How Alfred Kinsey Armed the Early Gay Rights **Movement in America with Research**

SEXUAL

BEHAVIOR

Human

MALE

ALFRED C. KINSEY

WARDELL B. POMEROY

CLYDE E. MARTIN

"Civil rights shouldn't be a matter of numbers, but they are." – Tom Stoddard, former Lambda Legal Executive Director, The Washington Post, 1993.

> June 27th, 2019. Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey named one of first 50 "pioneers, trailblazers, and heroes who contributed to the advancement of the LGBTQ community in a substantive way" on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor in New York's Stonewall Inn. When his Sexual Behavior in the Human Male was released in 1948, nothing had yet replaced Henry Gerber's Society for Human Rights, quickly snuffed out by Chicago police in 1925, nor Magnus Hirschfeld's unprecedented movement in Berlin that had inspired Gerber but literally went up in Nazi flames in 1933.

> Next to Kinsey's name on the Wall of Honor is Harry Hay's. A perfect juxtaposition as Hay credited Kinsey with something the zoologist probably never imagined—inspiring him to try to form the gay group in Los Angeles he'd long dreamed of. "[His book] was a shocker for us because we had assumed that we were a few hundred in every city. Turned out, we were thousands in every city that even he knew about." - The Progressive magazine, 1998.

> Also shocking was how many of all persuasions Kinsey convinced to confide in him and his team. Not a crime in New Hampshire, penalties in other states for "sodomy" various non-procreative forms of sex usually but not exclusively applying to acts between men-ranged then from one year to mandatory life in prison."I remember some daring souls who actually read passages from Kinsey aloud in Pershing Square, LA's equivalent to New York's Union Square, a place for political speech that was also a cruising ground." – Wayne Dynes, editor, *Encyclopedia of Homosexuality*.

int Evening Telegram, Monday, July 3, 1950

ials and other moral perverts"

Dr. Alfred C. Kinsey and his

associates found, for instance

male Civil Service employee

means that 56,787 Federal em-

ployees are "exclusively homo

would mean that 21 Senators and

Representatives are "exclusive

ait until the publication of Dr

Kinsey's next book to discover

The committee will have

xclusively homosexual."

homosexual."

fore it goes very far.

Solons Probing Homosexuals

BY WARDSWORTH LIKELY | The committee will have

by the Federal government had The Senate resolution authoriz-

that 4 per cent of the white males declared (p. 650) that "any ques-

of the country are "exclusively tion as to the number of person

homosexual throughout their lives after the onset of adole: and the number who are homosexua

sence." (p. 651, Sexual Behavior sexual is unanswerable." It b

in the Human Male, Kinsey Pomeroy, Martin, W. B. Saun-

ders Company.) If this figure of gradations of seven categorie of gradations of seven categorie of gradations of seven categorie activity

apply the figure to the white because some members of Co.

male members of Congress, it gress believe that employment

what percentage of the better tee will be interested not only in

ce employees is, in his term ively hemosexual," but

than 400,000 female Civil Serv that 4 per cent which is "exclus-

define the terms "homosexuals

and "other moral perverts" u

and the number who are heter

vise a table of seven categoric

homosexual (p. 639).

s ranging from the exclusive

heterosexual to the exclusive

The investigation is being he.

"homosexuals and other mo".

that such persons might be sub

If that is true the subcomit-

perverts" is a security risk

will have to take an interest

gories in Dr. Kinsey's table

lased on surveys made by the Institute for S

Rosearch at Indiana University

SEXUAL

BEHAVIOR

IN THE

Human

FEMALE

ALFRED C. KINSEY

WARDELL B. POMERO

CLYDE E. MARTIN

PAUL H. GEBHARD

persons who fall into other cate

to ject to blackmail by. Commun.

ed in the resolution. Dr. Kinse

better read the Kinsey report be ing the investigation does

The 0–6 Kinsey Scale graphed response to and/or sexual experience with the same and/or opposite sex across a continuum. Among the 5300 white males:

> 46% had "reacted to" or engaged in sexual activities with both sexes in the course of their adult lives

10% were predominantly homosexual between the ages of 16 and 55

8% were exclusively homosexual for at least three years between the ages of 16 and 55

4% had been exclusively homosexual after the onset of adolescence up to the time of their interviews.

> Man in His Element George Platt Lynes Kinsey Collection



Now if he's timid around the girls But around the boys he's so sporty His history is no mystery It's on page two hundred and forty No wonder Bill was always strange And kissed me with such poise When I asked him where he'd been, he'd say: "Oh, out with the boys."



Six Proposals

> December 1949. Kinsey tells California state assembly penalty for sodomy should be reduced not increased as proposed from 1 to 10 years to up to 20 years, and that homosexuals could not be "cured." Three months

later, showing the first concrete change results of his research, assembly

members quote him to the press that "between 35 and 40 percent of the

male population has engaged in some homosexual activity after

> 1950. Following Kinsey's advice, New York's legislature reduces

consensual sex between adult males from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Republican US Sen. Joe McCarthy leaps to national fame claiming 205

adolescence," and agree not to increase penalties

SUMMARY, JUNE 15, 1950 Perversion Cases - Department of Commerce



ARTHA RAY

Supported by **Assembly Group** Famed Dr. Kinsey Would Reduce, Not **Increase Penalties** SACRAMENTO, Dec. 14 -Six proposals to tighten

the laws against sex criminals State Department employees are card-carrying Communists. State were recommended by an as sembly committee tonight Department Deputy Undersecretary John Puerifoy denies McCarthy's claim the current special session o while noting that a number of employees fired as "security risks" included 91 the California legislature. homosexuals; triggering visions of traitorous perverts dancing in America's The action came despite a recommendation by the author heads and a "Lavender Scare"—exploiting Kinsey's research for all the of the Kinsey report that penal ties should be reduced-not in wrong reasons—begins a waltz with McCarthy and the Red Scare that will creased. last for 45 years; costing thousands their jobs and leading some to commit The assembly judiciary commit-

> suicide such as Drew Ference who worked at the US Embassy in Paris. His lover found his body on the kitchen floor of their apartment next to the gas one stove.

> 1953. ONE magazine, created by former Mattachine members; first enduring US gay periodical (and first to be spied upon by FBI). US Postal officials, who fired Henry Gerber in 1925 for being gay and had long been recording the names of people who received mail that might have been related to homosexuality, hold August issue with cover story on "Homosexual Marriage" from delivery for two months but eventually allow through. Kinsey first subscriber outside of LA. Repeatedly referenced in its pages, the staff was "deeply influenced by his reports and his radical view that homosexuality was merely a benign variation of human sexuality and not some horrible genetic mistake. ONE repeatedly venerated Kinsey as a saint of gay freedom." - Craig Loftin, Masked Voices: Gay Men and Lesbians in Cold War America.

> After considerable correspondence between Kinsey and Mattachine members and in-person meetings and interviews in San Francisco he agrees to be informal adviser after they agree to help him find interview subjects for his next planned book, Sex and the Law about gays "who had had any contact with the police, whether it led to conviction or not."

President Eisenhower, owing his election, in part, to McCarthy touring the country railing against "pinks," punks, and pansies" in the campaign of Democratic candidate Adlai Stevenson and a platform whose reference to "immorality" in Washington was a dog whistle for homosexuals, supersizes the Lavender Scare with an Executive Order banning federal employment by anyone guilty of "sexual perversion."

> By the end of Eisenhower's eight years in office, his Navy **alone** had kicked out at least 8,853 lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. Equal to 63% of the total number that all the branches discharged in the seventeen years of "Don't ask, don't tell." [After two days of meetings with US Army and Navy officials in 1945, they dismissed his arguments for ending their bans on gay service members.]

Had Better Read Dr. Kinsey To date, the Department of Commerce has received from the Civi Service Commission the names of 22 alleged perverts in the Department Of this number: 1 was found not to be an employee; 16 have been or re being separated; 4 cases are pending decision; and in 1 case the evidence developed in the Department's investigation did not Science Service Staff Writer wait until the publication of Dt substantiate the charge.

WASHINGTON, July 3 - The Kinsey's next book to discover what percentage of the better Since the beginning of the calendar year, 6 cases also were developed independently by the Department. Of this group, two em-ployees have been separated and four cases are pending. Senate subcommittee investigat than 400,000 female Civil Ser ing employment of "homosex ice employees is, in his term "exclusively homosexual."

Upon receipt of initial derogatory information in these matter the Department's Investigations Officer proceeds without delay to conhuct a thorough investigation of the individual concerned. This is followed by a personal hearing. If the investigation and hearing indicate that the employee is in fact a pervert, he is dropped from the rolls promptly.

The individual cases, identified by symbols, are as follows:

- Information received indicating employee was a homosexualist After a thorough investigation by the Department of Commerce and a personal hearing, the allegation was confirmed and his resignation was demanded. Employee resigned 4-27-50.
- Information received indicating employee was a homosexualist After a thorough investigation by the Department of Commerce and a personal hearing, the allegation was confirmed and his resignation was demanded. Employee resigned April 28, 1950.
- Case C: Information received that employee had been arrested on charges of perversion. After a thorough investigation by e Department of Commerce and a personal hearing, the allegation was confirmed, whereupon immediate removal charges were preferred against the employee. He will be separated on July 6, 1950.
- Case D: Arrested on charges of homosexuality. Subject employed in overnment service for 31 years. After a thorough investigation by the Department of Commerce and a personal hearing, he allegation was confirmed, whereupon steps were taken to effect the employee's separation by retirement, to be effective July 12, 1950.
- Information received that employee was a homosexualist. After a thorough investigation by the Department of Commerce and a personal hearing, the allegation was confirmed and his esignation was demanded. Employee resigned effective May

of those previously married,

of 3 on the Kinsey Scale

experience/response

in experience/response.

Stereo daguerreotype

France 1850–1855

Kinsey Collections

ages 20–35, were given a rating

(about equal heterosexual and

homosexual experience/response)

2 to 6%, ages 20–35, were more

or less exclusively homosexual in

1 to 3% of those unmarried aged

20-35 were exclusively homosexual

Among 5940 white females: 7% of those single and 4%



left, and four others form the Mattachine Foundation in November 1950, the first enduring American gay rights group. Fearful of legal trouble in the growing national gay panic they allowed few pictures together.

➢ 1951. Kinsey tells Illinois **Commission on Sex Offenders** adult consensual sodomy should "SUBJECT: be decriminalized. "TO:

> 1952. Mattachine begins to

publicly weaponize Kinsey statistics in first-ever gay questionnaire sent to political candidates. The same estimate would be quoted in an article i the Los Angeles *Mirror* about Mattachine that was positive enough that they distributed thousands of copies.

P.O. Box 2833, Terminal Annex Los Angeles, Calif.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL AND BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

"The Mattachine Foundation is a non-partisan service council devoted to the social objective of integrating with the purposes and requirements of the community the enormous potential of valuable civic contributiveness and concern of such ill-understood social minorities as the homosexuals. If only a conservative percentage of Dr. Alfred Kinsey's testimony before the 1951 California State Legislature's Interim Committee is conceded, there are at least 150,000 such persons in the Los Angeles area alone. Though the Foundation's policy strictly



CLICK LINK TO HEAR SERMON (1) billygraham.org/audio/the-bible-and-dr-kinsey/



Evangelist Billy Graham last agents," Graham said sarcastically, tham shouldd, "Only the lowest night tossed an angry harpoon at "have probed into the lives of type of woman would let a re-Dr. Alfred Kinsey's "Sexual Bc-|5.940 women. I want to tell you porter ask her the questions these "havior in the Human Female" be- that book will not be read by women did. There is one thing I fore an estimated 5,000 persons in the people of the United States agree with, though," Graham: the Onondaga War Memorial. for scientific reasons?" went on, "the moral condition of Last night's meeting left only "According to Mr. Kinsey." the American is at an all time.

The BIBLE **DR. KINSEY** One of the Three Million Serie



REV. BILLY GRAHAM

"The Hour of Decision"

A B C NETWORK



"He was the Rosa Parks and the Martin Luther King and the Thurgood Marshall of the gay rights movement."

– Yale Law School professor William Eskridge, Jr.

A year after Kinsey's death, a brilliant Harvard-trained astronomer who dreamed of becoming one of the first astronauts is fired by the Army Map Service and blackballed from any other government job for being gay. He had never been involved in gay activism, but what he did next and for decades after earned him a place on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor. He is the first known Lavender Scare victim to not just fight their firing in court but all the way to the Supreme Court. In his blazing brief he wrote himself, inspired as Harry Hay was, he hurled Kinsey's research at the justices—and an unprecedented torrent of contempt for government-sanctioned homophobia and discrimination. Denied certiorari, he was of Congress and every other senior government official announcing the formation of the Mattachine Society of Washington (MSW). It had no formal relationship to original Mattachine senior government official announcing the formation at the White House, the Pentagon, the State Department, Civil Service Commission, and in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia in which Kinsey references sprang from his letters and speeches to picket signs now in the Smithsonian. "FIFTEEN MILLION U.S. HOMOSEXUALS PROTEST FEDERAL TREATMENT"—"QUARTER MILLION HOMOSEXUAL FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PROTEST CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION POLICY"—"65,000 HOMOSEXUAL SAILORS DEMAND NEW NAVY POLICY"—"QUARTER MILLION HOMOSEXUAL AMERICAN SERVICES POLICIES." Year after year, like Johnny Appleseed, he traveled from town to town planting the seeds of Kinsey's insights among new generations, including at Indiana University in 1974. He succeeded in getting some gays fired by the government reinstated. The Civil Service Commission finally surrendered, calling him to say they would no longer use homosexuality as a reason for dismissal. He overturned DC's sodomy law and led the successful fight to convince the American Psychiatric Association to declare homosexuality not an illness. Prof. Eskridge credits him with birthing the Gaylegal equality arguments still used in court cases today.







The government's regulations, policies, practices and procedures, as applied in the instant case to petitioner







year period between the ages of 16 and 55, and (b) these policies, although the 30% (which includes this 13%) is far from unconcerned. 25% have more than incidental experience. These figures deal with males. Female homosexuals "In terms of averages, one male out of approxi are perhaps less well known to the populace at large, mately every four has had or will have such dis tinct and *continued* homosexual experience.' [Emphasis supplied] but their incidence is about as great as that of the male homosexual. Thus we may accept as a conservative estimate, that (c) At least as much homosexual as heterosexual ex these policies are primarily directed against some 15 perience has been had for at least three years between or 16 million adult Americans-about 13% of our adult the ages of 16 and 55 by 18% of the population; (d) population —and may potentially affect up to 30%— 13% have had more homosexual experience than hetero about 35,000,000 adults. sexual; (e) 10% were more or less exclusively homo sexual and (f) 8% exclusively so for a similar period; It may be argued that only an extremely tiny perand (g) 4% are exclusively homosexual throughout centage of this 35,000,000 and, correspondingly, only a small percentage of those accepting government posi-Those who are at all closely familiar with any large tions can ever be known to the Commission, and will ever feel the force of these regulations. While this is number of homosexuals will recognize that the majority of those certainly in the last five of the seven groups perfectly true, it is a completely untenable positionmentioned will have had far more than a mere three and a totally irrational one-to hold that the validity years homosexual experience and that the vast majorand justification for existence of a regulation are dependent upon its limited enforceability. ity of those who have been "more or less exclusively nomosexual for at least three years between ages 1 In the present Federal service, with its more than and 55" have, in fact, been more or less exclusively 2,000,000 employees, there are thus potentially some

Much more important, and very much more relevant, all seven of these groups, comprising 30% of the Amer-

specifically, and as applied to homosexuals generally, are a stench in the nostrils of decent people, an offense against morality, an abandonment of reason, an affront to human dignity, an improper restraint upon proper freedom and liberty, a disgrace to any civilized society, and a violation of all that this nation stands for. These policies, practices, procedures, and regulations have gone too long unquestioned, and too long unexamined 260,000 persons intimately affected by these regulations, and 600,000 against whom these regulations could by the courts. be invoked. Whatever arguments may be brought to

y I take the liberty of requesting that, because of the importance mestion to such a large number of citizens, this letter, and the material, despite their length, be read and replied to by you personally, an merely by one of your aides.

enclosed U. S. Supreme Court brief, written by me for myself, presents story. The three sections headed "Questions Presented", "Statement", is for Granting the Writ" present my case. The majority of the case usesual, generally, will be found on pp. 33-56 and, also, on pp 26-33. In was unfortunately denied by the Supreme Court on March 20, 1961. hed precedent, this, of course, represents no judgement upon the

Secure my rights, freedoms, and liberties, and those of my fellow In 1961, it has, ironically, become necessary for me to fight my ov ath words, in order to achieve some of the very same rights, freed for which I placed my life in jeopardy in 1945. This letter is part

The homosexual in the United States today is in much the same position as the Negro about 1925. The difference is that the Negro, in his dealings with government, and in his fight for his proper rights, liberties and freedoms, mot, at worst, merely indifference to him and his problems, and, at best, we assistance; the homosexual has met only active hostility from his govern-

The homosexuals in this country are increasingly less willing to tolerate e abuse, repression, and discrimination directed at them, both officially and officially, and they are beginning to stand up for their rights and freedoms as tizens no less descring than other citizens of those rights and freedoms. The b no longer willing to accept their present status as second-class citizens and officially here there are noticed. s human beings; they are neither.

Statistics on the sharply-rising numbers of homosexuals who are fightin polics and legal buses, less-than-fully-honorable discharges from the military security-system disqualifications, and who are taking porfectly proper and legal advantage of military policies and prejudices and arft-board questions t scoape the draft, efc., etc., will, I believe, bear me out.



He also gave the movement its first motto. One we believe Kinsey would agree with. For beyond the ivy-covered walls where others still debate how many homosexuals he actually found on the head of a pin, he armed lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals not just with numbers but with feelings of self-worth, something no court or politician can take away.

"Reaching puberty, in Australia, in about 1950, I did not have to confront a belief in the wickedness of my own homosexual inclination (which somehow seemed perfectly natural to me) in quite such a lonely state as would have been the case before Dr. Kinsey's report was made public. It was a calming thing to learn that I was not, after all, alone." – Hon. Michael Kirby, AC CMG, Retired Justice, High Court of Australia

A middle-aged woman being interviewed toward the close of the 2004 film Kinsey expresses what countless others in real life must have felt since 1948.

Click link to watch: https://youtube.com/embed/61oNNVyEwTU?autoplay=1



Gay novelist Samuel **Steward supplied Kinsey** with many contacts and swaths of information, becoming a close friend and calling him "Dr. Prometheus. He brought fire and light to the world. We looked upon him as a savior. He was the liberator. He was OUR Stonewall."