

Men's Work Furlough

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security facility allowing them to maintain their jobs.

With San Francisco facing tight fiscal constraints, it would seem that two large city administrations running two separate but essentially identical programs for approximately 60 County Jail prisoners is ludicrous and a waste of large sums of money. Since the Sheriff's Department maintains a large capable staff, it would seem that by eliminating the minor Probation Department staff the City would be saving around 160 thousand dollars in salaries alone.

The Sheriff's Department, under Hennessey's administration, has also leaned towards progressive humanistic program development. And it's worked. Women's Work Furlough is a good example. The staff is well-trained and willing to help incarcerated women better their lives through job development, proper childcare, etc. The women's program has become more than just a warehouse for criminals. Don't we also owe the same treatment and care to the men that are incarcerated in San Francisco?

The Women's Caucus urges you to join the pep squad and cheer our Sheriff's Department and Mike Hennessey on to that winning touchdown. For more info on this issue, please call the Sheriff or speak with Connie O'Connor.

News from Washington

Mike Housh

Editor's Note: The majority of Mr. Housh's article was inadvertently left out of the July issue. The article is printed here in its entirety. Our apologies to Mr. Housh.

The first "Gay Rights" bill was introduced on January 14, 1975. HR166, co-sponsored by Congressman John L. Burton, proposed to outlaw discrimination on the basis of affectional or sexual preference. This was defined as "having or manifesting an emotional or physical attachment to another consenting person or persons of either sex, or manifesting a preference for such an attachment." HR166 would have banned discrimination in housing, equal employment opportunity, public education, and access to federally funded education programs.

In the same 94th Congress five similar bills were also introduced. All of these bills failed to clear committee and died at the end of the session. Even though they failed they marked an his-

toric new level of the struggle against anti-gay discrimination. From then on there would be no turning back.

In the 95th Congress, HR451, an amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act was introduced. Again co-sponsored by Congressman John L. Burton, this proposed law broadened the area to be protected to the full extent available by federal law. Again, similar bills, six in number, were also introduced to this end. The activity on behalf of gays produced reaction from opponents of Human Rights legislation.

An amendment was attached to the appropriation for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to bar access to federally funded public housing to any unmarried couple. In the same session the first "McDonald Amendment" was introduced to ban access to federally funded Legal Aid to Gays. This failed on a voice vote, but passed in a roll-call. It was later killed by a joint House-Senate conference committee.

On February 8, 1979, HR2074 was introduced. Again, co-sponsored by Con-

gressman John L. Burton, this proposal would have amended the 1964 Civil Rights Act to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual or affectional orientation. Hearings before the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunity of the House Committee on Education and Labor were held in San Francisco on October 10, 1980. Many local government officials, including John Burton, and community activists testified in support of the bill.

This year, HR1454, again co-sponsored by John Burton, has been introduced to amend the Civil Rights Act. In addition HR3524 has been introduced to clarify immigration laws to prevent the automatic exclusion of Gay people by immigration authorities. Both of these proposals face strong opposition from pro-Administration members, but even if they fail they keep the issue before Congress. The educational process implicit in these attempts will one day, with the hard work of our elected representatives, gain protection for the civil rights of Gay People.

AUGUST 1981

- 5** **Membership Committee** meeting; 553 Haight; 6:30 pm; call 431-6208 for info
- 6** *Alice Goes Country*
YMCA, 121 Leavenworth, 8:00pm-1:00am; \$7.50
- 8** Art Show Benefit
for the Mental Health Advisory Board; Civic Center
- 9** Art Show Benefit
for the Mental Health Advisory Board; Civic Center
- 10** **Alice General** meeting
Women's Building; 7:30pm
- 11** **Finance Committee** meeting
176 Liberty; 6:30pm; call 469-7546 for info
- 13** **Political Action Committee** meeting; 1257 Arguello
(between Lincoln and Irving); 7:30pm; call 661-9365 for info
- 15** Deadline for payment of airfare for Hawaii trip
call Susan Ramsey (469-7546) or Jim McWhirter (821-1787) for info
- 19** **Deadline** for *Alice Reports*
- 24** **Women's Caucus** meeting
call 431-9224 for details
- 29** Garage sale to benefit Rosselli for College Board Campaign deficit
1257 Arguello, 9am-6pm; all donations gladly picked up
(call 661-9365 or 552-1090)
- 31** **Newsletter Committee** meeting
3868 22nd St. No. 2; call 641-4315 for info