



GAY POLITICAL CAUCUS • P. O. Box 3887 • Houston, Texas 77001

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD

A Speech Delivered by Steve Shiflett, November 20, 1979

TONIGHT WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE POWER OF THE GAY VOTE IN HOUSTON---
THE NATION'S FIFTH LARGEST CITY ^{IN population, but} ~~AND~~ FIRST IN GAY CLOUT. THROUGH ORGANIZATION,
DEDICATION, AND THE HIGHEST OF CONVICTIONS, WE HAVE PROVED THAT OUR VOTE,
FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, SHALL NOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED AND WILL BE A MAJOR
FORCE IN FORGING THE FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF OUR GREAT CITY.

WHERE RIOTS ARE THE VOICES OF THE UNHEARD AND WHERE MARCHES AND
DEMONSTRATIONS -- LIKE OUR RECENT MARCH ON WASHINGTON -- ARE THE VOICES
OF PEOPLE NEWLY EMERGING, LET IT BE SAID TONIGHT THAT OUR BLOC OF VOTES ARE
THE VOICES OF THE CONCERNED, ESTABLISHED, AND HIGHLY ORGANIZED, AND WE, AS
A CO_MUNITY, TONIGHT TAKE PRIDE IN CLAIMING OUR RIGHTFUL POSITION OF INFLUENCE
IN OUR GREAT CITY BY PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE IN DEFEATING A SYMBOL OF
INCOMPETENCE AND IGNORANCE IN CITY GOVERNMENT...

IN HOUSTON, WE HAVE PROVEN THAT GAY POWER IS AT THE BALLOT BOX.
BECAUSE OF THIS POWER, WE WERE ASKED BY THE INCUMBENT MAYOR TO GIVE HIM OUR
SUPPORT SO THAT HE CAN HAVE TWO MORE YEARS TO MAKE OUR CITY A BETTER PLACE
TO LIVE FOR ALL HOUSTONIANS. WE RESPONDED BY ACTIVELY SUPPORTING
THE RE-ELECTION OF MAYOR JIM McCONN, IN THE Run-OFF, AGAINST A CANDIDATE
WE FELT WAS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO OUR COMMUNITY. AND BECAUSE WE RESPONDED
TO JIM McCONN, WE EXPECT THE MAYOR TO RESPOND TO OUR CAUSE BY LETTING
OUR ADVERSARIES KNOW THAT FROM THIS DAY FORWARD the RIGHTS OF ALL HOUSTONIANS
WILL BE RESPECTED BY HIS HIGH OFFICE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED, COLOR, SEX, OR
SEXUAL PREFERENCE...

MAYOR McCONN PROMISED US DURING HIS SCREENING BEFORE THE GAY POLITICAL
CAUCUS THAT HE WOULD APPOINT A GAY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO SERVE AS LIAISON
TO THE GAY COMMUNITY, AND ASKED THAT WE ONLY FURNISH HIM A LIST OF
QUALIFIED GAY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THAT JOB. I AM ANNOUNCING AT THIS MOMENT
THAT ON MONDAY NIGHT I WILL ASK A JOINT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE AND STEERING

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COMMITTEES OF GPC TO COMPILE THAT LIST AND PRESENT IT TO A SOON-TO-BE SCHEDULED MEETING WITH THE MAYOR. AND FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, MR MAYOR, WE EXPECT OUR PRIORITIES TO BE AS IMPORTANT TO YOU AS THE PRIORITIES OF ANY OTHER CITIZENS IN THIS CITY. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THIS NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT CAN HELP TO SAFEGUARD OUR INTERESTS IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS OF THE JIM McCONN ADMINISTRATION. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.

EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, WE TAKE PRIDE IN CLAIMING VICTORY WITH A COALITION OF PEOPLE WHO CAN SAY WE HAVE ELECTED A WOMAN, SIGNIFICANT IN ITSELF... A WOMAN NAMED ELEANOR TINSLEY. ELEANOR WILL, IN FACT, REPLACE THAT SYMBOL OF IGNORANCE AND INCOMPETENCE WITH THE TRUEST DISPLAY OF REPRESENTATION FOR ALL PEOPLE IN HOUSTON -- NO MATTER WHAT PERSUASION OR STATION IN LIFE ONE MAY PERSUE. AS WE TURN TO TOMORROW IN THIS CITY, LET THE ENTIRE NATION KNOW THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE THE LIKES OF FRANK MANN IN PUBLIC OFFICE AND WILL UTILIZE THE FULL RESOURCES OF OUR POLITICAL POWER TO ASSURE THAT NEVER AGAIN DO PEOPLE LIKE HIM TARNISH THE INTEGRITY OF OUR CITY GOVERNMENT. WE THANK YOU, ELEANOR TINSLEY, FOR HELPING MAKE OUR DREAM BECOME A REALITY.

HOUSTON, TONIGHT, HAS FIRMLY TAKEN ITS PLACE IN THE TIDE THAT IS WASHING IN ACROSS OUR COUNTRY. FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO MIAMI, FROM NEW YORK CITY TO HOUSTON, WE HAVE BECOME A MAJOR PART IN THAT TIDE THAT IS SWEEPING AWAY THE HATRED AND FEARS OF PERSONS LIKE FRANK MAN WHOSE BASIC PHILOSOPHIES IN LIFE ARE BASED ON THE GREED AND HOSTILITY, COUPLED WITH ANGER AND RAGE, AGAINST THEIR FELLOW HUMAN BEINGS. AS ONE OF OUR CANDIDATES IN THIS RUN-OFF, DALE GORCZYNSKI, SO WELL STATED: "This is a moral issue." AND I CERTAINLY AGREE. TO QUOTE FORMER PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY: "We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

"The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights -- whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we wish to be treated."

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"The heart of the question is whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights -- whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we wish to be treated."

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, WE SHALL DEMAND NO LESS FROM OUR CITY GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE DONE OUR JOB WELL.