

gcam_ah_0267_01_edit

📅 Thu, Aug 03, 2023 1:00PM ⌚ 25:23

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, march, gay, lesbian, human rights campaign, crowd, today, aids, president clinton, person, nancy pelosi, pelosi, spoke, country, pacifica, colorado, included, message, fund, washington



00:03

Gotta give consequent names out there. They've got shrubs that have trash cans and bells. Everywhere and the hobo Where are



00:13

they from? What city?



00:14

They tend to be from all over a lot of people.



00:19

And where are you in that March, by the way, is it left is the last contingent left from the assembly point yet?



00:25

I walked up from there on Pennsylvania Avenue. Interesting side. A lot of music going on.



00:37

There. People distressed at all that it doesn't seem as if they're going to be able to get to the rally if their way in the back where you are.



00:44

People I feel very peaceful. People who were kind of lounging, just waiting. near their original aside numbers waiting to leave. When they accidentally go off in the wrong direction. There are

aside numbers waiting to leave. When they accidentally go on in the wrong direction. There are a few marshals present, and they just kind of guide them in the right direction. There's also very little police presence at all. So everything is just very low key. And in terms of pensions, but very festive. And one their right side that was very interesting was a life that this fear is a half life. And it's very much that kind of tone here.



01:21

Okay, Carla Walker, stay with it. And we'll be hoping to get back to you and hope to see you here before this March is over. All right, thank you. Carla Walker of web AI Pacifica station in New York, joining us from deep in the crowd. And now we will go to the podium to Nancy Pelosi, the congresswoman sent from San Francisco whose district of course includes the Castro district of San Francisco, Nancy Pelosi introduced by Caitlin



01:49

and lesbians in the military. In Congress, Miss Pelosi is the author of legislation to prevent the spread of AIDS. And as a strong supporter of the gay and lesbian Civil Rights Act. Please welcome Congresswoman Pelosi who will be reading a message from President Clinton.



02:16

What a beautiful sight you are. Thank you very much for coming to Washington. Do I see a lot of Californians out there? How about from San Francisco. It is one of the highest honors of my political life, to deliver this message from President Clinton to this March. If I may just take a personal moment to begin and say in 1963, as a very young person, I was at the civil rights march on Washington, with some of you older folks in the audience. And in 1987, many of us were here together on the first march on Washington that we are repeating today. I consider the opportunity to deliver the message from President Clinton a great honor and a compliment to the district I represent. But frankly, we deserve it. Our district has been hard hit by the spread of AIDS. Over 10,000 people have died in my district from AIDS. One of them this weekend. My staff member hm Sanchez. In addition to that, our district has been on the forefront in the fight against discrimination against people who are gay and lesbian. No, no. One of the reasons that I'm very proud to deliver this message is because



03:59

as you can hear in the background, there's a demonstration going on in the front rows as Nancy Pelosi is speaking people are loudly chanting and waving signs saying where is Bill? Where is Bill? Nancy Pelosi, Bill



04:13

Clinton is the first president to send a message to the March. Don't forget. It's not that Bill Clinton is standing here, but that he is standing up for the end of discrimination to gay and lesbian Americans that he is standing up to end the ban on lesbian and gays in the military.

And that he sent his budget message with both funding for Ryan White. At the dedication of the Holocaust Museum the other day, President Clinton said in effect that people in the Holocaust were murdered because of who they were, how they worshipped and who they loved. For this reason, I I'm proud to bring you the message from the President of the United States, Bill Clinton, the message welcome to Washington DC, your nation's capital. During my campaign, and since my election, I have said that America does not have a person to waist. Today, I want you to know that I am still committed to that principle. I stand with you in the struggle, free equality for all Americans, including gay men and lesbian Americans. In this great country, founded on the principle that all people are created equal, we must learn to put aside what divides us and focus on what we share. We all want the chance to excel in our work. We all want to be safe in our communities. We all want the support and acceptance of our family and friends. Last November, the American people sent a message to make government more accountable to all its citizens, regardless of race, class, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. I am proud of the strides we are making in that direction. The Pentagon has stopped asking recruits about their sexual orientation. And I have asked the Secretary of Defense to determine how to implement an executive order implement lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military by July 15. My 1994 budget increases funding for AIDS research, and my economic plan will fully fund the Ryan White Care Act. Soon I will announce a new age coordinator to implement the Reverend recommendations of the AIDS Commission reports. I met nine days ago with leaders of the gay and lesbian community in the Oval Office at the White House. I am told this meeting marks the first time in history that the President of the United States has held such a meeting. In addition, members of my staff have been and will continue to be in regular communication with the gay and lesbian community. I still believe every American who works hard and plays by the rules ought to be a part of the national community. Let us work together to make this vision real. Thank you, Bill Clinton, President of the United States.



07:51

Nancy Pelosi.



07:56

Nancy Pelosi, the congresswoman from San Francisco reading that message from President Clinton to I must say a very tepid response from the crowd here. Elena and Venus.



08:08

Interesting. We are situated backstage, so we really can't see the crowd. We can hear we can hear them. Chanting Where's bill? Where's bill? Very upset that he is out of the nation's capitol today.



08:21

He didn't say anything in that statement that he hasn't said before. He's in favor of human rights and justice and equality and peace, freedom and blah, blah, blah. I guess I kind of expected perhaps he would name the aid czar or do something to get the crowd interested in

behind them being?



08:40

Yeah, I just really wanted to come at that, you know, not too long ago, to McFeely from the Human Rights Campaign fund, spoke and human rights campaign fund is one of the most foremost leaders of this fight, I guess for



08:56

gay and lesbian rights. And he was strongly supportive of President Clinton. Mr. McFeely, was he



09:00

Yes, he was. I was employed by the Human Rights Campaign fund for about a year and a half. I just thought that, you know, after after to McFeely spoke to people from NAACP also spoke as well. And I thought that that relationship quite interesting, as it was my experience, as I heard him speak about discrimination and what have you. It was my experience at Human Rights campaign fund that that's that's not that's not really what what human rights campaign fund promotes because my experience was very racist, and I worked for very racist organization and what way there were no black people or any other people of color, and high paying positions, power positions. There were all like, servant type positions. And there were there were no black or people of color directors.



09:58

Themes thrash and Helene Rosen We are now being joined by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi who just read that statement from the podium. And we welcome you, Representative Nancy Pelosi to Pacific as nationwide broadcast. And of course, you're being heard back in your home constituency by KPFA. In Northern California. You didn't exactly get a standing ovation after that statement was read, the crowd seemed somewhat underwhelmed in response. Well, you sound



10:27

that way. From here. It sounded okay to me. You know, what you hear is, there's so many people out there you can find whatever you want and the audience and I think there was a good support for President Clinton out there.



10:39

What about the chance of where his bill where his bill was to be expected? And



10:42

that's what this is. It's a demonstration. And as I said, there are all kinds of folks here. And I, you know, I've said in my remarks that in 1963, the young person I was at the civil rights march on Washington, President Kennedy was not at that March, he met with the leaders of the March before the March, a few days before the March, and is in that tradition that Bill Clinton today, it for this March met earlier with the organizers of the march, and is standing up for the principles that are being demonstrated for today.



11:16

Would you have preferred that he at least address this gathering by telephone, as presidents Reagan and Bush did repeatedly to the anti abortion rallies that happened here in Washington? Well,



11:25

I think that now I have an opinion on that. I mean, of course, I would have loved for him, him to have John that. But I don't think that there's any slight to this march that he did not I think this March is what it is. We who are advocates, and I come from that mode, having been here, as I said, As long ago as 30 years, have to know that we have our role, and the President has his role. And as long as the president is sending us a budget with full funding for Ryan White, and is asking for lifting the ban on gays and lesbians in the military, and is supporting the ending of discrimination against gays and lesbians and civil rights for all Americans. That's what's important. As I said, up there, it's not whether he's standing up here, it's whether he's standing up for the principles that we care about. And he is,



12:11

what kind of support will he get in the house? On which subject on the subject of funding?



12:17

Oh, I think we'll do fine in the House of Representatives. On the funding issue. I sit on the Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Health and Human Services Subcommittee of appropriations. And we were obviously pushing from there to get full funding. Usually, that's where we make the fight. And instead, where our job was made easier by the President of the United States sending it over in his budget,



12:38

David Maixner, who, you know, was our guest earlier today on this specific broadcast. And he said that the difficulty in naming the so called AIDS Czar was not so much that a person could not be found clearly there are qualified people, but that the administration did not have have

not yet had a strategy for what that person would be doing, or a way of funding implementing that strategy. Would you agree with Mr. Mexicans now? Well, I



13:03

think that every one of any person who is appointed, has something that they bring to the table, some people are have scientific background, other has others have a business background or advocacy background. And it's important, you just can't say, well, we'll do this person. Because when you choose a person you're choosing the path of for that person. So I think that I think they have excellent people that they are choosing among, I don't I think that the person will be named soon. And I don't view this as a problem. I think that it's important for us to know where we have problems, and know where we have our friends. And Bill Clinton is a friend on these issues. He will name and age czar it will be a person who will bring a great deal in the fight and complement what else is going on. In it'll be a person will be part of the National Domestic Policy Council, a person high ranking in the White House, and somebody far more influential than has ever been envisioned before for this position.



14:03

Yeah, I would just like to say that as a dissenting, gay or lesbian voice, I agree with you. And I don't I don't I think that Bill Clinton has been a very good friend of the gay community. And and the leaders of the gay and lesbian movement would have you believe that lifting the ban on gays in the military is the foremost gay issue and age and it's just not the case. And I just want to thank you for your presence and for and for sending us a bills message.



14:34

I appreciate your saying that. I think he's he's, I don't think going to be participating in any marches. So as I said, this should not be considered in any way a slight because I don't believe he'll be participating in any marches. And this is such a celebration. It's such a huge success, and it's doing what it's supposed to do show support for these issues.



14:55

You'd say reproof lossy that we need to take a look at where the problems are. We're doing Do you see the problems?



15:01

Well, I do think that we'll have, we'll have some problems on ending the band we have, that has to be a decision that we make as a country. We just can't win that by one. But we have to persuade the American people about that, and put that issue behind us. I always say to my colleagues, when I'm trying to get a vote from them on this issue, if it comes to that, in preparation for that, what would you say if all the gays and lesbians in America said in time of crisis we will not serve? I mean, you'd be appalled, right, and also that many Americans service

first of all, the gays and lesbians are in the military service. So it's an elementary question of whether they should be there. And in addition to which, when we fight, in battles with our allies, gays and lesbians are in the Armed Services of those countries freely and openly.



15:53

Thank you very much, Nancy Pelosi, for being with us here today. Congresswoman Pelosi represents San Francisco or at least a good part of it. And the United States Congress and was the one who read President Clinton's rather anodyne message to this crowd here today, which she seemed to think was what it sounded like to us back here. Yeah, what we talked about before we were talking to you, as you had started talking about what you thought was racism within the Human Rights Campaign fund. And we were interrupted by having Miss Pelosi, of course, was only momentarily available to go ahead. Yeah, I



16:32

really think it's a dangerous liaison that the Human Rights Campaign fund has formed with the NAACP because I think the NAACP knew just how extensive the racism was not only throughout the Human Rights Campaign from generally with white gays and lesbians, I don't think it was necessarily a liaison that they would have would have so readily.



16:54

We have with us now on the telephone, our reporter in the field, Julie Dresden, who is with the Oregon and Colorado delegations, who are towards the head of the march. So presumably, they arrived already as the March stepped off over three hours ago. Julie,



17:08

are these two contingents where we are so enormous, it's unbelievable. And it's not just people from Colorado or Oregon who are marching with them, people from all over the country has joined behind the mark behind a banner that says Colorado ground zero, the hate state and lots of people carrying sides of the Boycott Colorado, very spirited Welcome to those truths. And an extremely scared and emotional welcome earlier this afternoon to PFLAG parents and friends of people were crying and hearing as a lot of older folks walked in with banner saying I love my gay daughter and I love my gay son. And I spoke to several of the parents who are here from Eugene, Oregon and Maryland and as far away as Oregon and California who just wanted us to know that, that they think that their their gay kids are their most well adjusted of all of their children, and that they feel that the rest of the world is crazy that they're the same one, and that they hope that the world will begin to recognize the rights that are due their children.



18:08

Thank you very much, Julie. Thank you very much. Julie drizzle. We'll get back to you later right now we're gonna go back to the podium where Melissa Etheridge, author of among other things, the hit single bring me some water is about to sing something maybe even that hit

things, the hit single bring me some water is about to sing something maybe even that hit symbol. Hope Nancy Pelosi was listening still because that's a resounding cheer. Melissa Etheridge singing to this enormous crowd here in Washington DC you're hearing it on Pacifica radios broadcast.



18:40

I just want to tell the Los Angeles audience out there that Los Angeles which was number I believe 30 Were already Larry check on that for me somewhere, somewhere in the 30s out of 98. They just got here, folks, estimates from the Los Angeles contingent are that there are 800,000 people from Southern California alone. KPFA Hold on there, folks. We'll let you know what San Francisco gets in and we'll see what we can do for you



19:05

are these estimates. So who knows what's accurate or just hundreds of 1000s of people here? We have no idea how many maybe somebody is doing a helicopter count tomorrow. We're joined at this time by Nadine Smith. Tomorrow we'll find out from the helicopter pictures that the CIA usually takes a crowd like this. If somebody has asked us to Nadine Smith, welcome to the Pacific a broadcast. Thanks. I'm Larry and I'm going to be built over there he welcomes you to meeting Smith is the one that I bet it isn't it isn't nearly over yet. Washington National co chair of this March co chair of the lesbian and gay delegates caucus at the 1992 Democratic National Convention and we're gonna ask you to wait 30 seconds longer. Before we speak to you because we need to take a 32nd break now for our stations to identify themselves. This is specific as continuing coverage live coverage of the 1993 march on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation. We'll be back in 30 seconds Hi this is KPFT Houston



20:32

Welcome back to Washington DC the enormous rally continuing not even half over yet and we'll be here for another two and a half hours to bring it all to you up until six o'clock Eastern time, three o'clock West Coast time. Nadine Smith, welcome to Pacifica. I know your hometown fans are listening to WM NFR affiliate in Tampa, Florida.



20:50

Hello, Florida.



20:53

I read somewhere tell me if this is true or not that you were in on the founding planning of this march two years ago? Is that correct?



21:00

Well, actually, the the planning for the March really has evolved from lots of discussions and lots of different communities, discussions on whether we should march on Hollywood or march on our state capitals or, you know, march in a variety of places, including Colorado. And so it's hard to say when, when the talk about when to march and why we should march and how we should march really happened. But a lot of people had been involved very early on



21:29

why April 25 1993 in Washington DC with all those choices of dates and times and places. Why here? Why now?



21:37

Well, actually, I mean, in terms of the date, the significance wasn't so much. You know, April 25, as it was, what day did we feel, you know, in terms of the different organizations? Could we bring the most people here, and you have to remember that when organizing for this really got off the ground. President Bush's popularity was at its peak in the midst of the Persian Gulf War. So there were certainly a great deal of belief that he would be reelected in a great deal of despair over that



22:09

fact. Who is it that started talking about the million people I saw that start appearing earlier? And I said to myself, whoa, because you know, what happens to marches that make predictions like that the media are very quick to try to shoot them down or say, Aha, they didn't have a million, there's only 750,000. So maybe it's not as popular. We don't know yet. How many people are here? Certainly watts. But why did that million figure start to come out?



22:32

Well, you know, we are grassroots organizers. And anyone who goes through the consensus process knows how long and tiring those those types of discussions can be. So I mentioned we were all just pretty tired and punchy that night and said, What the heck, let's put out a press release. Well, you know, we're also you know, like the cocky boxer that says, I'm gonna knock you out the third round. I feel very, very confident that the members today has exceeded anything anyone's ever seen before. Well, it



23:01

certainly seems that way from here, but we don't have a very good vantage point. And as I say, only aerial photographs, if they're variously interpreted, we'll find out for sure. How much does it cost to put something like this on who pays for it?





23:12

Well, the budget that we talked about, was a \$800,000 budget. And I'm sure when everything settles down, we probably will have exceeded that. And the money has come from the 510 \$15 contributions that people fold into three pieces of paper and have mailed to us. One woman sent her \$500 part of her tax return \$500 and said, until she had full equality under the law, she'd only pay part of her taxes. So people from all across the country really have supported this. It hasn't been major donors or corporations. No, it rarely



23:50

is like this. I see you have one of the T shirts on, I don't know how many official T shirts here. One that a lot of people are buying is I can't even march straight is just a large part of how your fundraising compares to the sales of souvenir items.



24:08

Absolutely. You know, the donations and the contributions and the ads that we ran pro bono have really, really paid off. And as I said, it's a true grassroots organizing effort across the country.



24:26

I would be remiss in my duties. If I did not tell you that there are a lot of people especially back where I come from in Northern California, we're upset that the word transgender is not included in this March. And they were very vocal at a townhall national broadcast that we did a few weeks back on the issue of gays and lesbians in the military. What about that? What about the inclusion of transgender people?



24:47

Well, actually transgender the term is is is included in the march. Speakers are speaking on the issue.



24:53

I don't see it on your T shirt.



24:55

Yeah, well, I mean, it's included in the platform items and discussion, but we As I said we had a consensus process and going through that process. The decision was made to include bisexual. The decision was not made to put the name transgender in the title and, and in fairness, I have to say that I mean whatever the outcome of that anyone who already

