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CIVIL LIBERTIES (ACLU, National)

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Washington Report**A clear alternative to S. 1**

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In late November, Representatives Robert Kastenmeier (D-Wis.), Don Edwards (D-Calif.), and Abner Mikva (D-Ill.) introduced in the House of Representatives H.R. 10850, a codification, revision, and reform of the federal criminal laws which all civil libertarians can wholeheartedly endorse. While the drafters of this bill used S. 1 as their basis, over 1,000 changes were made. A full analysis of the differences between S.1 (its House equivalent H.R. 3907) and H.R. 10850 is being prepared by House staff.

While no Senator has been willing to introduce this bill, all members of the Senate will be receiving copies of H.R. 10850 in December, as well as copies of the printed analysis outlining the differences between the two bills. This will be especially important for members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, as they go into markup on S.1 in early February.

It is our hope that the judiciary committee, having in its hand a criminal codification which also protects individual liberties, will greatly strengthen the demands for substantive amendments to S.1 and/or force the Senate to send S. 1 back to the drawing board. At the very least the knowledge that the House will be considering H.R. 10850 will serve as a threat to those in the Senate who support S.1.

ACTION:

1. Write your Representative and order a copy of H.R. 10850, suggesting that she/he consider this bill as clearly preferable to H.R. 3907 or H.R. 333 and to consider cosponsoring.
2. Write members of the House Judiciary Committee (see below) and urge them to cosponsor H.R. 10850.
3. Write your Senator and bring the bill to his attention urging him also to consider sponsoring the bill in the Senate.
4. Bring the bill to the attention of your local media urging them to do an editorial and/or article in support of the bill.
5. Get the information and a copy of H.R. 10850 to those who are speaking against S. 1 in your area.

House Judiciary Committee

Peter W. Rodino, Jr. (D-N.J.) Chairman

Brooks (D-Tex.), Kastenmeier (D-Wis.), Edwards (D-Calif.), Hungate (D-Mo.), Conyers (D-Mich.), Eilberg (D-Pa.), Flowers (D-Ala.), Mann (D-S.C.), Sarbanes (D-Md.), Seiberling (D-Ohio), Danielson (D-Calif.), Drinan (D-Mass.), Jordan (D-Tex.), Thornton (D-Ark.), Holtzman (D-N.Y.), Mezvinsky (D-Iowa), Badillo (D-N.Y.), Mazzoli (D-Ky.), Pattison (D-N.Y.), Dodd (D-Conn.), Hughes (D-N.J.), Russo (D-Ill.), Hutchinson (R-Mich.), McClory (R-Ill.), Railsback (R-Ill.), Wiggins (R-Calif.), Hyde (R-Ill.), Kindness (R-Ohio), Fish (R-N.Y.), Butler (R-Va.), Cohen (R-Maine), Moorhead (R-Calif.), Ashbrook (R-Ohio)