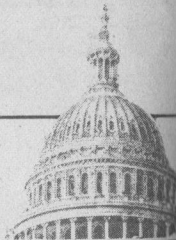


CAPITOL REPORT

BY LARRY BUSH



Meanwhile, Arkansas gays report that Gov.-elect Bill Clinton (D) sent representatives to meet with them and that they now feel confident an open-door policy will be followed. During the election, gays were slow to endorse Clinton, who had served as governor two years ago. At that time Clinton was widely regarded as a Southern progressive, and some saw his 1980 defeat as a repudiation of such moderation. Clinton himself downplayed that ideological base this campaign, causing some uncertainty among gays. Meanwhile, he had quietly sent out signals that gays would have a friend in the governor's mansion. A late endorsement was made, and now the Arkansas Gay Rights group is finding the door open.