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Protect Political Rights

A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT

In response to increased threats to political expression and personal privacy uncovered by Watergate and intelligence agency exposes, a new citizens' rights group has formed in Milwaukee.

Protect Political Rights is a non-partisan organization whose purpose is the elimination of political and economic repression of liberty. PPR intends to add weight to the fight against the technological threats to freedom that Sen. Frank Church warned of during his committee's recent probe.

"In the need to develop a capacity to know what potential enemies are doing, the United States government has perfected a technological capability," he said. "... At the same time, that capability at any time could be turned around on the American people, and no American would have any privacy left, such as the capability to monitor everything: Telephone conversations, telegrams, it doesn't matter. There would be no place to hide.

"If this government ever became a tyranny, if a dictator ever took charge in this country, the technological capacity that the intelligence community has given the government could enable it to impose total tyranny, and there would be no way to fight back, because the careful effort to combine together in resistance to government, no matter how privately it was done, is within the reach of the government to know. Such is the capability of this technology."

A heightened awareness of this threat has brought together some local people in an effort to resist the encroachment of police and military repression. We realize that only through public exposure and preventive legislative action can the erosion of liberty be stopped.

In order to attain this end we have formed PPR. PPR will work with and through other civil liberties groups whenever possible because our cause of human freedom is identical. The American Civil Liberties Union, the National Lawyers' Guild, Fifth Estate, and all similar groups are our allies.

What might distinguish us in some respects from other groups is an approach to civil liberties problems that will be based on investigative-research work. Although our projects will at times need the help of volunteer attorneys, for the most part it will be the hard research and analytical work of investigative journalists that we will most emulate.

The fruits of our labor will be, first, exposure; and then, the application of remedies to end repressive public policies.

Although our base of interest is broad enough to encompass all facets of political-economic repression, from political assassinations to government corruption, our projects will be very tightly focused to ensure thorough coverage of each issue.

THE FIRST TWO PROJECTS WE HAVE CHOSEN ARE:

1) The Milwaukee Police Special Assignment Squad - Also known as the Red Squad, this infamous unit has been used for decades to spy on and intimidate political dissenters. The Squad keeps dossiers on thousands of Milwaukeeans that include everything from spy reports to photographs taken surreptitiously. Every prior attempt to combat the Red Squad has failed. Lack of research and lack of legal tools have hindered earlier attempts. Presently, we are effectively working to abolish the Squad through litigation and legislation.

2) Operation Garden Plot - This is a plan for centralized cooperation among the Army, state governments, and local police in cases of "civil disorder." Garden Plot contains meticulous planning for the deployment and supply of U.S. Army troops in cities across the nation, and sets forth a full range of operating procedures. The overall plan has several large subplans encompassing several states. Included in one such subplan is Wisconsin, which would be further subdivided into state, county, and municipal regions for martial law and police and military control.

It is PPR's intention to gain access to all the data on Garden Plot; to publish it; and then to work for its abolishment.

Protect Political Rights consists of attorneys, former intelligence agents, journalists, photographers, electronics specialists, and others.

a Wisconsin based committee to defend the Bill of Rights