

The American Civil Liberties Union, Inc.

What are its principles?

What does it do?

Where does it get its money?

Who controls its policies?



31 Union Square West
New York City

What Is the American Civil Liberties Union?

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, organized in 1920, is an association incorporated under the laws of New York. It fights for freedom of speech, press and assemblage wherever these constitutional rights are violated anywhere in the United States. It deals also with other guarantees of personal liberty in the Bill of Rights, and with academic freedom, censorship and race discrimination.

It has over 5000 members and contributors. Over 7000 persons are active in one way or another in its work. This number includes 700 cooperating attorneys, 800 correspondents and investigators and 500 speakers, writers and ministers who have volunteered their services.

It is managed by a Board of Directors which acts under the ultimate control of policies by a National Committee numbering about 70 throughout the country. The board, composed of members living in or near New York City, meets weekly. The National Committee elects its own membership annually by mail vote—and also the members of the Board of Directors. The officers are elected by the Board of Directors, in consultation with the National Committee.

The work of the national headquarters of the Union at 31 Union Square West, New York, is in the hands of a director, a staff counsel, a secretary and a publicity director. The Union also has a representative in Washington, state chairmen in most states, and branches in 28 cities.

What Are Its Principles?

The Civil Liberties Union stands on the general principle that all thought on matters of public concern should be freely expressed without interference. Orderly social progress is promoted by unrestricted freedom of opinion. The punishment of mere opinion without overt acts is never in the interest of orderly progress. Suppression of opinion makes for violence and bloodshed.

This is the historic American position on free speech stated once for all by Thomas Jefferson:

“It is time enough for the rightful purposes of civil government for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order.”

How Does It Work?

The national headquarters keeps in close touch with violations of civil rights throughout the country through correspondents and a special press clipping service. In cases on which help is asked, and in all cases of general public interest, the Union acts at once by wire or letter to render legal aid to the person or organization attacked and to urge the authorities to act.

But defense of individual cases is only part of the Union's work. Its chief efforts are directed to campaigns against repression by law, mob violence, or lawless officials. Test cases are conducted in the courts in an endeavor to void laws in conflict with constitutional guarantees. Publicity is organized around every campaign or test case.

Its publicity and information service includes weekly news releases to 450 labor, farmer and liberal papers; special news releases to daily papers; articles for periodicals; a quarterly review of the civil liberty situation; books and pamphlets.

Here is the program of the chief campaigns handled by the Union in 1937:

Freedom of Opinion

1. Opposition to all forms of gag legislation,—federal, state or city—curtailing freedom of speech, press or assemblage; and particularly bills making criminal mere language, or restricting the right of minority parties to the ballot.

2. Campaign against the unprecedented array of laws and regulations restricting freedom in education, both in schools and colleges; and particularly against compulsory oaths of loyalty for teachers, compulsory flag saluting by children and compulsory military training.

3. Changes in the immigration and deportation laws to end all restrictions merely because of political opinions; to admit and protect genuine political refugees; and in citizenship proceedings to remove tests of aliens' views not imposed on citizens.

4. Aid in campaigns for the release of political prisoners, and against all prosecutions under sedition and criminal syndicalism laws.

5. Campaigns to open up all areas or cities where the rights to meet and organize are denied, and particularly to gain recognition for free speech by setting aside recognized public places for meetings.

Rights of Labor

6. Continuous defense of labor's rights to organize, strike and picket and to bargain collectively without interference; opposition to legal recognition of company-controlled unions; and to martial law in strikes. Prosecution of vigilantes and other lawless elements attacking strikers' rights.

7. Defense of the right of the unemployed to organize, demonstrate and petition without interference or penalties; maintaining the right of relief workers to organize and protest without penalty.

8. Campaign for state labor injunction laws modeled on the federal law and those adopted by sixteen states.

Censorship

9. Greater freedom of the air by radio by setting aside time for public discussion free of station managers' control; by requiring equal facilities for all sides of controversial topics.

10. Change in the bureaucratic Post Office censorship by requiring trial by jury for excluded matter, as now in effect in the Customs service concerning matter imported from abroad.

11. Abolition of the motion picture censorship boards in six states, leaving sole control of movies to public opinion and, in extreme cases, criminal prosecution; opposition on the same basis to censorship of books and plays.

Racial Minorities

12. Aid in the campaign against lynching; and in the struggle for Negroes' civil rights.

13. Extension of civil rights in colonies under American control, with autonomy or ultimate independence.

Where Does It Get Its Money?

The Union is run on voluntary contributions ranging from \$1 to \$1,200 a year. The total number of contributors is over 5,000. Contributions range as follows:

1 contributor at \$1,200					
4 contributors at \$1,000					
8 contributors between \$500 and \$1,000					
7	"	"	200	"	500
14	"	"	100	"	200
31	"	"	50	"	100
89	"	"	25	"	50
537	"	"	10	"	25
4363	"	"	1	"	10

The operating expenses of the Union are about \$20,000 a year. This amount is divided about equally between executive and office salaries and general administrative expenses.

The Union helps finance court cases, campaigns, and local work at a cost of \$5,000 to \$10,000 a year, raised by special appeals, with some income from a bequest. Over 550 non-members contribute to this special work.

The Union operates on a general financial system approved by the National Information Bureau, 215 Fourth Avenue, New York City, an agency for the information of contributors to public causes. A yearly audit of accounts is made by the Cooperative League Auditing Bureau, certified public accountants. A detailed financial statement is published in the Union's annual report.

Who Controls the Policies?

The 86 members of the National Committee and Board of Directors represent every shade of economic and political opinion. Of the 34 members affiliated with political parties—

- 17 are Democrats
- 10 are Socialists
- 4 are Republicans
- 3 are Communists

Fifty-two members are not affiliated with any political party but express political or economic preference as follows:

- 17 for Socialist Party
- 8 for Democratic Party
- 6 for Farmer-Labor Party
- 1 for Communist Party
- 1 for Progressive Republican Party
- 19 have no preference

A survey of the occupations from which the members are drawn shows that lawyers predominate with 18 representatives. Teachers and professors rank second with 17 representatives and writers third with 13. There are 10 clergymen, 5 social workers, 5 trade union executives, 2 publishers, 2 editors, 1 business executive, 1 traction consultant, 1 labor organizer, 1 publicity counsellor, 1 public utilities expert and 9 of no specified profession or occupation.

The National Committee

**Indicates also member of the Board of Directors*

ANDERSON, GEORGE W. — Retired judge of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Boston.

BARNES, HARRY ELMER — Journalist; former professor of sociology, Smith College; vice-president, American Association for Advancement of Science.

BEARDSLEY, JOHN — Los Angeles attorney; former chairman of Southern California Branch of the Union.

BIGELOW, HERBERT S. — Minister of the People's Church, Cincinnati; member Cincinnati City Council.

BLAKE, EDGAR — Bishop, Methodist Church, Detroit.

BORCHARD, EDWIN M. — Professor of Law, Yale University Law School.

BROUN, HEYWOOD — Newspaper columnist; president of the Newspaper Guild.

CABOT, RICHARD C. — Professor of Social Ethics, Harvard University, and professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School.

- CODMAN, JOHN S. — Business man, Boston; long identified with the defense of free speech.
- DARROW, CLARENCE — Distinguished Chicago attorney, identified for years with the defense of free speech and labor cases.
- DE SILVER, MARGARET — Widow of Albert De Silver, former director of the Union; active in support of progressive causes.
- DEWEY, JOHN — Formerly professor of philosophy, Columbia University; Hon. Pres., People's Lobby.
- DILLARD, JAMES H. — President of the Jeanes-Slater Fund for aid to Negro schools, with headquarters in Charlottesville, Va.
- DOS PASSOS, JOHN — Well-known novelist and writer.
- EDDY, SHERWOOD — Writer and lecturer; former Secretary for Asia, Y.M.C.A.
- *ERNST, MORRIS L. — New York attorney; author of books on censorship; member State Banking Board.
- FINERTY, JOHN F. — Lawyer, Washington, D. C.; former Assistant General Counsel, U. S. Railroad Administration.
- *FLYNN, ELIZABETH GURLEY — Long identified as a speaker and organizer in working class movements.
- *FRANK, WALTER — New York attorney; vice-chairman Citizens' Union.
- FRANKFURTER, FELIX — Professor of Law, Harvard University Law School.
- GARRISON, LLOYD K. — Dean of Law School, University of Wisconsin; former chairman National Labor Relations Board.
- GARTZ, KATE CRANE — Active in behalf of free speech and pacifism in California.
- GORMAN, FRANCIS J. — 1st Vice-president, United Textile Workers of America.
- HAPGOOD, POWERS — Labor organizer; member national executive committee Socialist Party.
- *HAYS, ARTHUR GARFIELD — New York lawyer, author of *Let Freedom Ring* and *Trial by Prejudice*.
- HERRING, HUBERT C. — Secretary of the Congregational Education Society.
- *HOLMES, JOHN HAYNES — Minister of the Community Church of New York City.
- *HOUSTON, CHARLES H. — Vice-dean of Law School, Howard University, Washington, D. C.; Special Counsel, N. A. A. C. P.

- *HOWARD, SIDNEY** — Playwright; President of Dramatists Guild of Authors League.
- HOWE, FREDERIC C.** — Author, writer and lecturer; Special adviser, Secretary of Agriculture; former Commissioner of Immigration at the Port of New York.
- *HUEBSCH, B. W.** — Publisher, Viking Press, New York City.
- HUNT, HENRY T.** — Lawyer; general counsel to Public Works Administration, Washington, D. C.
- JOHNSON, JAMES WELDON** — Vice-president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; poet and author; professor of creative literature, Fisk University.
- KIRCHWEY, GEORGE W.** — Lawyer, criminologist; head of department of criminology, New York School of Social Work; former warden of Sing Sing prison.
- LAPP, JOHN A.** — Former professor of Sociology, Marquette University, Milwaukee; Assistant on Labor Relations to Administrator Public Works.
- LEACH, AGNES BROWN** — Member of Board, Henry Street Settlement; Bryn Mawr College; Foreign Policy Association.
- LINVILLE, HENRY R.** — President of the N. Y. Teachers Guild.
- *LOVETT, ROBERT MORSS** — Professor of English, University of Chicago, and one of the editors of the New Republic.
- MARTIN, ANNE** — Member of Board of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; active in the National Women's Party; one-time candidate in Nevada for United States Senate on independent ticket.
- MAURER, JAMES H.** — Former president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor.
- MEIKLEJOHN, ALEXANDER** — Former president of Amherst College and head of Experimental College, University of Wisconsin; director of San Francisco School of Social Studies; professor, University of Wisconsin.
- MUSSEY, HENRY R.** — Professor of Economics, Wellesley College.
- MUSTE, A. J.** — Director, Labor Temple, New York City.
- *NUNN, WILLIAM L.** — Professor of Economics, Dana College, Newark, N. J.
- PARKER, JULIA S. O'CONNOR** — President of the Telephone Operators' Department of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.
- PARSONS, EDWARD L.** — Episcopal Bishop of California; president of Church League for Industrial Democracy.

- PICKENS, WILLIAM — Field Secretary, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.
- PINCHOT, AMOS — New York attorney; publicist.
- RANKIN, JEANNETTE — Former Congresswoman from Montana; now on staff of the National Council for the Prevention of War, Washington, D. C.
- ROSS, EDWARD A. — Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin.
- RUSSELL, ELBERT — Dean of the School of Religion, Duke University, N. C.
- SAYRE, JOHN NEVIN — Chairman, Fellowship of Reconciliation, New York.
- SCARLETT, WILLIAM — Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, St. Louis.
- SCHLOSSBERG, JOSEPH — Secretary-Treasurer, Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, New York.
- SCUDDER, VIDA D. — Professor Emeritus, Wellesley College.
- SILVER, ABBA HILLEL — Rabbi, Cleveland, Ohio.
- SINCLAIR, JOHN F. — Former Minneapolis banker; writer for the North American Newspaper Alliance.
- SKINNER, CLARENCE R. — Clergyman; leader, Community Church, Boston; professor of Applied Christianity, Tufts College.
- STOKES, HELEN PHELPS — Artist; a vice-president of the League for Industrial Democracy.
- *THOMAS, NORMAN M. — Director of the League for Industrial Democracy; Socialist candidate for President.
- TITTMANN, EDWARD D. — Lawyer at Hillsboro, New Mexico.
- VILLARD, OSWALD GARRISON — Contributing Editor of *The Nation*, New York City.
- VLADECK, B. CHARNEY — Manager of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, New York City.
- *WARD, HARRY F. — Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary, New York City; author and lecturer.
- WEST, GEORGE P. — Journalist; writer on industrial topics, San Francisco.
- WHITNEY, A. F. — President, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.
- WITT, PETER — Public utilities expert; leader in reform movements in Cleveland.
- WOOD, L. HOLLINGSWORTH — New York lawyer; president, National Urban League; chairman, Board of Trustees of Fisk University at Nashville.
- WOOLLEY, MARY E. — Former president of Mt. Holyoke College.

Board of Directors

*Members in addition to those marked * on
National Committee*

- CARMER, CARL—Author, New York.
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- DUNN, ROBERT W.—Executive Secretary of Labor Research Association.
- FEY, HAROLD E.—Executive Secretary, Fellowship of Reconciliation.
- FRAENKEL, OSMOND K. — New York lawyer; counsel in the Scottsboro and other cases involving civil liberties.
- GREENE, NATHAN—New York attorney; authority on labor law.
- HOWE, QUINCY—Of Simon & Schuster, publishers.
- ISSERMAN, ABRAHAM J. — Newark attorney; special counsel to many labor unions.
- KENYON, DOROTHY — New York attorney; First Deputy Commissioner of Licenses, New York City; vice-president Consumers' Cooperative Services; member, Board of the New York Consumers' League.
- LAMONT, CORLISS — Author and lecturer; former instructor in philosophy, Columbia University.
- LASKER, FLORINA — Chairman, New York City Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union; Member, Board, National Consumers' League.
- PRATT, ELIOT D.—Member, Board of Directors Foreign Language Information Service; University in Exile, New School for Social Research.
- RICE, ELMER — Playwright; honorary vice-president, Authors' League of America.
- RIIS, ROGER WILLIAM — Publicity counsellor; member, board of Jacob A. Riis Settlement.
- SPOFFORD, WILLIAM B. — Executive Secretary, Church League for Industrial Democracy; president, Christian Social Justice Fund.
- VAN KLEECK, MARY — Director of Industrial Studies, Russell Sage Foundation.
- WISE, RAYMOND L. — New York lawyer; formerly special assistant U. S. district attorney; deputy attorney general.

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¶ Associate membership with subscription to Quarterly Bulletin and annual review— one dollar.

¶ All pamphlets in addition—two dollars a year.

¶ Publicity service—free to interested periodicals and writers. To others—one dollar and fifty cents per year.

¶ The services of lawyers, correspondents, writers, speakers and investigators are invited anywhere in the United States. Contributions in any amount always welcomed and needed.

Date.....

B. W. HUEBSCH, *Treas.*
 31 Union Square, W.
 New York City

1. Put me down as a member of the American Civil Liberties Union at dues of \$..... for the current year, payable

2. I am particularly interested in the campaigns numbered on pages 3, 4 and 5 as follows:.....

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Name

Address

CityState

