

JEWS AGAINST BRIGGS/6

is a group organized to inform the Jewish community about the dangers of the Briggs/Proposition 6 Initiative. The group is open to all Jews and was founded by Jewish Lesbian-Feminists. We think it is imperative to understand the implications of the Briggs Initiative.

We would like to speak to your temple, organization, group, or school to share information. As members of a common community, we need to come together to understand and fight this repressive legislation.

**For information and to contact speakers,
please call:
(213) 936-7466**

Or write:
JAB-6
P.O. Box 5150
Santa Monica, California 90405

VOTE NO ON PROPOSITION 6

WHAT IS PROPOSITION 6?

Proposition 6 (The Briggs Initiative) "prohibits hiring, and requires dismissal by the district school board of any probationary or permanent teacher, teacher's aide, school administrator or counselor who has engaged in advocating, soliciting, imposing, encouraging or promoting of private or public homosexual acts directed at, or likely to come to the attention of school children and/or other employees." This initiative is an attempt to deprive schoolworkers of their rights to free speech and privacy.

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proposition 6**



What is the Connection Between the Jewish Community and the Briggs Initiative (Proposition 6)?

As lesbians and gay men, we are aware of the obvious effect passage of the Briggs Initiative will have on us. As Jews, we are equally concerned with the more subtle implications of this initiative and the motives behind it.

As both Jews and lesbians or gay men, we see many ties between gay oppression and Jewish oppression. In times of economic and social crisis both groups make excellent scapegoats. Gays and Jews are both economically expendable since they are not significantly represented in either the ruling class or the working class segments of society. Despite Nazi propaganda to the contrary, the European Jewish community was exterminated without making a significant change in the overall economy. This same situation is true today for both Gays and Jews.

As Jews, we were brought up to understand the importance of being able to "pass" in a gentile society. We were taught, as a means of survival, the importance of not appearing or acting "too Jewish", of not adopting Jewish stereotypes. Likewise the Gay community today is told "it would be all right if only you would stay in the closet"; "if only you would keep quiet about who and what you are" — if only you would be willing to "pass" in a heterosexual society.

Anita Bryant and John Briggs see their anti-gay campaign as a crusade for Christianity. One need not look very deeply to see the anti-Semitism inherent in their preaching. In an interview

Jews Against Briggs

in the May 1978 *Playboy* magazine, Anita Bryant made the following statements when questioned about people who don't believe in Jesus as God — Jews for example:

Well personally, I have to believe that they are condemned to Hell. But there are a lot of Jews today who are accepting Jesus as the Messiah.

In the same interview, Anita Bryant talks about her concept of setting up an Anita Bryant Ministry Center in every key city in America. The thrust of these centers right now is to convert homosexuals. But it doesn't seem too improbable to envision these centers also becoming places to convert Jews.

In Nazi Germany one of the first acts of repression was to ban lesbians and gay men from teaching in the schools. Repressive actions do not stop with one group and we believe it is quite possible that the current hate campaign against the gay community today might be against the Jewish, or Black, or any other minority community tomorrow.

VOTE no on 6