



## American Civil Liberties Union, of Northern California

593 Market Street, San Francisco, California 94105  
(415) 433-2750

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Dear Member:

This letter seeks your ACLU membership contribution for 1972\*

1972 is going to be rough.

The President is reshaping the Supreme Court to make it hostile to civil liberties. Federal grand juries are conducting wide-ranging political inquiries. Long dormant loyalty programs are being reinvigorated. There will be the dissent and turmoil of a Presidential election year (remember 1968?). And, if the recent past is a guide, the federal government will continue to respond to demands for rights in a spirit that reflects the meanest and least generous aspects of the American tradition.


But while it will be rough, the outlook for civil liberties is by no means hopeless.


The repressive activities of the federal government are just not working. Dissent is not silenced, rather it is robust, even raucous. The voices of many new groups are openly demanding their rights, and the ACLU is helping them be heard - students, soldiers, women, prisoners, welfare recipients, racial and ethnic minorities.

It is this rights explosion which is our best defense against official repression. It is this process by which our society can be kept open. But it will take a lot of work.

It will also take a lot of money. That is why we are asking ACLU members to increase their contributions by half. ACLU aims to grow by half to meet the expanding needs for our help. We know this is asking a lot, but we hope you will agree that the cause is worth it.

Sincerely

  
Jay A. Miller  
Executive Director

  
Howard H. Jewel  
Chairman

\*in 1972 you will be supporting for the first time civil liberties efforts in both Northern California and in the nation. For an explanation of this historic merger and our re-organization, please read the enclosed brochure.