

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF VIRGINIA

December 1, 1969

Dear Fellow Member of ACLU of Central Virginia:

This past year has been one of strong growth and vigorous activity for your chapter, as it has been for the Virginia affiliate as a whole. Since the beginning of the year the membership of our chapter, which is concentrated largely in Charlottesville, has increased from 197 to 314, an increase of 60 percent.

Our activity on behalf of civil liberties has continued to be centered on the courts, with results which are evident in the press. This work is coordinated through the Legal Panel of the affiliate, and is carried out with the help of co-operating attorneys throughout the state. Notable contributions have been made to the state-wide legal effort by Mr. John Lowe and Mrs. Gail Marshall, both of whom are members of the Board of Directors of our chapter. In addition to overt litigation, much is accomplished by mediation of conflicts involving civil liberties issues, as in matters relating to student rights in the secondary schools. We are confident that the increasingly visible presence of ACLU in Virginia is creating increasing awareness of and respect for individual rights in our region and in the state.

Evidence of the increased interest in education about civil liberties in our area is the fact that the Law School of the University of Virginia is giving its first regular course this year in civil liberties.

We are by no means complacent, however, about our present status. We are still very young. We obtained our charter from National Headquarters on March 7, 1967, when we became the 41st affiliate of ACLU. Shortly thereafter affiliate headquarters was transferred to Richmond and we became one of what are now eight chapters of the Virginia affiliate of ACLU. Because we are so young, an important need is to get better acquainted. We have had some coffees for the purpose and they have helped. But we need particularly to know who among our members are interested in serving on our Executive Board, which has at least five vacancies annually, and in doing Committee work. For this reason we are urging you to indicate on the enclosed ballot for this year's board members suggestions for future nominees. Do not hesitate to suggest yourself.

The qualifications for membership on the Executive Board are an active interest in the work of the Union, and a willingness to attend a substantial fraction of the nine Board meetings per year, plus the time required for committee work, plus the time required for attendance at meetings of the State Board if you wish to be considered for that Board and are elected to it. We hope that next year, with your help, the slate of candidates for the Executive Board of the chapter will be considerably longer than the number of vacancies to be filled.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual membership meeting of the chapter on December 17, 1969. Further details about the meeting are given in the accompanying material.

LAWRENCE CRANBERG
Chairman, Central Virginia Chapter