

Letter in the Eastbourne Herald, 15 July 1967

* **WHAT AN** astonishing statement by Sir Charles Taylor, M.P., reported in the Herald, July 8, that nobody in his constituency wanted the Sexual Offences Bill to legalise sexual acts between consenting homosexuals in private.

Working on a widely accepted estimate, Eastbourne's total of exclusive homosexuals works out at something like 2,000, to say nothing of the large numbers of normal people with sufficient knowledge and breadth of mind to sympathise with, and understand something of, the problems of this unfortunate minority.

The average homosexual is not, as Sir Charles would seem to think, some kind of depraved ogre continually indulging in unmentionable orgies. His condition is not of his own choosing, and in most cases he is an outwardly normal member of society trying hard to live a decent and useful life in the face of difficult and sometimes hostile conditions.

Loneliness is perhaps his severest problem. Conventional marriage and the joys of family life are barred to him, so is it so strange and offensive that he should turn to the only person capable of reciprocating his feelings — another homosexual? Surely the joy of sharing the love

and companionship of the mate of one's choosing is a birthright which should not be denied to any man, woman, or indeed any living thing.

Many homosexuals have achieved this aim, and it is to relieve them of the threat of prosecution and imprisonment, in addition to their other problems, that this Bill has been presented to Parliament.

If and when it receives the Royal Assent, it will have done much to ease the burdens of Britain's homosexuals, including a not inconsiderable proportion of Sir Charles's electorate. — A. Reader.