 Democratic donors made clear that "we can't give any more money until we see the party doing something." He said it was "important for the President to come out strongly for lifting the ban."

Mr. Barrer said he was hopeful but not convinced that Mr. Wilhelm understood the donors' concerns. "A lot of people in the White House just didn't seem to get it that this was a major issue," Mr. Barrer said.

Even friends and aides to Mr. Clinton have expressed anger about the turn of events. Bob Hattoy, a White House personnel official who made a speech about AIDS at the Democratic National Convention, said he "almost started crying" when he heard the President's remarks this week. Mr. Hattoy attended the White House meeting today.

But other White House officials voiced exasperation with the outcry over the news conference, saying Mr. Clinton has already done more for homosexuals than any other President.

"Bill Clinton openly sought the gay community's support," said one senior aide, speaking only on the condition of anonymity. "He legitimized communications with the gay community. That is a big accomplishment. Gays in the military is not a primary issue."

Get Reassurance On Military

White House Meeting
Said to Ease Fears
About Clinton Pledge

By Gary Lee
Washington Post Staff Writer

Facing heavy criticism over President Clinton's statement that he would consider segregating gay troops, White House officials met with prominent gay activists yesterday and told them Clinton will not alter his original position that homosexuals should be able to serve without restriction in the U.S. military.

The officials, led by director of public liaison Alexis Herman, "went a long way to reassure us that Clinton was not retreating from his original position on the military issue and that he would not allow discrimination of any kind," said Nadine Smith, a coordinator of a gay rights march on Washington planned for next month.

The hour-long meeting, which included Bob Hattoy, an openly gay Clinton administration official, and representatives from a half-dozen nationally prominent gay rights organizations, appeared to be part of a concerted effort Clinton is making to distance himself from the position he took Tuesday that he would not rule out segregating gay troops as a compromise to fully lifting the ban on military service. Tuesday's statement, made in response to a question at a news conference, prompted criticism from gay activists nationwide.

The flap illustrates the difficulties that face Clinton, the first president to publicly acknowledge gay Americans as a constituent group, as he tries to address their demands.

Gay rights advocates acknowledge that Clinton is a far more committed advocate than his predecessors. But they cite his decision not to oppose a congressional bill banning the immigration of people in-

See GAYS, A8, Col. 1

White House Reassures Gays About Military Pledge

GAYS, From A1

fectured with HIV and his appointment of only a handful of openly gay federal officials as examples of how he is wavering from his spirited support for gay rights in the campaign.

Before his election, Clinton told gay groups he would appoint homosexuals to key positions and lift the immigration ban.

"On the whole, the road to achieving our goals has been bumpier than we expected," said Eric Rosenthal, political director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, a national gay political organization.

After taking office, Clinton met overwhelming opposition from military leaders and many lawmakers, including prominent Democrats, when he quickly moved to try to lift the ban on gays in the military.

"Clinton is not backtracking from his commitment to helping gays," said Hattoy, associate director of the White House personnel office and an HIV-positive campaign aide who addressed the Democratic National Convention. "But his plans have met with political reality."

Hattoy was initially outspoken in his opposition to Clinton's Tuesday statement, calling it a "bad mistake." Yesterday, however, he was more reticent. Asked in an interview yesterday how the White House was handling the issue, he said, "I think I've said enough on this subject already."

Gay advocates reject the segregation of troops by sexual orientation, calling the current ban preferable to that option. Gay advisers to Clinton, including Hattoy and David Mixner, a California activist and longtime Clinton friend, also broke with him publicly on the segregation statement.

Reuter reported that in a speech prepared for delivery in Dallas today, Mixner said, "No rhetoric can hide the fact that separating a whole group of American citizens because of who they are is nothing more than segregation. . . . We will never, ever accept segregation as a sign of progress."

Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass.), who is gay, called Clinton's statement "a big blunder."

The statement prompted a flood of calls from major homosexual donors to Clinton, according to Andrew Barrer, a key Democratic Party fundraiser and director of Coalition '93, an umbrella organization of national and regional gay groups. "They are asking 'Did we make a mistake in our support for this guy?'"

Clinton's pledge to lift the ban during his campaign helped catalyze support for him among

"We will never, ever accept segregation as a sign of progress."

—David Mixner, California activist

homosexuals, who contributed some \$3.5 million to his campaign and turned out for him at the polls.

Even before yesterday's meeting, Clinton softened his remarks. In an interview Wednesday on CBS's "48 Hours," Clinton said, "The question I was asked yesterday was as follows: 'Would you consider any restrictions on duty assignments?' And the answer is [that] I am waiting for the report of the secretary of defense. . . . What I said was if they made a recommendation to me, would I review it and consider it? Of course I would. I mean, I asked them to study this. I can't refuse, then, to get the results of the study and act like—that my mind is made up."

"This is not an area where I have expertise," he continued. "I have to listen to what people say. I will consider the arguments. I have a presumption against any discrimination based on status alone, but I will listen to any report filed."

In another attempt to control the flap, one White House official asked Mixner to cancel a planned appearance on ABC's "Nightline" Wednesday, according to Mixner, who refused to comply.

White House spokesman Dee Dee Myers denied Thursday that the request had been made.

Aside from the military issue, gay advocates complained that Clinton is not moving quickly enough to appoint openly gay individuals to high-level positions in the administration. Over 2,000 gays have applied for federal jobs, according to Barrer, whose Campaign '93 has screened many of the applications.

But only Roberta Achtenberg, a San Francisco supervisor who is openly lesbian, has won appointment to a senior position. Achtenberg has been named assistant secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but has not yet been confirmed. Clinton has chosen a handful of other homosexuals for lower-level positions.

"That's not enough," said Rosenthal of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. "We're happy that women, blacks and other minority groups are gaining appointments. But if we're going to have a government that looks like America, as Clinton's promised, it should have more openly gay people in it."

Gay activists also have expressed disappointment that Clinton did not lobby against a ban on HIV-infected immigrants entering the United States passed by Congress last month. In spite of a campaign promise to lift the ban, White House officials indicated that they would not oppose the measure. Opponents to the ban are seeking to work out a compromise in a House-Senate conference committee.

"Clearly there was a big fight here, with major support for the ban in Congress," said A. Cornelius Baker, a spokesman for the National Association for People With AIDS. "But it's ridiculous for this country, which has the highest HIV infection rate in the world, to impose a law to keep HIV-infected people out. There is a principle at issue . . . and we expected Clinton to stick by his promise."

Frank disagrees that Clinton is wavering in his pledge to gays. "The latest statement on the military was a big blunder," he said. "But on the whole Clinton should be given credit for his courageous support of issues that are important to gays."

The Washington Post March 27, 1993

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EARLY BIRD

MONDAY, March 29, 1993

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Mar. 29, 1993

Pg. 1/4

Defense Budget Defers Decisions On Weapons

Aspin Declines to Terminate
Any Programs, Makes
Across-the-Board Cuts

By THOMAS E. RICKS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON — The \$263 billion 1994 defense budget unveiled by Defense Secretary Les Aspin fails to terminate any major weapons systems and so defers until next year's budget a raft of tough decisions.

"This is a very cautious budget on the defense side, folks," Mr. Aspin said at a Pentagon press conference Saturday. Describing it essentially as a Bush administration product that he had only altered slightly, he said, "We have marginal control over it."

Looking for fast savings, the proposed

DEFERS...Pg. 17

WASHINGTON TIMES

Mar. 29, 1993

Pg. 1

Hearings on gay ban open today in Senate

'Mr. Defense'
repairs image

By Rowan Scarborough
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Sam Nunn never before felt the sting of criticism as he did in March 1991. As American GIs started returning from the Persian Gulf victory, home-state Georgia voters began venting their anger over his reluctance to enter the war.

A leading defense figure as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Mr. Nunn had led an unsuccessful Senate fight to tie President Bush's hands in beginning a war with Iraq.

After Saddam Hussein's army

IMAGE...Pg. 10

By Rowan Scarborough
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

The Senate Armed Services Committee opens the anxiously awaited hearings on homosexuals in the military today, taking up the issue that has been the most divisive in the early days of the young Clinton administration.

Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, a Democrat who chairs the committee, will convene the first hearing on a mild note, calling historians and legal scholars to testify about the Pentagon's 50-year-old ban on homosexuals wearing the uniform.

But over the next three months, the temperature on Capitol Hill seems certain to rise with the season. Mr. Nunn, a staunch proponent of keeping the ban in place, intends to take the hearings to military bases around the country to elicit testimony from advocacy groups as well as the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Rep. Ron Dellums of California, the Democratic chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, intends to hold similar hearings later.

The six Joint Chiefs — including Gen. Colin Powell, their chairman — march to a single drummer: They want the ban maintained and have told Mr. Clinton so face-to-face.

Homosexual-rights advocates plan protests and demonstrations at every committee stop.

The verbal cross fire will likely lead to emotional floor debates in the House and the Senate in July, when Mr. Clinton has vowed to sign an executive order scrapping the Defense Department's exclusion of homosexuals. Legislation is expected that would write the ban into law, making it invulnerable to an executive order.

Since Mr. Nunn forced Mr. Clinton to delay a decision until July, veterans groups, religious organizations and homosexual-rights advocates have besieged Capitol Hill with phone calls, fax messages, letters

and personal lobbying.

The stakes are high for both sides.

By attracting intense media scrutiny, the Senate hearings will focus the nation's attention on the homosexual-rights movement, its goals and its tactics.

Homosexual-rights advocates are clearly skeptical of Mr. Nunn, who has vowed to give all sides a fair hearing. They say his hearings will slant the case against lifting the ban, thereby setting back their movement.

"If Sam Nunn has any control over the hearings at all, I don't expect a fair hearing," says Petty Officer Keith Meinhold, a sonar specialist who is fighting the Navy's move to discharge him because he is homosexual.

"First of all, I don't think Senator Nunn wants to hear the truth," says Petty Officer Meinhold, who wants to testify but has not been asked. "I think he's going to ask people who are not gay and lesbian to speak about what gay people are and do in the military."

For the armed services, the hearings represent their best chance to make their case that ending the ban would destroy unit cohesion by forcing heterosexuals and homosexuals into intimate situations on ships, in barracks and in the field.

"I hope that the accumulation of evidence that is presented at the hearings will present an unsailable case against the change in policy," says Sen. Dan Coats, the Indiana Republican leading the GOP drive to keep the ban.

"A lot of people can't relate to what military life is like," Mr. Coats says. "If we can channel a picture for the American public, and hopefully for the president, of the extraordinary difficulty of accomplishing what the president wants to do... then I think we will have made the case."

Jim Staton, a retired chief master

BAN...Pg. 17

NEW YORK TIMES Mar. 29, 1993 Pg. 12

Head of Joint Chiefs Plans To Serve Out Full Term

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 28 — Gen. Colin L. Powell will serve out his full term as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, retiring Sept. 30, his spokesman said today.

The spokesman, Col. F. William Smullen, acknowledged that General Powell had broached the idea of retiring a few months early in conversations with senior military officials last fall, but said the general had never gone beyond raising his retirement as a possibility.

The New York Times reported Feb. 10 that General Powell wanted to quit in the summer and that one of the main reasons was his wish not to be put in the position of having to advocate deep cuts in military budget planned by Clinton Administration.

The chairman has been telling

people that he does intend to stay on," Colonel Smullen said, confirming an account in Time magazine. The colonel added that after The Times report appeared, President Clinton called General Powell and said "he would like him to stay to the end of his term."

Colonel Smullen said: "General Powell, long before the last election, confided to Dick Cheney that he might like to leave a little early so as to have time to relax before starting a new life. Before the inauguration he also said the same in passing to Les Aspin."

This may have led to rumors of an early departure, the colonel said. Mr. Cheney was Secretary of Defense and Mr. Aspin, his successor, was chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.



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Senators split on gay

▼ GAYS FROM PAGE A1

Robb is out of touch with mainstream Virginia voters even more than many of us would have believed," said Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, a conservative grass-roots organization based in Virginia Beach.

But Thomas Sheridan, a lobbyist with Campaign for Military Service, a coalition of groups opposing the ban on gays in the military, predicted it would emerge from the hearings and debate "a leader and champion and visionary."

Threat of "closed minds"

On Feb. 4, Robb delivered a short speech on the Senate floor that backers mention as an example of his courage to step out front on an unpopular issue.

"The threat to morale comes not from the orientation of a few, but from the closed minds of the many," Robb said.

"I ask that we not let fear govern our actions. While we may not personally understand what motivates individual sexuality, we cannot allow that lack of understanding to block deserving, patriotic Americans from service."

Robb elaborated in an interview last week that he learned a profound lesson from a stint in the judge advocate general's office at Marine Corps headquarters when he was a law student.

"In several cases that he saw, officers had performed heroically in combat and had compiled exemplary records, but were suspected of being homosexual. Thus their careers were likely to be ended, he said, which disturbed his sense of fairness."

As for political risk in Virginia — home of many active and retired defense personnel — because of his stance, "I'm aware of the fact it's extremely unpopular."

"But at the same time I happen to

White House, gays confer

LOS ANGELES TIMES/WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Facing heavy criticism over President Clinton's statement that he would consider segregating homosexual troops, White House officials met with prominent gay activists yesterday and told them Clinton will not alter his original position that homosexuals should be able to serve without restriction in the military.

The officials, led by the director of public liaison, Alexis Herman, "went a long way to reassure us that Clinton was not retreating from his original position on the military issue and that he would not allow discrimination of any kind," said Nadine Smith, a coordinator of a gay-rights march on Washington planned for next month.

The hourlong meeting, which included representatives from a half-dozen nationally prominent gay rights organizations, appeared to be part of a concerted effort Clinton is making to distance himself from the position he took Tuesday that he would not rule out segregating homosexual troops as a compromise to fully lifting the ban on military service. Tuesday's statement prompted criticism from gay activists nationwide.

The flap illustrates the difficulties that face Clinton, the first president to publicly acknowledge gay Americans as a constituent group, as he tries to address their demands.

gressional Rec other nations

"Whatever Congress will Forces of the decade hence first day of the gress, if the Co will not — cha Warner said.

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He and Sen Armed Servic ing to hold " Warner said

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Warner parallel in Nunn, wh ban.

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Alexis,

5/21/93

GMM

I think this is a huge
mistake for Barney Frank to
say this to the press. I
think this may be a ^{big} problem.

- Keith, x7151



PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

**CALMING THE
WATERS: U.S.
Rep. Barney
Frank's call for
a compromise on
the military gay
ban during a
press confer-
ence Tuesday de-
fused a political-
ly explosive issue
for the presi-
dent.**

File photo

*Heard
5-21-93*

Clinton offers thanks for gay ban proposal

By ANDREW NIGA

WASHINGTON — President Clinton hinted he may back U.S. Rep. Barney Frank's call for compromise on gays in the military during a personal late-night thank-you call to Frank.

"What (Clinton) was saying was, 'Look, we understand you got a little bit out on a limb here and we're not gonna saw it off,'" Frank said in a Herald interview yesterday.

Clinton also expressed gratitude that Frank — a longtime gay rights backer — would be open-minded enough to consider the political realities that a reversal of the ban faces in a skeptical Congress.

"He thanked me for being willing to compromise," Frank said. "He appreciated the fact I was trying."

The Newton Democrat's call for compromise at a Tuesday news conference defused a politically explosive issue for Clinton, who made a campaign promise to lift the ban.

Clinton underplayed his own strong commitment to the issue of allowing homosexuals to serve in the military during his announcement with Frank late

we're really gonna deliver. I don't plan to be cover for just anything. If it's not a real compromise, I will disagree with it."

Frank's plan won praise from House Speaker Thomas Foley yesterday. "At this point there's a great deal of reason to believe that his analysis is correct."

Foley, while stopping short of calling Clinton's plan dead, said there is "some risk of congressional rejection."

"He (Clinton) thanked me for being willing to compromise. He appreciated the fact I was trying."

— Barney Frank

Frank's proposal would permit gays to serve in the military if they do not disclose their sexual orientation while in service. Outside the base

sought advice from his live-in companion, Herb Moses, an organizer of the first gay march in D.C. in 1979.

"We talked about it a lot," Frank said. "He encouraged me that if I thought it was going to be a disaster, I should push for a compromise."

Frank, one of the House's leading liberals and strongest pro-gay rights voices, said he did not, however, consult with the White House before announcing his support for compromise.

Frank did not want to be accused by critics of cutting a deal with the White House on the issue.

"I didn't want anyone to be able to say, 'The White House put you up to it,'" Frank said.

Frank also did not consult U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds (D-Cohasset), a fellow member of the Massachusetts congressional delegation and the only other openly gay member of Congress.

Relations between the two men have been strained, according to sources, but they have spoken several times in recent days.

"I don't see it as personal," Frank said. "You get tempers and I have sometimes, sure."

Studds has said it is too early

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conversation with Frank late Wednesday night.

"(Clinton) wanted to tell me that (the issue of gays in the military) was something he very seriously, something he believed in and he was instructing his people to work to do the best we could," Frank recalled.

But Clinton stopped short of an outright endorsement of Frank's proposal in the 11:30 p.m. telephone call to Frank's Washington condo.

Earlier on Wednesday, White House political director Rahm Emanuel also telephoned with his thanks, said Frank, who warned him that his willingness to compromise is limited.

on duty. Outside the base, gay service personnel would be free to practice their homosexuality openly without any military-related repercussions.

HERALD'S VIEW

Page 28

The Frank plan gives Clinton some much-needed political breathing room, helping him to deflect charges that he reneged on his campaign pledge to reverse the ban.

During the 45-minute interview, Frank seemed energized by the intense interest his call for compromise on one of the nation's most wrenching social issues has generated.

Frank, 58, said that as he

to compromise, and that lies for gay rights, like civil rights fights, should be guided by principle rather than politics and not open to compromise.

"That is an argument for which I have no intellectual respect," Frank said. "The danger here is we could lose everything."

Frank informally polled a group of moderate and liberal House members on the issue. One liberal Midwestern lawmaker told him calls and mail to his office were running 40-to-1 in favor of keeping the ban.

Frank, in part, blames gays for not doing more grass-roots congressional lobbying on the ban during the recent gay rights march in Washington.

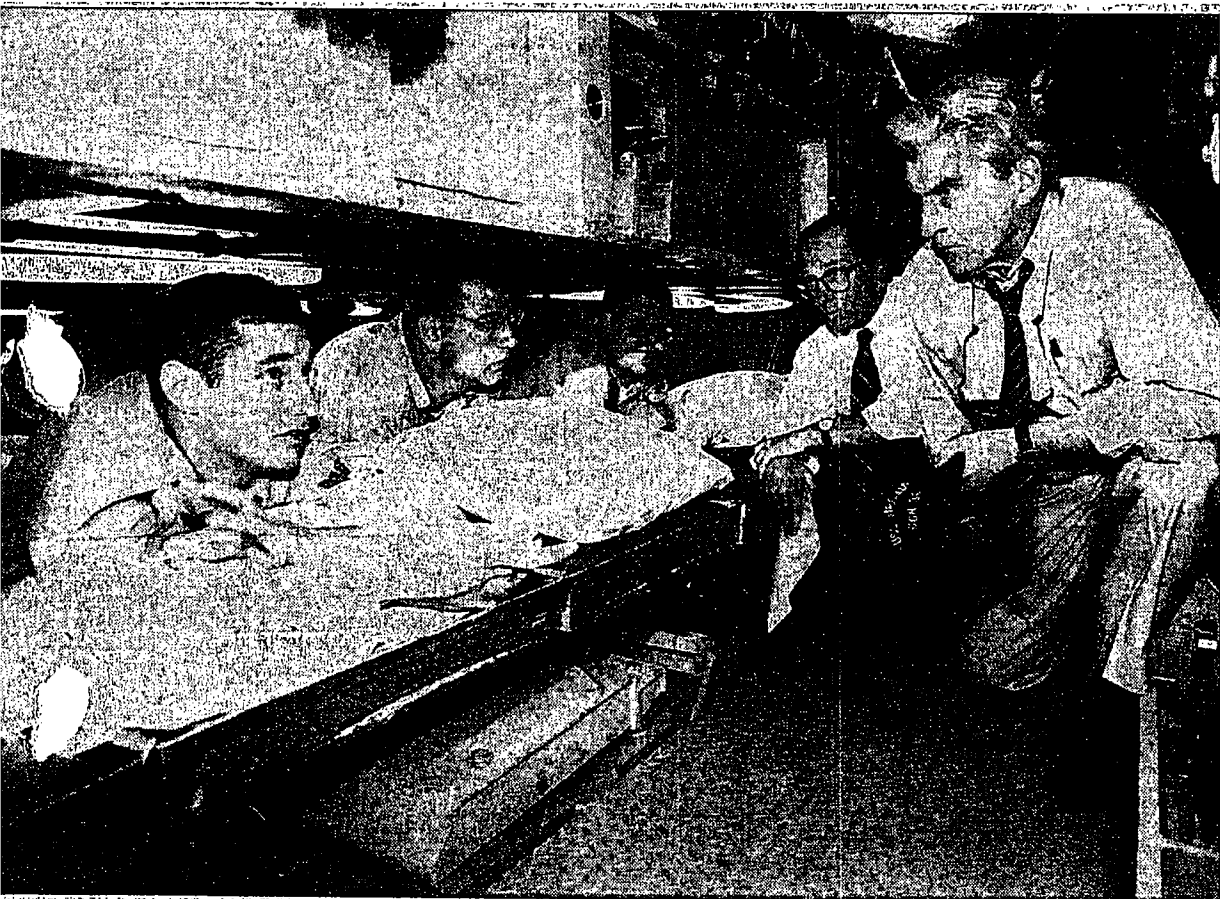
"The march came and went

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE PHOTO Sens. Sam Nunn and John Warner took the news media along when they visited a submarine at the Norfolk Naval Base last week. The pictures were widely distributed.

Nunn's hearings on gays orchestrated, some feel

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The photograph in newspapers around the country showed two senators examining the narrow sleeping quarters of a submarine as three young sailors, crowded in bunks, stared back.

It gave one more boost to Sen. Sam Nunn's campaign to sway public opinion for the ban on homosexuals serving openly in the military — and yet another blow to President Clinton's efforts to end the prohibition.

"That photograph has done more damage to this issue than a thousand generals testifying against it," said David Smith of the Campaign for Military Service, an amalgam of groups working to end the ban.

"Bunks and showers stir hysteria," Sam Nunn knows that.

Nunn's hearings stem from Clinton's pledge to repeal the ban on gays in the military, which triggered a congressional rebellion.

Under a compromise, the ban remains, but recruits are not asked their sexual orientation. In the meantime, Defense Secretary Les Aspin is to draw up a formal order by July 15 to end the ban.

Nunn's approach has critics

Nunn pledged "fair, thorough and objective" hearings during the interim, but his approach has its critics. The meetings are designed to give Nunn the advice he wanted, said Ann Lewis, a political consultant and sister of Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., one of two openly

gay members of Congress.

"Three sailors lying down in the bunk — that is almost too much of orchestrating," said Claiborne Darden, a Democratic political analyst from Georgia. It's as if "they lie down and say they don't want some pervert between them."

The trip to Norfolk last Monday was not the first chance for Nunn, D-Ga., and Sen. John Warner, R-Va., to visit a submarine. They are longtime members of the Armed Services Committee.

Yet there they were — Nunn, Warner and other members of the committee, visiting bunks, bathrooms and showers on submarines and ships at the Norfolk Naval Base, with news media in tow.

Compromise proposed

"The American people have to know," Nunn said last week when questioned about the necessity of the visit and the criticism.

Nunn has proposed a compromise that would include not questioning recruits about their sexual orientation, imposing a strict code of conduct and not ferreting out homosexuals. But it would retain the ban on those who openly assert their homosexuality.

He amplified on his proposed compromise yesterday, explaining that it would be permissible for a gay soldier to answer questions about his or her sexual orientation on a confidential form, such as a security clearance questionnaire.

"If you go on Ted Koppel or you

march in a parade, I think you have announced openly your basic sexual orientation," he said on CNN's "Evans and Novak" program.

Asked if there would be different standards of conduct for gay and straight soldiers, Nunn did not answer directly.

"You can't draw the line on-base or off-base but I certainly don't envision that we're going to have sodomy squads or sex squads going around trying to look at people's private lives," he said. "Unless the individual brings to the attention of the people around him his sexual orientation in a way that is obvious and open, then it seems to me they ought to be protected."

Two alternatives being considered

A senior Pentagon official said a special military panel is considering two alternatives that would modify Clinton's pledge to end the 50-year-old ban. One option embraces Nunn's compromise while the other would allow open gays to serve but would prohibit homosexual conduct.

"The Senate is moving toward the Nunn position," Warner said Friday. "The testimony this week charted the course to 'don't ask, don't tell.'"

Rep. Frank said keeping silent about sexual orientation may be an acceptable condition.

"We are not talking about people who are burning with the desire to announce their sexual orientation," he said in an interview published in yesterday's Boston Globe. "That's not why you go into the military."

Richmond Dispatch 5/16/93

USA TODAY hopes to
serve as a forum for bet-
ter understanding and
unity to help make the
USA truly one nation."

—Allen H. Neuharth
Founder, Sept. 15, 1982



Peter S. Prichard
Editor

Karen Jurgensen
Editor of the
Editorial Page

Thomas Curley
President and Publisher

Today's debate is about **GAYS IN THE MILITARY**
and whether the ban on homosexuals should be lifted.

Reject flawed arguments against gays in military

OUR VIEW **The ban on gays in
the military is based
on prejudices and false
assumptions.**

Members of the Senate Armed Ser-
vices Committee are getting an earful of
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From the majority of sailors inter-
viewed aboard Navy ships in Norfolk,
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came the same message: Gays aren't en-
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This conclusion rests upon some easi-
ly disputed assumptions. Among the
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**Allowing gays into the military in-
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military, where HIV rates have held
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and rapid deployment forces more of-
ten. Battlefield transfusions are rare.

**Having to share showers and sleeping
quarters with homosexuals will under-
mine morale.** This may make some peo-
ple uncomfortable, but comfort is not a
military priority. In fact, most people

have probably already showered beside
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military has strict rules governing im-
proper sexual behavior or harassment.

The fact is, lack of privacy is a hard-
ship all recruits have to learn to live
with. In fire and police departments,
where many of the same conditions pre-
vail, a General Accounting Office study
found no major problems once bans on
gays and lesbians were lifted.

**New rules that say recruits cannot be
asked their sexual orientation go far
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Committee Chairman Sam Nunn think
this is a good compromise. But it's only
a start. Under these rules, thousands of
gays and lesbians are forced to continue
living a lie in order to serve their coun-
try. If they are found out, or if they de-
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still be summarily discharged, no matter
how distinguished their records.

Using arguments like these to justify
keeping the military's ban on gays sim-
ply enshrines prejudice as the one foe
the military is unwilling to confront.

That's a lousy way to treat people who
just want to defend democracy.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Listen to the troops

OUR VIEW The gays in the military is based on prejudices and false assumptions.

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Allowing gays into the military increases the risk of AIDS. This is nonsense. Gays are already serving in the military, where HIV rates have held steady at about 500 a year. The Department of Defense has a strict HIV testing policy in place and bars new recruits with HIV. Everyone is tested annually, and rapid deployment forces more often. Battlefield transfusions are rare.

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The fact is, lack of privacy is a hardship all recruits have to learn to live with. In fire and police departments, where many of the same conditions prevail, a General Accounting Office study found no major problems once bans on gays and lesbians were lifted.

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That's a lousy way to treat people who just want to defend democracy.

Listen to the troops

OPPOSING VIEW William Hamilton says don't ignore the advice of both military leaders and rank and file.

The failure of President Lyndon Johnson to heed professional military advice cost this nation dearly in Vietnam. And after the dominos fell, just as our military predicted, more than 2 million Cambodians were murdered in the "killing fields." In Grenada, Panama

and the gulf war, we won quick victories because military professionals were allowed to do their jobs.

That's the real issue in the gays-and-the-military controversy. Are we serious about using our military as an effective instrument of foreign policy and, if necessary, war? Or are we going to countermand the overwhelming advice of our military leaders, and the rank and file, and use our armed forces to legitimize the hallmark behavior of the gay male — anal and oral sodomy?

The military has only one purpose: to fight effectively. It is not the role of the

military to serve as a social experiment in accommodating the gay lifestyle.

Health concerns alone should tell us not to billet the highest risk group for AIDS and hepatitis inside a fighting force that needs extraordinarily good health and conditioning to be effective. On the battlefield, the wounded's supply of whole blood often comes from the soldier in the next foxhole. How many would volunteer to serve knowing society has added the threat of AIDS to an already hostile environment?

At the Norfolk Naval Base Monday, the Senate Armed Services Committee heard the Navy's rank and file express strong and angry opposition to being forced to sleep with gays. Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf testified Tuesday that gays in fighting units would disrupt cohesion. So whose advice do we take? That of the military or the Lavender Lobby?

William Hamilton, a syndicated columnist, served two combat tours in Vietnam, one as an infantry company commander.

► Schwarzkopf testifies, 3A

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

The Washington

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1993



BY RAY LUSTIG—THE WASHINGTON POST

Col. Fred Peck: "My son Scott is a homosexual. And I don't think there's any place for him in the military."

Marine Jolts Gay-Ban Hearing

Revealing His Son Is Homosexual, Officer Opposes Policy Change

By John Lancaster
Washington Post Staff Writer

A senior Marine officer, testifying against President Clinton's plan to lift the ban on homosexuals in the military, electrified a packed Senate hearing room yesterday with a poignant and personal revelation about his own son.

"My son Scott is a homosexual," said Col. Fred Peck, who returned last week from a five-month tour as chief spokesman for U.S. military forces in Somalia. "And I don't think there's any place for him in the military."

Peck had not prepared his audience for the disclosure, beginning his appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee with a familiar litany of military objections to lifting the homosexual ban. But then he started talking about his son.

"If he were to walk into a recruiter's office, it would be a recruiter's dream come true," Peck said in a voice growing taut with emotion. "He's 6-foot-1, blue-eyed, blond hair, great student But if he were to go and seriously consider joining the military, I would have to, number

one, personally counsel against it and, number two, actively fight against it, because my son is a homosexual."

Peck's statement stunned the audience of military personnel and homosexual rights activists and overshadowed the testimony of yesterday's featured witness, retired Army Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. military forces during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, who also spoke against the president's plan.

Peck's testimony also constituted perhaps the most personal

See MILITARY, A6, Col. 1

Supports Gay Ban

PHOTO
PRESERVATION

MILITARY, From A1

and heartfelt plea from any military officer on behalf of retaining the ban and illustrated the depth of emotion within the military services against the president's plan.

Peck said his opposition to the plan has nothing to do with "the worth of the individual."

"I love him," Peck said of his son, now a senior at the University of Maryland's Baltimore campus, as the room fell suddenly silent. "I love him as much as I do any of my sons. I respect him. I think he's a fine person."

Nevertheless, Peck said, "I've spent 27 years of my life in the military and I know what it would be like for he went in. And it would be hell. He would be very fearful that his life would be in jeopardy from his own troops."

A Pentagon task force is studying ways to implement the president's plan and is supposed to submit a draft executive order to the White House by July 15.

In the meantime, both the Senate and House Armed Services Committees are holding hearings on Clinton's plan, which is nearly as controversial on Capitol Hill as it is within the military. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) is a leading opponent to lifting the ban and has indicated he will try to block such action unless Clinton comes up with a satisfactory compromise.

Nunn's hearings, which initially dealt with testimony from academics and outside experts, have recently become more lively as the focus has shifted to active-duty officers and enlisted personnel. On Monday, Nunn and other committee members held a briefing at Norfolk Naval Base, leaving television camera crews on a tour of shipboard toilet, shower and berthing facilities and hearing comments from sailors who generally objected to the idea of serving with homosexuals.

Some Clinton administration officials have begun to suggest that Nunn's high-profile hearings are aimed more at making a point than eliciting information, a charge Nunn denies.



BY RAY LUSTIG—THE WA

Schwarzkopf testifies that military would "faithfully try" to adjust if ban is lifted "but their hearts simply won't

"You've had both points of view presented at every hearing," said Scott Williams, Nunn's spokesman. "The hearings have been fair, they've been thorough and they've been objective."

Peck, 44, said in an interview following his testimony that he did not know his son was homosexual until his wife—Scott's stepmother—told him about it last Thursday, two days after his return from Somalia.

"I'm trying to be accepting and understanding," Peck said. "I have an unconditional love for Scott." Peck was divorced from Scott's mother when his son was 6 years old, and she has since died.

Peck said he had originally written to Nunn from Somalia requesting an opportunity to testify in favor of the ban. Peck said he spoke with his son Monday night and the two agreed that he should reveal Scott's sexual status in his testimony.

Peck said his objection centers chiefly on the close living quarters shared by troops in the field and the effect that homosexuals might have on unit cohesion and morale. "I don't look at it as blind prejudice," Peck said in the interview. "I think there's a rationale for it."

Scott Peck, 24, could not be reached for comment. But in an interview with WJZ-TV in Baltimore, Peck said he disagreed with his father that homosexuals would be at risk from heterosexual troops in their units, the Associated Press reported.

"Once soldiers and Marines find out that the men and women that they have been serving with and have been entrusting their lives to all these years have been gay or lesbian all along, they will be able to have a working relationship," he said.

Scott Peck was quoted as saying he had been prepared for a "heated discussion" with his father. "Instead, I was amazed to find that he had no moral or religious problems with homosexuality; he was simply opposed to lifting the ban," the younger Peck said.

Peck, in his role as a military spokesman, became familiar to millions of television viewers during the first months of the Somalia operation and was popular with reporters for his genial, straightforward style.

But the biggest celebrity of yesterday's hearings was Schwarzkopf, who since leaving the military has hit the lecture circuit and written a best-selling autobiography, drew a clutch of autograph seekers when he first approached the witness table. Schwarzkopf told the committee with characteristic bluntness that lifting the ban would undermine fighting effectiveness, damage morale and drive many heterosexual men and women from the service.

"I'm not saying that homosexuals haven't served honorably in our armed forces in the past," Schwarzkopf told the committee. "However, in every case that I'm familiar with—and there are many—when it became

known in a unit that some were openly homosexual, polarization occurred, violence sometimes broke down and unit cohesiveness suffered."

Schwarzkopf also warned of the effects of lifting the ban when the military already is suffering from wrenching personnel reductions, budget cuts and base

"The military establishment is fragile, but in my mind such a change would be seriously overloading the plate," he said. "They will try and execute the orders of civilian leaders, but their hearts simply won't be in it. To me, that's just like many of the Iraqi troops in the deserts of Kuwait who execute orders they didn't want to follow."

The panel also heard from former service personnel who support the president's plan. Among them was Margaret Cammer, a former chief nurse of the Washington Army National Guard who was discharged because she is a lesbian.

Cammer, recalling her experiences as an Army nurse in Vietnam, disputed Schwarzkopf's contention that homosexuals would undermine morale and cohesion. "The kind of camaraderie that is created during war is so intense that words are not necessary to reach out to your buddies," she said. "The fact that I served in Vietnam means that I have a bond with every other Vietnam veteran."

Schwarzkopf Reports Ban

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The panel also heard from current or former service personnel who support the president's plan, among them Margarethe Cammermeyer, a former chief nurse of the Washington Army National Guard who was discharged because she is a lesbian.

Cammermeyer, recalling her experiences as an Army nurse in Vietnam, disputed Schwarzkopf's sugges-

Keep ban, Schwarzkopf testi

Openly gay troops pose 'a problem'

By Debbie Howlett
USA TODAY

Retired general Norman Schwarzkopf urged Congress Tuesday to keep the current ban on gays in the military, but stop asking recruits about their sexual orientation.

"It's just plain and simply the fact that open homosexuality is a problem," Schwarzkopf, the gulf war allied commander, told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Homosexuals have served in the past and done a great job serving their country, and I feel they can in the future," he said. "(But) it's open homosexuality in a unit that causes this breakdown in unit cohesion."

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., told Schwarzkopf, "Your testimony today is nailing the final stake in the coffin on this issue. Congress is moving toward the decision will be whether the policy is today."

But committee chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., took exception: "This is not a done deal."

The hearing was the latest in an emotional public debate on President Clinton's vow to lift the military's ban on homosexuals — a move Congress seems intent on thwarting.

The House concluded hearings last week. The Senate committee will visit one more military site next week.

Monday, the committee heard testimony at the Navy base in Norfolk, Va.

Clinton has set July 15 as a deadline for a decision.

Schwarzkopf was the heavy-weight Tuesday, but several personal tales provided compelling testimony:

► Thomas Panaccia, a former Air Force staff sergeant, recalled a boyhood obsessed with airplanes and rockets. He went from high school to the Air Force.

It took him 11 years to come to terms with his homosexuality. "I regret being boot-camped out of the service for it, it was not the worst part."

"Right now, my father does not talk to and has all but disowned me," Panaccia said.



IN SUPPORT OF BAN: Marine Corps Maj. Kathleen Bergeron and retired Army general Norman Schwarzkopf testify.

By John Harrington,



By John Duricka, AP

"
You don't go into the military and say 'I'm gay.' ... You go into the military to serve your country.
"

— Margaret Cammermeyer, former colonel who is gay

A father and son: 2 perspectives

By Debbie Howlett
and Carl Weiser
USA TODAY

Marine Col. Fred Peck, the military spokesman just back from Somalia, held the Senate Armed Services Committee spellbound talking about his son, Scott, a University of Maryland student.

"If he were to walk into a recruiter's office, it would be the recruiter's dream come true. He's 6-foot-1, blue-eyed, blond hair, great student," Peck said.

But, he said, because Scott is gay he could not recommend him for service.

"I love him, I love him as much as I do any of my sons, but I don't think he should serve in the military," he said. "I know what it would be like for him if he went in. And it would be hell."

"I would be very fearful



By Bruce Young, Reuters

PECK: Would 'fear' for son's life if he joined military

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► Today's

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

Gay ban, Schwarzkopf testifies

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"Once soldiers and Marines find out that the men and women that they ... have been entrusting their lives to all these years have been gay or lesbian all along, they will be able to have a working relationship," he told Baltimore's WJZ-TV.

The younger Peck said he was "amazed" to find his father had no moral or religious objections to homosexuality. "He was simply opposed to lifting the ban."

The two agreed Peck's homosexuality should be part of the testimony, *The Washington Post* reports today.

The Campaign for Military Service, an amalgam of groups opposed to the ban, issued a statement saying prejudice motivated Peck to "sell out his own son to the ignorance and fear."

"I'm doing what I feel is right, telling the truth, which is something my father taught me, ironically."

► Margaret Cammermeyer, a former colonel and chief nurse of the Washington National Guard, told of her

dream 30 years ago to be the first general in the old Women's Army Corps.

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"You don't go into the military and say 'I'm gay.' ... You go into the military to serve your country," she said.

Today's debate 40A

5/12/93
WASH TIMES
GMI 161N

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

Hearing on gays in military erupts into shouting match

Lawmakers display bad tempers; chairman lectures black witness

LOS ANGELES TIMES/WASHINGTON POST
NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — On the concluding day of a House committee's hearing on gays in the military that had been characterized by anti-homosexual invective, proceedings exploded yesterday into a shouting match between lawmakers and a black committee chairman's lecturing of a black witness.

Feelings became so inflamed that House Armed Services Committee Chairman Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., chided Reps. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii, and Steve Buyer, R-Ind., for their excessive displays of ill-temper during a heated exchange.

Buyer, after questioning the relevance of testimony that gays serve in the San Francisco and Seattle police and fire departments, provoked Abercrombie's ire by saying civil rights are not involved in President Clinton's plan to lift a Pentagon ban on avowed gays and lesbians.

"The military and civil rights do go

together, pal," Abercrombie, a Honolulu liberal, yelled at Buyer, a freshman conservative.

Dellums also stepped in when Rep. Bob Dornan, R-Calif., began speaking invidiously of the House's two openly gay members, Massachusetts Democrats Barney Frank and Gerry Studds, who were not present. Without naming them, Dornan mentioned past House inquiries into their after-hours homosexual activities.

"You are walking down a very fragile road," Dellums warned. Dornan switched the subject.

Dellums also confronted retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Chuck Jackson, the only black among the four ex-military witnesses asking Congress to reverse Clinton's planned executive order and to keep excluding gays.

"I have taken the position as a black to oppose all forms of oppression," Dellums said. Viewing uniformed gay service as a civil rights issue and not just a question of "mili-

tary readiness," the congressman differed with "the brother" Jackson, saying the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. would have equated integrating homosexuals into the armed forces with the integration of blacks into the armed forces.

Dellums' 52-member panel heard from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and other advocates on both sides of the issue. By contrast, Senate Armed Forces Committee chairman Sam Nunn, D-Ga., has not yet invited advocacy groups to testify at hearings that began March 29.

Anti-gay witnesses had no trouble expressing their concerns to the House committee, where Dellums' sentiments were demonstrably in the minority.

Retired Marine Col. John Ripley scorned gays as "infectious and life-threatening disease carriers." Retired Marine Brig. Gen. William Weise said allowing gays among "straight" troops would be "like puttin' a hungry dog in a meat shop."

Dellums blew up when ban proponents predicted a wave of gay-bashings and "non-violent mutiny." If troops rebelled over gays, Dellums said, "We have reduced ourselves to a banana republic."

Richard Despute
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5/27/93

MAY 27 1993

Alexis,

I think we may be getting
some questions about this
story today, especially the
underlined part.

Keith

^AM-CLINTON-GAYS 1STLD

^CLINTON SEES COMPROMISE ON GAYS IN MILITARY

(Eds: Clarifies in 6th graf that no legislation passed reversing president's position)

WASHINGTON, Reuter - President Clinton Thursday said he was close to reaching a compromise with key members of Congress on lifting the ban on gays serving in the military.

Clinton, asked if he could accept so-called ``Don't ask, don't say'' proposals on the issue, said, ``I think we're very close to a compromise along those lines.''

Under the proposals, individuals entering the military would not be asked if they were homosexuals and, in return, they would not flaunt their sexual preferences.

``Most Americans believe if you don't ask and you don't say and you're not forced to confront it, people should be able to serve,'' he said in a television appearance. ★

``We are trying to work this out ... so our country does not appear to be endorsing a gay lifestyle but we accept people as people and give them a chance to serve if they play by the rules. I think that is the tough issue for us, and I think we are very close to resolving it,'' Clinton said. ★

Clinton created an uproar shortly after taking office in January when he announced he would lift the ban on gays in the military, prompting key members of Congress to apply pressure for a reversal of his position.

Clinton then ordered a review of the situation to study the best way to make such a change.

``There are and always have been homosexuals in the military,'' Clinton said during a live, two-hour appearance on the television program ``CBS This Morning.''

``The question is, whether they should be kicked out, not because of what they do but because of who they are,'' Clinton said. ``My view is, people should be judged on their conduct.''

♥WhiteHouse-RB--05-27-93 09:36EST<
(via GenDos v516a)-
♦

March 29, 1993

- Q: What's the Administration's position or reaction to Senator Nunn's hearings on gays in the military?
- A: **The hearings are an essential component of the review process. Beyond that, I don't want to characterize them in any way. The President is waiting for the report by the Secretary of Defense.**
- Q: Is the Administration lobbying the Armed Services Committee or applying any pressure to bolster its policy position.
- A: **No, we are not pressuring Senator Nunn or his committee. But the President remains committed to ending discrimination.**
- Q: David Mixner, a longtime friend of the Clintons, on Saturday called Senator Nunn "an old-fashioned bigot" and compared him to George Wallace. Does the Administration share this view?
- A: **No.**
- Q: Are you disavowing David Mixner?
- A: **We disagree with him on this issue.**
- Q: Sam Nunn has said recently that he doesn't understand how the President plans to distinguish status from conduct and he suggested that announcing one's status is conduct. Is that how the President defines conduct too?
- A: **I would refer you to President Clinton's comments in the past, where he has distinguished between status and "destructive behavior." Beyond that, I don't want to speculate on hypothetical questions; we're waiting for the Secretary of Defense to report back on July 15.**
- Q: What happened at the meeting last Friday between White House officials and leaders of gay groups?
- A: **It was a private meeting and part of a series of ongoing discussions between the Office of Public Liaison and various communities. [The meeting had been previously planned prior to the President's comments last Tuesday. The meeting was positive and productive. But I'm not going to comment on the specifics of the meeting.]**

Q: What's the Administration's reaction to the testimony of _____ today who said _____ at the gays in the military hearings?

A: We're not going to comment on the daily developments of the hearings. These are Senator Nunn's hearings. The President is still waiting for the report from the Secretary of Defense.

Q: What's the Administration's current position on the possibility of separating troops or differentiating in duty assignments, as the President suggested last week?

A: The President is committed to ending discrimination in the military. He is waiting for the report from the Secretary of Defense.

Q: Why has the Defense Department been so slow in commencing the study that President Clinton ordered back in January?

A: The Pentagon is on track. The Secretary of Defense will report to the President on July 15. I would refer you to the Pentagon for further details.

cc Steve

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

3/29/93

Alexis,

George liked this memo and asked me to send a copy under his name to all senior staff.

I have also attached talking points approved by George and written by me.

-Keith
x 7151

M E M O R A N D U M

March 28, 1993

TO: Alexis Herman
George Stephanopoulos

FROM: Keith Boykin

SUBJECT: Five steps to communicate Administration policy on
gays in the military

To manage the news coverage of the Administration's policy on gays in the military, I recommend the following steps be taken immediately:

(1) Instruct all Administration officials and spokespeople to refrain from speculating about hypothetical policy developments. Comments should be limited to: "The President is committed to ending discrimination in the military. He is waiting for the report from the Secretary of Defense."

(2) Ask the President to avoid hypothetical discussions on the specific details of the developing policy -- particularly the issue of separating troops or differentiating in duty assignments -- until after the Defense Secretary's report July 15.

(3) When asked by the press for the Administration's position on the Senate hearings, we should refrain from characterizing the hearings positively or negatively.

(4) When asked by the press to clarify the President's meaning of status versus conduct, refer reporters to President-elect Clinton's comments in the past. He has defined conduct as inappropriate behavior rather than the mere declaration of one's status. [In a post-election press conference last November, President-elect Clinton said, "I don't think status alone, in the absence of some destructive behavior, should disqualify people" (emphasis added).]

(5) Ask public relations officials at DoD and Justice to maintain regular and clear lines of communication between their agencies and the White House to communicate any departmental developments (e.g., court appeals, military studies) concerning the issue of gays in the military.

March 29, 1993

Q: What's the Administration's position or reaction to Senator Nunn's hearings on gays in the military?

A: The hearings are an essential component of the review process. Beyond that, I don't want to characterize them in any way. The President is waiting for the report by the Secretary of Defense.

Q: Is the Administration lobbying the Armed Services Committee or applying any pressure to bolster its policy position.

A: No, we are not pressuring Senator Nunn or his committee. But the President remains committed to ending discrimination.

Q: David Mixner, a longtime friend of the Clintons, on Saturday called Senator Nunn "an old-fashioned bigot" and compared him to George Wallace. Does the Administration share this view?

A: No.

Q: Are you disavowing David Mixner?

A: We disagree with him on this issue.

Q: Sam Nunn has said recently that he doesn't understand how the President plans to distinguish status from conduct and he suggested that announcing one's status is conduct. Is that how the President defines conduct too?

A: I would refer you to President Clinton's comments in the past, where he has distinguished between status and "destructive behavior." Beyond that, I don't want to speculate on hypothetical questions; we're waiting for the Secretary of Defense to report back on July 15.

Q: What happened at the meeting last Friday between White House officials and leaders of gay groups?

A: It was a private meeting and part of a series of ongoing discussions between the Office of Public Liaison and various communities. [The meeting had been previously planned prior to the President's comments last Tuesday. The meeting was positive and productive. But I'm not going to comment on the specifics of the meeting.]

Q: What's the Administration's reaction to the testimony of _____ today who said _____ at the gays in the military hearings?

A: We're not going to comment on the daily developments of the hearings. These are Senator Nunn's hearings. The President is still waiting for the report from the Secretary of Defense.

Q: What's the Administration's current position on the possibility of separating troops or differentiating in duty assignments, as the President suggested last week?

A: The President is committed to ending discrimination in the military. He is waiting for the report from the Secretary of Defense.

Q: Why has the Defense Department been so slow in commencing the study that President Clinton ordered back in January?

A: The Pentagon is on track. The Secretary of Defense will report to the President on July 15. I would refer you to the Pentagon for further details.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 26, 1993

MEMORANDUM TO CONCERNED GROUPS

FROM: Alexis ~~Herman~~ ^{Kerman}

SUBJECT: Military ban

In response to your request for the President's position on the ban on gays in the military, you should know that the President has said the following:

Q: Mr. President, at your news conference yesterday...you were asked about gays in the military.

THE PRESIDENT: [L]et me say I talk on a regular basis with General Powell. I have met with the Joint Chiefs. I have a whole schedule of things that I'm working through now to continue to work with the military...

Q: [I]s it correct that you have reversed your position [on gays in the military]?

THE PRESIDENT: Absolutely wrong...Nothing I said yesterday is in any way inconsistent with anything I've ever said before about this. First, let's review this issue. Half the battle is over...The Joint Chiefs agree that they should stop asking enlistees whether or not they're gay. So they have already said we won't ask you to lie, and we won't use your forms against you. And if you get in and you perform well, that's fine.

I agree and everybody else agrees that any kind of improper sexual conduct should be grounds for dismissal or other appropriate discipline...

The question I was asked yesterday was as follows: Would you consider any restrictions on duty assignments? And the answer is, I am waiting for the report of the Secretary of Defense made in conjunction with the Joint Chiefs...What I said was if they made a recommendation to me, would I review it and consider it? Of course I would. I mean, I asked them to study this. I can't refuse then to get the results of the study and act like my mind's made up. This is not an area where I have expertise. I have to listen to what people say. I will consider the arguments. I have a presumption against any discrimination based on status alone, but I will listen to any report filed.

cc Steve

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 29, 1993

Amn's
MAR 29 1993

MEMORANDUM TO ALL SENIOR STAFF

FROM: George Stephanopoulos

SUBJECT: Four steps to communicate Administration policy on
gays in the military

To manage the news coverage of the Administration's policy on gays in the military, the following steps should be taken immediately:

(1) All Administration officials and spokespeople should refrain from speculating about hypothetical policy developments. Comments should be limited to: "The President is committed to ending discrimination in the military. He is waiting for the report from the Secretary of Defense."

(2) When asked by the press for the Administration's position on the Senate hearings, please refrain from characterizing the hearings positively or negatively.

(3) When asked by the press to clarify the President's meaning of status versus conduct, refer reporters to President-elect Clinton's comments in the past. He has defined conduct as inappropriate behavior rather than the mere declaration of one's status. [In a post-election press conference last November, President-elect Clinton said, "I don't think status alone, in the absence of some destructive behavior, should disqualify people" (emphasis added).]

(4) I will ask public relations officials at DoD and Justice to maintain regular and clear lines of communication between their agencies and the White House to communicate any departmental developments (e.g., court appeals, military studies) concerning the issue of gays in the military.

CLOSE HOLD

Document No. 000545

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 01/26/93 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 7:45 A.M. 01/27

PRESIDENTIAL MEMO TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RE
ENDING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION

SUBJECT: IN THE ARMED FORCES

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	PASTER	☒	☐
McLARTY	☒	☐	RASCO	☐	☐
GEARAN	☒	☐	RUBIN	☐	☐
PANETTA	☒	☐	SEGAL	☐	☐
EMMANUEL	☐	☒	STEPHANOPOULOS	☒	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	VARNEY	☐	☒
HALE	☐	☐	WATKINS	☐	☐
HERMAN	☐	☒	WILLIAMS	☒	☐
LAKE	☒	☐	CLERK	☐	☒
LINDSEY	☒	☐		☐	☐
MONTROYA	☐	☐		☐	☐
NUSSBAUM	☒	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please provide any comments directly to this office NO LATER THAN
7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, 01/27. Thanks.

RESPONSE:

CLOSE HOLD

JOHN D. PODESTA
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

From: Vince Foster
Date: January 26, 1993
Subject: Gays in the Military

By the attached Presidential Memorandum, you direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to you prior to July 15, 1993 a draft Executive order ending discrimination in the military on the basis of sexual orientation.

The memorandum also directs the Secretary, in preparing the draft, to consult fully with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other concerned governmental and private interests.

Attachment

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Ending Discrimination on the Basis of
Sexual Orientation in the Armed Forces

I hereby direct you to submit to me prior to July 15, 1993 a draft for my approval of an Executive order ending discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in determining who may serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.

In preparing the draft, I direct you to consult fully with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Military Services, with other Departments affected by the order, and with concerned individuals and organizations outside the Executive Branch.

THE WHITE HOUSE.

16-30th

20

THE WHITE
Office of the Pr

Alexis Herman
Public Liaison
2nd Floor West Wing

For Immediate Release

1993

PRESS BRIEFING
BY DEE DEE MYERS

The Briefing Room

9:45 A.M. EDT

MS. MYERS: Okay, schedule. As you know, Prime Minister Miyazawa will arrive at 10:30 a.m. He will meet privately with the President in the Oval Office and then in a larger group. At 12:30 p.m. they'll have lunch in the Old Family Dining Room, and they will have a press conference in the East Room at 1:55 p.m. Actually, I think we can say 2:00 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m. -- we'll give you that five minutes. At 3:30 p.m. he'll meet with a group of gay leaders, including representatives of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the March on Washington Committee, the Campaign for Military Service, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, and the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, and Coalition '93.

Q How many people altogether?

MS. MYERS: There will probably be six or eight.

Q Any coverage?

MS. MYERS: No coverage.

Q Why not?

MS. MYERS: It's a private meeting.

Q -- private meetings --

MS. MYERS: And many, many, many more don't, so --

Q Increasingly so.

MS. MYERS: There will not be a photo op.

Q Is this a political decision, Dee Dee, to not have a photo op with --

MS. MYERS: I think it's consistent with our policy of these kinds of meetings. Political meetings are often closed.

Q Will they be escorted out this door so at least they'll pass by the stakeout position?

MS. MYERS: I don't know exactly what door they'll go out, but I'm sure at some point today they'll make themselves available.

Q Who requested this meeting?

MORE

MS. MYERS: They requested it. As you know, they've met with other White House officials and have requested an opportunity to meet with the President.

Q About what?

MS. MYERS: I think it's about a wide range of issues, from AIDS, to the AIDS czar, to other issues that are of concern to the gay and lesbian community.

Q Did they officially ask him to participate in the parade?

MS. MYERS: I'm sure that will come up. I don't think there's been --

Q Is there any chance at all that he might change his schedule to do that?

MS. MYERS: No, as of right now -- I think his schedule is clear. He will be at the Senate Democratic retreat in Jamestown and then in Boston for the meeting with newspaper publishers.

Q Is that meeting with the newspaper publishers on Sunday?

MS. MYERS: Yes. I think they're there for a weekend conference.

Q And he'll spend Saturday night where?

MS. MYERS: I believe in Jamestown. We're still working out the final details of the schedule. That will be a pool, and then we'll probably take the expanded press corps from Washington to Boston on Sunday.

Q What's the status of the immigration ban that's been under study at HHS since you came into office? It supposed to be changed immediately. Where is it now?

MS. MYERS: No, I think the Senate actually took action on that. I think we're reviewing it, but I think the Senate took action. It's pretty clear where that policy is.

Q That's -- moot.

Q You're not trying to overturn or lobby the Senate or change their minds --

MS. MYERS: Not at this point.

Q You've just given up on that

MS. MYERS: We're not -- there's no active attempt at this point.

Q What about the new stimulus package that's coming --

Q Can I just follow up on this one more time? What is the status of the possibility that Clinton may call the gay rights march, ala Ronald Reagan and George Bush to an abortion rights -- abortion --

MS. MYERS: I think that's something that will be discussed today, but there's no final decision on it yet.

Q How long does the meeting last this afternoon?

MS. MYERS: It's schedule for 30 minutes.

Q New stimulus package?

MS. MYERS: As the President said, he will have an alternative proposal. We'll have more details on that perhaps today.

Q -- today?

MS. MYERS: Probably today.

Q What time?

Q How will that be announced?

MS. MYERS: George. George will discuss it. George will probably discuss it at his 12:30 p.m. briefing. And then I'm sure you'll have a chance to ask the President about it at 1:55 p.m.

Q Is this a unilateral package, or is this something that he's worked out with either Democrats or Republicans on the Hill?

MS. MYERS: It's his proposal but it's something that he has talked to members of Congress about. Certainly to the Senate leadership about it, and to the House leadership as well.

Q Dole's people said they didn't know anything about this.

Q Republicans?

MS. MYERS: Democratic leadership. And of course, as you know, Senator Dole called the President and they discussed, not specific details, but they discussed the jobs package.

Q -- Senator Dole since the phone call, I guess, the night before last?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q In Dole's conversations with him, did he indicate to the President he was willing to compromise, because his statements post-Clinton remarks yesterday indicated that he's not interested in a compromise. He's interested in taking the whole package down.

MS. MYERS: Well, I think that we believe that we're still hopeful that we can get some kind of a jobs package through. Obviously, we're well aware of Senator Dole's objections to it. President Clinton is going to try proposing a different package and we'll see if we can't work that through.

Q But did he indicate any willingness -- are you operating from --

MS. MYERS: Again, they didn't discuss the specific details of the package. But we believe that the American want to see a jobs package passed. The President said yesterday he's willing to compromise. We will propose an alternative today and work with the leadership, both the Democratic and Republican leaders, to try to get it passed.

Q Dee Dee, can you share with us the price tag?

Q Dee Dee, is there a strategy, then, just to win over the number of Republicans that would make it possible for you to

end the cloture -- to end the filibuster, rather than to actually win over Dole's support?

MS. MYERS: Well yes, obviously we have to -- we believe that we have enough votes now to pass a jobs package. We've always believed that.

Q If you could get it to a vote.

MS. MYERS: If we could get it to a vote. And so we're going to continue to work with -- you know, I think we're in the process of continuing to develop our strategy on exactly how to get that to the floor so that we can vote on it.

Q Now is that the purpose of Saturday's trip to Pittsburgh, to pressure --

MS. MYERS: Well, we're going to continue to discuss it. Again, we believe the American people support this. We're going to continue to campaign for it, to go out there and talk about it, to discuss it with the American people, and to try to put some pressure on members of the Senate.

Q How do you win over Specter by going to Pittsburgh and embarrassing him?

MS. MYERS: I don't think our intention is to embarrass anybody. But the airport in Pittsburgh stands to gain a great deal, as do other parts of Western Pennsylvania, from this package. And it's something that we're going to talk about.

Q Dee Dee, some Senate Democrats say they're hearing exactly the opposite of what you're saying about American --

MS. MYERS: I saw that in your report this morning.

Q -- American public opinion that when they've gone home on Easter recess, they're being hammered about reducing the deficit and not spending more money. Are you guys tracking this kind of public opinion here in the White House?

MS. MYERS: We believe that the American people -- and there's both public and private numbers that back that up -- that the American people want to see a jobs package passed. They believe -- they're insecure about the status of their job. There's been a lot of bad, or at least mixed, economic news in the last couple of months. And we believe there's broad public support for this. Clearly, there's support for reducing the deficit, too, which is why the President put forward a comprehensive deficit reduction plan. But what people are most concerned about is jobs. And we continue to maintain that. And the President believes that, again, this is a recovery without job creation. It continues to be a problem.

Q Is your own White House polling supporting that position?

MS. MYERS: That there's broad support for a job-creation package, yes.

Q Then why are you compromising?

MS. MYERS: We don't make the Senate rules.

Q Can you explain what the need is in Pittsburgh? They opened a brand-new airport about a year ago --

MS. MYERS: Yes, I don't know what the need is. I can get back to you on that. But there is specifically a good chunk of money that would help with that airport in Pittsburgh.

Q -- anywhere else besides the airport in Pittsburgh?

MS. MYERS: No, it will just be a trip up and back.

Q When does he go?

MS. MYERS: He'll leave Saturday morning, roughly 8:00 a.m., and come back Saturday afternoon before 2:00 p.m.

Q Is he giving his radio speech --

MS. MYERS: Yes, we'll do that from Pittsburgh.

Q Same time?

MS. MYERS: 10:06 a.m., correct.

Q Without necessarily, Dee Dee, giving us the details, can you tell us what the price tag of the new streamlined package is going to be?

MS. MYERS: We'll have more to say about that later.

Q Is it going to be half?

MS. MYERS: Again, we'll have the details of that a little bit later.

Q Is Mitchell carrying the ball on this? Has he talked to Dole? Has it been unveiled to Dole yet? Have they sounded him out?

MS. MYERS: I don't think that there's been any -- there's no guarantees. Certainly Mitchell has been contacted. We've been working with the Senate Democratic leaders on this.

Q Dee Dee, how different is this from what the President was referring to yesterday afternoon when he was talking about police, et cetera?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think the President made clear what his priorities are for this package yesterday. And that will clearly reflect those priorities.

Q So these are the specifics of what he was talking about yesterday?

MS. MYERS: It will be a little more -- there will be more information in this.

Q Can you tell us what it will be? In other words, will it be a price tag, or will there be specifics?

MS. MYERS: There will be some specifics. And, again, we'll have the details of it later.

Q Will it include any way to pay for this, such as perhaps corresponding spending cuts or --

MS. MYERS: Again, we'll have details of it later. I don't want to get into that.

Q What is his audience in Pittsburgh going to be?

MS. MYERS: We'll invite people from the community.

Q Any particular groups --

MS. MYERS: I don't have the complete list of who exactly might be there. It will be probably a cross section of people from the Allegheny County area.

Q Dee Dee, where will he be meeting with the gay groups, in the Oval Office?

MS. MYERS: Yes, in the Oval Office.

Q This will be like the first time, I understand, that the President will be meeting in the Oval Office with leaders of gay groups. Why are you going out of your way to keep it -- so low-key --

MS. MYERS: I don't think it's low-key at all. I think we said yesterday we were going to have this meeting.

Q No you didn't.

MS. MYERS: We've announce who's --

Q You said yesterday you might have it today.

MS. MYERS: Well, it wasn't completely firmed up, and people who called later in the afternoon it was confirmed and it was written about in a number of papers today.

Q But there's an appearance here you're trying to keep it under wraps almost.

MS. MYERS: I don't believe that's true at all. I just gave you a list of the groups -- we'll have the list of the specific individuals later. And we don't always do photo ops for meetings as you all well know.

Q Well, can we request that if you're not going to do a photo op, then request still photos, which you often also --

MS. MYERS: We often do that. I'll certainly consider that, and we'll let you know.

Q Dee Dee, Lord Owen said today that it was time for the allies to start bombing Serbian supply routes because of the situation in the former Yugoslavia. Is there any change in the administration's position, or will his statement alter the administration's position?

MS. MYERS: Well, obviously we take seriously Lord Owen, but the violence in Eastern Bosnia is deplorable. I think that there's been a change for the worse in Srebrenica overnight. Things don't look too good there. Obviously we're very concerned about this and we're reviewing it.

Q If the United States can stop it, are you going to stop it?

MS. MYERS: I'm not sure I agree with the premise of that question, but we're looking at it. Obviously the violence is deplorable, we're very concerned about it, and we're watching it closely.

Q Being concerned about it isn't going to save anyone's life.

MS. MYERS: We're looking at it.

Q Are you trying to indicate that there may be a change in policy?

MS. MYERS: No, I'm just saying that obviously we're watching events in Srebrenica very closely. It's deplorable what's happening, and we'll continue to watch it, but there's been no change in policy at this point.

Q Dee Dee, this delay to accommodate Yeltsin's referendum, do you see that as an accomplice to this deplorable turn -- that the United States was willing to delay upping -- you know, ratcheting up the sanctions in order to help Yeltsin in his referendum?

MS. MYERS: Well, I remind you that the sanctions weren't scheduled to take effect until two weeks after they were passed anyway. There's been no practical effect of moving that date. We're still committed to the omnibus resolution to continuing to isolate Serbia in the international community, to continuing to increase pressure on them, and we will continue to do that.

Q My understanding is that if Srebrenica falls, then the U.N. would go into some type of increased sanctions and not wait until the 26th. Is that the White House understanding and if so do you push for that -- are you supporting that?

MS. MYERS: I think we'll have to wait and see what happens in the U.N.

Q Can I ask a clarification on the policy that the President and you have talked about in case of a settlement in Bosnia and that you would use forces to enforce it. Does that mean that you would use U.S. military forces to actively roll back Serbian gains to meet the targets in the agreement?

MS. MYERS: No, what we have said is that if there is a plan or a settlement agreed upon by all parties, we would help to implement and enforce that. We would use force in that sense; we've never said specifically what.

Q On one of the -- a follow-on question -- one of the widely accepted theories of what's going on is that the Serbians having taken Srebrenica can move on to -- and a couple of other towns; and then having gained the territory they want, then they will say, okay, we're ready for peace. Is peace on those terms acceptable to the United States?

MS. MYERS: Well, I that's a hypothetical. We'll wait and see. I mean, we're still hopeful that the Serbs will come back to the negotiating table. We'll continue to press for that. And we'll see --

Q -- to ask if the United States will let Serbia stay on the lands that it now occupies.

MS. MYERS: I think it is hypothetical to suggest what we would do in the event some kind of an agreement was signed without being able to know what that agreement is.

Q We're not talking about an agreement being signed, we're talking about the Serbs suing for peace on what would essentially be their terms. Would you accept their terms?

MS. MYERS: Again, I can't comment on that until they make such a proposal.

Q Why are we hopeful?

MS. MYERS: Hopeful?

Q Right, you said we're hopeful that the -- what is it we are seeing here that encourages us?

MS. MYERS: We will -- I mean, it is a dire situation. I don't want to suggest that it's not, but we'll continue to press for some kind of a peaceful resolution of this crisis.

Q Has the President read the report that was made public about safe havens --

MS. MYERS: He's aware of it. I don't know that he's read the executive summary, which is the only thing that's available at this point.

Q Why wouldn't he read it?

MS. MYERS: I just said I don't know that he -- I know that he's aware of it, I just don't know whether or not he's read it. I think he knows what's in it.

Q Dee Dee, yesterday in yesterday morning's briefing you promised to bring forth whatever evidence you had that sanctions in Yugoslavia are having any effect in Bosnia on the fighting itself. Have you got that?

MS. MYERS: I said I'd make someone available. I didn't -- I wasn't sure that you were seriously interested, so -- but we can talk about it afterwards if you care to.

Q Considering that the questions have come from any one of a number of reporters, I'd say there's some serious interest, wouldn't you?

MS. MYERS: I'm just talking specifically about your question yesterday, and if you would like to talk to me about it afterward I'd be happy to.

Q Can we all request that?

Q I mean, we're all interested in --

Q It's a question of general interest. You all have come out and talked about -- and we all reported it -- you backed up the sanctions on the

MS. MYERS: Correction.

Q -- Serbian economy, the banking system, and so on and so forth; but none of that has seemed to have any sort of effect from what we're able to gauge from reporting, from the scene and from other people, on the fighting itself in Bosnia.

MS. MYERS: And, well, my point was --

Q And what I've asked you for is for some sort of indication --

MS. MYERS: Okay, my point was that I could make somebody available to discuss with you the impact of sanctions. And if you're interested I'm happy to do that. It's been done before and I -- if you're interested in talking further about that, I'm happy to try to provide somebody.

Q Wonderful, on the understanding that we're talking about impact in Bosnia.

MS. MYERS: I understand that.

Q We tried asking about that with briefers who came out earlier to talk about the impact of the sanctions in Yugoslavia and they refused to discuss the impact of the sanctions in Bosnia, said they couldn't get into that. It's the fighting that we're interested in. That's what you're trying to stop, is it not?

MS. MYERS: I think that that's what we're trying to sell you -- I don't think we're trying to sell you anything. But --

Q (Inaudible.)

MS. MYERS: I'm sorry. Yes, we're trying to stop the fighting in Bosnia -- well, that's the object of the policy, clearly. I will look into it.

Q Does the President have any plan to see Owen and Vance at all?

MS. MYERS: No.

Q The Palestinians this morning asked for the peace talks to be postponed. What's your position on that?

MS. MYERS: I'm unaware of that request. I'll take the question.

Q Dee Dee, what is the White House response to, or what is the thinking about Tony Hall's, I guess you call it a hunger strike, his fast? Do you think that's a good idea, and is it a --

MS. MYERS: He's certainly entitled to that. I don't have any comment on that.

Q What about the -- anything more about the Hunger Committee itself?

MS. MYERS: That's an internal matter for Congress to consider.

Q Would the President consider some kind of conference on hunger, some kind of an international effort to --

MS. MYERS: There's no specific proposal that I'm aware of.

Q Dee Dee, the President is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Miyazawa shortly. The Commerce Department just announced an increase in the trade deficit with Japan and the '92 surplus for Japan rose to record amounts. Can you tell me if there's any concrete proposals that the President plans to discuss with Prime Minister Miyazawa in an attempt to bring down their surplus and our deficit?

MS. MYERS: Well, obviously bilateral trade issues will be discussed. We'll have somebody available after the meeting to talk specifically about what was discussed. I don't want to get into that now. The press conference should end sometime between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., and probably 3:00 p.m., give or take a few minutes, they'll be senior White House and State Department officials available.

Q Do you have any reaction to the trade deficit numbers?

MS. MYERS: Well, we're continuing to be concerned about it, obviously. I think the President has made clear his concerns and it's something he'll certainly discuss with Prime Minister Miyazawa.

Q Did Mickey Kantor bring his report to the President last night -- conclusion of -- his analysis --

MS. MYERS: I don't know. I know that he briefed the President and they've spoken about it. I don't know if Mickey presented the report or not. I can take that question.

Q Were any decisions made at the health care meeting last night?

MS. MYERS: If there were, I wouldn't be prepared to discuss them.

Q Dee Dee, is it correct that before any final military action or any action could be taken in the Waco standoff, that the White House has to approve that?

MS. MYERS: Again, I can't talk about what the process might be for approving such a mission. But the President is kept aware of the situation, and that's all I'm really prepared to say about it.

Q Why would that White House want to get its hand in it --

MS. MYERS: I just am not going to comment on it.

Q Several days ago you said that the people in the field were responsible for the whole thing --

MS. MYERS: Well, they're the ones that are certainly coming up the plans, but again, I'm not going to comment on the specific decision-making process.

Q Dee Dee, could you review for us the President's position on gay rights and what issues he thinks are of most concern, vis-a-vis the gay community, as he prepares for this meeting?

MS. MYERS: Well, I think that clearly the President believes that human rights are fundamental, that we don't have a person to waste in this country, and that we ought to look for ways to use the resources and talents of all of our people. That's a position that is long held. Clearly, throughout the campaign he talked about increasing funding for the fight against AIDS -- he's done that. He talked about appointing openly gay people to his administration -- he's done that. He talked about continuing the fight against AIDS and other diseases, and I think that he'll continue to discuss a number of issues with the community today when they meet.

Q So you think there's a role for -- an active role -- for the government to play in addressing some of these concerns?

MS. MYERS: Obviously. I mean, for example, again the President proposed full funding of Ryan White in his first fiscal year budget as he said he would do.

Q I was thinking more of the discrimination issues or the gay-oriented reading books in the schools and so on.

MS. MYERS: Gay oriented --

Q Books in the schools.

MS. MYERS: I think that the President believes that is an issue of local concern and that local communities have to make decisions about -- the govern things like schools and the kind of reading materials that might be in libraries. I think the President believes he can play a role by setting an example. He believes that there isn't a person to waste in this country, that we ought to create opportunities for everybody to participate and to contribute. I think he's tried to do that throughout his campaign, during his tenure as Governor of Arkansas, now in his tenure as President, continue to do that.

Q How is that setting an example to be out of town on the day of the march?

MS. MYERS: I think that again, he's working hard on a number of fronts, and I don't think that that's necessarily a reflection of his attitudes.

Q Dee Dee, just to follow up on Jill's question. On Tuesday, George was asked whether the White House was calling the shots in Waco, and you said it's not true. Do you have any reason to differ with that --

MS. MYERS: No, I'm just not going to comment on the decision-making process.

Q Dee Dee, does the President support Congressman Waxman's bill to end discrimination against gays and employment, public accommodations and housing?

MS. MYERS: I don't know. I haven't seen the specific bill, but I'll get back to you on that.

Q Dee Dee, affiliates of the various television networks pay their networks for the services that they get via satellite. Does the White House have any compunction about taking that material without paying for it?

MS. MYERS: We don't take it, and we don't use it, we simply view it.

Q -- admitted that you took it.

MS. MYERS: We take it. We don't take it for any kind of use for commercial purpose. It is available to anybody who has a satellite dish, who can pull down the coordinates. The signals are unscrambled and --

Q There are some outstanding copyright issues on whether or not it should be legal to view satellite transmitted materials. Does this mean that the White House believes that there are no restrictions that are or should be on that material, and that anybody should be able to take anything that anybody puts up on satellite?

MS. MYERS: Obviously, it is are our intention to comply with the law. I don't know of any law that this violates. Again, anybody with a satellite dish can pull down an available and unscrambled message. We do not use it for any commercial purpose. We view it occasionally. It's nothing different than what we see at the various events. People who aren't at the events occasionally watch what might be transmitted, but again, we don't use it for any commercial purposes. I don't believe there's a problem.

Q What high level appointments of gays have there been, except for the woman at HUD?

MS. MYERS: Roberta Achtenberg, obviously, and Bob Hattoy, who is a senior advisor here. And there a couple of other mid-level people in the administration.

Q There are? Do you know how many there are, because I'm not sure that there -- at this point -- that there are -- I mean, how many do you think there are?

MS. MYERS: I don't know exactly.

Q Are you just saying this off the top of your head? Do you actually have a list of --

MS. MYERS: No, I know that there are others.

Q Because there's been a lot of complaining that there have, in fact, haven't been as many as were expected.

MS. MYERS: Well, I don't know what the expectation was. I certainly can't comment on expectations. But clearly there are openly gay members of this administration.

Q Is there a process involved here? I mean, does -- as in the search for Attorney General, it was clear that the administration wanted a woman. Do you pick a position and say that we want a gay person for this position?

MS. MYERS: No. No, but --

Q Well then, how does it work. I mean, how do you find --

MS. MYERS: How does it work? Because if you don't -- how do you -- I don't mean to shock you here, but if you look for talented people, some of them will happen to be gay. I think Roberta Achtenberg is an excellent example of that. She was County Supervisor from San Francisco, very accomplished in a number of fields, and has been appointed to a position at HUD.

Q I guess, I mean, is there a concerted campaign to fill a certain number of positions --

MS. MYERS: There's a concerted campaign not to discriminate against people in appointments on the basis of sexual orientation, and that means some openly gay people, who are highly qualified will be appointed as there are of people from different parts of the country, of different genders, of different racial and religious backgrounds.

Q The question, again, as in the case of the Attorney General, you actively sought a woman. Are you actively seeking gays for any particular positions --

MS. MYERS: We are considering a broad cross section of people, including gays, for a number of the positions. We're not seeking them for any particular positions, but there are a number of people who are qualified for a number of positions who happen to be gay.

Q How do you know?

Q Will this be a regularly scheduled -- is this going to be a regular meeting that he'll have periodically with gay groups, or this a one-shot deal?

MS. MYERS: I don't think there's any regularly scheduled meeting, but I think as we deem it necessary or appropriate, we'll meet with members of the gay community.

Q How do you know they're gay?

MS. MYERS: Because they're open -- because they head --

Q They announce it, you mean?

MS. MYERS: How do we know who's gay?

Q The ones you're going to appoint or --

MS. MYERS: Well, some of them -- some of them are openly gay. We certainly don't ask any questions about it.

Q Is it the President's view that one's sexual preference should not be an issue in foreign service appointments, in background checks involving CIA positions, foreign service positions? I know where he stands on the military, but I'm not sure where he stands on the State Department and other departments where this had been an issue previously on promotions.

MS. MYERS: I don't believe -- I mean, he's said very clearly that status alone should not be the basis for discrimination. I think he's been fairly clear.

Q That would apply to the foreign service, it would apply -- would it apply to the --

MS. MYERS: I don't know that there's any stated prohibitions in any of those areas.

Q There are no stated prohibitions --

MS. MYERS: Right.

Q -- but there have been -- it has been an impossible situation for people to ever get advanced --

MS. MYERS: Right, I think that the President believes that there ought not to be discrimination on the basis of status, period.

Q Then why won't he sign an executive order to that effect? We were told yesterday he wasn't going to do that.

MS. MYERS: No, I think you were told yesterday that there's none prepared.

Q That doesn't mean he won't do it in the future?

Q Then he may do that, you mean?

MS. MYERS: Yes, I mean, I wouldn't say that he said that he would never sign it.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END

10:10 A.M. EDT