

Complete copy WMB in HCLY

Skipping to the more immediate, to Shattuck and others:

Until Maryland passed its dubious and deceptive gun law I could walk safely only by carrying a gun. The State Police actually told me to when I reported attacks on me by dogs running loose in violation of local ordinances. Vicious dogs, the manhood symbols of the local radical right.

With the passing of the law, I applied for a permit. I do qualify. ~~But~~ But the FBI's files are "consulted." There is not only a complete meeting of the qualifications but there is also nothing in my record that says I should not get a permit. If I asked for it to carry money I'd get it. I was turned down. No hearing. I appealed and got a rubber-stamp rejection. No due process, not even the pretense. I then asked ACLU help. They refused because they are against guns. They can't be more against them than I am. But because they don't like guns they have no interest in such arcane matters as due process. And they have also become part of a cruel hoax, that the gun law means anything.

I saw Shattuck last May. In earlier correspondence he had not been encouraging. I dropped into his office early one morning, before he got there, and he saw me. At the end of the meeting he was encouraging and somewhat excited. As I left he introduced me to Wulff and told Wulff that he had asked me to write a long memo on what I asked of them, taking the case of which you know, of federal intrusion into my rights. And I had spelled out that it held the possibility of taking WG-related depositions. When I say spelled out I mean completely enough, with names and dates.

Something happened between that meeting and his response to the long letter I wrote as soon as I got home. He then complained that it was long and said no.

They take cases like George McMillan's?

My long history tells me that when anyone connected with the ACLU leadership sees me off or if he doesn't know of me learns, the collective conscience is offended and in order for them to justify themselves, I have to be villainous.

To put this another way, where I am concerned, there is little prospect they will do anything. Their help could use. There is a clear history of polite and proper approaches never working with them. The alternative to the method I have used is doing nothing with them. So, I make the rough effort, not expecting anything and with nothing to lose if it does not work.

And with the advantage of leaving a record when it doesn't.

Maybe, some day, one of them will be embarrassed enough.

Minor aspects:

I knew Al Wirin in the mid 30s. He was then with the NLRB and worked as an investigator for the committee for which I worked. He got a little activist when he was investigating RCA for us. He was part of the investigation. He is the one who went to their offices. He leaked some of what he got for the Senate to Jim Carey of the union. He got in trouble for it. I don't recall how but I was of minor help to him. The fact, regardless of this, is that we were friendly and did know each other.

After he retired I wrote him asking if he would undertake to try to get me some money owed me in Los Angeles. He hasn't had the simple decency to respond. And he can't live in Los Angeles and not have heard of the work I have been doing, my appearances there have been that numerous on radio and TV.

In summary, I know an ACLU that is not consistent with its public image.