

Jordan Bowen, Carson Martin

Senior Group Website

22 February 2022 Process Paper:

Process Paper

The theme *Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences* sparked many ideas for us. We are both intrigued and inspired by human rights issues. Some initial ideas included an Icelandic women's strike, the miscommunication between the FBI and CIA, and the women's strike for peace. After researching many human rights issues, we decided to pick the Lavender Scare. The Lavender Scare was a historical debate during the mid-20th century about allowing homosexual people to work in the United States government. We chose this topic because we both have an interest in the struggle for homosexual rights. We knew the history of the LGBTQ+ community wasn't pretty, however, we didn't know to what extent. Our initial research into the Lavender Scare motivated us to learn more about the event and how people let this happen.

Once we decided on our topic, we began researching by reading through government files, books, and various websites. We found a decent amount of books that dove into details, which helped clear up some questions. Eventually, we purchased a copy of *The Lavender Scare* by David K. Johnson, which gave a detailed explanation of the Lavender Scare. After we gathered lots of information about the Lavender Scare, we turned our sights to the impact. We found lots of information on the organizations created to fight for gay rights. After we organized our findings, we searched for pictures to illustrate what we found. We found some great photos by searching through library websites and other archives. Once we compiled our information and photographs, we decided to build a website to organize our findings. We decided on a

website format because we both enjoy visual creativity and streamlined internet access to information. We then built the website on the NHD WebCentral.

The Lavender Scare was a prejudiced debate about who should be allowed to work in diplomatic offices. We learned that Cold War hysteria led to the dismissal of known homosexuals in government service. This discrimination greatly impacted LGBTQ+ rights. The lack of equality for the LGBTQ+ community during that time created ongoing debates and spurred activism for LGBTQ+ rights. The Lavender Scare brought national attention to homosexual rights and their role in our communities and government. The discriminatory actions of the Lavender Scare helped spark national protests and pickets for LGBTQ+ rights and even helped influence the Stonewall riots. We learned that debate and diplomacy during this historical event led to ongoing successes, failures, and consequences for gay Americans.