



LOUISIANA LIBERTIES

American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana - 606 Common Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70130
11TH YEAR - NO. 10 NOVEMBER 1967

ANNUAL MEETING

PLEDGE/RENEW/GIVE

The orchestration for the annual meeting was rather good. We started on a minor key with a general discussion at 3:00; noodled our way through the afternoon; a few rim licks were added at the cocktail hour; fortissimo with Chuch Morgan; then a nice fade out with dinner. All in all, something like 150 people attended some part of the afternoon's program, roughly 85 ate dinner, and despite the fact that some reserved dinners--at \$3.00 each--went into the garbage can (guilty conscience anyone?), we managed to clear approximately \$125.

The business meeting was accomplished in short order. All recommended amendments to the by-laws were accepted, and the nominees offered by the nominating committee were accepted without further nominations from the floor.

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Our membership income goal for 1967 is \$7,000 (last year, it was \$4,500). As of November 27, we were roosting on \$6,651. By our calculations, this leaves us \$349 short of our goal, and December 31 'is coming up fast.

WE'VE ★ MOVED

Any of you who have tried to call the office the past week or so are no doubt aware that something was going on. We were moving, and this was attended by minor snafus in the transfer of telephone service. We are now back in business at 606 Common St., Room 301, phone 522-0617. We have combined offices with LCDC, and our situation is much improved. The move was occasioned primarily by our rapid growth, and our new quarters should provide facilities for considerable future growth. We are planning an open house so that all members can have a look at their office, and details will be announced as soon as we can firm them up.

In one way or another we have contacted all members who, according to our records, have not contributed thus far in 1967 and urged that they do so. Most have, but approximately 46 of our "renewables" for 1967 have yet to respond. Some few, no doubt, no longer like us, and just won't give us any money; a few more have moved away without us learning of it; but, most of the 46 are probably just waiting for an appropriate moment. It has come!

For those who have already renewed, we will be approaching you in one way or another asking that you make a pledge for

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BOARD-MEETING SOUND OFF

Ten board members, one staff member, and four visitors attended the regular November meeting.

The principal policy question revolved around alleged infringements on academic and student freedom at a local university, and various methods of correcting any problems which exist were discussed. The matter will be investigated thoroughly, attempts to resolve any existing problems will be made, and as a last resort, legal action will be taken if necessary and feasible.

President Servigon reiterated the circumstances surrounding the \$2,200,000 budget for 1968 adopted by the National Development Council, \$9,700 of which will be the responsibility of the Louisiana affiliate. After a discussion of the ways

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The moment has come when the ACLULA must renew the battle for separation of church and state. Rightly or not, we in Louisiana have let pass unchallenged the issues of church tax exemptions, state-required Sunday closing and Federal grants for buildings and equipment for church-related schools. The Director of the Citizens for Educational Freedom says that "the issue of church-state separation is no longer valid today since all religious faiths are receiving money in some form or other from the Federal government in respect to education." The members of CEF will probably ask for public funds in the form of tuition grants or through government purchase of educational services; they argue that they are entitled to this because their children are educated outside the public system.

Are the CEF assertions justified? Hardly. Are the purchasers of private
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ANNUAL MEETING - Continued

New officers for 1968 are: President, Shifra Miller; Vice-president, Ben Smith; Treasurer, A. J. Levy; and Secretary, Oretta Haley. Board Members reelected for three year terms are: Leonard Dreyfus, Rosalyn Laventhal, James Murphy, and Luis Zervigon. New members to the Board of Directors, also elected for three year terms, are Celeste Frierson and Jane Brown.

Since no one took notes for other than the business meeting, no attempt will be made to rehash the entire program, but from all accounts it was a most enjoyable affair. We are sorry that all of our members couldn't have been there (although we would have been hard pressed to find chairs for many more, particularly for Morgan's talk), but we will give you another opportunity next year.

BOARD MEETING - Continued

and means of raising this amount (our best effort to date is slightly below \$7,000), it was decided that due to our sizeable growth, we could reasonably expect to meet this commitment. It was thereupon accepted by the board.

Legal Committee Chairman Jack Peebles said that 500 letters had been mailed to attorneys in the New Orleans area requesting their aid in coping with civil liberties litigation. Sadly enough, there was no response.

A. J. Levy reported that the City had abandoned the case of New Orleans v. Natkin when it was determined that Natkin had probably been arrested under an invalid ordinance (Natkin was distributing handbills in City Park without a permit), but the city attorney warned, "Don't do it again, or we might prosecute."

The negative disclaimer/positive oath requirement known as the "1940 Resolution" has again come up for consideration, this time in the form of an exhortation from the Michigan affiliate to join it in demanding that the Resolution be deleted from the ACLU Constitution and replaced with a milder positive reaffirmation of belief in civil liberties and the democratic process. A resolution similar to the one adopted in Michigan was approved, and the National Board was urged to hold a referendum on the matter at the first opportunity.

THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6. ALL MEMBERS WELCOME. It will probably be held in our new office, 606 Common, third floor. Any member wishing to attend may

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call the office, 522-0617, on the 4th or 5th for confirmation of the meeting site.

* SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - NOV. 13. *

This special meeting was called to discuss necessary budget revisions. The budget tentatively approved for 1968 totaled \$22,075 but due to several factors it appeared that we could not reasonably expect to fund that figure. Careful pruning produced a new budget of \$20,255, which was approved by the ten board members in attendance at the meeting. Even this lower figure leaves us with a projected deficit of \$1,055, about which more will undoubtedly be said from time to time.

LEGAL COMMITTEE

The newly reconstituted legal committee met at 606 Common on November 16 to discuss priorities for the ACLULA legal program and to coordinate our program with research facilities at Tulane Law School.

Most of the requests for assistance we receive involve points of law already well-established (right to counsel, extorted confession, etc.), but it was decided that selected cases even in these areas should be taken to bring practice more into line with legal rights. Two new areas which will occupy us in the future are establishing that time served in parish prisons, awaiting appeal, etc., should apply toward the sentence; and, the right of defense counsel to learn the contents of oral confessions as well as written ones.

The meeting was attended by three Tulane students, and although their studies keep them busy, it does appear that a number of students will be able to give some assistance to our over-burdened cooperating attorneys.

PRISON GARB

When a prisoner at Parish Prison is "rolled out", he comes out just like he went in so far as attire is concerned. Thus, when someone is arrested in June or July, he is not apt to be wearing clothing suitable for February or March. Prison officials will welcome gifts of useable clothing, and if you are looking for an opportunity to clean out your closets, here it is. Corinne Smith has volunteered to serve as a depository and go between; you can take donations to 916 Cherokee (phone 866-7372), or you can call the office (522-0617) and we will gladly haul.

BATON-ROUGE MORE GARRISON

Marxist/Socialist Paul Boutelle has come and gone and created quite a wake in the process. Boutelle, who is a candidate for Vice-President on the Socialist Labor Party ticket, was invited to speak at LSU by the University Christian Movement and the Student Liberal Federation. Chancellor Taylor approved the engagement within the confines of established University policy on outside speakers (the faculty member who is required to be in attendance must immediately ring down the curtain if any speaker advocates violent overthrow or anything equally reprehensible), but the NO NEVER NO society prevailed upon President Hunter to issue some eleven-hour house rules.

The new rules provided that Boutelle would share the platform with a representative from NO NEVER NO, James Welch, who would be given equal time to advance the views of the Birch Society on Boutelle, Marxism, etc. The sponsoring student organizations declined to accept the amended university regulations, and Taylor then extended a personal invitation to Boutelle to speak on the campus. Boutelle declined, pleading a prior engagement.

The prior engagement was with the Baton Rouge chapter, President Herbert Rothschild having extended an invitation to Boutelle to speak under ACLU auspices. Affiliate Vice-President Wade Mackie provided a hall, the Friends Service Committee office in Baton Rouge, and approximately 300 or so people jammed into and around the building to hear the controversial Boutelle.

The speaker obligingly threw some fairly weighty brickbats at the status quo, the power structure, and conventional politics, but so far as could be determined, no students were subverted.

The high point of the talk was provided by a lighted fuse which came sailing through a door at an appropriate moment. Thankfully, nothing was attached to the fuse, but a number of the group had some anxious moments before that determination was made.

A ramification of the episode is that Boutelle and the student organizations which invited him to speak at the University are interested in litigation designed to clarify the regulations on outside speakers, and perhaps to recover the cost of bringing Boutelle to Baton Rouge. A suit might also test the recently-enacted statute placing restrictions upon communist/atheist speakers and/or activities at state campuses, and cooperating attorney Richard Sobol is exploring the possibilities.

Author Harold Weisberg has complained to us before of problems in getting his books published and distributed, and book no. four, Oswald in New Orleans, is no exception.

One local distributor ordered 2,000 of the books, but let them sit in a warehouse. The books were sold to another distributor, but the first won't allow him to use its racks in stores to display the books. So despite the book having much to say about New Orleans, and having a foreword by Garrison, it is not achieving wide distribution here.

The second distributor complained to the news media, and one wire service reporter wanted to write a story. This was vetoed somewhere up the line.

Another aspect of the situation involves a talk Garrison made in Los Angeles on November 14. The L. A. Free Press thought it was a real bombshell and printed it in full.

In the talk, Garrison removes the seventh veil and accuses our "friendly President, Lyndon Johnson", of "shielding assassins", but the talk has evidently not been widely reported.

Just in case there is something fishy about all this, we thought we should do what we could to further freedom of expression.

SUBVERSION

The Congress is debating our liberty again. And, if history serves as a guide, the outcome will not be favorable. At issue this time, among many pending bills, is House Resolution 12601, which--according to our man in D. C., Larry Speiser -- "seeks to rescue the Subversive Activities Control Board (S.A.C.B.) from its years of idleness interspersed with plodding unconstitutional activity".

Harry Truman vetoed the bill setting up SCAB in 1950, saying that it granted "vast powers to harass all of our citizens in their rights of free speech", but it was passed over his veto. The new legislation extending the life of this worse than useless agency recognizes that the old legislation has been rendered toothless by Supreme Court decisions, and would substitute "mere disclosure and exposure for the compulsory registration outlawed by the courts".

The bill was scheduled for debate in the House on November 28, and there is little we can do at this point, but we thought you might be interested.

SOUND OFF - Continued

patrol services, Disposalls, books, and septic tanks entitled to grants from public funds because they ease the burdens of various public sarvices? I doubt that even the members of CEF would argue that they were, either legally or morally.

Moreover, a community split into ghettos is no community at all, whether the ghettos are ghattos of privilege or of poverty--and citizens who can afford not to use public facilities frequently erect unmistakable ghetto walls around themselves. Often, they are as much insulated from the feelings and needs of the community as though they lived behind glass. Our community has been split in this way ever since I can remember. Only now is it really beginning to pull together, and it has a long way to go. It is desparate for money and help from us all. This is the worst possible time for any group to demand tax money for the reinforcement of its own particular wall, even if the public subsidy it desired were legal..and in my amateur opinion, this one is not.

While it is quite true that public aid, mostly Federal, has been flowing in unprecedented amounts to church-related schools, the separation of church and state is not a dead issue. Some of the recent grants are being legally contested now, in other states. What the CEF is asking for, apparently, is something resembling the tuition grant system we just got rid of. Substantial support, with public money, of any school where the doctrines of a specific religious sect are taught is, I think, unconstitutional, and the state of Louisiana must have thought, so too, when it made such schools ineligible for the old tuition grants. However, in the unlikely event that the CEF gets what it is asking for from the state, I hope that the courts would be as forceful in upholding the First Amendment as they were in upholding the 14th in relation to the old grant acts, either by denying the grants to students in church schools, or by prohibiting prayer and doctrinal teaching within the schools.

Postscript: I find it both sad and amusing that the ACLULA has said, on this subject, what the Times Picayune almost certainly thinks, but is almost certainly too pusillanimous to say editorially. It seldom picks on anyone its own size.

SCHECHNER RIDES AGAIN

Our New York Times clipping service has sent us a report on the activities of Richard Schechner, of Jackson Square (and Tulane Quadrangel) fame. Evidently, it's business as usual at a new stand. From the item in the Times, it appears that Richard is up to his ears in "Guerrilla Theater", whereby actors take the action to the audience out in the street. In the action described, "Five groups of actors performed at 22 locations without advance notice", and "Richard Schechner, professor of drama and cinema at New York University and editor of The Drama Review, a quarterly formerly known as The Tulane Review, said the performances had been planned for many weeks."

"Four of the groups acted in versions of 'Kill Vietcong', a play by Robert Head", [another New Orleanian who is still with us], in which members of the audience suddenly become actors when red water pistols are handed to them, and they are instructed to "shoot" the actor cast in the role of Vietcong.

Sounds like fun. But, just in case everybody up there doesn't think so, Richard, the emergency number to call in NYC is OR 5-5990.

PLEDGE/
RENEW/GIVE CONT'D

your 1968 contribution, hopefully a larger one than you made in 1967. Our goal for 1968 is \$9,700, and by far the lion's share of this total is going to have to come from our membership in the way of renewal contributions. We have plans to fit any budget, annually, semi-annually, quarterly, even monthly, and we will remind you if you so desire. Also, we can accomodate any size contribution, so don't worry about making it too large. If you have been contributing \$10 per year, will \$5 per quarter really disrupt your financial structure? Or maybe even \$10 per quarter? (The National average is about \$19.00; ACLULA in 1966 averaged \$24.92.) Our membership has responded magnificently in the past two years; and we rather imagine it will in 1968, too.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANK

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZIP _____ OCCUPATION _____
PHONE _____ BUS. PHONE _____ DATE _____

Minimum husband & wife joint membership \$10/ Student mem. \$3/ Contrib. member \$6.00