

May 4, 1993

Statement of Hon. Floyd Spence, South Carolina

(1) ...Of particular interest was the finding that 7 out of 10 women polled believed that violence would likely come about if the ban were lifted.

In an unpublished internal poll conducted by one of the military services, 80 percent of the enlisted personnel polled believed that lifting the ban would hurt recruiting, 85 percent anticipated increased disciplinary problems, and 78 percent expressed discomfort at the notion of sharing communal facilities....

How can sentiment of this intensity against the lifting of the ban not negatively impact cohesion, discipline, and morale? 2

Statement of Dr. Paul Sherry, President, United Church of Christ

(2) ...prejudice should not, should never determine policy. Much of the rationale for keeping the current ban centers on what it will do to unit morale, unit cohesion, mutual trust, recruitment, and retention. In other words, the current ban is based on how the military believes straight soldiers will react to openly gay and lesbian soldiers. The military fears the prejudice of its own troops. The ban assumes that homophobia is in control and that commanders are either unwilling or unable to change that. 26

QUESTIONS

(3) **Mr. Hunter:** ...they see the acts of fighting for their country as being consistent with their own set or moral values....

...people believe the code [uniform code of military justice] is essentially correct and they believe their rejection of homosexuality is a value that is and should be acceptable.

Everybody's comments today...have been to the effect that if you as a young man or woman who wears a uniform, reject homosexuality and don't want to be working with homosexuals, you are prejudiced.... Nobody has acknowledged in the least that that person might have the right to keep that value and consider it a legitimate value as opposed to the prejudices that were held in the past against people of different skin colors. 40

(4) **Mr. Batemen:** I don't believe that it would be appropriate for me to legislate some specially protected rights for people who profess to be homosexuals on the grounds that it is a civil liberty to which they are entitled. By doing so I will deprive people of rights which

they believe exist which give them the right not to be forced to associate with or have certain relations with people who are homosexuals. I think we have to be concerned about that. 48-49

(5) Mr. Edwards: ...what policy would you put in place should a heterosexual soldier choose or not want to live in a barracks with a homosexual? 55

Ms. Domi: I would say this is your squad, and this is a fellow squad member. You are going to have to learn how to work it out. 56

(6) Mr. Kyl: The point is that the President's proposal is not controversial because he want homosexuals to remain in the closet. It is controversial because the President has proposed service by openly homosexual individuals.

In my view, the differences between the two are enormous as they are important....

...We agree that homosexuals have served and continue to serve, but it is the other side of the issue that is in question. Mainly what happens when homosexuals serve openly and what effect do openly serving homosexuals have on discipline and the general well being of the military. 62

(7) Mr. Lancaster: ...there seems to be an increased number of incidents involving violence against gays in the military. Certainly there are threats that this will be the case if the ban is finally lifted.

First of all, is this a legitimate concern? If it is a legitimate concern, how do we go about protecting the gay members of the military who do feel comfortable in making their preference public? 67

(8) Mrs. Lloyd: ...We do know that heterosexual animosity toward homosexuals is real, it is a fact of society, and we can't legislate it away by an act of Congress. So how would you respond to heterosexuals who enlisted and now say my civil rights are being violated, so I would like to no longer be associated with the military. 69

Ms. Domi: If they decide to leave because they are so repelled by who the person is, not their conduct, then I think the military has in effect failed because that is really what we do in the military. We bring people together from all walks of life and we give them a mission and a job, and some kind of value about loving and defending this country. 70

(9) Mr. Buyer: ...you cloaked homosexuality as acceptable morality.... for some reason, those who do not view homosexuality as morally acceptable, are somehow immoral...

What you are asking this Armed Services Committee to do is declare homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle by forcing it upon the military. 74-75

Statement of Master CPO Chuck Jackson, USN (Ret.), Non-Commissioned Officers Association

(10) Recruiting and retention of homosexuals would force upon others tolerance of a lifestyle many consider abnormal and totally unacceptable...

...military members willingly accept some abridgment of their freedom of speech, their right to privacy, and control over their living and working conditions. These are all personal prices paid on a daily basis. Further erosion of these rights, particularly in the area of privacy and living conditions, to accommodate the enlistment of homosexuals would be devastating. 84

Statement of Col. John Ripley, USMC, Retired, The Retired Officers Association

(11) I myself carry a very serious disease because of having been immersed in the blood of those around me. I am disable because of this and it came from normal circumstances, not those imposed on me by the forced perversion of homosexuals being around me....

To think that these walking depositories of disease--this alone would be imposed on the battlefield--is beyond shocking and virtually defies logic whatsoever...

...men will not do this. If you impose that in combat on us, this sort of situation, men will not look after each other. I can tell you that as firmly as I sit here. Men will not look after a bleeding known homosexual. They will not care for him. 90-91

(12) Well, normal Americans, decent Americans will simply not support this kind of activity. They will prevent their children, their sons, their daughters, from joining the military. 91

(13) I can tell you as a Marine you will virtually destroy the Marine Corps by imposing on us this deviation of values which we hold dear, which we have fought for and which we know to be proper....You are asking us to look the other way, ignoring a practice we feel deviant, destructive and in conflict with American and God-fearing values. We cannot do this. 92

Statement of Brig. Gen. William Weise, USMC, Retired

(14) What happens to unit cohesion, when its members are forced to accept individuals who openly espouse a lifestyle many consider dangerous to themselves and others--a lifestyle contrary to deeply held personal values? Distrust replaces camaraderie, morale plummets, men feel threatened and very uncomfortable, cohesion and readiness decline. 105

Statement of Chaplain Brig. Gen. James M. Hutchens, ARNG
(Ret.), Associate Director, Chaplains Commission, National
Association of Evangelicals

(15) Anything that threatens the cohesion and bonding of soldiers together as the presence of the avowed homosexuals invariably does, particularly in combat, adversely affects the soldier's morale and thus his combat effectiveness. To disregard the moral values instilled in the basic religious upbringing of the vast majority of out service members will invariably diminish unit readiness. People in combat do not want to be in a life and death environment with those with whom they cannot bond morally. A lowering of morals brings a lowering of morale, a lower trust, and as a result a lowering in the will to fight. 143

(16) ...If the ban on homosexuals in the military is lifted..., I could not with clear conscience nor would I encourage my son or anyone else's son or daughter to go into the military.... If the exclusion policy is lifted, be assured that those with conviction of moral values based on religious beliefs would provide a modern-day exodus from the Egypt of the military. 143-44

(17) ...It is against the faith and religious beliefs of those that follow the Bible to condone homosexuality. Many, if not most service members, share these religious beliefs about homosexuality. It is from these and similar biblical teachings which have shaped the moral values and commitments of millions of Americans, that much of the support of the exclusionary ban on the homosexual in the military comes. 144-45

QUESTIONS

(18) Master Chief Jackson: I would say overwhelmingly, far more than 90 percent are all opposed to the idea of lifting the ban; to the point that many career individuals have made the statement that they don't know if they will continue....The recruiters pointed out that they are beginning to have difficulties. 158

(19) Colonel Ripley: ...all Marines see this as deviant, immoral behavior. They see it as perverted. 158

(20) General Weise: quoting a Marine sergeant, "If the ban on homosexuals is lifted and I was confronted with the same situation [a bleeding soldier] involving a known homosexual, the fear of contracting AIDS alone would prevent me from helping him." 159

(21) Mrs. Schroeder: I also find it very interesting that we keep talking about polls, but I am sure none of you ran

your units by polls. 163

(22) Mr. Bateman: It is denying to people who are the great majority of this country the right to act according to their belief in what is moral conduct and to react to that which they regard as immoral conduct...

They do not think that the armed services of the United States and the people in those armed services should have their privacy and their rights abused by being forced into association with people who are generally regarded as engaging in immoral conduct. 167

(23) Chaplain Hutchens: ...But the reason that there is such an uproar over this is really two reasons, I think.

Number one, there is just the visceral response that I don't like this in my nature. But I think the other reason is because people's attitude toward this has been shaped by their religious upbringing and the morals that come from that. 168

(24) Master Chief Jackson: You will have more openly serving, of course, homosexuals then; and I would have to agree with you that there is a large percentage of individuals who have a propensity toward violence in that regard. 170-71

Mr. Lancaster: How do we guard against that? Assuming that it is against the law and should not be allowed to happen. 171

Master Chief Jackson: ...I think it would require a great deal more vigilance, which is almost an impossible leadership task, but that is what it would take. 171

Colonel Ripley: I learned as a very young officer a rule that is not codified or written in any red book and was called the Queers, Cowards and Thieves Rule....Any time one of those individuals is discovered in the unit, the immediate response of the commander...it to isolate the individual to protect him....

...once en route to the Med., aboard ship, when a man didn't show up for morning quarters. It was determined that he was a well-known homosexual, and he went over the side. Of course, we conducted an investigation. We do all the proper things. But the fact is, this man is gone. 171

(25) Mr. Kyl: It is hard to make people think something differently than what they have been brought up to think....

I think the point is that, despite orders from above, you can't easily tell people what to think, and what they think will affect what they do. That is what concerns me about a policy that would, in effect, require members serving to accept a different point of view than what they have been brought up to believe or to accept the proposition that openly homosexual men, for example, do not engage in homosexual acts, which, of course, would not be easy to persuade someone of. 175

(26) Chaplain Hutchens: You are trying to change people's religion in order to make this acceptable, and that is unconstitutional. I think it opens itself up for all kinds of constitutional challenges on this, besides just the resistance to it from people who have been raised in this moral environment and the moral authority of their religion is the Bible, and they clearly understand what it says about the homosexual movement. 177-78.

(27) Mr. Hunter: ...for better or for worse, the majority of the American people, and particularly the conservative people who happen to serve in the military, who maybe are a little more conservative than the rest of the country, open up their Bible, their Judeo-Christian heritage..., and they see, if they read Corinthians or Paul's letter to the Romans, homosexuality is wrong...

...would you comment on the effect this would have on the military mission if we change the ban...

I want you to comment on the rights, because we haven't talked about this much, the rights of the general population of young men and women whom we don't pay a lot of money to, and we move thousands of miles from their homes at ages of 18 or 19 years old, their right to have privacy, if you will, from people who they think practice immoral acts.

Last, I want you to address the questions of recruiting.... If Middle America decides...that the military is no longer a wholesome environment for their children... what effect will that have on recruitment? 179-80

(28) Chaplain Hutchens: If there is a moral virus involved in that, the capacity to accomplish that mission is going to be diminished. I believe the homosexual brings that moral virus into it. 181

(29) General Weise: Forced intimacy, nobody wants to be forced--does a woman want to be forced to sleep among men? Not the typical woman. 181

(30) Chaplain Hutchens: Where there is a difference of religious beliefs, a difference of moral values, I should say, based on religious beliefs which would make it very difficult to have that kind of bonding....The 85 plus percent of military people who feel that the ban should be maintained believe it primarily because they believe it is wrong. That is a moral evaluation, that is a moral judgment. 185

(31) Colonel Ripley: The issue frankly is one you have heard over and over. The right of privacy. What about we put those in a better context, a right of normalcy. Does the normal person, the heterosexual person, the overwhelming majority, the 98 to 99 percent of the Americans in or out of military, do they have a right of normalcy?...

I can't imagine going to the next Marine Corps Birthday Ball and seeing to gunnery sergeants in dress blues dancing with each other. The whole issue of how we assimilate this, how we tolerate that, how do we get beyond the realism of the impact of every single thing we do? 194

(32) Chaplain Hutchens: ...it would be a monumental reprogramming of our moral values, and I use that word, actually it would be a deprogramming and reprogramming. It would be a brainwashing, if you will, because our valued would have to change if this is adopted and if this is accepted in this country....

That is not going to happen. There is a moral base in this country that has been shaped and formed by the religious preferences of people in this country. 194

May 4 Hearing

The CHAIRMAN. You used the term mutiny. That is a powerful term, and because I was sitting here waiting——

Chaplain HUTCHENS. Nonviolent passive.

The CHAIRMAN. You said mutiny. Whether it is violent or non-violent, mutiny is a powerful comment. If you are saying that the total fabric of military service breaks down on this issue to the point of mutiny, that is an extreme statement, and I just want to make sure that that is what the gentleman is saying.

Chaplain HUTCHENS. I said a nonviolent kind of mutiny. That would be resistance to the situation. That is very conceivable to me. I think there are such strong feelings about it, such divisive feelings on this issue.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes, sir.

Colonel RIPLEY. Mr. Chairman, may I say you are hearing it from this panel. It is absolutely dead on. This will happen. We are saying and telling you on this committee, all members, that our judgment is that this will happen. It is a true statement that right now the military is so supercharged and electrified over this that they are prepared to take matters into their own hands. That is my judgment of it, and I think you are hearing that from not just us but from anyone who has had this sort of experience.

Right now, men I know are leaving the military because they don't want to face the extraordinary confrontation that we are discussing. They know what their response would be. They know what their reaction would be, and they simply can't deal with that on a personal basis. So their only choice, regrettably, is to leave.

The CHAIRMAN. Colonel and all of you—Mr. Lancaster raised the issue of violence, and I think he raised the issue—appropriately when he said, what do you think the response of the military would be.