

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Gary Van Ooteghem, Chief McKeehan, Chief Finch
FROM: Charles E. Humphrey, Jr.
DATE: June 9, 1977

RE: Gay Political Caucus ("GPC") Rally, June 16, 1977.

I was asked by Mr. Van Ooteghem to be present at a meeting between himself and Police Chiefs McKeehan and Finch to discuss a rally to be held by the GPC on June 16, 1977 in a parking lot at the corner of Bagby and McGowen. I was asked to attend as an impartial observer, to take notes and to prepare this memorandum setting forth the understanding of the participants in the meeting.

Mr. Van Ooteghem, whose telephone number is 521-0685 and whose address is 416 Hawthorne, Houston, Texas, began the meeting by explaining to the Chiefs what the GPC intended to do on the night of June 16. He indicated that GPC had secured the permission of the owner of the parking lot at the corner of Bagby and McGowen to hold their rally on that private property commencing at approximately 8:00 in the evening. Mr. Van Ooteghem stressed initially and many times throughout the meeting the desire of the GPC to avoid any violence in connection with this rally. He indicated that the GPC was in contact with other groups in town who planned to demonstrate or picket that evening in front of the Hyatt Regency Hotel to protest the position taken by Anita Bryant on homosexuals. The GPC had encouraged each group to refrain from any picketing or demonstration and instead to attend the GPC rally. The purpose of the rally is to have four or five speakers who are noted leaders in the Gay movement or are nationally known entertainers who are very concerned about the position taken by Anita Bryant. The speakers will include David Goodstein, Troy Pery, Ginny Apuzzo and the entertainer Liz Torres. In addition it is hoped that Carroll O'Connor will attend as the fifth speaker. The rally in the parking lot will utilize loud speakers or bull horns to make the speakers audible to the crowd. The crowd is expected to number between 3,000-5,000 although no exact estimate of crowd size is possible at this time. Similar rallies which have been occurring in other parts of the country have drawn from 5,000 a few nights ago in San Francisco to 50,000 a few weeks ago in New York.

In addition to the messages to be delivered by the above named speakers, Mr. Van Ooteghem will speak and read what are expected to be numerous telegrams received from members of the entertainment community issued in support of the GPC position. Mr. Van Ooteghem has turned down several

requests from name entertainers to attend on the theory that four or five speakers will be more than sufficient. The first three named speakers are noted members of the Gay Political Caucus and the Gay movement in general and several of these persons are constantly fearful for their lives. Extreme caution must be taken in protecting their lives since they are constantly subjected to harassment and threats.

Van Ooteghem indicated that the GPC would utilize approximately 200 of its members to serve as crowd monitors and these people would be issued specially marked armbands which would identify them as crowd monitors. The purpose of the crowd monitors will be to contain the rally within the limits of the parking lot during the speeches and thereafter to move the crowds in an orderly fashion along their intended walk route which is to be from the corner of Bagby and McGowen, proceed directly down either Smith or Louisiana Street, no final decision having been made on this matter and to terminate at City Hall where a reading in unison will be held by candlelight. Immediately following the unison reading the crowd will reverse its direction of march and proceed back to Bagby and McGowen where the participants are then expected to return to their cars and disperse.

The members of the rally are expected to walk along the sidewalks on either Smith or Louisiana in groups of not more than 200. They are to observe traffic lights and they are not to impend the free flow of traffic along the streets. Mr. Van Ooteghem asked Chief Finch whether the police would take the attitude that traffic violations would be strictly observed and enforced by the police. Chief Finch responded that in the circumstances put by Mr. Van Ooteghem, that of stragglers in particular groups walking against a red light that no action would be taken. He indicated that it was not the desire of the police to arrest people for the sake of arresting people. Rather, he indicated it would be their heartfelt desire to have the rally and subsequent walk concluded as quickly as possible and the crowd dispersed.

Van Ooteghem indicated that first aid facilities would be provided by community members who would be issued specially marked armbands indicating that they were maning first aid stations.

Van Ooteghem also indicated that the GPC intended to have a number of crowd monitors present at various sites around the outside of the Hyatt Regency Hotel and perhaps, with the permission of the Hyatt Regency Hotel, a few monitors stationed inside the Hotel so as to make certain that no one from the rally attempted to enter the Hotel to cause any sort of disturbance.

Mr. Van Ooteghem further indicated that the bars frequented by members of the Gay community had agreed that they would close down from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. the evening of the 16th and that no alcohol would be served or provided by the GPC at the rally.

Mr. Van Ooteghem then indicated that he wished to tie in the security being provided by his group with that to be provided by the police that evening. He indicated that as much assistance and as much communication system tie-in as possible was desired. He indicated that he would be appreciative if Chief Finch could personally be present and if so, that Mr. Van Ooteghem could share some sort of a command post with Chief Finch.

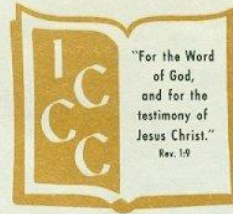
Chief Finch indicated that he would in all likelihood not be personally present but that a police captain in command would be provided. Mr. Van Ooteghem repeated his suggestion that the police commandpost and his group's commandpost be combined or tied together so that decisions by both could quickly be made in the event of any trouble arising either within the GPC group or from outside groups who might wish to disrupt the rally, cause trouble or begin a melee. Chief Finch indicated that this matter would have to be taken up with the officers on duty that evening. He stated that he would discuss this matter with the person to be selected as the Captain in charge and would get back to Mr. Van Ooteghem concerning how the officer could be identified to Mr. Van Ooteghem and vice versa.

During the course of the discussions Chief Finch indicated that the only problem that he could see with the proposed rally and walk would be with people spilling out and onto the streets and blocking the sidewalks. He indicated that, of course, the police would be required to clear the streets or sidewalks which were illegally blocked.

Chief Finch indicated that the police would not work side by side with the crowd monitors. He indicated that it had been an experience of the policeforce that this was unwise because the demonstrating group, with police in uniform in amongst their numbers, often felt that this was repressive and on the other hand citizens not connected with the particular movement's activities believe that the police were supporting and sponsoring the activity. He indicated this was bad from both standpoints and therefore the police maintained surveillance at some distance and held themselves

I believe the foregoing fully and completely sets forth a summary of the discussions held and the understandings arrived at between the participants.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES



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debate
file

756 HADDON AVENUE, COLLINGSWOOD, N. J. 08108. PHONE (609) 858-0700

FREDERIKSPLEIN 24, AMSTERDAM-2, THE NETHERLANDS, PHONE 248271

Cable addresses: INTCOUNCIL, COLLINGSWOOD INTCOUNCIL, AMSTERDAM

President

Rev. Carl McIntire, D.D. - Collingswood, N. J. U.S.A.

General Secretary

Rev. J. C. Maris - Amsterdam -2, The Netherlands

June 7, 1977

Mr. Gary J. Van Coteghem, Chairman
Texas Gay Political Caucus
416 Hawthorne
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Mr. Van Coteghem:

I see in the press that you have sought a debate with Anita Bryant and that her representative has indicated she is not a debater, which she isn't.

These issues, however, do need to be debated and I will be very pleased to meet you or anyone whom you choose in this matter. There is great public interest in it. I will come to Houston if you desire.

Otherwise, I will challenge you to a debate here in the Philadelphia area.

In 1970, when the homosexuals in California threatened to take over Alpine County, we challenged it. I met one of their spokesmen on the television in Los Angeles and we have had other confrontations.

The American people are entitled to a full exposition and understanding of what the issues are and what is involved. I will accept your challenge, or, will you please accept mine. The sooner, the better.

Sincerely yours

Carl McIntire
President

cm/rt

P.S. I am ready
any day we can set
it up.
Thanks
Cm



HYATT REGENCY
HOUSTON

June 10, 1977

Mr. Gary Van Octeghem
413 Hawthorne
Houston, Texas 77006

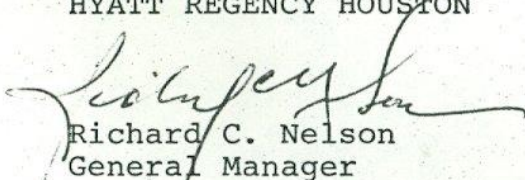
Dear Mr. Van Octeghem:

This is to confirm your conversation with Mr. Fred Bankston, who is in charge of security for our hotel, regarding your permission to station five security monitors inside the hotel and twenty-five monitors outside the hotel on June 16th and 17th, 1977. This is for the purpose of keeping any demonstrators from getting out of control during Anita Bryant's visit to Houston for the State Bar Convention.

We appreciate your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

HYATT REGENCY HOUSTON


Richard C. Nelson
General Manager

RCN/jac

cc: Mr. Fred Bankston

HUMAN RIGHTS RALLY COMMITTEE

PRESS RELEASE * PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The following individuals:

Gary J. Van Ooteghem, Chair of Texas Gay Political Caucuses

Ray Hill, Executive Director of Houston Human Rights League

Rev. Jeri Harvey, Pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection

ANNOUNCE A PRESS CONFERENCE:

Place: Jackson Suite, Whitehall Hotel, 1700 Smith

Date: Tuesday, June 14, 1977

Time: 10:00am

To discuss plans for a Rally and Candlelight vigil to be held Thursday, June 16, 1977 beginning at 7pm. This peaceful event is being endorsed by many organizations and individuals, both gay and non-gay. The Rally and Vigil will demonstrate concern for Human Rights at a time when certain of those rights are under attack. The Rally and Vigil will be lead by nationally prominent leaders and celebrities to be announced at this press conference.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: MEDIA COORDINATOR, 526-9719

DADE COUNTY COALITION FOR THE HUMANISTIC RIGHTS OF GAYS

5390 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, Florida 33137 • Phone (305) 751-4297 / 751-4298

CO-CHAIRPERSONS:

Jack Campbell
Ellen Crimmins
Michael Straight

TREASURER

Robert M. Stickney

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Robert S. Basker

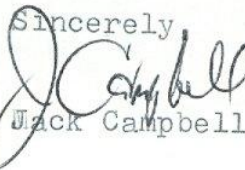
March 23, 1977

Gay Political Caucus
815 Hawthorne
Houston, TX 77009

Dear Friends:

Please find enclosed information concerning the Dade County Coalition for the Humanistic Rights of Gays. Yes, we can use any help you can give. Remember what Ms. Bryant stated recently on a television program, "after the Dade County ordinance battle, I intend to go after the HR 2998 bill now pending in the United States Congress," so we must attempt to halt Ms. Bryant (and "Save Our Children From Homosexuality, Inc) before they HALT you and I.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely

Jack Campbell

JWC: ms
encl/1

COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:
ALLIANCE FOR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS • LAMBDA 76
LESBIAN TASK FORCE-NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN - DADE COUNTY
DIGNITY OF MIAMI (GAY CATHOLICS) • GAY COMMUNITY SERVICES OF S. FLA.
EVANGELICALS CONCERNED, MIAMI CHAPTER • FLORIDA COALITION OF GAY ORGANIZATIONS
LUTHERANS CONCERNED, MIAMI CHAPTER • KEITH DAVIS, METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF MIAMI
THEBANS M.C. • DAVID PUBLICATIONS



June 26, 1977

Gary Van Ooteghem
416 Hawthorne
Houston, Texas 77006

Dear Gary:

This is a short note meant to let you and others that helped you know my feelings about the Human Rights Rally held June 16 in Houston. It was certainly well organized and well planned. It provided gay and non-gay supporters a peaceful and positive expression for their feelings and energies. Such a well attended event has a significant impact on those who continually choose to oppress us.

I look forward to continuing communications, as I feel that our organizations need to exchange purposes and plans for continual action; we need to explore a closer working relationship.

I hope for your response and a time when we may talk further.

Sincerely,

Rosella Kliewer, Moderator



B. G. BOND
CHIEF OF POLICE

CITY of HOUSTON

FRED HOFFMEYER, MAYOR

POLICE DEPARTMENT

61 RIESNER STREET
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

TELEPHONE (713) 222-3011 • RADIO KKD 490 • TELETYPE 1 713 571 1012

June 16, 1977

Dear Sir:

On June 15, 1977, I was instructed by H.D. Caldwell, Chief of Police, to ask what portion of the expense of providing security, during the Anita Bryant visit, your organization expects to pay.

I estimate the salaries for the officers will be approximately \$4,500.00.

Sincerely,

W.T. Higgins
Captain
Criminal Intelligence Division

WTH:dd

Basic Statement of Human Rights

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT,
THAT all PERSONS ARE CREATED EQUAL,
THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR
WITH CERTAIN INALIENABLE RIGHTS,
THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY,
AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.

Houston Human Rights Rally Thursday, June 16, 1977 Bagby/McGowen

AGENDA

7:00 - 7:45 Press Conference inside Depository II (Private)

RALLY BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 8PM!

8:00 - 8:40 Speakers (Approximately 5 Minutes Each)

- 1) Hugh Crell——Local Gay Activist
- 2) Liz Torres——Actress
- 3) Nikki Van Hightower——Feminist
- 4) David Goodstein——Publisher of The Advocate
- 5) Ginny Apuzzo——Co-Chair of Gay Rights National Lobby
- 6) Rev. Troy Perry——Founder of UFMCC

8:40 - 8:45 Gary J. Van Ooteghem: Telegrams and Walk Instructions

8:45 Begin Walk Downtown. Obey Traffic Laws; Be peaceful and Orderly

9:30 Assemble at Public Library and Read Basic Human Rights Statement

9:45 Begin Return Walk. Continue to Obey All Laws and Instructions

10:30 Walk Ends

The Depository II Has Invited Us to Be Their Guests For an Orange-Based
(Texas) Drink Inside After the Rally and Walk

Rally Information Sheet

WALK INSTRUCTIONS

The walk route will be down either Smith Street or Louisiana Street, or both. Our destination is the Public Library downtown, next to City Hall. Because we do not have a parade permit (they do not issue such permits for evenings), we will be walking on *sidewalks* and will be crossing intersections *with* the lights. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT ALL TRAFFIC LAWS BE OBEYED!**

We will be walking in groups of approximately forty people each. In order to assure that the tail-end of each group gets across each intersection, those people at the front should pace themselves so that each intersection is reached just as the light turns green. Should you arrive at a traffic light more than five seconds after it has turned green, please hold the entire group at that light until the light goes through another complete cycle.

For security reasons, it is important that all groups remain intact. Following these instructions strictly will help accomplish this result.

MONITORS

A monitor can be identified by a white armband worn on the upper right arm. Monitors are our internal control force. Please obey their instructions. They will be assisting at both rally sites and on the walk.

PLEASE NOTE

We have worked out our rally plans in conjunction with the Houston Police Department. We expect no trouble from them unless we impede traffic. Now you can see why we ask you to obey all traffic laws strictly and ask that you remain on the sidewalks at all times.

Finally, we may be heckled along the way. Do not let this upset or bother you. Ignore it and proceed according to plan.

Thank you for coming.

ARMBANDS

Please read your enclosed armband information sheet. It explains the significance of the armband to each and every one of us.

Dialogue on Human Rights

"Despite the high-sounding appeal for non-discrimination in jobs and housing which is not a problem to the homosexual, they are really asking to be blessed in their abnormal lifestyle by the office of the President of the United States."

—Anita Bryant, 1977

"Since persons who engage in homosexual activities suffer serious discrimination in employment, housing, and the right to worship, we believe that civil rights laws should protect them."

—Society of Friends (Quakers), 1973

"I will lead such a crusade to stop it as this country has not seen before."

—Anita Bryant, 1977

"All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of the declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination."

—United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948

"The Lord is on our side. We know homosexuality is an abomination."

—Anita Bryant, 1977

"Our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions, any more than our opinions in physics or geometry."

—Virginia Statute of Religious Liberty, 1786

"Neither (a state or the federal government) can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions, or prefer one religion over another."

—Supreme Court, 1947

"This is not my battle. It's God's battle."

—Anita Bryant, 1977

"We believe the church is that agency in history called upon to bear witness to the all embracing love of God. We have no evidence that this love does not include all homosexuals."

—The Bishop of New York, Episcopal Diocese, 1974

"Homosexuals are human garbage."

—Anita Bryant, 1977

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

—Declaration of Independence, 1776

"The people of Dade County and normal majority have said enough, enough, enough."

—Anita Bryant, 1977

"Think, if you can, of a single instance in which a plainly written provision of the constitution has ever been denied. If by mere force of numbers a majority should deprive a minority of any clearly written constitutional right, it might, in a moral point of view, justify revolution—certainly would if such a right were a vital one."

—Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, 1861

"We cannot be satisfied until all our people have equal opportunities for jobs, for homes, for education, for health, and for political expression, and until all our people have equal protection under the law."

—Harry S. Truman, 1948