

Houston's Mayor in there with Gay support

HOUSTON - Mayor Fred Hofheinz attained his political position apparently with the support and backing of the city's Gay community.

Hofheinz received wide support among Gays while his runoff opponent, City Councilman Dick Gottlieb, was generally the subject of indifference.

The size of the Gay vote is difficult to estimate but is generally thought to be well in excess of the 3000-vote margin by which Hofheinz won.

The Kinsey report applied to Houston gives the city a minimum Gay population of 80,000 and a maximum 300,000, depending on how you interpret Kinsey and depending on how you define a homosexual.

A total of only 244,000 votes were cast.

There were several instances during the campaign of outright Gay support of Hofheinz.

Integrity/Houston, a local Gay activist group, circulated a flyer urging votes for Hofheinz.

Integrity/Houston claimed that Hofheinz appeared before them and "endorsed Gay rights."

The group said Hofheinz promised to seek an end to alleged police harassment of Gays and promised he would work for equal opportunity for Gays in hiring and promotion in the city government.

"He is receptive to establishing a liaison between the police and the Gay community in order to eliminate some of the harmful misconceptions which now exist," the group reported.

NEWS COVERAGE HIT

SEPTEMBER 12, 1973

THE ADVOCATE

Gays fear backlash in killings

Gay organizations and spokesmen in Houston and around the nation have been unanimous in asserting that mass murderer Dean Corll was not representative of homosexuals, and in expressing indignation over what they see as an over-emphasis in the news media on the homosexual aspect of the killings.

Integrity/Houston said in a black-bordered press release addressed to the media that Corll "could have performed similar crimes as a heterosexual, and we believe that his sexual orientation is not of significance."

"Thousands of Americans have worked long and hard to bring about understanding and acceptance of the homosexual community, and now because of the vile and

abhorrent acts of only a small handful of individuals, we stand to lose all we have worked so very hard for."

"We appeal to your sense of justice to not let this happen."

"Our hearts cry for the helpless victims and their survivors, and for a world and society that breeds even one such person or even one such infamous act."

'Prejudicial Terminology' Hit

The Chicago Gay Alliance, in an Aug. 10 telegram to the Houston bureau chiefs of United Press International and the Associated Press, said:

"We feel deep concern over language in new reports linking homosexuality with Houston mass murders. Nothing inherent in homosexuality leads to such crimes,

and we urge that Houston Bureau avoid prejudicial terminology suggesting otherwise to readers. Without widespread oppression of homosexuals, a twisted mind might not feel need to cover his sexuality by murder. Please help stop such oppression."

The telegram was signed by William B. Kelley, vice president and acting president of CGA.

The telegrams were followed up with letters to AP President and General Manager Wes Gallagher and UPI President and General Manager Roderick W. Beaton, both in New York, expressing the same sentiments.

On Aug. 17, CGA issued a general press release asking, "Why is it that the chain of mass killers from Jack the Ripper to the Boston Strangler have never been called 'heterosexual murderers'?"

In Dallas, the Circle of Friends put out a press release saying, "It is our sincere hope that this tragedy, brought about by pathetically warped and twisted minds, will not cause blanket indictments against millions of socially productive and responsible homosexual citizens..."

Two Disastrous Major Deaths

New York Gay Activists Alliance President Dr. Bruce Voeller recalled the recent fire deaths at the Up Stairs Lounge in New Orleans in saying, "I feel it is tragic and terribly dismaying to all of us that there should be two such disastrous major deaths of large groups in such a short period of time in the gay community... This [the Houston murders] is a tragedy for the gay community as well as for the straight young people some of whom were

Continued on Page 20

May 7, 1973

Dear Legislator:

The enclosed questionnaire is intended to explore your attitude toward the right of privacy and freedom of conscience for adults. We write in the belief that human law is meant to protect life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness--that it is not the property or the benefactor of the rich, the few or an instrument for the religious or moral convictions of one segment of society as against those of another. We hold that, while actions involving injury to person or property must be regulated for the protection of all, morality is a private matter and not the legitimate province of the State.

Nine States: Illinois, Colorado, Oregon, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, District of Columbia, Delaware and Ohio have officially recognized this principle and have abandoned the illegitimate, pointless and profitless regulation of private sexual behavior among consenting adults, and as a result, their crime rate is lower, not higher. Such laws against victimless acts are, at best, unenforceable and, at worst, subject to the most arbitrary application. They undermine respect for the law in general because they make felons or miscreants of people whose only offense is their participation of alternative in their enjoyment of conjugal relations or a harmless difference in their choice of partners.

The overwhelming majority of citizens affected by these laws are in all respects responsible and productive members of their community. Those who pursue a different lifestyle often do so more because of the persecutory laws and social prejudices than because they are inherently promiscuous or "degenerate." The argument that these laws protect society is baseless. How can an act performed in private by consenting adults harm society?

The current law makes oral or anal intercourse a felony whether performed by persons of the same or different sexes, whether the couple is married or not. Clearly absurd. The proposed revision makes homosexual conduct a Class C misdemeanor punishable by fine of \$200.00. It is less severe, but no less absurd. It still turns the State into a peeping Tom, exhibiting a perverse prurient interest in the private conduct of its citizens. It reflects a self-righteous moral bigotry unworthy of the respect for person required of a free society.

We urge you to vote for deletion of the section on homosexual activity in the revised penal code and to vote for repeal of the current sodomy statute. We are not asking for a favor or a privilege; we are asking for our civil rights and we are prepared to pursue the same course as other minorities to obtain them should it become necessary.

May we ask your assistance in completing the attached brief questionnaire, which information and compilation will be held in strict confidence and will be disseminated only in working with other State Legislators to achieve our ends. No public statement will be made regarding the specific replies from individual legislators. For your convenience, we have enclosed a stamped, addressed envelope for your reply.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Monday, June 18, 1973

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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Section 1, Page 11 INTEGRITY/HOUSTON



Viewpoints

Most Legislators Didn't Answer

From R. Francis Thompson, 3957 Kirby Dr.

Results of a survey conducted by Integrity/Houston, in which the legislators of the State of Texas were asked their opinion on civil rights in general and homosexual rights in particular, pointed out the attitude of our representatives far beyond the questions asked. These people, elected by the voters of the State of Texas, did not even bother, for the most part, to answer the questionnaire. Indeed, the vast majority didn't bother to return it, even though a stamped, return envelope was enclosed.

This is a situation which goes far beyond the issue of homosexual rights. It should be the concern of every thinking citizen in this state. For these men to totally and contemptuously ignore our legitimate questions is a situation beyond belief. It is their right and duty to vote in the legislature as their conscience directs, if they have one, which at this point I believe we have good reason to question. It was also their right to answer the questionnaire either in the affirmative or the negative.

But to not answer at all or to totally ignore it was a gross breach of the trust the people have placed in them.

Or opposite reaction to gay marriage agitation around the nation. This