

FOIA MARKER

**This is not a textual record. This is used as an
administrative marker by the William J. Clinton
Presidential Library Staff.**

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records

Subgroup/Office of Origin: Staff Secretary

Series/Staff Member: Sean Maloney

Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 14867

FolderID:

Folder Title:

Tuesday, September 14, 1999

Stack:

S

Row:

40

Section:

5

Shelf:

2

Position:

3

9/14

JOHN —

FOLLOWED UP ON THE
COOPERATIVE MONTH PROCLAMATION
REQUEST YOU GOT FROM DASCHLE
AND HARKIN.

BOTTOM LINE — THE GROUP IS
HAPPY TO GET A MESSAGE AND
WE'RE PREPARING IT. DASCHLE'S
OFFICE HAS BEEN CONTACTED AND
THEY'RE HAPPY. WE'LL FOLLOW UP
WITH HARKIN

— SEAN

SEND TO
PODESTA



Daniel W. Burkhardt

09/14/99 11:52:54 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Sean P. Maloney/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: Eileen P. McCaughey/WHO/EOP@EOP
Subject: National Cooperative Month

To follow up:

My staff has vetted the request that the President issue a proclamation for National Cooperative Month. You may recall that this request came from, among others, Senators Daschle and Harkin, and was faxed from Daschle's office. Eileen McCaughey placed several calls to the contact person from Senator Daschle's office. When she did not receive a return call, she went to David Graves, Chair of the National Cooperative Month Planning Committee, who also wrote. Eileen learned from Mr. Graves that he was the driving force behind the request from Senators Harkin and Daschle. Graves told Eileen that he would be happy with a message.

Internally, Chip Payson in Scheduling and Barbara Wooley in OPL inquired regarding the request. They both are fine with a message.

The contact from Daschle's office finally returned Eileen's call this morning. He is fine with a message.

We are preparing a message.

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 30, 1999

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the more than 100 million Americans who join with their fellow citizens in the spirit of economic cooperation who own and operate over 48,000 cooperative private businesses in this country, we request that you proclaim October, 1999, as National Cooperative Month.

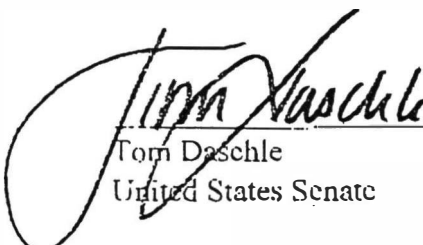
The lives of millions of Americans are improved through their membership in and support for cooperatives. Furthermore, this spirit of cooperation helps sustain our national character, energize the American experience and contribute to our shared prosperity. Perhaps more than any other, the cooperative form of business provides opportunity for people from all walks of life and every economic condition by bringing them into the American free enterprise system.

Cooperative businesses succeed thanks to the dedication and commitment of Americans who realize that their common economic, social, and cultural aspirations can best be achieved through jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprises. Today, cooperative businesses are an invaluable part of our nation's economy. Cooperatives are structured to provide their members with economic opportunity and financial security. Because of this, these strengths should be recognized and rewarded.

During the month of October, people from every type of cooperative join together to celebrate their achievements, reaffirm their commitment to the values that are the foundation of cooperative enterprise, and look to the future to ensure that cooperatives will enjoy continued success. Proclaiming October as National Cooperative Month will not only enhance this valuable annual celebration, it also will serve to heighten Americans' awareness and appreciation of cooperatives and the invaluable contributions they make to this country.

Your favorable consideration of this request will provide well-deserved recognition for these valuable cooperative businesses and the Americans who make their success possible. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tom Daschle
United States Senate



Tom Harkin
United States Senate

cc: John Podesta
Larry Stine

'99 SEP 3 PM4:01

Sean
Can we do this
should do this
Jot

cc: Larry Stein

TOM DASCHLE
U.S. Senator for South Dakota

**320 North Main Avenue, Suite B
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-334-9596**

**320 S. First Street, Suite 101
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605-225-8823**

**816 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-348-7551**

Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-2321
1-800-424-909

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

DATE:

SEPT 3, 1999

TO:

JOHN PODESTA

FAX NO:

456-1907

FROM:

RYAN STROSCHEIN, AGRICULTURE AIDE

Senator Tom Daschle
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
Telephone: (202) 224-2321
FAX: (202) 224-2047

PAGES TO FOLLOW: ONE

MESSAGE:

SEAN
Mrozky -
R for

August 16, 1999

Mr. Richard Socarides,
Presidential Liaison,
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Socarides,

First, Thank you for the job you are doing. Having been around a good many years and seen far too little progress in the issue of human rights, themselves, there is a continual up hill battle for the rights of those of us who are "different". "When will they ever learn"? 99 AUG 23 AM 9:34

From the beginning of my writing the letter to the president I had wondered what my best chance was for getting it to him. When the article about you appeared in the Washington Post Magazine on July 11 I decided that perhaps you were it therefore I am forwarding it to you and hope you will find it convenient to pass it to him. I assure you that the contents of this letter are often very, very understated. There are indeed facts which I, as well as many others, could relate in regards to the numbers of gay men and women in the military services that would probably make Jessie Helms et al have fatal strokes.

Obviously I feel very strongly that there should be absolutely no issue in regards to gays in the military and that one set of rules should prevail regardless of personal preferences or orientation. I think if you read the enclosed and I hope you do you will fully understand my respect for others and as well as my desire for complete anonymity.

May I wish you a continued success in you endeavors.

Again, thanks!

Sergeant G. I. Joe
Sergeant G. I. Joe American

9-14-99

DAN FOR REPLY -

MAYBE

BC SIG

- [initials]

Mr. William Jefferson Clinton,
President of the United States,
Washington, D. C

Dear Mr. President,

The purpose of this letter is not to chide, castigate, upbraid or in any way find fault with the situation in which you recently found yourself. It is, however, necessary to give reference to same in order to draw a parallel between that and one which hundreds of thousands **have** and will suffer because of the abject naivete, vile prejudice, intolerance and ignorance of the masses. Most of all applying the latter measures to those in power past and present I shall cut to the chase and go directly to the point. I refer to sexual activity.

I hasten to add that I am abundantly aware of the fact that it was not the acts themselves that created the ruckus regarding yourself but the subsequent discourse regarding same. Sir Walter Scott certainly had something to say about the matter of discourse "Oh what tangled webs.....".

To, in essence, quote yourself as well as the honorable Mr Hyde "That is none of anyone else's business it is a **private matter!**" If that is true **why** then does this same principle not apply to sexual activities between same gender individuals? It is indeed a private matter, only the business of the principals themselves, not the business of congress and therefore a **non issue**. Further, if within the alleged activities between yourself and "that woman" you were not "having sex" then neither were, or are, same sex individuals who practice activities referred to in the uproar. If you were not "having sex" then neither were/are all the individuals who have lost their jobs had their lives totally destroyed from participating in an act that was "**private and none of congress's business**". It, therefore, can only be concluded that homosexuality has been totally mal defined and the many who have been persecuted by our own government should be compensated for their loss of job and future income. If they were not having sex then any punitive action was based upon an outrageous lie. Of course such treatment was totally evil and immoral whether based upon a lie or the truth..

Mr President, my primary concern and reason for this letter is to respectfully request that you readdress the issue of **gays** in the military service which too should be a **non issue!**

The "don't ask don't tell" policy, in my view, is less than a consolation prize . My respect for this policy is a negative zero. It is my belief, however, that you wished for a non discriminatory policy. I can only surmise that since discrimination, punishment etc. were not made illegal and a ban totally forbidding discrimination instituted political agendas were considered to be at risk I.e., yours as well as the possibility of General Powell's. As I recall he was instrumental in formulating this inane policy. As for General Powell if he does not know the truth about **gays** in the military I shall be eternally grateful that he was not my CG while serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean "Police Action". Retrospectively I am of little doubt that I served under a gay general in basic training at a camp that also had a large gay population as well as another gay general in Korea. Had I of not been so naive I could have gotten on either of their dance cards!

Given that self is one of the worst examples anyone can offer unfortunately it is necessary that I draw upon my own experiences to adequately convey the point. I was drafted into military service at one of the largest camps in the United States and within a week assigned to a quasi cadre status to do a special job before going to another state for basic training. Oh, to have been as savvy then as now I would never have gone to Korea! At cadre mess the top ranks of career NCOs constantly vied for a position at the table with this young, very good looking, highly desirable naive lad from a farm in the deep south who was barely beyond "barefoot boy with cheek".

Upon arrival in Korea I was temporarily assigned to rear echelon division headquarters adjutant general's office. Of the 32 or 33 men in the office 21 were gay. This included some of the top ranking officers in the office as well as the entire compound. The camp was manned by approximately 390 GIs. In a short time my question became not "who is gay" but "who is **not** gay" in this compound? Paper work is necessary to run any organization and I can only conclude that if all gay men in that echelon had been sent home *en mass* the entire division would have been withdrawn from the front lines due to the lack of administrative support.

The powers that were including the commanding general, who with a great degree of frequency made phallic references while addressing the troops, knew we were there. For the most part they tacitly recognized us for who and what we were: intelligent, dedicated, productive and thoughtful men who could, would and did a commendable job for the front line troops as well as ourselves and our parent organizations. There was little, if any, serious harassment of the gay men.

My speciality was personnel records and self taught financial law regarding enlisted personnel and was frequently consulted by my peers for assistance. The deputy finance officer, a *gay personal friend*, had the reputation of being one of the toughest officers in the compound. His statement to me was "I have to be tough to survive I am a career officer". I can only imagine how he must have felt if he ever had to sit on a court marital board trying a man for being gay.

After leaving Korea I met a man that had served in the front lines of the same division who related to me that gay men were well represented in the front lines also. Gays in the services could not possibly affect military operations any more than so called "straights" committing adultery or the current integration of females into the services. Haven't several military careers been destroyed recently due to heterosexual interactions?? Re: Tailgate etc.!! Military History is rife with tales of sexual behavior. One can only wonder how Alexander the Great, one of history's greatest warriors, fared so well with his apparent paramour, General Hephaestion, at his side. Even that August body of the United States Senate has certainly had, and has, it's lurid tales - Did an ecdysiast not bring down a very prominent senator? Are senators not in possession of the most sensitive secretes of the United States?

Until the U.S. Government et al learn not to gag on gnats and swallow camels we shall continue to be plagued by the results of ignorance

FACT: The military division in which I served left Korea as one of the most decorated divisions to fight in that war sexual orientation was never an issue. Medals were awarded according to merit. My own medal was recommended to be awarded by an officer as straight laced as they come but at the same time perhaps suspected I was gay. I had a choice when I was drafted - to tell the truth and have my life ruined forever or tell a lie and be intelligent enough to outsmart "Aunt Sam". Obviously I lied but also in later years held in my own hands one of the country's most sensitive secrets that if known by enemies could most probably have blown the world apart.

Gay men and women are ordinary people with the same hopes and desires as anyone else with the exception of a sexual orientation which **was/is not** of our choosing. If anything we may well be above the average in intelligence. We have to be smart to survive the outrageous treatment we receive even at the hands of our own government as well as deal with the abject ignorance of society in general. How many people carrying the burden of deep prejudices that might be severely injured would ask the sexual orientation of those angels of mercy, nurses, doctors or technicians before gladly accepting their unselfish treatment?

I am reminded of the gay British mathematician, Allan Turing, who most probably saved an unfathomable number of lives because he was an extraordinarily intelligent and brilliant **MAN**. It is my understanding that he played a major role in breaking the code of the enigma machine used by the Germans during World War II. One of the many crimes of the centuries was the indefensible intolerance by the British Government of homosexuality. That intolerance was **criminal**. **The US government is no different in that respect!** Was Mr. Turing murdered or did he commit suicide? A strychnine soaked apple indeed!!

Mr. President now you know first hand what terror and torment can arise from an act that is a "private matter" You WILL NOT lose your livelihood and ability to earn a living as so many gay people have. Please right a grave wrong and issue an executive order banning sexual orientation as a bar to military service. There is no defensible reason whatsoever that a single set of principals and precepts should not apply to everyone in the military services regardless of sexual orientation. An order banning any sort of discrimination would nullify the outrageous existing policies that should NEVER have been to begin with. Next to racial prejudices there probably has never been a more divisive issue than sexual orientation regarding military service. Mr. Harry S. Truman had the gonads to issue an executive order racially integrating the services. I was there! I saw no major problems resulting from this order. Mr. President, please have intestinal fortitude in regards to gays in the military as did Mr. Truman in regards to race. It worked!!!

Any discriminatory policy due to sexual orientation is morally wrong, counter productive and only serves to boost the egos of those who have political agendas, a greatly misplaced and mal defined self worth or doubts in regards to their own sexual identity or capability. If they did not there would be no issue. I sincerely believe that those who indulge in such vociferous objections to gays in the military are truly, truly afraid to take an honest look at themselves in the mirrors of their own minds and souls. They are afraid of what they might see! **Pogo Knew!**

Some researchers claim that perhaps ten per cent of the male population is gay. Given the fact that even five percent is an accurate figure this puts thousands upon thousands of gay men and, perhaps, women in Arlington Cemetery, The Punch Bowl and the far flung battle fields and cemeteries of the world. They helped procure and insure **our liberty!**

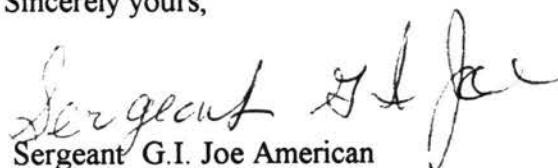
Translation: There are an unfathomable number of gay men buried in military cemeteries and unmarked graves throughout the world who fought (under fear and tremor that they would be discovered) to retain the liberties that descending generations have enjoyed. Perhaps the most revered persons to ever have served in the armed forces of these United States are the Unknown Soldiers in Arlington Cemetery. Could either or both of the remaining two have been gay? The answer is a resounding **Yes!!!** Should that ever detract from their status of esteem in the country's eye? **No!** Are some Americans ungrateful and evil enough to have them reduced to nothing if they were determined to have been gay? Need I give the answer?

I sincerely regret that sentiment dictates that I should remain anonymous. The first reason being that I will not, repeat will not, run the risk of "outing" anyone as there are probably many of my comrades still around as well as one of the generals to whom I have referred. Were I to identify myself anyone with a modicum of intelligence could retrace my military service and decipher, names, dates and places. Having been reared in the social climate of some seventy years ago it is extremely difficult to overcome the terrible effects that the attitudes of the day inflected upon myself as well as most of my peers.

Mr. President, if you do read this, which I doubt that it will reach you, thank you for the time, attention and consideration that you may give this matter. An executive order banning discrimination in the military service due to sexual orientation is the right thing for you to do especially in view of your exoneration of having committed a social and sexual taboo! Fair is fair, is fair, is fair!!!

To hell with Jerry Faldwell, Jesse Helms and their ilk who are stupid enough to swallow their garbage. In accordance with the verbal bile emitting from their own mouths that is exactly where they are going anyway as they are judging which according to their own (supposed) principals is verboten.

Sincerely yours,


Sergeant G.I. Joe American