

GayLife, 2/22/82

Gay rights bill passes committee in Wisconsin

By Stephen Kulieke

Wisconsin moved one step closer toward becoming the first state in the nation to enact comprehensive gay rights laws when a state Senate committee voted Feb. 3 to send a bill banning "sexual orientation" discrimination to the full Senate for consideration.

The State and Local Affairs and Taxation Committee voted 4-1 to concur with the state Assembly, which had passed Assembly Bill 70 on Oct. 23 by a 50-46 margin [*GayLife*, Oct. 30]. Three Democrats and one Republican—the assistant Senate minority leader—voted in favor of the bill, and one Democrat voted against it. The seventh committee member, a Republican, was absent.

Insiders said that while A.B. 70 could reach the full Senate floor as early as next week, Senate action on the bill is not expected until later, possibly the last week of February.

The proposed legislation would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in housing, public accommodation, and both government and private employment.

At Tuesday's committee vote, backers agreed to add an amendment which clarified that the bill does not mandate anti-discriminatory "affirmative action." The question of whether A.B. 70 requires employers to hire homosexuals has become a "red herring issue" since the favorable Assembly vote. Republican Gov. Lee S. Dreyfus said in a press conference that he would have no problem with the bill as long as it did not effect affirmative action. Backers, who have argued that the bill simply adds sexual orientation to existing categories in which discrimination is prohibited, say passage of the amendment was an effort to remove any potential obstacles to the bill's enactment.

("Affirmative action" refers to required steps that would end the effects of past discrimination—for example, special recruiting efforts or numerical hiring goals. Those steps would sometime involve counting the number of person in an affected category such as "sexual orientation" or "race.")

Proponents are optimistic about the bill's chance for passage in the Senate, which has voted in favor of a state sodomy law repeal, a measure that has repeatedly failed in the Assembly. Democrats are the majority party in both houses of the Legislature.

Tuesday's vote followed a Jan. 28 committee hearing that demonstrated the bill's broad-based support in the state's religious community. Testifying in favor of A.B. 70 were prominent Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Methodist, and United Church of Christ leaders, as well as a psychologist and a representative of the Wisconsin Civil Liberties Union. Opposition at the hearing was provided by a member of the Wisconsin chapter of Moral Majority and several others.

Senate OKs bill prohibiting discrimination against gays

From wire and staff reports

Discrimination against a person because of his or her sexual orientation would be prohibited under a bill passed Tuesday by the state Senate.

Opponents criticized the measure,

declaring it condones homosexuality.

The measure was returned to the Assembly for concurrence in an amendment which would assure employers they need not hire a specified percentage of homosexuals to be in compliance with the new law.

Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, chief sponsor of the bill, said the proposal could be of "national significance" because Wisconsin would be the first state to enact a such a law. California, Michigan and Pennsylvania have similar laws on the books but they were enacted by executive order, he said.

"This bill shows that we will not tolerate discrimination of any sort" in employment, housing and public accommodations, Clarenbach said.

He said it is not a question of "whether we are condoning homosexuality. It is whether discrimination is tolerable."

Under the bill, sexual orientation is defined as "having a preference for heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, having a history of such a preference or being identified with such a preference."

The prohibition against discrimination in employment would apply to the state civil service, companies that have business contracts with the state and the Wisconsin National Guard.

The Senate amendment would provide that the state's affirmative action law not apply to the proposed law so that an employer would not have to meet a hiring quota.

A motion to kill the bill by Sen. David Opitz, R-Port Washington, failed 19-13. Among those joining Opitz in opposition was Sen. Marvin Roshell, D-Chippewa Falls, who said he hopes Gov. Lee S. Dreyfus would veto the bill if it reaches his desk.

Opitz said if the measure became law, it could create headaches for employers.

"If you have an incompetent homosexual on your staff, you will have to get some trumped-up charge to fire him," Opitz said.

He said the legislation is bad because "it is a government body sanctioning an aberrant behavior."

"We have a non-fornication statute, yet we are saying that homosexuality is acceptable," Opitz said.

The Assembly passed the bill 50-46 last October, Clarenbach said, adding he expects the governor will sign the measure.

The measure (Assembly Bill 70), which received the blessing of religious leaders in Wisconsin, probably would have little legal application, Clarenbach said.

C-T 2/18/82

Gay rights bill wins legislative approval

A gay rights bill to prohibit discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations received final legislative approval today and was sent to Gov. Lee Dreyfus.

The measure, introduced by Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, would

bar discrimination based upon a person's sexual preference.

On an 86-11 vote, the Assembly concurred on a Senate amendment providing that employers need not meet quotas in order to be in compliance with the proposed law.

C.S. 2/22/82

State gay rights bill may not sway military

By **ROB FIXMER**
Capital Times Staff Writer

A spokesman for the Wisconsin National Guard said today that "there would seem to be a possible conflict" between federal military regulations that prohibit homosexuals from serving in the armed forces and a new state statute now awaiting the governor's signature.

Chief Warrant Officer Donald Erickson, a National Guard public affairs specialist, said today that he was not qualified to make a legal judgment on the issue. But he said that he had notified the governor's office this morning of Army and Air Force regulations that would preclude any homosexual from enlisting in the National Guard.

The bill in question, AB270, would

amend the state's fair employment statute to add "sexual orientation" to the list of grounds on which employers are not allowed to discriminate in hiring practices. It has passed both houses of the Legislature and now awaits Gov. Lee Dreyfus' signature.

Dreyfus returns to the state Thursday.

The bill, which had failed in three previous legislative sessions, won this time around with heavy support from state religious leaders. It cleared its last hurdle Feb. 17, when the Senate passed an amendment clarifying that no employer will be required under the statute to hire a certain number of homosexuals.

The bill's author, Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, says the new

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● State gay rights bill

(Continued from Page 25)

law would apply to all state agencies, firms that do business with the state, and the National Guard.

Among the questions Dreyfus will consider in deciding whether to sign the bill will be whether it conflicts with federal laws on who can and cannot serve in the military. By law, Army regulations apply to the National Guard.

Army Regulations 40-501 list homosexuality as a "character and personality disorder" under the heading of "Medical Fitness Standards," and state: "The causes for rejection for appointment, enlistment and induction are . . . overt homosexuality or other forms of sexual deviant practices, such as exhibitionism, transvestism, voyeurism, etc."

Air Force regulations, which apply to the Air National Guard, contain almost identical wording.

Erickson said that he queried the Pentagon's National Guard Bureau last Friday, "and their response basically was that those regulations mean what they say."

The crux of the conflict between federal regulations and the new state law would seem to lie in the definition of the word "overt."

Clarenbach says "the issue of overtly being either heterosexual or homosexual is a legitimate grounds for denying employment." The Guard and anyone else can deny employment or fire someone for inappropriate behavior, he said, and "if a guards-

man were to make sexual advances to someone while on the job, whether of the same sex or the other sex, that might be considered inappropriate behavior."

Erickson said it was his impression that "overt" could mean any manifestation of homosexual preferences on the part of a man or woman.

"In other words, if we know that a person is a homosexual, I think the behavior would have to be overt," he said.

The governor's office has been deluged by phone calls concerning the bill in recent days. The calls, which last Friday ran 350-20 against signing the bill, began after evangelical Christian radio stations in Milwaukee and Madison announced last Thursday that the bill needed only Dreyfus' signature to become law.

A spokesman for the governor said today that legislative analysts from the Department of Administration had assured Dreyfus earlier that there was no conflict between federal military regulations and the bill.

However, the spokesman added that, in light of Erickson's call, "we're going to continue getting legal opinions before the governor gets back on Thursday."

Clarenbach said federal law supercedes state law "under all circumstances." He said that if the federal regulations are interpreted to mean the National Guard cannot accept homosexuals, that portion of the bill simply could not be applied.

FEB 19 1982

31 Little opposition claimed as state gay rights bill passes

By ARTHUR L. SRB
Of The Associated Press

MADISON — Only a couple of legislative sessions ago, a gay rights bill which breezed through the Senate this week would have died a quick, publicly unlamented death.

This time, instead of tying the lawmakers up in debate for hours, the bill sailed through the Senate on a voice vote with no discussion.

Opponents, who attacked the bill off the floor, appeared resigned to the fact the measure would pass.

What happened to reduce so significantly the opposition to a proposal to ban discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals in employment, housing and public accommodations?

"Religious leaders," says

Commentary

Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, a champion of affirmative action and gay rights causes.

Clarenbach, 28, veteran of four Assembly terms, said much opposition to the bill crumbled when clergymen and women testified at hearings that they could not support discrimination against persons because of their sexual preferences.

"It was the principle that no minority should be discriminated against," Clarenbach said.

It would be a landmark bill, Clarenbach said, because no other state has adopted such a law. California, Michigan and Pennsylvania have similar laws on the books, but they were en-

acted by executive order, he said.

The Senate returned the bill to the Assembly, where it had been intensely debated earlier, for expected approval in an amendment stating employers need not hire a specified percentage of homosexuals to be in compliance with the proposed law.

Opposition was expected to surface in the Assembly again from Rep. Joseph Tregoning, R-Shullsburg, who said he will urge Gov. Lee Dreyfus to veto it should it reach his desk.

"It's going to create problems," Tregoning said, noting that the bill applies to the Wisconsin National Guard as well as to state civil service and state contractors.

"There are those of us who think the state's gone far enough in the area of job discrimination," Tregoning said. "Why should we make it more difficult for employers to hire the kind of people they want?"

Continued on A-2

Sen. David Opitz, R-Port Washington, who made an unsuccessful motion to kill the bill in the Senate, echoed Tregoning's sentiments, saying he believed the measure will create unnecessary headaches for management.

"If you have an incompetent homosexual on your staff, you will have to get some trumped-up charge to fire him," Opitz said.

He said the legislation suggests state government is "sanctioning an aberrant behavior."

"We have a non-fornication statute, yet we are saying that homosexuality is acceptable," Opitz said.

Tregoning, who led the

fight against the bill in the Assembly, where it passed 49-46, said he was sorry that senators opposed the measure made no effort to scuttle it.

Senators voting with Opitz to kill the bill were Democrats Kurt Frank of Milwaukee, John Maurer of Kenosha, Marvin Roshell of Chippewa Falls and Jerome Van Sistine of Green Bay, and Republicans Everett Bidwell of Portage, Walter Chilsen of Wausau, Donald Hanaway of De Pere, James Harsdorf of Beldenville, Richard Kreul of Fennimore, Clifford Krueger of Merrill, Alan Lasee of De Pere and Daniel Theno of Ashland.

Against killing the bill were Democrats Lynn Adelman of New Berlin, William Bablitch of Stevens Point, David Berger and Warren Braun, both of Milwaukee, Timothy Cullen of Janes-

ville, James Flynn of West Allis, Gary George of Milwaukee, Thomas Harnisch of Neillsville, Gerald Kleczka and James Moody, both of Milwaukee, and Paul Ofner of La Crosse.

Homosexuality bill draws opposition

By Eldon Knoche
Sentinel Madison Bureau

Madison — Gov. Dreyfus' office fielded 370 telephone calls in 6½ hours Friday, mostly in opposition to a bill prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals.

The calls apparently were triggered by statements broadcast by at least two Christian radio stations, WVCY-FM in Milwaukee and WNWC-FM in Madison.

Dreyfus' office said the callers, most of whom were from the Milwaukee area, opposed the bill by a 350-20 count.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), would prohibit discrimination in housing, jobs and public accommodations based on a person's sexual preference.

Sue Riordan, Dreyfus' media coordinator, said many of the callers said they believed "they would be forced to rent to homosexuals."

Vic Eliason, executive director at WVCY, said people at the station learned earlier this week that the bill was on Dreyfus' desk and, "in response to community pressure," opened the station's hour-long call-in show Friday afternoon to discussion of the measure.

"They raised this question and we let them talk about it," he said, adding that the governor's office phone number was given on the air.

Steve Sorensen, production director at WNWC, said he opposed the bill because it "could violate freedom of conscience."

He said someone called the station and gave the governor's number for listeners to call.

The bill cleared the Senate and Assembly earlier this week.

Riordan said Dreyfus had not decided whether to sign the measure.

MS
2/20/82

Radio stations spur calls to governor

Sentinel Madison Bureau

Madison — Gov. Dreyfus' office received more than 600 telephone calls Monday concerning a bill that would prohibit discrimination against homosexuals.

By late in the day, 406 callers had registered their support for the bill, while 216 opposed it. Many apparently were spurred by announcements over WORT-FM, a listener-supported station in Madison.

Last Friday, the governor's office received 370 calls after comments on the bill by two Christian radio stations, WVCY-FM in Milwaukee and WNWC-FM in Madison. The total that day was 350 against the bill and 20 in favor.

The bill, which awaits action by Dreyfus, would prohibit discrimination in housing, jobs and public accommodations based on a person's sexual preference.

Terry FitzPatrick, WORT-FM news director, said interested persons may place whatever they want on the station's announcement board. It is up to individual programmers to read the messages on the air if they wish.

A Dreyfus aide said a priest at St. Paul's Catholic Church on the University of Wisconsin — Madison campus has urged persons to call Dreyfus asking him to sign the bill.

2/23 Milw Sent.

CARDINAL OPINION

AB 70 is essential to lesbian and gay rights

"THEY'RE LEWD," "THEY molest small children," "They'll claim discrimination and you'll never be able to fire them," — these are just a few of the slurs heard on religious radio shows this past weekend. These quotes are an effort by intolerant opponents of Assembly Bill 70 to discredit lesbians and gay men. The insulting misnomers spurt from the mouths of the moral minority most loudly when their narrow beliefs are being challenged. And they're challenged now.

AB 70 would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in the entire state of Wisconsin. Its passage would be a landmark decision which would set a national precedent and according to Barbara Lightner of the Madison United, "it would prove that the (alleged) moral majority isn't all it's cracked up to be."

Many Madison residents believe the City's Equal Opportunities Ordinance is adequate protection for lesbians and gay men. It's not. Granted, the law does prohibit discrimina-

tion in employment, housing, credit, city facilities and public accommodations. The law does not, however, prevent landlords from evicting tenants they disapprove of, nor does it protect individuals who are employed by the state. This means that anyone working for the University (professors, instructors, work-study students, clerical workers, maintenance staff), individuals employed in Wisconsin schools and other government workers can legally be discriminated against purely on the basis of their sexual preference. AB 70 would fill this loophole.

Opposition to AB 70 is great and is coming largely from religious leaders who have slandered the bill through their radio shows. Additional outrage has emerged from military personnel who fear the entrance of gay men into their ranks. This fear, according to Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, sponsor of the bill, is unfounded because the military could be excluded from the bill's boundaries.

THE MUCH-NEEDED LAW

"THOSE WHO LIVE BY THE SWORD, SHALL DIE BY THE SWORD."



er hungry fundamentalists could now awaits Gov. Dreyfus' ye or nay, but you have the power to help determine the fate of lesbians and gay men in Wisconsin. With your support, via a simple phone call, these human rights violations can be stamped out. Without it, the pow-

er hungry fundamentalists could scoop a horrifying victory.

Call 266-1212 and voice your approval of AB 70. Put an end to the appalling actions of a voiciferous minority. A victory for AB 70 is a victory for all of us.

WST 2/23/82

State's 'sexual-orientation' bill may conflict with military rules

Associated Press

A Wisconsin National Guard spokesman said Monday there may be a conflict between federal military regulations that prohibit homosexuals from serving in the armed forces and a new state bill awaiting the governor's signature.

Chief Warrant Officer Donald Erickson, a National Guard spokesman, said he has notified the governor's office that Army and Air Force regulations may preclude homosexuals from enlisting in the state National Guard.

The bill, which passed through the Senate last week and awaits Gov. Lee Dreyfus' signature, would amend the

state's fair-employment law to add "sexual orientation" to the list of grounds on which employers are not allowed to discriminate in hiring practices.

The bill's author, Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, has said the new law would apply to all state agencies, firms that do business with the state and the National Guard.

A spokesman for the governor said Monday that legislative analysts had assured Dreyfus earlier there was no conflict between federal military regulations and the bill.

c.t. 2/23/82

Callers, radio stations sparring over bill for homosexual rights

By DAN ALLEGRETTI
Capital Times Staff Writer

A bill to outlaw discrimination in Wisconsin on the basis of "sexual orientation" apparently is becoming a major religious issue, spurred on by what a governor's aide calls a "battle of the radio stations."

The governor's office has received thousands of phone calls and letters since the bill was passed by the State Senate last week, with most of the opposition based on the Bible.

"The main concern (of those opposed to the bill) is that homosexuality is outlawed in the Bible," Susan Riordan, an aide to Gov. Lee Dreyfus, said today.

On the other hand, much of the favorable response to the measure has come from religious organizations, she said.

The author of the bill, State Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, has been fighting for its passage for eight years and attributes its success in the Legislature this session to support from "mainstream" religious leaders, especially the Catholic Church in Wisconsin.

On Friday, Christian radio stations in Madison and Milwaukee broadcast discussions of the bill and triggered some 400 calls to the governor's office, overwhelmingly opposing the measure.

Then on Monday, Madison radio station WORT got into the act and spurred more than 600 calls to the governor's office. Those calls ran about 2-1 in favor of the measure.

"It looks to me like a battle of the radio stations, the Christian stations versus WORT," Riordan said of the massive response to the bill. WORT is a listener-sponsored, progressive-oriented station that on Monday broadcast news and public service announcements about the measure, including the governor's phone number.

The bill needs only the governor's signature to become law. It would make Wisconsin the first state to "enact by statute an anti-discrimination measure based on sexual orientation," Clarenbach said.

A letter to the governor from a Black River Falls resident, which Riordan said was representative of the opposition viewpoint, said,

he said. "It would be directly in conflict with Catholic teaching to deny these people equal rights."

Clarenbach said the bill would prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in virtually all areas of housing and employment. "It does not legalize homosexuality any more than one must legally endorse any particular religion in order to defend protections against religious discrimination," he said.

"Simply to be, in one's private life, either homosexual or heterosexual should not be a ground for dismissal or for denial of employment," he said.

The only areas in which the bill may not apply are where it conflicts with federal law, as with the Wisconsin National Guard, which is under federal jurisdiction and prohibits "overt homosexuality."

Some of the concerns frequently expressed by opponents of the bill who called the governor's office were that they might be required to rent to homosexuals, and that schools might be forced to hire homosexuals, Riordan said.

She said the governor's staff is currently studying the bill to determine how it would apply in such situations. Margaret Lewis, Dreyfus' legislative liaison, said, "I know the governor has said he doesn't care if a teacher is homosexual or heterosexual, he doesn't think sex should be brought into the classroom."

Clarenbach said the law definitely would forbid schools, including private schools, from discriminating against homosexuals in hiring teachers. It also would protect homosexuals from discrimination in renting and all other forms of housing, as well as in all private employment, he said.

MJ 2/24/82

Phones ring on gay rights

Madison — More than 900 telephone calls about a homosexual anti-discrimination bill tied up the Gov. Dreyfus' phones and staff again Tuesday.

There were 546 calls for the bill and 364 against it.

The calls brought the three-day total to 1,902 — 972 for and 930 against — since two Christian radio stations, WNWC-FM in Madison and WVCY-FM in Milwaukee, publicized the bill, which passed the Legislature last week.

Later, Madison's WORT-FM joined what Dreyfus' media coordinator, Sue Riordan, referred to as "the battle of the radio stations."

Calls have been coming from all over the state, she said, prompted not only by the radio stations but by news stories about the calls, which began Friday.

"It pretty well has tied us up," Riordan said.

MJ 2/24/82

Gay rights issue keeps governor's phone ringing

Madison, Wis. —AP— The governor's office is being deluged with telephone calls concerning a bill that would prohibit discrimination in housing and employment against homosexuals, aides to Gov. Dreyfus said Tuesday.

William Kraus, Dreyfus' communications aide, said the executive office had received hundreds of calls Friday after religious radio broadcasts in Madison and Milwaukee carried discussions of the gay rights bill.

The office said the calls ran about 350-20 against the bill.

The staff got about 600 more calls Monday after a University of Wisconsin campus clergyman and another Madison station issued opinions on the bill, and said the vote by comparison was almost 2-1 in favor of having Dreyfus sign the bill into law.

Kraus said office telephones were

just as busy Tuesday, with calls about evenly divided between supporters and opponents.

"It is just a deluge. We are not getting anything else done around here," he said.

Kraus said he hoped that Dreyfus would act on the bill as soon as possible, if only to rescue the staff.

Susan Riordan, another Dreyfus aide, said most opponents of the bill based their opposition on the Bible. Yet much of the favorable response has come from religious organizations, she said.

Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), author of the bill, said that if Dreyfus signed the bill, Wisconsin would become the first state to "enact by statute an anti-discrimination measure based on sexual orientation."

c.T 2/23/82

Callers, radio stations sparring over bill for homosexual rights

By DAN ALLEGRETTI
Capital Times Staff Writer

A bill to outlaw discrimination in Wisconsin on the basis of "sexual orientation" apparently is becoming a major religious issue, spurred on by what a governor's aide calls a "battle of the radio stations."

The governor's office has received thousands of phone calls and letters since the bill was passed by the State Senate last week, with most of the opposition based on the Bible.

"The main concern (of those opposed to the bill) is that homosexuality is outlawed in the Bible," Susan Riordan, an aide to Gov. Lee Dreyfus, said today.

On the other hand, much of the favorable response to the measure has come from religious organizations, she said.

The author of the bill, State Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, has been fighting for its passage for eight years and attributes its success in the Legislature this session to support from "mainstream" religious leaders, especially the Catholic Church in Wisconsin.

On Friday, Christian radio stations in Madison and Milwaukee broadcast discussions of the bill and triggered some 400 calls to the governor's office, overwhelmingly opposing the measure.

Then on Monday, Madison radio station WORT got into the act and spurred more than 600 calls to the governor's office. Those calls ran about 2-1 in favor of the measure.

"It looks to me like a battle of the radio stations, the Christian stations versus WORT," Riordan said of the massive response to the bill. WORT is a listener-sponsored, progressive-oriented station that on Monday broadcast news and public service announcements about the measure, including the governor's phone number.

The bill needs only the governor's signature to become law. It would make Wisconsin the first state to "enact by statute an anti-discrimination measure based on sexual orientation," Clarenbach said.

A letter to the governor from a Black River Falls resident, which Riordan said was representative of the opposition viewpoint, said, "Homosexuality and lesbianism are condemned by God and I fear for Wisconsin if this (bill) should pass."

But Rev. Stephan Umhoefer, pastor of St. Paul's University Catholic Center, said there is "no Biblical interpretation that would stand in the way of (homosexuals') rights, and certainly no (Catholic) church teaching that would deny them their rights."

While the Catholic Church does not endorse homosexuality, "it would be immoral to deny them their rights,"

he said. "It would be directly in conflict with Catholic teaching to deny these people equal rights."

Clarenbach said the bill would prohibit discrimination against homosexuals in virtually all areas of housing and employment. "It does not legalize homosexuality any more than one must legally endorse any particular religion in order to defend protections against religious discrimination," he said.

"Simply to be, in one's private life, either homosexual or heterosexual should not be a ground for dismissal or for denial of employment," he said.

The only areas in which the bill may not apply are where it conflicts with federal law, as with the Wisconsin National Guard, which is under federal jurisdiction and prohibits "overt homosexuality."

Some of the concerns frequently expressed by opponents of the bill who called the governor's office were that they might be required to rent to homosexuals, and that schools might be forced to hire homosexuals, Riordan said.

She said the governor's staff is currently studying the bill to determine how it would apply in such situations. Margaret Lewis, Dreyfus' legislative liaison, said, "I know the governor has said he doesn't care if a teacher is homosexual or heterosexual, he doesn't think sex should be brought into the classroom."

Clarenbach said the law definitely would forbid schools, including private schools, from discriminating against homosexuals in hiring teachers. It also would protect homosexuals from discrimination in renting and all other forms of housing, as well as in all private employment, he said.

W57 2/24/82

Gay-rights bill triggers phone deluge

The governor's office is being "deluged" with citizens' calls on a bill to prohibit discrimination against homosexuals, aides to Gov. Lee Dreyfus said Tuesday.

"Our life has been ruined," a harried William Kraus complained.

Kraus, Dreyfus' communications aide, said the executive office received 300 calls Friday, the day religious radio stations in Madison and Milwaukee broadcast discussions of the bill, which lacks only the governor's signature to become law.

Staff members took another 600 calls Monday and were about as busy Tuesday, Kraus said.

"It's just a deluge. We're not getting anything else done around here," he said. "It's enormously tiring and distracting."

WORT, a Madison listener-sponsored radio station, got into the act Monday and spurred several hundred calls. Calls that day ran about 2-1 in favor of the bill.

"It looks to me like a battle of the radio stations — the Christian stations versus WORT," aide Susan Riordan said.

Calls are now about evenly divided between supporters and opponents, Kraus said. Although most have come from the Madison and Milwaukee areas, the office has taken calls from all over Wisconsin.

Kraus said he hopes Dreyfus acts on it as soon as possible, to rescue the staff.

Most opponents of the bill have based their opposition on the Bible.

"The main concern (of opponents) is that homosexuality is outlawed in the Bible," Ms. Riordan said.

But much of the favorable response has also come from religious organizations, she added.

Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, author of the bill, has attributed the success of the bill this session to support from what he called "mainstream" religious leaders, especially the Catholic Church in Wisconsin.

He said if Dreyfus signs the bill, Wisconsin will become the first state to "enact by statute an anti-discrimination measure based on sexual orientation."

The bill may not apply in instances in which it conflicts with federal law, as with the Wisconsin National Guard.

IN THE NEWS

WIN! WISCONSIN!!!

Wisconsin State Representative David E. Clarenbach notified THE VOICE that his Assembly Bill 70 has passed both houses of the legislature and should be signed into law by Republican Governor Lee Sherman Dryfuss within a few days. The bill was "enrolled" for the Governor's signature on February 18, 1982 after an attempt to defeat an amendment failed on a "non-concurrence" vote in the Senate. The Bill had passed by a voice vote, and there was considerable support.

THE VOICE got a detailed explanation of the legislation directly from Clarenbach. His description is as follows:

Assembly Bill 70 would extend the state's prohibition on discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations because of political or religious opinion or affiliation, age, sex, handicap, race, color, national origin and ancestry to include sexual orientation.

The question this proposal raises is: Why should any person be denied a job, a home, or the use of a public place because he or she is a homosexual? All over the country, state legislatures and municipal governments are eliminating archaic laws that permit discrimination against gay men and lesbians. The city of Madison, Dane County and most recently, Milwaukee, have added sexual orientation to their discrimi-

The state of Wisconsin needs to grant homosexuals, as we have other minorities, that extra protection to realize basic rights that most take for granted.

In getting support from the various religious organizations indicated by Clarenbach, it should be noted that none were altering the fundamental tenants of the religions involved; but were merely taking a logical, human position. For example, The Most Reverend Rembert G. Weaklan, O.S.B., Archbishop of Milwaukee, wrote to the Office for Human Concerns, which supported the legislation: "I feel that your commission can in good conscience support this legislation insofar as it bans discrimination because of sexual orientation in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

"You will recall that the National Conference of Catholic Bishops spoke to this issue in 1976. There has been no change in the Catholic position concerning homosexual activity, which has always been considered as morally wrong; on the other hand, it has also been consistent with Catholic teaching that homosexuals should not be deprived of their basic human rights. For this reason I feel that support of this Bill would be indeed proper and consistent with previous positions that the Church has taken."

Methodist Bishop Marjorie S. Mathews, of Wisconsin quoted a principle adopted by the 1980 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, in support of the Bill.

"Homosexual persons no less than heterosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth, who need the ministry and guidance of the church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship which enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self. Further we insist that all persons are entitled to have their human and civil rights insured, though we do not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching."



They're calling Dreyfus

Church groups assail sex orientation bill

By Mike Plaisted
of the Cardinal Staff

A bill that would outlaw discrimination in hiring and housing on the basis of sexual orientation has provoked an average of 800 phone calls a day to Gov. Lee S. Dreyfus attempting to persuade him to either sign or veto the bill.

A spokesperson for the governor, however, said Dreyfus has already decided on the bill's merits, regardless of the calls. She gave no indication what action he plans to take.

ASSEMBLY BILL 70, the first of its kind in the nation, was passed by both the

Assembly and Senate last week.

Most of the phone calls have been prompted by several Christian radio stations in the state. Last Friday, Christian stations in Madison, Milwaukee, and Racine began broadcasting "public service announcements" urging listeners to call the governor's office with comments on the bill. According to Greg Walters, assistant manager of station WNWC in Madison, the announcements expressed no opinions on the merits of the bill.

Some people, however, who have called the station for clarification of the announcement, have been told that the bill would force school systems to seek out and hire homosexuals. There are also unconfirmed reports that such comments have gone out over the air.

Walters denied this has happened, at least in Madison. He said the mostly negative response to the bill reported by the governor's office (65 percent of the callers oppose the bill) was a result of the natural inclination of Christian radio listeners to be against this type of legislation. Walters said the announcement was being read twice every three hours.

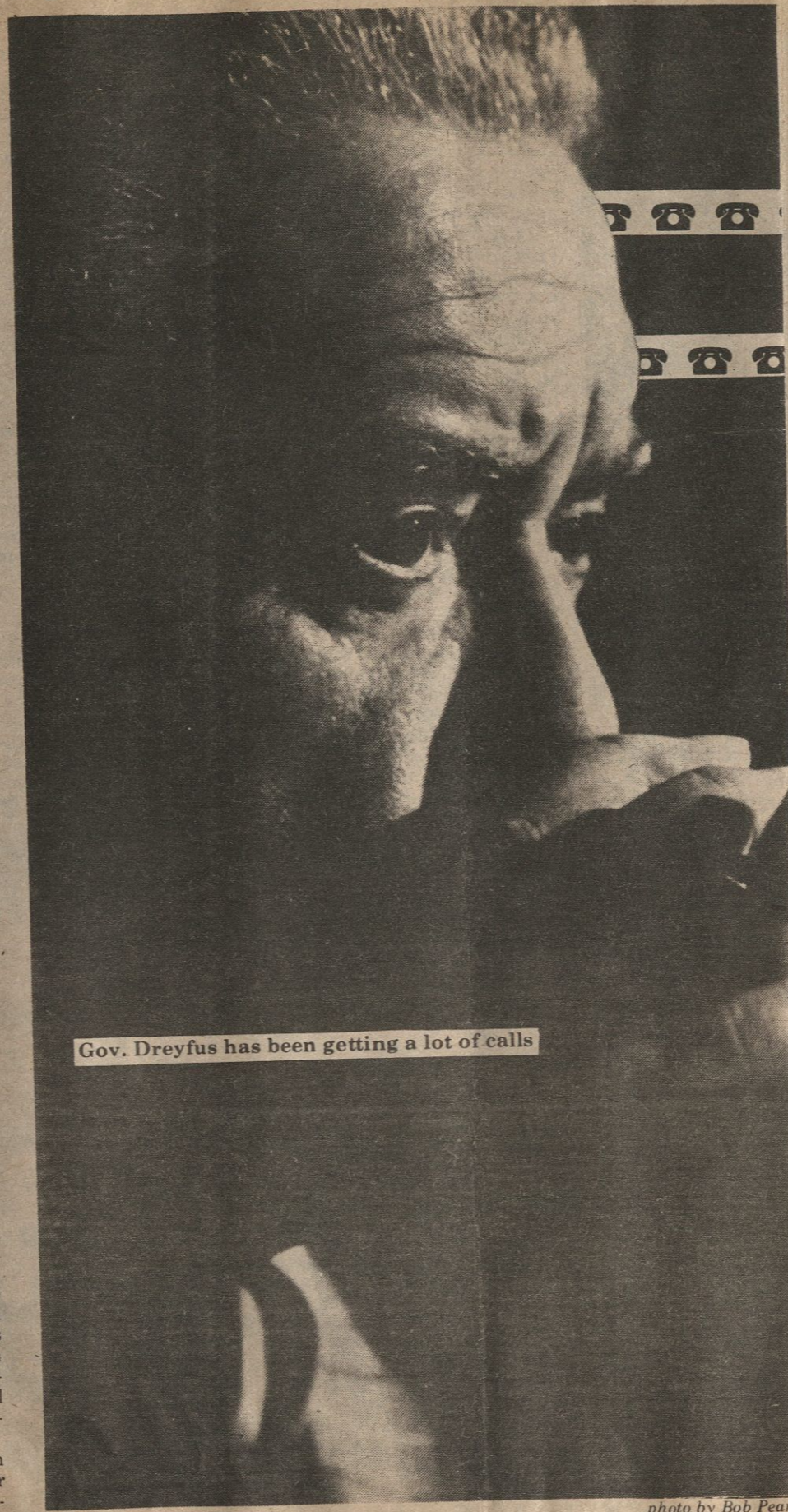
SINCE FRIDAY, GROUPS in favor of AB 70 have also begun encouraging supporters of the bill to call the governor's office. To register your opinion with the governor, call 266-1212.

While the opinions of people calling in

are always a consideration for the governor, a spokesperson for the governor said Tuesday that Dreyfus had already decided what to do with the bill before the "phone war" began. The spokesperson, Tracy Ellingson, said that Dreyfus, who has been in Washington all week, would act on the bill at the end of this week.

Prospects for the governor's signature appear to be good. Ellingson reported Dreyfus sees AB 70 as a "human rights issue." This is also the justification given by the "mainstream" churches, whose support was largely responsible for the bill getting through the Assembly and the Senate.

Although Dreyfus has recently drawn praise from the Reagan administration for his support of its economic policies, Elling-



Gov. Dreyfus has been getting a lot of calls

photo by Bob Pearl

son saw no reason for Dreyfus to back Reagan on social issues. This statement appears to eliminate concern that the governor would veto the bill simply to toe the Reagan line.

ONE EASY WAY OUT for the governor is to let the bill become law without his signature. This would happen next Tuesday if Dreyfus chooses not to act. Ellingson said this was not likely because it was "not the governor's style."

The bill's chief sponsor, State Rep. David Clarenbach, D-Madison, is anxiously awaiting action by the governor. Clarenbach, who has been trying to get the state to adopt the anti-discrimination bill for eight years, credits the support of the "mainstream" churches for getting AB 70 through both houses of the legislature. This is the first year churches have supported the bill in writing.

Also important to the bill's passage and possible signature by Dreyfus was an amendment eliminating the need for quotas in hiring and housing. Clarenbach said affirmative action was never a part of the bill, but there was concern that it could have been read into the bill in the future.

Another minor obstacle to the bill arose this Monday, when a spokesperson for the Wisconsin National Guard said there may be a conflict between the provisions of AB 70 and federal military regulations that prohibit homosexuals from serving in the armed forces.

ANALYSTS FROM THE Dept. of Administration, however, have reportedly assured Dreyfus there is no conflict between federal regulations and the bill.

Clarenbach dismissed this potential problem. He said that since federal regulations supersede state laws in all circumstances, the law would simply not be applied to hiring practices of the National Guard.

Clarenbach has also questioned the interpretation of the regulations. They state that someone can be denied enlistment with the National Guard because of "overt homosexuality." Clarenbach contends the "overt" homosexual or heterosexual behavior is a legitimate basis for denial of employment.

The most obvious immediate effect of the AB 70's enactment would be in hiring and housing. But to Clarenbach the main effect is more subtle. He sees changing attitudes coming in the future as a result of AB 70. In the civil rights movement, he said civil rights came first, followed by a gradual erosion of racial hatred. He said he hopes this law will do the same to open up people to healthier attitudes about homosexuals.