

Andrew Tobias

November 14, 1992

Gov. Victor Atiyeh
519 SW Park #208
Portland, OR 97205

Dear Governor:

Peter Tanous sends his regards and has been helping me add prominent names to the attached list.

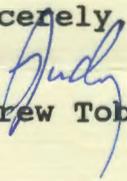
Would you be comfortable adding yours?

As you can see, we already have 5 governors, 65 bishops, Warren Buffett, Paul Newman, Coretta Scott King, Paul Tsongas, Carl Sagan, the head of the National Education Association, Dear Abby -- and more.

I think it could really help people feel it's OK to support gay rights -- and help gays feel it's OK to be gay (since there's not much choice). I know this was a topic of some controversy in Oregon recently.

Thanks for considering this!

Sincerely,


Andrew Tobias

National Endorsement Campaign

Non-discrimination for Lesbian and Gay Americans

As of September 20, 1992 -- partial listing:

Political Leaders

Governor Anne Carlson (R), Minnesota
Governor James Florio (D), New Jersey
Governor Barbara Roberts (D), Oregon
Governor William Weld (R), Massachusetts
Governor Lowell Weicker (I), Connecticut
Former Governor Richard Celeste (D), Ohio
Former Governor Richard Lamm (D), Colorado
Lt. Governor Robert Bullock (D), Texas
Lt. Governor Joanell Dyrstad (R), Minnesota
Mayor Raymond Flynn, Boston; President, US Conference of Mayors
Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chicago
Mayor Donald M. Fraser, Minneapolis
Mayor Jim Scheibel, St. Paul
Mayor Wellington Webb, Denver
Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, New Orleans; Past Pres. Nat'l League of Cities
Mayor George Miller, Tucson
Mayor Sheri S. Bernard, Spokane
Mayor Carrie Saxon Perry, Hartford
Mayor Maureen O'Connor, San Diego
Former Mayor Adlene Harrison, Dallas
Former Mayor Harvey Gantt (D), Charlotte
Former Mayor Federico Pena, Denver
Diane Feinstein, California Senator-elect
David Krogseng, Former Minnesota GOP State Chairman
George Latimer, Past President, National League of Cities
Elizabeth Holtzman, New York City Comptroller
Becky Cain, President, The League of Women Voters
Jesse Jackson
Geraldine Ferraro
Eugene McCarthy
Paul Tsongas

Religious Leaders

Bishop Edmund G. Browning, Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church
Dr. Paul Sherry, President, United Church of Christ
Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, Gen'l Secy, Nat'l Council of Churches of Christ
Rev. C. William Nichols, President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Herbert D. Valentine, Past Moderator, Presbyterian Church (United States)
Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President, Union of American Hebrew Cong.
Henry Siegman, Exec. Dir., American Jewish Congress
Rabbi Gerald Zelizer, President, Rabbinical Assembly of America
And 83 other bishops, rabbis and ministers ...

(Over, please)

A project of the
HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FUND

1012 14th Street, N.W. Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 628-4160 Fax (202) 347-5323

Other early endorsers:

Coretta Scott King
Paul Newman
Roger Wilkins
Carl Sagan
"Dear Abby"
Joan Mondale
Studs Terkel
Hodding Carter
Gail Sheehy
Andrew Tobias
Harry Belafonte
Susan Sarandon
Richard Dreyfuss
Lily Tomlin
Billy Joel
Richard Gere
Jesseye Norman
Paloma Picasso
Christie Brinkley
Cindy Crawford
R.E.M.
Barry Diller
Justin Dart
Wheelock Whitney
Gloria Steinem
Warren Buffett
Douglas Fraser, Former President, United Auto Workers (UAW)
Walter Anderson, Author; Decorated Marine; Editor, PARADE Magazine
Gary David Goldberg, Producer ("Family Ties" and "Brooklyn Bridge")
Alan Page, NFL Hall of Fame Member
Carl Eller, Former NFL All-Pro, Minnesota Vikings
Pat Forcica, Vice President, Minnesota Northstars (NHL)
Keith Geiger, President, National Education Association
Dr. Judd Marmor, Past President, American Psychiatric Association
John B. Anderson, President, World Federalists Association
Dr. June Osborn, Dean, School of Public Health, Univ. of Michigan
Ann Druyan, Federation of American Scientists
Jonathan Wilson, Chair, Des Moines Board of Education
John Sweeney, President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Gerald McEntee, Pres., Am. Fed'n of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
John P. Bracken, President, New York State Bar Association
H. Ritchey Holenbaugh, President, Ohio State Bar Association
Sherry Scheel Matteucci, President-elect, Montana State Bar Association
Janet R. Studley, Chair, ABA Individual Rights & Responsibilities Committee
Robert Abrams, New York State Attorney General
Roland Burris, Illinois Attorney General
Hubert Humphrey III, Minnesota Attorney General
Judith Lichtman, President, Women's Legal Defense Fund
Joseph Rauh, Legal Counsel, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Tom Potter, Chief of Police, Portland, Oregon

** partial listing, 9/20/92 **

NATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CAMPAIGN

Non-discrimination for Lesbian and Gay Americans

National Endorsement Campaign Endorsement Statement

"Discrimination against gay and lesbian Americans, which remains widespread in many parts of the nation, is unfair and wrong. The hiring and retention of the best possible employees is both sound business practice and important to the best use of our nation's resources.

"Therefore, we join with other community leaders across the nation to call for extension of existing civil rights laws by local, state and federal legislation to prohibit discrimination against lesbians and gay men in jobs, housing and public accommodations."

Please Print Your Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Day Phone (____) _____ Evening Phone (____) _____

Please note any corrections in your address:

Please consider giving a quote about your personal feelings on anti-gay and anti-lesbian discrimination that we may use

A project of the

Human Rights
CAMPAIGN FUND

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANT & TRADE

November 23, 1992

Mr. Andrew Tobias
787 Northeast 71 Street
Miami, Florida 33138

Dear Andy,

It is good to hear from you. I shall be seeing Peter Tanous in early December at our Bank Audi California meeting.

As you may (or may not) know I vigorously and publicly opposed our Ballot Measure 9 which was defeated in Oregon at our general election. It is my hope that the **New York Times** gave the defeat as much prominence as they did about the appearance of it on our ballot. My position was that discrimination against anyone was wrong and putting it in our Constitution compounded the evil.

Which brings me to your request. I have very little problem with your first paragraph. However, I am not rock solid on your second (which is writing that specifically into law).

This is not a total rejection, but I would like to ask you a question which I have been asking for a long time with no satisfactory answer. Why do the lesbians and gays feel a compunction to announce their sexual preference? I really do not feel a strong desire to know.

In my administration we had no litmus test of any kind. the best person is all I was looking for and it worked marvelously well.

I shall await your answer. In the meantime, my best to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victor Atiyeh".

Victor Atiyeh

December 15, 1992

Governor Victor Atiyeh
519 SW Park #508
Portland, OR 97205
By Fax

Dear Victor,

Please excuse this impersonal medium, but I'm racing for the airport and wanted to be sure to thank you for your letter, and to respond.

In the first place, thank you for your support re "No on Nine." This was an important (and frightening) issue, and I was very happy to see it resolved the right way.

As to your question -- a good one! -- I'd offer these thoughts.

In the first place, not every gay and lesbian person, by any means, even in states or cities with non-discrimination laws, feels a compunction to announce his or her sexual preference. Knowing how many people hate gays, and how many gays are bashed, or simply ostracised, just for being gay, it's a big step that most gays never take.

In an ideal world, they might want to have a photo of their companion on their desk, or send Christmas cards with a photo of the two of them and their dog by the fire, or even bring their loved one along to a company outing, or hold hands walking down the street, etc. But they know that in *this* world, that's often a dangerous thing to do -- just as it's dangerous for a black person to walk in certain white neighborhoods.

One way of dealing with discrimination against Jews is to suggest that they simply "pass." It's not that hard. A name change may sometimes be required. Perhaps a nose job. A Christmas tree in the window -- it's not that big a deal. Religion or political affiliation is an easier thing to change, after all, than skin color or height or gender or sexual preference.

One way of dealing with the racial problem is simply to ask: why DO you walk into neighborhoods where you know many people hate you? There'd be no problem if you didn't force these confrontations.

Obviously, when it comes to race and religion we all believe a person shouldn't have to pass for a member of the majority.

I believe the same holds true for just about any other (non-violent) attribute over which a person has no control.

There is this crazy notion that most gay people could have been straight, but "chose" to be gay. (Not a brilliant choice, under the circumstances -- like choosing, in today's world, to be Somalian.) I suppose that for some people in the middle of the sexual-preference spectrum there may be something to this. But for the great majority, it's no more a choice than skin color, height, or anything else. (Are you sorely tempted to sleep with men, but choose, on moral grounds to sleep with women? In most cases, this is just not the way it works. You don't choose what you're attracted

to. It's just a fundamental, primal part of your being.)

I know some people believe God has said all sex except sex between two married heterosexuals, in certain prescribed positions, is a sin. It's impossible to argue against people who know what God thinks -- whether they be Jews killing Arabs or Arabs killing Jews or Christians killing Moslems, or just kids killing gays.

But I know for a fact that I am the way I am "naturally." This is simply the way I am, like my height, my skin color, etc. And it doesn't hurt anyone. (And I pay a lot of taxes relative to the services I consume!) So why must I pretend otherwise?

Well, I'm rambling. There's so much to say, and it's hard to say it well.

Maybe 15 million Americans should be forced to go through life ashamed of who they are, and pretending to be something else. Maybe God really did create gay people and, at the same time, decree that they are, of their essence, regardless of how they live their lives, bad people. But I don't believe that.

PLEASE don't misconstrue the tone of this letter. I don't for a minute mean it to be confrontational or offensive or pedantic. I would never have the nerve to write so openly if I didn't know from Peter, and from our brief exchanges, that you are, unquestionably, one of "the good guys."

It's just that I know this is an awkward subject, and one that many good guys have just never thought that much about.

I'm on my way to South Africa (of all places) for a couple of weeks, but would be more than glad to discuss this with you further, if you wanted when I get back. (My number is 305-751-7085.)

Also, I will certainly understand if you choose not to join the list. One day, this may not be controversial at all. But I fully recognize that today, different people for different reasons are not comfortable with assuring nondiscrimination against gays and lesbians. It's largely a matter of people getting to know other people, and it takes time.

Please excuse the epic length of this message. Every good wish for the holidays and the New Year!

--Andy--

Distribution:

Gov Victor Atiyeh >FAX 15032243209

VICTOR ATIYEH
GOVERNOR
1979-1987



INTERNATIONAL
CONSULTANT & TRADE

December 17, 1992

Mr. Andrew Tobias
787 Northeast 71 St.
Miami, Florida 33138

Dear Andy,

I appreciate your letter, especially with the knowledge that you were on a very tight time frame. It is my hope your South African trip was fruitful.

It would serve no useful purpose to "tennis match" this philosophical discussion on the subject of gays and lesbians. I have no doubt that they do not "choose" to be that way. But, in spite of your most thoughtful letter, I am still unsure why many have such a strong urge to make their sexual preference public.

Unquestionable the homosexuals are a minority, which means most people are not. By the same token, the majority view homosexuality unusual at best and unacceptable at worst. Even then as you described it in your letter, they have a feeling of shame whether it is right or wrong.

So, here we have a majority of people, with varying degrees of negative feelings on the subject of homosexuality and some of those who are gays or lesbians feel compelled to announce that preference to the world. Having done so they then say "now do not discriminate against me".

I do not mean to be frivolous, but I am reminded of an old saying---"it is better to remain silent and thought to be a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt".

Please understand, Andy, I am not stand-offish on this question to avoid controversy because for twenty-eight years in public office I learned to live with it. Some times, I even encouraged it. It is just that I am puzzled and still looking for an acceptable answer to my question.

Discrimination is not new. This offensive characteristic has been leveled at Arabs, Irish, Italians, Asians, Blacks, people with long hair and beards, people with short hair and clean shaven, etc. etc. It does us all honor to fight discrimination, but I have difficulty

with those who would knowingly open themselves up to it and then get angry when it is applied. Incidentally, I know of only rare instances where physical abuse (beatings or "bashings") has actually occurred against homosexuals, with more subtle discrimination happening most often.

Well, enough of this. Maybe some day we can sit down together and talk. My best to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Victor".

Victor Atiyeh