

• *The Prisoner Rights Project*—There has been a growing concern that much of the unrest in prison stems from the fact that until recently prison authorities and the state have totally ignored even the most basic rights of those who are incarcerated. As a result, the experience is more dehumanizing than it need be, and very little rehabilitation goes on. This is not only a violation of civil rights, it becomes a dangerous public policy, since most prisoners will someday return to civilian life. This project will greatly expand on the work the ACLU has already successfully begun in the area of prison rights.

• *The Victimless Crime Project*—Probably 50% of the work the police do, and a similar percentage of the caseload in our courts, is concerned with the “victimless” crime. This is the breaking of a law designed to regulate our “morality” rather than the injuring of one citizen by another. Included in this area are: alcoholism, drug addiction, prostitution, gambling, abortion and some types of disorderly conduct. There is, of course, the civil liberties question of privacy or the emerging right to be let alone. Perhaps even more important, is the fact that, as violent crimes increase, there is a proportional pressure exerted against the civil liberties of suspects, and so we begin to get laws providing for preventive detention, no-knock searches, wiretapping, etc. One way to reduce crime immediately would be to get rid of the victimless crimes and permit the police and courts to concentrate on those crimes which are truly dangerous to the general population. In some cases, such as our handling of drug addiction, the State program inadvertently helps to create crimes of violence. As conceived, this Project would combine public education, litigation, and legislation to change these laws.

The Foundation will seek out a number of contributors who are in a position to become Patrons (\$10,000 contribution), Sponsors (\$5,000 contribution), or Fellows (\$1,000 contribution). Such contributors can earmark their gifts for programs or projects that most interest them if they so choose. (While contributions under \$1,000 a year will certainly not be turned away, earmarking for special projects of such contributions will not be encouraged.) Unearmarked contributions are shared with the National ACLU Foundation on the same 60-40 percentage basis as contributions to ACLU-NC.

Patrons, Sponsors and Fellows will receive special reports and briefs on the activities of the ACLU-NC Foundation, and from time to time will be invited to small background sessions with civil liberties experts or prominent ACLU clients who come to Northern California.

For ACLU members who wish to make a tax deductible contribution to the Foundation, we would encourage you to continue your ACLU-NC membership in order to maintain your membership voting rights and to make sure we are able to carry out our much needed programs of legislation, membership and chapter development and public information.

Private foundations will also, of course, be solicited and encouraged to fund special projects or the general work of the ACLU-NC Foundation.

It is hoped that by changing to these two organizations, we will be able to greatly expand the work for civil liberties to become more responsive to the civil liberties problems throughout Northern California. Until now our work has been largely reactive. As we gain strength, we hope to be able to reserve a good part of our effort for affirmative litigation by taking a look at our region and challenging the worst civil liberties abuses, in ways that will change patterns, eliminate those abuses, and have a lasting effect.

### Wills and Bequests

Over the years many ACLU members have chosen to make a bequest to the cause of liberty and justice—to try to guarantee that at least these principles achieve immortality even when we humans cannot.

For those considering a bequest the following form is suggested:

“I give and bequeath to THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC., a corporation organized not-for-profit under the Laws of the State of California, for its corporate purposes for the sum of ..... dollars.”

You or your attorney may wish to contact The American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of Northern California, Inc., 593 Market Street, San Francisco 94105. Telephone: (415) 433-2750 for additional information.

The American Civil Liberties Union  
of Northern California  
593 Market Street  
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### The ACLU Merger: How It Affects Membership and Tax Deductible Contributions

On December 1, 1971, the merger of the National ACLU and the ACLU of Northern California was completed. The 8,000 members who belong to the Northern California affiliate and the 6,000 Northern Californians who belong to the National ACLU are now on one integrated membership list.

All members will now receive both newsletters, the Northern California NEWS and the National CIVIL LIBERTIES. All 12,500\* members will be counted for purposes of voting in a National referendum, and for deciding on the number of delegates that the Northern California ACLU is entitled to for the National Biennial Conference, and also for Affiliate and Chapter elections.

The Northern California affiliate will continue to maintain its independence of thought and action. We need not be bound by all positions taken by the National ACLU and may take positions and actions on matters that we consider of civil liberties importance but the National does not.

### Membership Contributions

Under the merger there will be a sharing of membership contributions, beginning with the 1972 renewal campaign. Previously the Northern California affiliate kept 100% of the contributions of its 8,000 members, and the National ACLU kept 100% of the monies from its 6,000 members. Now renewal monies will be shared,

\*There is a 1,500-member overlap between the two membership lists—that is persons who belong to both the National and local.

with 60% remaining in Northern California and 40% remitted to the National office for civil liberties work throughout the country. All members will send their money to the San Francisco office, where it will be recorded and banked. National will receive its share from us at the end of each month.

## Tax Deductibility?

For several years members who made contributions to the Northern California affiliate had the advantage of tax deductibility while the National ACLU and its other affiliates were not tax deductible. In contemplating the merger of the two organizations much was made of the loss to the ACLU-NC members of that tax deductibility. One would expect that, because of this advantage, Northern California contributors to the ACLU-NC would have the highest contribution rate in the country. Curiously, just the reverse has been true.

For instance, in 1970 the average contribution to ACLU of Arizona was \$38 per member. In Massachusetts it was \$28; the National average of all members was \$25. Mississippi and Utah (both unstaffed affiliates) had the lowest averages, at approximately \$17.50 per member. Lowest, that is, with the exception of the Northern California affiliate, which was (would you believe) just over \$17 per member. Lest anyone think that Northern Californians simply lack commitment to civil liberties, it turns out that the members residing in Northern California who belonged to the National ACLU, gave almost \$23 per member *without the advantage of tax deductibility*.

What this demonstrates is, that with a few exceptions, tax deductibility has meant little or nothing to the Northern California general membership. It is our hope that we will be able to greatly increase membership giving. One way that we hope to encourage this is by making it easier to spread out a member's giving. In the first membership mailing that you will receive each year, you will have the option of joining a pledge pro-

gram. Those who choose to take advantage of it will receive quarterly or semi-annual reminders.

## But There Is a Way

For those who plan to make a *substantial* contribution—read on (there are some members who now do so and we hope that the number will grow considerably).

By Board action we have now become two organizations. One is the ACLU-NC, a membership organization, which is an affiliate of the National ACLU, a New York Corporation registered to do business in California. This is just like the other 47 ACLU affiliates throughout the country. The other is the ACLU-NC Foundation, Inc., a tax deductible California corporation.

Contributions to the ACLU-NC (the membership organization) will be used for:

- *An expanded legislative program* that will include local, State and National lobby efforts. In cooperation with the Southern California ACLU affiliate we plan to identify several *critical civil liberties* issues each year on which there will be an intensive State-wide legislative effort.
- *A greatly expanded public information program* including:
  - *A speaker's bureau* that will aggressively seek platforms throughout Northern California, providing speakers on current topics to schools, churches, service and businessmen's clubs, labor unions and civic organizations.
  - *Stepped up publicity*, making regular use of news conferences and the frequent issuance of news releases to announce important civil liberties actions or to comment critically on civil liberties violations.
- *Publication of the ACLU NEWS* which will

continue to keep members informed on ACLU-NC activities, with content expanded to reflect ACLU-NC's greater involvement in the non-litigation activities of legislation and education.

- *Greater affiliate support for Chapter* organizations and programs to insure an ACLU presence to handle civil liberties problems and education in almost every community in Northern California.
- *Maintenance of present membership* and recruitment of thousands of new members. Members are, of course, the life-blood of the organization since every member becomes a "salesman" for civil liberties, a potential lobbyist and an activist in carrying out the program. Numerical strength correlates directly with the amount of "clout" an organization can exert in many situations.
- *Support of National* civil liberties programs, since 40% of the membership contribution goes to the National ACLU.

It is especially important that we greatly strengthen our public information, education and legislative programs, if we are to meet the challenge of defending civil liberties in the climate of a United States Supreme Court increasingly unsympathetic to our message. More and more we must combine our litigative efforts with these other programs.

## The ACLU-NC Foundation, Inc.

The ACLU-NC Foundation, Inc., is actually the old ACLU of Northern California, with a slightly altered name. It is still a California Corporation which continues to enjoy tax deductibility since its purpose and operation have not changed.

There is only one difference. It is no longer a membership organization. To receive the benefits of tax deductibility, ACLU members and friends

who wish to make *substantial* contributions are encouraged to make them to the Foundation.

Contributions to the Foundation will support most of our litigation efforts and special projects. Some of these projects have already been voted on by our Board of Directors (some even receiving seed money funding to get them going). The Capital Punishment Project and the High School Student Project have both gotten started from a commitment of ACLU reserve money, while the Chicano Project is under consideration for funding by Foundations.

- *The Capital Punishment Project*—This project now underway—will be responsible for funding a major evidentiary hearing in Federal court on the question of the cruel and unusual punishment involved in the death penalty. The Project also will build a Coalition of organizations and prominent persons to help with the major educational drive against the continued use of the death penalty.
- *The High School Student Project*—This Project will set up seminars for high school students to teach them how to use the means and tools of constitutional democracy to achieve the rights that they have sought in the secondary school. This pilot Project's exciting potential is the possibility of developing commitment on the part of young people to constitutional, democratic values, not now being reinforced by their educational experience.
- *The Chicago Project*—This Project is proposed as a joint effort with the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund. It would place a young Chicano attorney in the San Joaquin Valley to defend the rural Chicano population on what can be called "survival civil liberties." Because of poverty, prejudice and inadequate education, problems that the Chicano population shares with other minorities, exacerbated by language difficulties, their rights are constantly being abused by a whole range of government agencies, from the police to the courts, from immigration authorities to the welfare system.