

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

30 Sept 82

Memo For Barry

Att. is the NGTF letter
from Mel Boozer
that we received.
Looking forward to
receiving your input
& I will let you
know how we reply.

Pete

On file OSD release instructions apply.

NGTF

OFFICE OF
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

National Gay Task Force

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September 21, 1982

Executive Director
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Director of Civil Rights Advocacy
Mel Boozer

The Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

My Dear Mr. Secretary:

In a recent decision, the Department of Energy revised its policies with respect to access to classified material or significant quantities of special nuclear materials, especially as they affect the eligibility of gay citizens for positions requiring security clearances. Under the new policy, homosexuality can only become an issue if there is reason to believe that that individual is likely to compromise national security interests as established by a fair hearing.

This policy is rational, situationally appropriate, solidly supported by the historical evidence, and consequently, a significant improvement over the previous policy.

Actually, as you know, this policy only codifies the experience of recent years. With the exception of only a few agencies throughout the government, it has become almost routine for gay men or lesbians seeking positions requiring security clearances to receive them. In almost all cases where their fitness has been challenged on security grounds, they have successfully defended their ability to perform competently, loyally, and with complete integrity.

In view of the recent change in policy by the Department of Energy, in keeping with the solid evidence of years of experience, we would urge you to review the policies of your agency with respect to the following issues.

- (1) Can homosexuality or homosexual behavior be held to be a reason, per se, to deny security clearance to a lesbian or gay man who is otherwise qualified?
- (2) Under what circumstances, if any, can homosexuality or homosexual behavior be construed to create a security risk?

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 It's Time

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Page 2.

- (3) What procedures will be followed if homosexuality is suspected to be a possible security risk, in order to make a final determination with regard to an individual's fitness to have access to confidential government materials?

The promulgation of a rational and situationally appropriate policy similar to that of the Department of Energy would go a long way toward dispelling unwarranted preoccupation about job security among gay citizens as well as unwarranted preoccupation about national security by government officials.

Please advise me.

Sincerely,



Mel Boozer

Director of Civil Rights Advocacy