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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

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"The ACLU has stood four-square against the recurring tides of hysteria that from time to time threaten freedoms everywhere...Indeed, it is difficult to appreciate how far our freedoms might have eroded had it not been for the Union's valiant representation in the courts of the constitutional rights of people of all persuasions, no matter how unpopular or even despised by the majority they were at the time."

—former Chief Justice
Earl Warren

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

The American Civil Liberties Union was founded in 1920. In its more than 50 years, the ACLU has always been engaged in controversy. Many of the controversies engaged in by the ACLU have secured liberties which today are taken for granted. Other controversies engaged in today—with a few names and faces changed—are virtually identical to those of the founding years of the ACLU.

ACLU has more than 250,000 members (many more if joint memberships are counted separately) organized into 50 state affiliates and some 350 local chapters. There are ACLU offices in most medium- and large-sized American cities. Thousands of attorneys volunteer their services to the ACLU. In courtrooms across the nation the ACLU is constantly at work to protect the liberties of Americans.

Most persons associate the ACLU with litigation in the U. S. Supreme Court. While this image is accurate —since only the U. S. Department of Justice appears before the Supreme Court with greater frequency—it does not reflect the whole story of the ACLU.

For every case that reaches the Supreme Court, the ACLU litigates scores in the lower courts. Moreover, while the courts have produced many of the ACLU's most noted victories, the defense of liberty must also be sought in other forums.

Increasingly, ACLU efforts are focussed on protecting liberty in battles in Congress and in state and local legislative bodies. The rapid growth in ACLU membership in recent years has strengthened the ACLU's legislative influence. In addition, the administrative proceedings of federal, state and local agencies are a critical arena for the defense of liberty and the scene of much of the ACLU's work.

At all times and in all places, the purpose of the ACLU remains constant: to protect the rights of freedom of inquiry and expression, privacy, due process of law and equality before the law guaranteed to all Americans by the constitution.

Among the highlights of the ACLU's early years were the Scopes "monkey trial" in Tennessee, the defense of Sacco and Vanzetti and of the Scottsboro boys, the struggle against Customs Bureau censorship to bring James Joyce's *Ulysses* into the United States, resistance to the Palmer Raid roundups and deportations of aliens and support for the religious liberties of Jehovah's Witnesses. In the 1920's and 1930's the ACLU protected labor's right to organize. In the 1940's, the ACLU fought the forced evacuation and detention of Japanese Americans. In the 1950's, the ACLU opposed McCarthyism and in the 1960's, the ACLU organized legal support for the Southern civil rights movement.

Today, in the 1970's, the ACLU challenges the political surveillance and data collection activities of the F.B.I. and many other federal agencies and their state and local counterparts. ACLU court cases and legislative action seek to open government actions to public view. The ACLU also provides legal representation for the many groups which are seeking rights historically denied to them: women, soldiers, migrant workers, homosexuals, racial minorities, prisoners, mental patients, children, and others.

The ACLU's victories for liberty have become landmarks in Ameri-

can history. ACLU cases have extended the right to counsel, the right to vote, the right to run for office, the right to speak, publish, and demonstrate, the right to citizenship, and the right to privacy. Film and book censorship, loyalty oaths and investigations, prayer in the schools, government spying and secrecy, public support for parochial schools, abortion laws, vagrancy laws, unreasonable searches, segragated juries, electronic eavesdropping, restrictions on the right to travel, and coerced confessions have all been struck down by ACLU cases. The ACLU has defended the rights of anyone and everyone whose civil liberties have been invaded.

Support for the ACLU—and, thereby, for the principles of liberty for which it stands—comes from the ACLU's membership. The ACLU needs and welcomes additional members to enlarge its capacity to protect liberty. As a member of the ACLU, you also become part of the local affiliate in your area. Support the ACLU with your membership. Join today.

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When you join the national ACLU, you automatically become a member of the local ACLU affiliate in your area. As a member, you receive the newsletter, **Civil Liberties,** and your choice of other ACLU publications.

If you receive more than one copy of this appeal,
you can help ACLU stretch its promotion resources by giving them to your friends. We try to prevent more than one mailing to each person—but to eliminate duplications of your name from all the mailing lists we use would be very costly, and our budget is limited.

ACLU uses a multitude of mailing lists to reach as many potential members as it can. The more involved you are in the search for social solutions, the more likely you are to appear on more than one of these lists.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT.