

The ACLU smugly has claimed that since George Bush jumped on their case by revealing that Michael Dukakis is a card-carrying member of the organization, people have been flocking to its doors as if it were free beer night, eager to take out a membership.

If such be the case, and no one will ever know for sure since the American Civil Liberties Union keeps its membership roles secret, then I submit, there must be a whole lot of misguided Americans.

It seems incomprehensible that there are that many left-wing, knee-jerking, bleeding-heart liberals still out there who do not already belong to this far-out freakish outfit whose very canons outrage traditional American mores.

In almost everything the ACLU undertakes, it cloaks the issues and hides them behind the First Amendment prohibiting the free exercise of religion, not abridging free speech, the press or the right to peaceably assemble.

If the drafters of the original amendments in the first Congress could see how their document has been distorted to defend the likes of Klansmen, Communists and other anti-American causes, they'd surely be spinning in their graves.

The first thing that is terribly wrong with the ACLU is that the union has a secret membership of about a quarter of a million people. One would not sensibly advocate that the membership roles of private organizations be opened to the public, but, in the case of the ACLU, there are grave considerations that could justify a requirement to make public the names of ACLU members.

To cite one example, let's take the case of judges. The ACLU fights its battles in courtrooms with ACLU lawyers defending the "rights" of people, causes and organizations that normally outrage most Americans. We should know then, which judges contribute to, and/or hold membership in the ACLU, for the appearance of union lawyers before them would be a clear conflict of interest.

Just as a matter of principle, the organization, which demands total openness in government, should first demonstrate openness in its own house.

Not long ago, conservative columnist Patrick J. Buchanan, quoting from writings by Heritage Foundation scholar William A. Donahue, wrote about a policy guide put out by the ACLU board of directors that serves as a sort of bible guiding ACLU affiliates when they go to court.

One such policy urges repeal of all pornography laws except those involving pictures of young children, while defending in court, those who commerce in kiddie porn.

Along the same line, another policy calls for an end to the motion picture rating system, on the basis that the G, PG, PG-13, R and X rating have a

"chilling effect on freedom of expression." Yet the ratings, do not forbid any American, albeit some without parental accompaniment, from viewing any movie. The rating were simply designed to protect children from violent and sexually explicit films.

The union also calls for a permanent ban on displaying the nativity scene on public property. The union further is seeking to have the words "under God" removed from the Pledge of Allegiance.

Still another policy seeks an end to all tax exemptions for churches and synagogues, and, even as we speak, the union is in the courts trying to deprive the Catholic Church from its tax exemption because it feels the Church is meddling in politics because of its anti-abortion stand.

Here's an interesting policy of the ACLU. It calls for the legalization of all drugs, including cocaine and PCP on the grounds that what you ingest in your own body is your civil liberty. What makes this interesting is that on those grounds, Gen. Manuel Noriega, the Panamanian drug king, would become a legitimate businessman. Given that, how can ACLU card-carrier Michael Dukakis remain both a member of the union and denounce Gen. Noriega as a dictator who deals in drugs?

All criminals, except murderers and treasonists should be given a suspended sentence and returned to the community, is another ACLU premise.

Still another ACLU policy, according to Dr. Donahue, says that all homosexuals have a right to marry and become parents through adoption and foster care. They also, under the same policy, have the right to engage in street solicitation.

Mr. Buchanan also reveals that Susan Estrich, Mr. Dukakis' co-campaign chairman, who is on the ACLU national board of directors, is a veteran leader in the drive to legalize gay and lesbian marriages, and "is herself a good bet for a Supreme Court nomination in a Dukakis administration."

We can thank the ACLU for making sure our kids have explicit sex education (instruction?) in the schools, including how to use condoms, and we are further indebted to the ACLU for the prohibition of prayer in our public schools.

The America of today, with its pimps, prostitutes, dope fiends, and criminals turned loose on the streets to recommit crimes in one swell monument to the ACLU.

Back in the mid-60s, Richard Nixon was repeatedly bombarded by the press about the right-wing John Birch society — which on a scale of extremism of 1-to-10, compared to the ACLU would be a 2 against a 10 — and asked to repudiate the Birchers, which he eventually did.

Then, what is wrong with asking Micheal Dukakis to either defend, or completely disengage himself publicly from the ACLU, of which he confesses to being a card-carrying member?

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Robert C. Reid
Dukakis
and the ACLU

