

Three letters to the Suda[y] [i.e. Sunday] Times, London, Dec. 1965

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **Der Kreis : eine Monatsschrift = Le Cercle : revue mensuelle**

Band (Jahr): **34 (1966)**

Heft 2

PDF erstellt am: **12.07.2024**

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chosen homosexuality as a way to express his sexual desires; no homosexual need feel at a loss when homosexuality is discussed: he will be able, if he masters Benson's work, to discuss intelligently every meaningful facet of homosexuality.

James Forrester

Student Use as Homo 'Bait' Hit in Florida

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (UPI)—State and Florida State University officials blasted police Tuesday for hiring college students to act as bait and informers in a crackdown on homosexuals.

University Dean of students Harry Day said the use of students here as police informers in morals cases was «altogether wrong» and should be stopped.

Gov. Haydon Burns and university Board of Regents Chairman Chester Ferguson also deplored the practice.

The officials' reaction was sparked when Police Chief Frank Stoutamire confirmed reports that FSU students were hired to loiter at local bus stations and tip police when they were approached and propositioned by sexual deviates.

«As great as the need may be to expose sexual deviates, the procedure of involving college students in the process seems altogether wrong,» Day said. «It is hoped the practice will not be continued.»

Assistant Police Chief Robert Maige, who said students are paid \$10 for each homosexual who is convicted, defended the program.

«It's like buying bootleg,» Maige said. «You've got to have somebody to get the evidence, and homosexuals will proposition young college students.»

Ferguson said the program should have been cleared with the university administration, which has a program of helping students find part-time jobs.

«I am sympathetic with the elimination of homosexuals from educational institutions,» Ferguson said. «But it should be done with the full approbation and approval of the administrative authorities of the university involved.»

Maige said most of the student informers were over 21 years of age and were sound, mature and trustworthy. He added that many of them are studying criminology at Florida State.

The assistant chief said only «two or three» student informers work at one time and their main beat is the local bus stations, which are favorite hangouts of homosexuals in Tallahassee.

from: Hollywood Citizen-News / 29 December 1965

Three Letters to the Sunday Times, London, Dec. 1965

Sir,—Mr William Shepherd, M P, complains of emotion, propaganda and lack of knowledge of homosexuality in discussions about law reform.

These attributes have indeed been much in evidence in utterances by opponents of the Wolfenden proposals—nor least those of Mr Shepherd himself. Among his past statements are the following:—

«Incest is a much more natural act than homosexuality.»

«Every homosexual is a potential danger to young persons.»

«I want to discourage the homosexual by the discouragement of the law because the homosexual in society has a very difficult place indeed . . . The more

sensitive ones wear a hunted look.»

«The proposed alteration in the law would largely fail to change the status of homosexuals in society.»

«The only solution of real value is for the homosexual to be as other men.»

Emotion? Propaganda? Lack of knowledge? We leave your readers to judge for themselves.

A J Ayer, President C. H. Rolph, Chairman, Antony Grey, Secretary, Homosexual Law Reform Society.

VULNERABLE

Sir,—William Shepherd states in his letter that «even if Mr Berkeley's Bill were passed, homosexuals would—for obvious reasons—continue to be denied access to highly secret information.» I fail to see what these «obvious reasons» are.

One would have thought that the only valid reason would be the vulnerability of homosexuals to blackmail—a scourge that would be removed with the passing of this Bill. Unless, of course, Mr Shepherd believes that this particular minority is less loyal to our country than those who are normally sexed; or again, less loyal than the womaniser, the gambler, the toper, or the thousands of others who are not without some blemishes on their characters. *S Francis*

Sir,—I do not complain that the Homosexual Law Reform Society in its letter to you published last Sunday quotes from past speeches and articles of mine. Out of context one quotation at least may be open to some criticism—but on balance I find them at this remove to be eminently reasonable.

Mr Francis's question as to whether a homosexual is a more dangerous security risk than a womaniser, gambler, or toper—to use his phraseology—calls for an answer. All forms of character weakness involve a risk in high security posts, and the objective of those in authority must be to see that such people are avoided on intake or weeded out on discovery. There are, however, serious and significant differences between those indulging in homosexual practices and other forms of human weakness. It might be useful to state them.—

(1) The homosexual is much more liable to pressures because, irrespective of the state of the law, society rightly takes a more serious view of this conduct than, say, fornication.

(2) The homosexual has an inbuilt grievance against society and he is therefore more susceptible of being suborned.

(3) The homosexual belongs to a «freemasonry,» and this *means that—unlike* offenders in the other classes—he will on discovery be most reluctant to give any information about fellow homosexuals involved in the net. This has proved to be a serious matter for security in the past years.

(4) Britain has become known abroad as a country where homosexuality flourishes, particularly among certain classes. As a consequence, foreign governments make specific arrangements to take advantage of this.

So—while there are risks attached to all the types which Mr Francis mentions—the emphasis on the homosexual is not the result of prejudice, inhumanity, or unreason.

William Shepherd, House of Commons

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