

# Cranston Introduces Language Bill <sup>13</sup>

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) has introduced legislation to repeal language in the Immigration and Nationality Act used to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

The bill, S.2210, would repeal Section 212 (a) (4), which provides for exclusion of "aliens afflicted with psychopathic personality, sexual deviation, or mental defect." The bill goes on to re-insert "aliens afflicted with psychopathic or mental defect."

Cranston, in his introductory remarks, stressed both the difficulty of enforcing the current law and its unfairness. He said the inconsistent enforcement of the law is arbitrary and inequitable.

"The law rewards dishonesty,

lying and hypocritical subterfuge. It punishes self-respect, honesty and openness.

"Simple fairness demands that we put an end to a form of discrimination that not only is intellectually unsound and medically unjustifiable but which also violates traditional American respect for the right of privacy and the dignity of the individual."

The Cranston bill follows efforts to end the immigration discrimination through administrative remedy. Steve Endean, Gay Rights National Lobby executive director, said that the introduction of legislation should not conflict with efforts made by other groups.

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## Scandinavian

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"There is now common-law recognition of gay couples. This is important because of a critical housing shortage, and gay couples now have the same status as common-law heterosexual couples.

"This recognition of gay couples includes immigrant status as well," Fitzgerald says.

In Finland, gay activism started during the November Movement of 1966. Homosexuality was later decriminalized in 1971.

Although in Sweden, the New Lesbian Front, active since 1976, is extremely separatist, women and men work together in Finland.

"As far as the feminist movement is concerned, it is almost unrecognized in Finland," Fitzgerald says.

A major obstacle to Finnish gay rights stems from censorship laws. "There is essentially a paradox of laws. Prior to the decriminalization of homosexuality, people could talk about gayness. But now, it's not permitted to be discussed in public.

"Although negative mentions of gayness are permitted in mass media, positive ones are not.

"One reason that fighting back is hard is that any reaction against oppression in Finland is legally considered 'querulously paranoid.'"

Gay activist goals in Finland include trying to remove such sickness labels, to change the age of consent from 18 to 15 years of age, and to work for equality for gay people.

### Contact Numbers

Carolina Gay Association (UNC-CH) - Women call 967-2189; men, 929-4997.  
Chapel Hill Women's Potluck - 942-6886.  
Dignity/Integrity - 929-3730.  
Human Sexuality Information & Counseling Service (UNC-CH) - 933-5505.  
Monandrous Gays - 942-3909.  
Triangle Area Lesbian Feminists - 942-6886.  
Triangle Area Gay Scientists - 967-9626 or 942-3909.  
Duke Gay Alliance - 684-3043.  
Gay Students Union (UNC-G) - 274-4442

Raleigh

Dignity - 833-2007  
Gay Gathering - 834-3302  
Metropolitan Community Church - 832-1582  
Raleigh Women's Coffeehouse - 832-8565  
Triangle Area Gay Communication & Planning Committee - 834-3302