

CENSORSHIP

...the persecution of homosexuals began soon after Hitler came to power in 1933. By 1945 thousands of homosexuals had been murdered by the Nazis.

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were specifically told never to mention the homosexuals," said Kathy Bryson, a Geneva Steel employee who worked on the firm's sponsorship of the exhibit.

State officials said they had no choice: "We have a state law that requires that we do not do anything in the schools to promote homosexuality, so we're careful... that we don't do that," said Bonnie Morgan, curriculum coordinator for the Utah Office of Education.

Salt Lake City school superintendent James Moss said children could learn about the Holocaust without knowing about all of its victims. "I don't know if schoolchildren are going to... say, 'Well, golly, they're not including homosexuals here, and therefore, they're teaching a mixed message,'" he said.

CAPTION WAS OK

The exhibit itself, which contains more than 600 photographs, has just one reference, made in a caption, to antigay Nazi atrocities. State officials made no attempt to alter or remove the caption, Bryson said.

Officials at the Anne Frank Center's branch office in New York City said the Utah incident was the first problem the center had with the exhibit, which was shown in the Netherlands, West Germany, Austria, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and elsewhere in the United States before coming to Utah.

Civil libertarians were quick to criticize the state's order to delete the material. Meanwhile, Geneva Steel chairman Joseph Cannon, who sits on the fund-raising board of the National Holocaust Museum, said it isn't possible to talk about the Holocaust without mentioning gays.

Jack Polack, an Amsterdam native who survived Bergen-Belsen, the concentration camp where Frank died in 1945, agreed with Cannon. The purpose of the exhibit, he said, "is to show where the horror of discrimination can lead you. That is more than enough reason to leave [the material about gays] in."

STATE REVERSAL

The outcry got a quick result: Two days after the *Salt Lake Tribune*, a Salt Lake City daily newspaper, published an article about the deletion, Moss ordered the pages restored, saying the order to delete them was the result of a misunderstanding.

Nonetheless, teachers may be reluctant to use the material because of the state guidelines. Moss said that information dealing with homosexuality must be used carefully to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

Utah education officials ordered this article, "The Fate of Homosexuals Under Nazi Rule," deleted from a public-school packet about the Holocaust. Later, under pressure, they backed down.

Frank Reassessment

Utah Cuts, Then Restores Gay Material In Lessons About the Holocaust

by ROBERT W. PETERSON

When Utahans found themselves arguing over censorship and antigay prejudice last month, the focus of the controversy was an unlikely one — a traveling exhibit of Holocaust photos that was meant to demonstrate the tragic consequences of intolerance.

The exhibit, "The World of Anne Frank: 1929-1945," opened March 25 in Salt Lake City. It centered on Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who hid from the Nazis for two years in Amsterdam, and included photos from the Holocaust that were borrowed from the Anne Frank Center, an Amsterdam museum devoted to the Holocaust.

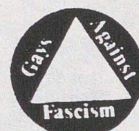
The bone of contention was a packet of educational materials about the Holocaust that Geneva Steel Corp. created for Utah public-school teachers to use in classroom

presentations about the exhibit. The steel company is the exhibit's sponsor.

The packet included information about atrocities committed against Jews, but it also examined other victims, including gays, Gypsies, blacks, and the mentally and physically disabled. Historians estimate that between 250,000 and 500,000 gays died in Nazi concentration camps.

DELETION OF GAYS

Two weeks before the exhibit opened, though, the state office of education told Geneva Steel it had to delete mention of gays from the packet. Company officials complied with the order, removing "The Fate of Homosexuals Under Nazi Rule," a three-page article, from the packet. "We



First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out — because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the communists and I did not speak out — because I was not a communist. Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out — because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak out for me.

Pastor Niemöller