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Gay Rights: SF, Yes; SJ, No

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B.A.R. 4/13/78

Gay Rights: SF, Yes; SJ, No

Mayor Signs Gay Bill

Mayor George Moscone signed the 1978 Human Rights Ordinance at a press ceremony Tuesday. Attorney Matt Coles, prime year-long developer of the legislation, said he felt it was "like the (New York) Mets beating the Yankees 4 games to 3."

The new ordinance is the most comprehensive legislation assuring legal rights for Gays ever enacted by an American city. It supplements earlier (1971) legislation which prohibits discrimination in hiring and job advancement by those contracting with the city.

The Board of Supervisors gave final 10-1 passage April 3 to prohibition of discrimination against Gay people in almost all city instances of housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Moscone commended the Board "for taking swift, immediate, and very unambiguous action on what I regard -- and I think most people throughout this country will regard -- as a very substantial and progressive move for civil



Mayor Moscone signs Gay Rights Ordinance. Supervisor Harvey Milk attends.
(photo by Efren Ramirez)

rights."

The Mayor noted that no efforts for repeal have surfaced. He told about four residents who expressed surprise that such non-discrimination was not already city policy. "I read from that that people of this city don't find this something to band against."

Moscone presented the pen that makes the document law on May 11 to Supervisor Harvey Milk, the city's first elected Gay official and a sponsor of the ordinance.

Milk said San Francisco is again showing leadership -- as it did in voting for McGovern over Nixon, against the death penalty, and for decriminalization of marijuana. The new law "will hopefully allow a lot of Gay people in professional positions to feel comfortable about coming out," said Milk. "Then the images and stereotypes of who is Gay will be changed as people start to realize that Gay people are in every walk of life."

The three sponsors of law on the Board of Supervisors were Bob Gonzales, Carol Ruth Silver and Harvey Milk. Gonzales was the prime sponsor . . . B.P.