

# FRANK WILKINSON

has worked in the field of civil liberties for 18 years. He has been the Executive Director of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL) since the civil liberties organization was founded in 1960 as the Nat'l. Comm. to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Wilkinson prepared for the Methodist ministry in his early years, but turned to social activism after a world tour of poverty areas. His full-time career in public housing was cut short by the McCarthy period. After becoming the first manager of an integrated public housing project in Watts in 1942, he was ousted from his position as assistant to the Housing Director of Los Angeles because of his advocacy of integrated public housing in non-ghetto areas, and his outspoken opposition to political inquisitions.

Wilkinson gained national attention by challenging the constitutionality of the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1956 and again in 1958. Represented by the American Civil Liberties Union, Wilkinson lost a test case in a 5 - 4 decision before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1961, and was sent to prison for a year for refusal to testify before HUAC on First Amendment grounds. (Companion case: Carl Braden of SCEF).



As NCARL Director and Field Representative, Frank has spoken to over 1,000 campus, religious, professional, labor and community groups all across the country. With the current anti-civil liberties trend in the Supreme Court, Wilkinson contends that nothing short of massive lobbying and citizen involvement in legislative action can insure the survival of democratic rights in the United States.

## NCARL

The National Committee Against Repressive Legislation (NCARL) engages in education and political action work to protect free speech and association rights under attack from inquisitorial committees, government surveillance, and repressive laws. Its program includes repeal of "no-knock" and "preventive detention" laws, the federal "anti-riot" law, and the abolition of the House Internal Security Committee (former HUAC) and all other inquisitorial agencies. NCARL recently helped bring about repeal of the Title II "Emergency Detention Camp Law" in September, 1971, and has aided the increasing shift in Congress in opposition to HUAC/HISC and the practices of government surveillance and thought-control.

NCARL is essentially a volunteer organization, with a Correspondent and volunteer student interns in Washington, and six offices located around the country. Costs are held to a minimum, with staff members working on subsistence wages. Financial support for the organization comes from small monthly pledges and contributions made by citizens across the country.

# NATIONAL COMMITTEE AGAINST REPRESSIVE LEGISLATION

**Southern Regional Office**

*formerly National Committee to Abolish HUAC/HISC (House Committee on Internal Security)*