BILL TO OUTLAW MATTACHINE IS HALF WAY THRU CONGRESS

The pot boiling in Viet Nam was anything but cold and the "little war" dragged on at great expense and little gain for the U.S. The conflict in Cyprus was still violent between Turkish and Greek peoples, and America was almost helpless in that, too. Successful moon-shot photos were being analyzed as spacemen plotted potential landing places on the Lunarscape's lifeless craters and plains. In the nation's capital, weary members of Congress were, perhaps, more frustrated than tired—Civil Rights had been passed (and seemingly forgotten), the Poverty Bill was law, and they longed for the milk-and-honey districts which were home for the people who elected them. They longed so much because they wanted to get back there to campaign for the votes which would return them next year to the world's No. 1 political center, where the U.S. Congress made up the foremost legislative body on this planet.

That was the situation of partial con-fusion, considerable unrest and great senselessness in the second week in August in Washington when out of the heap of pressing matters before our national legislature came a rare gem: A bill of at-tack against the Mattachine Society of Washington's membership of 30 (H.R. 5990 by Rep. Dowdy, D., Tex.).

After an hour and ten minutes of debate it passed, 301-81. No less than Rep. McCormick, Speaker of the House, and next in line for the office of President of the United States presided as various members from states like California, North Carolina, New York, etc., argued the measure designed to prohibit Mattachine Society from soliciting funds in the District of Columbia. One would think these august gentlemen would have more pressing matters to debate, but anything seems to go in the August heat and humidity alongside the sluggish grey Potomac. And so it did.

A quirk of circumstance was really responsible for the House of Representatives taking up the merits of what they called "a homosexual organization," rather than any desire to get a "sex bill" on the calendar. The Federal District of Columbia and City of Washington have no city council or municipal board—Congress itself performs that task, acting generally on the recommendations of a committee of congressmen known as the Commissioners for the district of Columbia. Rep. Dowdy, of the East Texas Bible-belt heads that com-mission. Some two years ago he learned that in accordance with law, Mattachine Society of Washington had been granted a license to solicit funds for its educational, research and social service work on behalf of homosexuals, and he was incensed in the utmost. Delivering a tirade on the floor of the House back then, he declared the organization was working against the "laws of God, the laws of nature and the laws of man." He proceeded to read almost the entire constitution of
Mattachine's 14th Annual Auction

STRUPPET'S GALL (Continued from first page)

Tied for Three Years (available at Dorton's, 27.50 and many familiar names and faces appear on its pages: Gene Ruth, T. C. Jones, Don Miller, Tommy Joe, Dave, Gordon, Tommy Hendrix, and Lynn Conner. Two special events: The annual "Dinner" at Orchard House, the Beggar's Ball and the three famous "Spanish" clubs of Peru where the men are men and not for tourists.

THREE WHEELED BIKES are for sale, yellow in a well-painted motorcycle picture. Good things travels are out the comment—that sounds like one sure way to get a nickel.

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MATTACHINE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL CONVENTION ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Mattachine Society's 11th Annual Convention will consider the topic of "Invasion of Privacy" from three standpoints on Saturday afternoon, August 29th.

1. Legal, with W.E. "Duke" Mohler, Jr., of the Frank C. Wood law firm, Los Angeles; and Dean of the law school in the Department of Justice. And Congress is considering the appointment of a commission which would study the preservation of privacy and civil liberties. Mattachine's 11th Annual Conference marks the beginning of such concern in recent years. At the conclusion of the afternoon session there will be refreshments and a "pop"-host dinner will follow in the evening.


3. Technological—A presentation of slides and descriptions of the cases of the many directional microphones, "bugging" devices, etc., by Robert J. Dur- sen.

The conference will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the church on a Sunday morning. The final meeting will be on Saturday afternoon at 4:00. Fees for the evening and midday sessions have been fixed at $1.50, and many have already lowered the $2.00 level to $1.75 per person.

DOWAN TALK—Published now on the inside back page of the semi-annual magazine for worldwide readers, and the semi-annual "Sweatshirt Mailer" for worldwide readers, and semi-annual "Sweatshirt Mailer" for those who can afford it.

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the Mattachine Society into the Congressional Record (which means that now when we want a copy we write to the Government Printing Office for the C.R., Friday July 5, 1963).

Dowdy's bill revised the proceedings for a charitable organization to be licensed for fund solicitation in the district. Although Mattachine's license was legal and proper, H.R. 5990 would not only give the licensing board a chance to deny it, but in doing so would also deny the right to solicit funds for such purposes by CARE (and the press) pointed out as they showed that the bill affected only those organizations in the District which raised and spent more than $1500 in a year. Mattachine in Washington admitted its budget was only around $200, so it wasn't affected by the bill anyway.

In the meantime, the Senate was busy at problems more in keeping with the sound of National Government: it was lopping off $217,000,000 from the foreign aid measure in its lap, a far cry from being hung up on the Mattachine and its $200 budget in the District.

And insofar as Congress' concern about Mattachine activities, ACLU's David Carliner made it plain in the press that no matter how incensed Rep. Dowdy got, the Supreme Court would uphold the constitutional guarantees which the bill would destroy.

Heated Argument

The argument got so heated that Congressmen opposing Mattachine almost lost their reason and were ready to challenge the morality of their colleagues who were not in favor of the unconstitutional resolution.

"Are we going to make the commissioners judges of public morals?" asked Rep. Wm. Ryan (D., N.Y.), who said the Supreme Court would kill the bill.


"Will the gentleman say that he does not condone it?" Rep. Snyder persisted.

Rep. Ryan did not reply, but Rep. Multer (D., N.Y.) said that all who signed the minority report didn't condone Mattachine activities, nor do the Commissioners. But he added that the Supreme Court, in case after case, has ruled that you cannot transform the issuance of a certificate of registration into discretionary power.

The bill now goes to the Senate where no further action is expected, certainly not in this session of Congress.

Missed Target

An interesting sidelight on the bill was the fact that for all of Rep. Dowdy's zeal he missed the target. This his colleagues (and the press) pointed out as they showed that the bill affected only those organizations in the District which raised and spent more than $1500 in a year. Mattachine in Washington admitted its budget was only around $200, so it wasn't affected by the bill anyway.

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