

The
American Civil Liberties Union

What is it ?

What are its principles ?

What does it do ?

Where does it get its money ?

Who controls its policies ?



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
100 FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK CITY



March, 1927

What Is the American Civil Liberties Union?

THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION is an unincorporated association which fights for free speech, free press, free assemblage, wherever these rights are violated, in the fields of government, industry, education and race relations.

It has over 2,000 members and contributors. Nearly 5,000 persons are interested in one way or another in its work. This number includes 800 cooperating attorneys, 1,000 correspondents and investigators and 500 speakers, writers, and ministers who have volunteered their services.

It is directed by a National Committee elected for a term of three years. This committee, which numbers 70 at present, elects an executive committee of at least nine persons living in or near New York City. The Executive Committee (of 16 members at present) meets weekly and has charge of carrying out the Union's policies.

The work of the national headquarters of the Union at 100 Fifth Avenue, New York City, is in the hands of two directors, a field secretary and a publicity director. The Union also has a representative in Washington in charge of Congressional work.

Branches of the Union have been established in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Boston, Cincinnati, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Seattle, Youngstown, Ohio, and St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

What are the Principles of the Civil Liberties Union?

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 purpose of civil government for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order."

How Does the Civil Liberties Union Work?

The New York office keeps in close touch with violations of civil rights throughout the country through its correspondents and a special press clipping service. In every case reported it acts at once by wire or by letter, offering legal or financial aid to the attacked person or organization, and urging civil authorities to act.

It helps plan local civil liberty campaigns conducted by its branches or other organizations, frequently sending investigators and publicity men into the field. It conducts free-speech tests to combat official or private censorship of public meetings. It carries civil liberty issues into the courts, and exposes civil liberty violations through publicity. Each year one of its directors makes a coast-to-coast speaking tour.

Its publicity and information service includes regular news releases to 400 weekly labor, farmer and liberal papers; special news releases to daily papers; occasional articles to periodicals; a monthly report on civil liberty cases to selected papers and subscribers; a bulletin on court decisions involving civil liberty issues, sent free to cooperating attorneys; and books and pamphlets.

Here are a number of the most important matters handled by the Union in 1926-7:

1. Testing the constitutionality of the Tennessee anti-evolution law. The Civil Liberties Union started the famous Scopes case in Dayton, Tenn., and raised the money for carrying it through the courts;
2. Testing the constitutionality of the California criminal syndicalism law by carrying the cases of Charlotte Anita Whitney, Pacific Coast civic leader, and William Burns, I. W. W. organizer, to the United States Supreme Court on appeal;
3. Helping in the campaign for the release of the political prisons under the California criminal syndicalism law and for the repeal of that law;
4. Fighting the ban of the New York City Board of Education against the use of the public school auditoriums by certain organizations and speakers "blacklisted" by the director of extension activities;
5. Conducting free speech tests in Boston to overcome the mayor's censorship of public meetings;

6. Aiding the textile strikers in Passaic, N. J. to maintain their rights of meeting and picketing;
7. Aiding students and professors in various schools and colleges to combat encroachments on academic freedom;
8. Conducting Congressional campaigns for:
 - Civil government in the Virgin Islands and the Samoan Islands;
 - Repeal of the passport control law;
 - Defeat of drastic alien registration and deportation bills;
 - Defeat of the federal sedition and universal draft bills;
 - And other measures involving civil liberty issues.

Where Does the Civil Liberties Union Get Its Money and How Does It Spend It?

The Union is run on voluntary contributions ranging from \$1 to \$1,200 a year. The total number of contributors at present (March, 1927) is 2,152. Contributions range as follows:

\$1 to	\$5	.....	1,059
5 to	10	.....	407
10 to	25	.....	508
25 to	50	.....	83
50 to	100	.....	35
100 to	200	.....	37
200 to	500	.....	12
	500	.....	7
	600	.....	1
	1,000	.....	2
	1,200	.....	1

The operating expenses of the Union for 1926 were \$19,188.59. This amount was spent in the following manner:

Executive and office salaries....	\$11,328.37
General administrative expenses.	\$7,860.22

The Union helped finance special work at a total cost of \$13,771.12, the most important items of which were: (1) Congressional campaign; (2) Paterson free speech case; (3) United States Supreme Court appeals under the California criminal syndicalism act; (4) Massachusetts free speech tests; (5) New York

City Board of Education free speech fight; (6) the fight for civil government in the Virgin Islands and the Samoan Islands. Funds for this work were raised by special appeal to our friends.

The Union operates on a budget and a general financial system approved by the National Information Bureau, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City, an agency for the information of contributors to public causes. A yearly audit of accounts is made by J. B. Collings Woods, chartered accountant. A detailed financial statement is published in the Union's annual report.

Who are the National Committee Members of the Civil Liberties Union?

The 70 members of the National Committee represent every shade of economic and political opinion. Of the 29 members affiliated with political parties

- 9 are Republicans
- 8 are Socialists
- 5 are Democrats
- 5 are Farmer-Labor-Progressives,
- 2 are Communists (Workers Party).

Thirty-nine members are not affiliated with any political party, but express preferences as follows:

- 9 for the Socialist Party
- 7 for the Democratic Party
- 4 for the Farmer-Labor-Progressive Groups
- 2 for the Workers Party
- 1 for the Republican Party
- 1 for the Single Tax Party
- 15 have no preference.

Replies were not received from two members.

A survey of the occupations from which the Committee members are drawn shows that the teaching profession predominates with 14 representatives. Lawyers rank second with 12 representatives and clergymen third with 6. There are 4 authors, 1 artist, 3 bankers, 2 consulting engineers, 6 clergymen, 3 educators, 3 editors, 2 journalists, 12 lawyers, 2 lecturers, 1 manufacturer, 1 merchant, 7 professors, 1 publisher, 1 railway car inspector, 1 railway consultant, 5 social workers, 4 teachers, 5 trade union executives and 4 of no profession or occupation.

The following list tells who the Committee members are:

- ADDAMS, JANE**—Noted social worker, head of Hull House, a social settlement in Chicago, President of the International League of Women for Peace and Freedom, officer and director in a score of organizations for social welfare.
- BIGELOW, HERBERT S.**—Minister of the People's Church, Cincinnati, formerly president of the Ohio Constitutional Convention, a member of the legislature, long active in reform movements in Ohio.
- CANNON, JOSEPH D.**—Lecturer, former organizer for the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union
- CODMAN, JOHN S.**—Consulting Engineer at Boston, long identified with liberal movements in that city.
- COLCORD, LINCOLN**—Author, former Washington Newspaper correspondent, and one of the editors of *The Nation*.
- CHRISTENSEN, PARLEY P.**—Lawyer, candidate for President of the United States on Farmer-Labor ticket in 1920.
- DARROW, CLARENCE**—Distinguished Chicago attorney identified for years with the defense of free speech and labor causes.
- DILLARD, JAMES H.**—President of the Jeans-Slater Fund for aid to Negro schools, with headquarters in Charlottesville, Va.
- DUNCAN, JAMES A.**—Former secretary of the Seattle Central Labor Union, now business representative Machinists Local Union No. 289.
- DUNN, ROBERT W.**—Author of *American Foreign Investments*, formerly identified with the Amalgamated Textile Workers and with the Quaker Relief work in Russia.
- ELLIOTT, DR. JOHN L.**—Head of the Hudson Guild, a neighborhood house in a poor district of New York City. Teacher at the Ethical Culture School, lecturer and social worker.
- EVANS, EDWARD W.**—A Quaker, active in Quaker movements in Philadelphia.
- EVANS, ELIZABETH GLENDOWER**—Long identified with labor and liberal movements in Boston, member of the National Committee in charge of La Follette's campaign.
- FINCKE, REV. WILLIAM M.**—Former minister of the Greenwich Presbyterian Church and now head of the Manumit School.
- FLYNN, ELIZABETH G.**—Organizer of the Workers' Defense Union, long identified as a speaker and writer with working class movements.
- FOSTER, WILLIAM Z.**—Secretary of the Trade Union Educational League, former secretary of the Packing House Workers Union in Chicago and an official of the Carmen's Union.

- FRANKFURTER, FELIX**—Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, former secretary of the War Labor Board.
- FREUND, ERNST**—Professor of Law at the University of Chicago Law School, author of standard law books, and Commissioner of Uniform State Laws.
- FURNAS, PAUL J.**—Business man of Philadelphia, identified with Quaker movements.
- GARTZ, KATE CRANE**—Active in behalf of free speech and pacifism in California.
- HAPGOOD, NORMAN** — Special writer on political and economic questions for the Hearst newspapers. Former ambassador to Denmark, former editor of *Colliers Weekly* and *Hearst's International Magazine*.
- HAYS, ARTHUR GARFIELD**—New York lawyer, one of the defense in the evolution trial in Tennessee and in other nationally known cases.
- HILLQUIT, MORRIS**—New York lawyer, counsel for many unions. International Secretary of the Socialist Party.
- HOLMES, JOHN HAYNES**—Minister of the Community Church in New York City.
- HOPKINS, J. A. H.**—Organizer of the Committee of 48, former Progressive National Committeeman from New Jersey.
- HOWE, FREDERIC C.**—Author, writer and lecturer; former Commissioner of Immigration at New York and city councilman of Cleveland, long identified with reform movements.
- HUEBSCH, B. W.**—Publisher, now with the Viking Press of New York City.
- JOHNSON, JAMES WELDON**—Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, former American consul to Venezuela and Nicaragua, well-known as poet and author.
- JOHNSTON, WILLIAM H.**—Until recently president of the International Association of Machinists, a member of the War Labor Board appointed by President Wilson.
- JORDAN, DAVID STARR**—President-Emeritus Stanford University.
- KELLER, HELEN** — A well-known blind woman distinguished as writer and speaker.
- LEACH, MRS. AGNES B.**—Chairman of the New York League of Women Voters.
- LE SUEUR, ARTHUR**—Former counsel for the Non-Partisan League, long identified with free speech fights.
- LINVILLE, HENRY R.**—Vice-President of the American Federation of Teachers, and editor of the *American Teacher*.
- LOVETT, ROBERT MORSS**—Professor of English in the University of Chicago, and one of the editors of the *New Republic*.

- McDONALD, DUNCAN—Former president of the United Mine Workers of Illinois, and editor of a labor paper.
- McDOWELL, MARY E.—Head of the University of Chicago Settlement and Commissioner of Public Welfare of Chicago.
- MADDAUS, REV. OSCAR—Pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church at Manhasset, Long Island, New York.
- MARTIN, ANNE—Active in the National Woman's Party and recently candidate for United States Senator in Nevada on the Democratic ticket.
- MAURER, JAMES H.—President of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor.
- MOORE, JOHN D.—New York engineer; former Secretary of the Friends of Irish Freedom.
- MUSSEY, HENRY, R.—Professor of Economics at Wellesley College.
- MUSTE, A. J.—Chairman of Faculty of Brookwood Labor College, former secretary of the Amalgamated Textile Workers, ex-minister.
- NEARING, SCOTT—Teacher, writer and author of many books on economics. Former professor in several universities.
- NELLES, WALTER—New York lawyer.
- OLDER, FREMONT—Editor of the *San Francisco Call*.
- PARKER, JULIA O'CONNOR—President of the Telephone Employees Department of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, with headquarters in Boston.
- PICKENS, WILLIAM—Field organizer for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, former president of a Negro college in Baltimore.
- RANKIN, JEANNETTE—Former Congresswoman, elected as a Republican from Montana.
- ROSS, EDWARD A.—Professor of Sociology in the University of Wisconsin.
- RYAN, JOHN A.—Head of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D. C.
- SAYRE, JOHN NEVIN—Clergyman; secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.
- SCHLOSSBERG, JOSEPH—Secretary of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of New York.
- SCHNEIDERMAN, ROSE — President of the National Women's Trade Union League.
- SCUDDER, VIDA D.—Professor of English at Wellesley College.
- SINCLAIR, JOHN F.—Banker of Minneapolis.
- STEDMAN, SEYMOUR—Chicago lawyer, long identified with free-speech cases, candidate for Vice-President of the United States on the Socialist ticket with Eugene V. Debs.

- STOKES, HELEN PHELPS—Artist; member of the executive committee of the League for Industrial Democracy.
- THOMAS, NORMAN M.—Minister, director of the League for Industrial Democracy, contributing editor of *The Nation*.
- TITTMANN, EDWARD D.—Lawyer at El Paso, Texas.
- U'REN, WM. S.—Lawyer at Portland, Oregon, long identified with reform movements in that state and in the nation.
- VILLARD, OSWALD GARRISON—Editor of *The Nation*, formerly owner and editor of the *New York Evening Post*, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Associated Press.
- VLADECK, B. CHARNEY—Manager of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, New York City, and formerly Alderman of the City of New York.
- WALLERSTEIN, DAVID — Philadelphia lawyer, former city counsel.
- WALSH, FRANK P.—Former joint chairman of the War Labor Board with William H. Taft, former head of the Commission on Industrial Relations, counsel for the Irish Republic.
- WARD, DR. HARRY F.—Professor of Christian Ethics at the Union Theological Seminary, New York City, author and speaker.
- WEST, GEORGE P.—Writer on industrial topics, former publicity director of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations.
- WITT, PETER—City councilman of Cleveland, former director of Public Utilities.
- WOOD, L. HOLLINGSWORTH—New York lawyer, identified with social work among Negroes, and with Quaker enterprises, chairman Board of Trustees of Fisk University of Nashville.

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(Those interested, tear off and return.)