

Give the People Light and they will find their own way.



The Wisconsin Light

Catholic Bishops Asked For Issues Dialogue

[Washington, D.C.]—Dignity/USA, an organization of Gay and Lesbian Catholics with 4200 members in 90 chapters nationwide, has called on the American Catholic Bishops to dialogue on issues of grave concern such as AIDS ministry, Civil Rights, Anti-Gay Violence, Sexism, Prejudice and Homophobia.

The invitation comes in the wake of yet another eviction of a Dignity chapter—this time by Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk, President, National Conference of Catholic Bishops. (Over the past several years, almost 90 percent of Dignity chapters have been banned from worshipping on church property.)

Dignity/USA President, Pat Roche, Seattle, noted that "at a time when many of our members are dying of AIDS, others are being victimized by anti-Gay violence and still others are being denied their basic civil rights, Church leaders continue to focus on the issue of sexual acts rather than on the dignity of human persons." He said that the bishops are "seemingly unable or unwilling to recognize the incredible pain and suffering this narrow vision is causing."

AIDS Bill of Rights Awaits Thompson Signature

[Madison]—Governor Tommy Thompson is solely responsible for denying medical rights to people with HIV infection, according to State Representative David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

"Two months after the legislature passed the AIDS Bill of Rights, Governor Thompson has still not signed the bill into law," Clarenbach said.

Thompson's delay in signing Assembly Bill 400 is an effective denial of human rights."

AB 400, which received final legislative approval on February 8, guarantees health care services to people with AIDS and HIV infection. Until Governor Thompson signs AB 400, people can be legally denied medical care and treatment by doctors, hospitals and nursing homes based on their HIV status.

Clarenbach is the author of the bill, and had predicted that Thompson would approve AB 400.

"With lopsided votes in the Assembly and Senate and widespread support from AIDS advocates, I would have expected the Governor to have acted by now," Clarenbach said.

"Especially in an election year, Thompson must be sensitive to the rights of all people," said Clarenbach.

California's Rep. Dannemeyer Says He Chose Heterosexuality

By Daniel Wilson and Michele De Ranleau

[San Francisco, CA]— "We (Republicans) as a party welcome everyone. We do not endorse special recognition for Gays or cannibals, transvestites, or people who practice bestiality. Any acts of human indecency, we'll leave that element to the Democrats."

So said Congressman William Dannemeyer (R-CA) speaking in an exclusive interview published in the March 22, 1990 issue of the *San Francisco Sentinel*. Dannemeyer who is generally recognized as one of the leading anti-Gay legislators in the U.S. House of Representatives, was responding to the question "Do you think that Gays are welcome in the Republican Party?"

Dannemeyer was asked how he would define "special privilege" when it comes to Lesbians and Gays.

He responded, "Well, there was this situation in Madison, Wisconsin where

Four AIDS Related Bills Stalled On Governor's Desk



Pictured, is the 1990 Milwaukee Pride Logo. See story on page 3.

President Bush Needs Action Plan For Nation's Health Crisis

[Washington, D.C.]— President George Bush's first major address on the AIDS health crisis made on March 29, 1990, was interrupted by Urvashi Vaid, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who stood up during the presentation and urged the President to do more for people with AIDS.

Bush spoke to a gathering of about 400 business and labor leaders at a conference sponsored by the National Leadership Coalition of AIDS held at the Crystal City Gateway Marriott Hotel just outside Washington. The speech was extensively covered by major national and international media.

During the speech, Vaid, who sat in front of the President, stood and held up a sign that read, "Talk Is Cheap — AIDS Funding Is Not" and "Remember Gay People With AIDS."

She then challenged Bush directly, saying, "Mr. President, you don't understand. We need your leadership. We need more than one speech every 14 months. We need more funding for AIDS education, research and prevention. We need you to end the discriminatory immigration policy."

Bush paused during his speech to address Vaid, saying, "Let me say something about this. I can understand the concern that these people feel. And I hope if we do nothing else by coming here, I can help them understand that not only you care, but we care too."

During his speech, Bush urged

compassion for people with AIDS. He mentioned education, "AIDS babies," confidentiality, the "war on drugs," and praised Allstate Company, Fortune Magazine and General Motors for fighting the disease. Among other things, Bush touted the Administration's response to AIDS.

"The epidemic is having a major impact on the health care system," said Bush. "We must do more to help people who are suffering from this unprecedented."

Bush renewed his support for the Americans With Disabilities Act, which he said must be immediately passed to ban discrimination against people with AIDS and HIV.

"What is missing from the President's picture of AIDS?" asked Vaid. "An end to punitive and harmful immigration, visitation and permanent residency laws that discriminate against foreigners with AIDS and HIV. Increased funding of AIDS research, prevention and care programs. Affordable health care for all Americans. Access to promising drug therapies. Acknowledgement that the Gay community, which comprises more than 65 percent of total AIDS cases, continues to suffer discrimination, stigmatization and government negligence. And a real action plan for fighting the nation's health crisis."

Bush Challenged On AIDS Budget

[Washington, D.C.]— The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF), the nation's largest Lesbian and Gay and AIDS political organization, has called for over \$3 billion in federal AIDS spending for fiscal 1991.

HRCF's executive director, Tim McFeeley, was sharply critical of President Bush's budget proposal, which included only \$1.7 billion for AIDS programs. "Unfortunately, the Administration is running away from the facts on AIDS. Wishful thinking and nickels and dimes are not going to address the real needs of people with AIDS," McFeeley stated.

McFeeley said, "The number of AIDS cases in the U.S. will double in the next 15 months, yet the Administration offers a mere 7 percent increase in overall funding. Even more shocking is their proposal to cut \$40 million from the funds used to provide services to individuals with AIDS."

The most recent report to Bush from the National AIDS Commission indicated that the U.S. would need to allocate between \$2.5 billion and \$15 billion to AIDS programs within the next two years.

[Madison]— State Representative Timothy Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) has issued a call for action on AIDS bills passed by the past session of the legislature. Currently, these bills are before Governor Tommy Thompson for his consideration. Please contact the Governor's office to express your strong support for these initiatives. Direct your letters to: Office of the Governor, 155 E. State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702; or call (608) 266-1212 (Madison Office) or (414) 227-4344 (Milwaukee Office). Those with facsimile machines can Fax the Governor at (608) 267-8983. The bills are:

Wisconsin AIDS Initiative-AB 400. (See article, this issue)

AIDS Education-AB 461. This requires all Wisconsin public school districts to provide AIDS instruction at least once to students in grades 6-8 and once again to students 9-12. The instruction must include all methods and behaviors, including abstinence, that prevent transmission of the disease.

Health Insurance Premium Subsidies, Budget Modification Bill-S 542. This provides \$200,000 in 1990-1991 and establishes a biennial appropriation for the purpose of funding state subsidies of health insurance premiums for persons who have an HIV infection and who are unable to continue working or who must reduce their hours of employment as a result of a medical condition or illness related to HIV infection.

Clinical Trials Program, Budget Modification Bill-S 542. This provides \$150,000 in 1990-1991 for the purpose of establishing a statewide program of community-based clinical trials of investigational new drugs for management of HIV infections and related conditions in Wisconsin. Private agencies would be required to provide at least a 100% match on the amount of funds received under this program. This program would be coordinated statewide and administered centrally to ensure that HIV-infected persons in Wisconsin have increased accessibility to investigational new drugs. The proposed community-based clinical trial program, the Wisconsin Community-Based Research Consortium, would be located in Milwaukee.

Editor's Note: It is very important that the Civil Rights community, including the Lesbian/Gay community respond to issues of legislative concern. Our right-wing enemies do — and on a moment's notice. Please write or phone the Governor:

Iowa Governor Signs Hate Crimes Bill

As we go to press, word has reached us that Iowa has just enacted a hate crimes bill that includes crimes against Lesbians and Gays.

We heartily congratulate the Iowa Lesbian/Gay activists on their success in this struggle.

A press release was not available at this time, but watch the upcoming issues of *In Step* and *Light* for more information.

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