

MEMO ON ECHO

These facts may serve to clarify the status of the New York Chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc. in its participation in ECHO activities.

Early in 1963, Miss Grey sent telegrams to members of the Governing Board requesting permission for the New York Chapter to incur obligations in excess of \$150 in the course of participation in a convention to be presented in Philadelphia in 1963 in cooperation with other east coast homophile organizations. This request was in accord with Article D, Section 14 of the Constitution of the Daughters of Bilitis which states that no Chapter may incur a total contracted indebtedness exceeding \$150 without approval of the Governing Board. Since the New York Chapter planned to rent an office and also to invest \$150 in this ECHO venture, there was a high probability that the Chapter's total contracted indebtedness would at some time exceed the \$150 limit. It should be clear from the nature of the request that it was made in respect to a New York Chapter activity; there is no requirement that the Governing Board approve "National" obligations exceeding \$150.

The resolution, passed unanimously at the February 9, 1964 business meeting of the N.Y. Chapter, requesting Governing Board approval of the N.Y. Chapter's continued participation was based on the assumption that similar circumstances would apply to its 1964 activities. However, with the removal of the Chapter office to its new site, the N.Y. Chapter does not anticipate incurring indebtedness exceeding \$150 and therefore the N.Y. Chapter has not applied for such permission.

Those who question the propriety of the N.Y. Chapter's use of the name "Daughters of Bilitis" in the conduct of Chapter activities should answer these questions: 1) What name would they prefer the N.Y. Chapter use in the conduct of its activities? 2) What right, other than representing itself as a part of the Daughters of Bilitis, Inc. is bestowed on a Chapter by the grant of a Chapter Charter?

The suggestion that Article D, Section 9 of the By-Laws might in some fashion be involved is incorrect: ECHO is not an organization, ECHO has no members whatsoever. The New York Chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis is an east coast homophile organization by virtue of geography, not Governing Board resolution. I suggest that Article D, Section 10 of our constitution is far more pertinent.

Minutes of the meetings of the ECHO affiliates, 100 copies of the ECHO brochure, 100 copies of the ECHO convention program and a tape transcript of the entire convention were sent to our "National" office and periodic press releases were sent to all D.O.B. Chapters. Jaye Bell, then President of D.O.B., discussed the 1963 Convention on the Red Benson Show in Philadelphia the evening prior to the Convention. In the history of this organization, no Chapter activity has been so completely or faithfully reported.

The fact that ECHO is not an organization has created some questions regarding the ownership of assets which the affiliation has created, particularly transcripts of papers presented at the Convention which had not automatically entered into the public domain. In view of the fact that D.O.B. participation, financial and otherwise, was assumed entirely by the New York Chapter and in keeping with the spirit of Article B, Section 4 of the By-Laws of this organization, these assets, collected by the N.Y. Chapter and not donated for the use of the Governing Board, are the property of the N.Y. Chapter, until the dissolution of that Chapter.

If Miss Willer and Miss Grey do not care to continue to represent the New York Chapter in ECHO, other New York Chapter members will.

M. G.