

Document 1

Newspaper Article

SOURCE: Senate Group Approves Sexual Perverts Probe, St. Petersburg Times - May 25, 1950,
<https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=888&dat=19500525&id=GfNOAAAIBAJ&sjid=Wk4DAAAIBAJ&pg=1888,3392797&hl=en>

Senate Group Approves Sexual Perverts Probe

WASHINGTON — (AP) — An investigation of sexual perverts in all Federal agencies was unanimously approved by the Senate Expenditures Committee yesterday in a move to tighten the nation's security.

The Committee, headed by Chairman McClellan, Democrat of Arkansas, voted 10 to 0 to provide \$25,000 for the inquiry. Quick Senate approval is expected.

Washington police officials have testified there are about 3,750 homosexuals on Government pay rolls in the nation's capital.

PERVERTS ARE officially rated as bad security risks on the ground they are an easy

mark for blackmailers and likely tools of Communist conspirators.

Senator McCarthy, Republican of Wisconsin, has charged that the State Department is infested with both Communists and perverts. The Department has denied it. Assistant Undersecretary of State John Peurifoy disclosed some weeks ago that 91 sexual perverts had been fired from the Department.

McCARTHY, top-ranking GOP member of the Expenditures Committee, has announced he will not take part in the investigation in view of the charges he has leveled against the State Department.

Document 2

Letter

Source: ONE Magazine, Vol. 8, No. 1 (January 1960).

Dear Mr. Pedersen:

I have been living in New York City for twelve years and this present urgent situation is the most drastic "witch-hunt" that I have encountered. This is a local election year and is, therefore, likely to bring on a heat wave for us.

Last weekend was a nightmare in all known gay spots. In one, the police came in every half hour or so, and when they weren't inside they were parked in front and kept flashing their spotlight inside the bar. I suppose they received some kind of sadistic pleasure from scaring everyone in the place.

I look forward to ONE Magazine as the beacon that will eventually lead us out of the darkness and into the light of recognition and tolerance.

Mr. T.
New York, N. Y.

Document 3

Government Report

Source: Excerpts from Employment of Homosexuals and Other Sex Perverts in Government Interim Report December 15, 1950, US District Court, Northern District of California, <https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cand/09cv2292/evidence/PX2337.pdf>

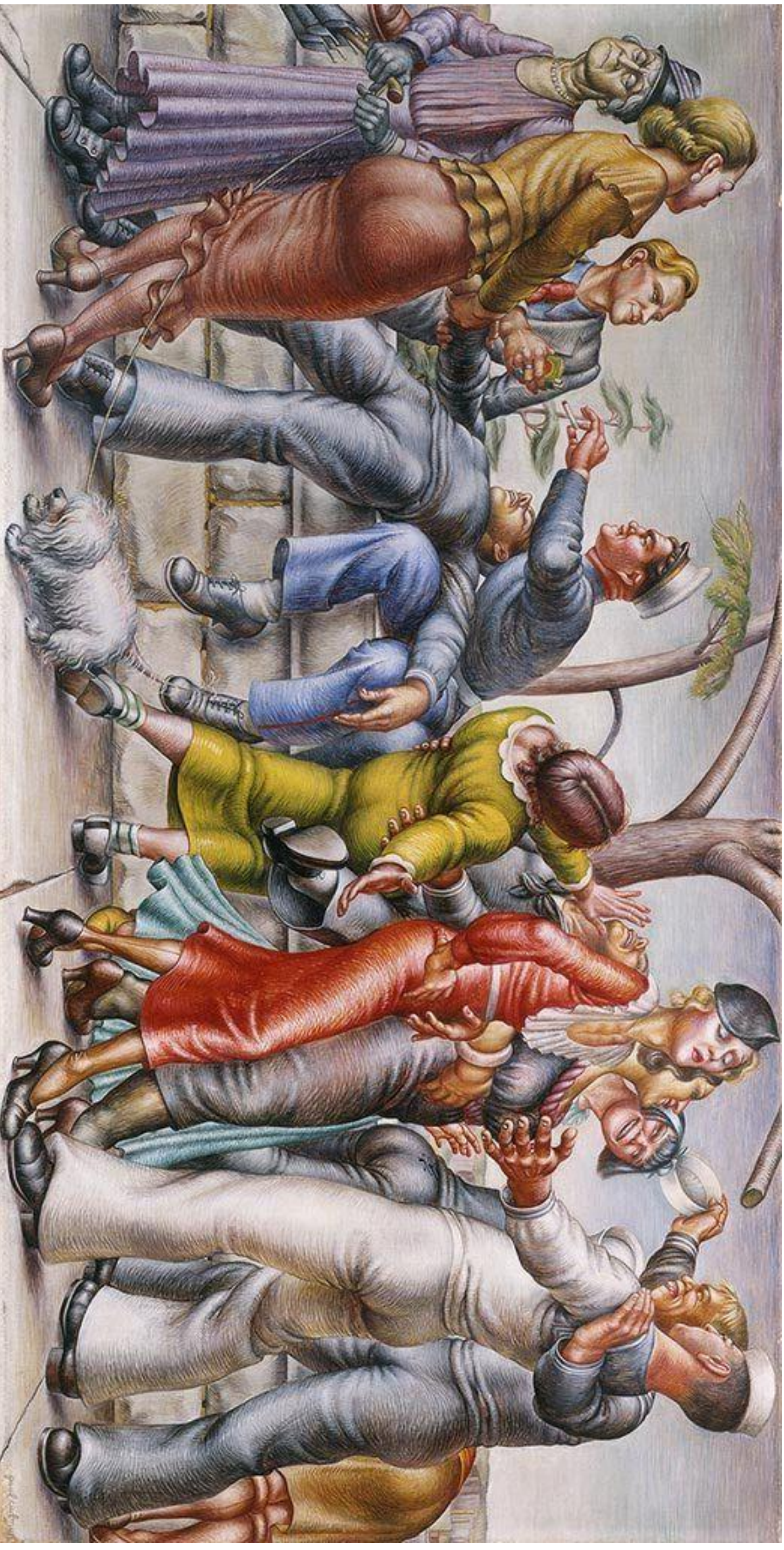
The primary objective of the subcommittee in this inquiry was to determine the extent of the employment of homosexuals and other sex perverts in Government; to consider reasons why their employment by the Government is undesirable; and to examine into the efficacy of the methods used in dealing with the problem.

Overt acts of sex perversion, including acts of homosexuality, constitute a crime under our Federal, State, and municipal statutes and persons who commit such acts are law violators. Aside from the criminality and immorality involved in sex perversion such behavior is so contrary to the normal accepted standards of social behavior that persons who engage in such activity are looked upon as outcasts by society generally. The social stigma attached to sex perversion is so great that many perverts go to great lengths to conceal their perverted tendencies. This situation is evidenced by the fact that perverts are frequently victimized by blackmailers who threaten to expose their sexual deviations.

In further considering the general suitability of perverts as Government employees, it is generally believed that those who engage in overt acts of perversion lack the emotional stability of normal persons. In addition there is an abundance of evidence to sustain the conclusion that indulgence in acts of sex perversion weakens the moral fiber of an individual to a degree that he is not suitable for a position of responsibility.

Document 4

Painting



Source: Paul Cadmus (American, 1904–1999). *The Fleet's In!*, 1934. Tempera on canvas, 37 x 67 in. (94 x 170.2 cm). Courtesy of [Navy Art Collection](#). [Naval History and Heritage Command](#). Image © 2021 Estate of Paul Cadmus / Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY

Document 5 Publication

Source: "Reader Response." The Ladder Magazine, 1956-1957.

"I cannot tell you what a source of both inspiration and pleasure The Ladder contained for me within its pages. I, as an invert, can only know of what momentous importance such a movement as yours can mean, for the ultimate good of all of us.

"Like so many others . . . I am living a completely repressed existence, sublimating my nature, whenever possible, in my profession.

"One of the insertions in The Ladder caught my attention and I could not help but muse over it with some irony. The part about 'Come out of hiding'. What a delicious invitation, but oh, so impractical. I should lose my job, a marvelous heterosexual roommate, and all chance of finding work . . . I would be blackballed all over the city.

"I am interested-very much interested in becoming a member of the Daughters of Bilitis. Although at present discretion prevents me from making any moves to help the cause . . . there is one very effective weapon we, who must fight from a hiding place, still have - the fountain pen and the typewriter."

J. M., Cleveland, Ohio

Money helps, too. -Ed.

Document 6

Painting

Source: PHOTO: BETTMANN ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/stonewall-wasnt-the-start-of-the-gay-rights-struggle-11561176061>



Document 7

Letter

Source: Kameny, Frank. *Gay is Good: The Life and Letters of Gay Rights Pioneer Franklin Kameny*,

Dear President Kennedy:

I write to you for two reasons: (1) To ask that you act as a "court of last appeal" in a matter in which I believe that you can properly act as such; and (2) perhaps much more important, to bring to your attention, and to ask for your constructive action on, a situation involving at least 15,000,000 Americans, and in which a "New Frontier" approach is very badly needed. These people are the nation's homosexuals—a minority group in no way different, as such, from the Negroes, the Jews, the Catholics, and other minority groups. . . .

You have said: "Ask not what can your country do for you, but what can you do for your country."¹⁰ I know what I can best do for my country, but my country's government, for no sane reason, will not let me do it. I wish to be of service to my country and to my government; I am capable of being of such service; I need only to be allowed to be so. Thus far, my government has stubbornly and irrationally refused to allow me to be so, and has done its best to make it impossible for me ever to be so. This is equally true, actually or potentially, of millions of homosexuals in this country—well over 10% of our adult population. Not only the society in which they live, but the government under which they live, have steadfastly and stubbornly refused to allow them to serve and to contribute. . . .

(written by Frank Kameny, May 16, 1961)