

# AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

22 East 40th Street      New York, New York 10016      (212) 725-1222

Dear Friend:

Richard Nixon's fall didn't end the invasion of privacy. Government and business are still at it. The American Civil Liberties Union is in court right now on behalf of:

- \* Donald and Jacqueline N. -- Their child was placed in a class for the mentally retarded on the basis of school records and tests they weren't allowed to see. Private psychologists said the boy was normal.
- \* Paul C. -- He was arrested for possession of marijuana, but the charges were dropped. Then, the F.B.I. routinely reported to a taxi commission that he had an open "narcotics" charge against him. He was denied a license to drive a cab.
- \* Lori P. -- For her high school social studies class, she wrote to a socialist group for information. The F.B.I. intercepted her letter and opened a "subversive" file on her.
- \* Walter R. -- The Air Force coded his honorable discharge papers to show he was discharged for "hardship." A few years later, without telling Walter R., they gave a new meaning to the same code number. Now it signifies "homosexual tendencies."
- \* Galen C. -- Her car insurance was cancelled because some credit bureau spread gossip about her living with a man "out of wedlock."

In the last year ACLU lawyers have filed more than 5,000 lawsuits on behalf of the rights of Americans to privacy, freedom of inquiry and expression, due process of the law and equal protection of laws. Many ACLU court cases have become landmarks of American history. Others, like those described above, are filed on behalf of ordinary citizens who want and deserve the right to be let alone.

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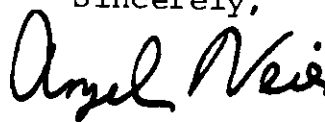
ACLU battles in Congress for the same principles we support in court. Recently, President Ford signed into law a bill backed by the ACLU to allow parents to see their children's school records. It also says parents can prevent outsiders from seeing those records. Congress is now completing action on legislation to expand the public's right to know what the government is doing. We've been to court to challenge F.B.I., C.I.A. and Defense Department secrecy and, with the help of the new law, we'll do even better next time in opening their operations to public view.

We could do better in much of our work. We could do better, that is, if you would join us. There are 275,000 ACLU members now. If there were more, we'd have more clout in Congress and could take on more court battles on behalf of the liberties of American citizens.

Join us now. It costs \$15. (\$25. for more than one membership in a household). If you can give more that would be great.

Thanks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aryeh Neier".

Aryeh Neier  
Executive Director