

INSIDE THE BELTWAY

By John McCaslin

Barney's 'wife'

Herb Moses, Washington mortgage banker and live-in companion of Rep. Barney Frank, Massachusetts Democrat, has finally come forward to discuss their relationship.

In an interview with *Genre*, a magazine for homosexuals, Mr. Moses talks about going to the White House for a casual dinner with their friend Bill. It's not the first such invitation for the congressman and his 37-year-old partner, who gets a kick out of being called a "Washington wife."

"Well, back in '87, we were the first people to dance together at the White House," Mr. Moses recalls. "By first, I mean first male couple."

The congressman and Mr. Moses are like a lot of homosexual couples, according to *Genre*. They met, fell in love, moved in together, bought a house, sold it and bought a bigger one. They watch *Nick-at-Nite* and love to eat.

"Until we met, I was an emotional mess," Mr. Frank says. "But Herb has given me a source of security and filled an enormous void in my life."

When the magazine asked Mr. Moses about the congressman's previous relationship with male prostitute Steven Gobie, first reported in *The Washington Times*, he changed subjects.

"It's not my favorite topic," he says.

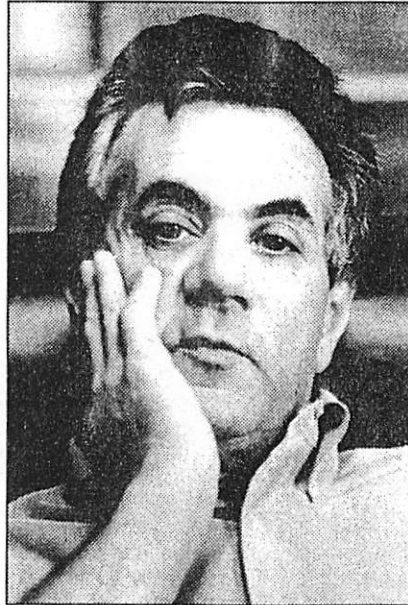
Asked who, in his opinion, was the most powerful anti-homosexual voice in Washington, Mr. Moses identifies a Democrat — Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia.

"I didn't realize he was such a homophobe," he says.

The *Genre* interview, illustrated with pictures of Mr. Frank and Mr. Moses, then asks how the couple met.

"I wrote him a note," says the banker, who bench-presses in his spare time. "Much to my surprise he called me at work! . . . He probably came on to me a little more than I came on to him 'cause I had just broken up with somebody, and I was unsure I really wanted to start this, but I did. And I'm really glad I did."

Mr. Moses says he first pro-



Rep. Barney Frank says he's no longer an "emotional mess" thanks to companion Herb Moses.

posed — just what he proposed is not quite clear — during a romantic getaway to the Greenbrier in West Virginia.