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ACLU NEWS

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RIPSTON ON IMPEACHMENT

Despite the energy crisis, inflation, problems in the Mideast, Operation Candor, and other matters that have accidently or intentionally taken our minds off impeachment, moves still continue in that direction.

Your SDACLU chapter has joined a loose-knit coalition for impeachment, and our executive director, Cecile Podoloff, has been attending weekly planning meetings since November. Called San Diegans for Impeachment, the group is made up of some AFL-CIO people, an impeachment group at City College, and individuals who also share the goal.

The group is planning one "event" a month, with future goals to include meetings with area Congressmen, a press conference, a rally, and other such activities that keep the issue in the public eye.

The coalition also has had "Impeach Nixon" buttons and bumper stickers printed that will help raise funds for the campaign. If you're interested in purchasing such materials and helping the coalition to achieve its goals, call the coalition office at 560-0878.

SDACLU JOINS LOCAL IMPEACHMENT COALITION; ACTIVITIES PLANNED

JANUARY PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WHEN: Wednesday, January 30, 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: Puppet Theatre, Balboa Park

WHAT: Impeachment and the ACLU -- Guest Speaker: Ramona Ripston

In ACLU these days, the reality seems to be: So goes Southern California, so goes the nation. The moving force behind it is now Ramona Ripston, the executive director of the Southern California affiliate.

A few months ago the Southern Californians proposed at a national ACLU board meeting that Richard Nixon be impeached and that nationally ACLU should lead the way. Through stiff resistance and long debate, impeachment became a policy. Exit Ms. Ripston--and the nation--a winner.

Ms. Ripston will discuss impeachment with the SDACLU members at an open meeting at 7:30 PM January 30 in the Puppet Theatre in Balboa Park. She will discuss the civil liberties aspects of a Nixon impeachment, and why the ACLU should be involved in this matter. It is probably one of the most controversial stands the organization has ever taken.

Ramona Ripston became executive director of SoCal ACLU in September of 1972. She previously had been head of the Department of Public Affairs for the New York Urban Coalition. Earlier ACLU jobs included communications director for the New York CLU in 1965, associate director of the New Jersey CLU in 1966, and director of press relations for the national ACLU in 1967.

Ms. Ripston has long been interested in women's rights, and feels she owes some of her own success to the women's movement. She once served as treasurer of the National Association for Repeal of Abortion Laws.

MARGOLIS NAMED LIBERTARIAN OF 1973

Melba Margolis, a tireless worker for integration of the races, was named the SDACLU's Civil Libertarian of the Year for 1973. The award was presented at the chapter's sixth annual Bill of Rights Banquet at UCSD's International Center.

Mrs. Margolis has been active in human relations community groups for ten years. She holds a master's degree in psychiatric social work. Her latest commitment is chairing a citizens' advisory council to qualify the S.D. Unified School District for federal grants to reduce racial isolation and its effects.

Another current commitment is working with some 35 white children who are voluntarily bused to Encanto Elementary School to maintain racial balance there. Her youngest child is part of the group, and Mrs. Margolis rides the bus every day and volunteers in the school's learning center two days a week.

In the past, she has been a member of the Citizen's Interracial Council and the Interorganizational Council for Integration. She was a founder of CURE--Citizens United for Racial Equality, and helped write a League of Women Voters report on how to further integration in the city schools. Also, she headed a local citizen's committee in 1972 which opposed the anti-integration Prop. 21 on the November ballot.

SDACLU BOARD TAKES ABSOLUTIST POSITION

AGAINST CONTROLLING NEWSPAPER VENDING MACHINES

An absolutist position against regulation of newspaper vending machines was taken by the SDACLU at its past Board of Directors meeting.

The city of San Diego is considering putting such an ordinance in the books in response to complaints received about the numbers of racks on corners and, in some cases, the content of the newspapers displayed.

The Council has directed a task force, chaired by councilman Floyd Morrow, to develop an ordinance. Other councilmen, representatives from the city manager's office, the city attorney's office, the Union-Tribune Publishing Company; and George Haverstick, ACLU president, are also on the committee.

The ordinance could be patterned after a Los Angeles law which prohibits racks in places where they may impede pedestrian traffic or where they may be a safety hazard, at bus stops, for example. The complaints received concerning content refer to nudity in some newspapers which use racks for sales.

For the time being, ACLU is taking an absolutist position on the basis that regulation of the sale of newspapers would constitute a violation of the first amendment.

One suggestion, made by Morrow, is that the city lease space on streets for racks to newspaper publishers.

INTRIGUING FUNDRAISER DUE

The Southern California ACLU affiliate will sponsor a "Conference of Activists" on February 16th (a Saturday) from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the USC School of Religion in Los Angeles. Charles Morgan, executive director of the ACLU's office in Washington, D.C., will be the keynote speaker.

The purpose of the workshop is to stimulate activitism on the part of ACLU members, especially those in leadership or potential leadership positions. This year's conference has been planned by Jim Burford, the Chapter Council Chairperson of the Southern California affiliate. There is no registration fee involved.

After a short opening round of talks, the meeting will break up into seven different workshops, which will run concurrently. The workshops are Impeachment and National Legislation, State and Local Legislation, Membership Building in '74, Chapter Fund-raising, Community Action, Chapter Publicity and Public Relations, and Planning Chapter Programs that Draw Crowds.

Cecile Podoloff, SDACLU executive director, said at least one carload of San Diegans will be making the trip. She will gladly coordinate such activities, and asks that anyone interested in going should call her at 223-3863. A reservation card for each person attending must be mailed to L.A. prior to the conference.

BEWARE: LAW 'N ORDER RIDES AGAIN

Beware: Our "law-and-order" administration is up to its old unconstitutional tricks again. This time it's a bill in Congress that sounds innocuous enough--the Criminal Code Reform Act of 1973 (S-1400 and HR-6046).

But if passed, this legislation would pose a major threat to many of the individual rights and legal safeguards we now take for granted. There is an excellent write-up on it in the November issue of "Open Forum", the monthly publication of the ACLU of Southern California.

If you missed the "Open Forum" story, we feel it is important to wrap-up the law again. It would:

*****Restore the federal death penalty.

*****Place a gag on espousing politically unpopular causes and positions under the guise of "national defense."

*****Redefine "leading a riot" to include any assemblage of five or more persons which would "obstruct a government function" (which is never defined).

*****Heavily penalize such disclosures as those made by Daniel Ellsberg.

*****Outlaw many types of demonstrations.

*****Define obscenity in words almost identical to those which were so soundly rejected by California voters when they killed the so-called "anti-smut" measure on the last ballot.

Your best move at this point is to write your national congressmen and urge them not only to vote against this measure, but also to actively campaign against its passage. Remember, it is bill #1400 in the Senate and #6046 in the House.

'CONFERENCE FOR ACTIVISTS' SLATED

Efforts are currently being made for a most unusual fund-raiser for the SDACLU chapter next month. The event is a double-feature film showing. What's unusual about that, you ask? The films are "Deep Throat" and "Behind the Green Door."

The two films have gained great notoriety around the nation--especially in light of the Supreme Court's recent crackdown on what is obscenity. "Deep Throat" is famous for its unusual content; "Behind the Green Door" is known for its artistry and is said to be the most beautiful of the so-called "porny" films. Both films are extremely explicit in the display of sexual activities.

The SDACLU Board of Directors decided that hosting such an event could be an interesting educational experience for its members. There have been many arguments about what is obscene and what isn't. Others argue that obscenity is irrevelent and that no one should be denied the right to display artistic creations to consenting adults. The point is that one should view it before making a decision about it.

The owner of the Penthouse Theatre at 5th and G Streets, a friend of ACLU, has offered his theatre and the films at no cost. The date is tentatively scheduled for February 20 and the price will be $4 per person. (The theatre owner gets $4 for "Green Door" alone.) There will be more information in next month's newsletter.

SHORT FINANCIAL REPORT

Money talks. And what the money is saying is that people are supporting ACLU and supporting impeachment of President Nixon.

For example, the net income from the Bill of Rights Dinner was $753.24. This money is being used to support chapter activities and services.

Income received in donations as the result from the half page ad which ran in the Union and The Tribune in December was $819. ACLUSD has repaid the affiliate for its loan to place the ad, and contributed some of the money to San Diegans for Impeachment, a committee of which ACLU is part. All of the money received from the ad will be used for impeachment activities, with the exception of new memberships,

TIME TO RE-UP AND REDOUBLE

It's ACLU renewal time again, but this year we are asking that ACLU might also mean to you the phrase "Accelerate Contact for Libertarian Unity." Just words, you say. What do they mean?

They mean that the SDACLU has set for itself the goal of doubling its membership for 1974. Doubling the membership. That's a big task, you say. Perhaps impossible? We say it's up to you. It could be easy.

The most important thing is for every member to renew for 1974. Then, if each member were to bring one new member, the membership could be doubled just like that. And that's where accelerated contact for Libertarian Unity comes in; there must be someone you know who feels strongly about civil liberties but has never joined ACLU. Now is the time to talk them into it--accelerated contact, so to speak.

There has never been a time in history when the ACLU has been needed more. The administration is making obvious and blatant attacks on the Constitution and especially the Bill of Rights. The news media--both print and electronic--are under almost daily attack. Political dissenters, the poor, minorities, consumers--no one is immune. ACLU types are the administration's chief enemies--and there are White House "lists" to prove that.

But you don't have to be anti-administration to join ACLU. In fact, ACLU is not an "anti" organization. It stands _for_ things--like civil liberties, equal protection, integration, impeachment, and so on. You must know at least one other person who can stand behind such goals. A membership envelope is included in the newsletter for you.

If you're shy about asking people to join, write their names below and we will do the dirty-work. We have a fireball for a membership chairman-- Mary Lou Vorce--call her at 224-2133 to ask questions or get more information.

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POTENTIAL ACLU MEMBERS (Please print!!)

Name____________________________Phone(home)____________Phone(bus.)________

Adress____________________________City________________ZIP____________

Name____________________________Phone(home)____________Phone(bus.)________

Adress____________________________City________________ZIP____________

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