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# American Civil Liberties Union

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Our fight is to help secure  
unrestricted liberty of speech,  
press and assemblage, as the only  
sure guarantee of orderly progress.

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY**

*"It is time enough for the rightful purpose  
of civil government for its officers to in-  
terfere when principles break out into  
overt acts against peace and good order."  
Thos. Jefferson.*

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138 WEST 13th STREET  
NEW YORK CITY  
May, 1921



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**SOCIALIST - LABOR  
COLLECTION**

## THE CHALLENGE

THE struggle for freedom today centers around the activities of the organized workers and farmers. Everywhere that struggle involves the issues of free speech, free press and peaceful assemblage. Everywhere the powers of organized business challenge the right of workers to organize, unionize, strike and picket. The hysterical attacks on "red" propaganda, on radical opinion of all sorts, are in substance a single masked attack on the revolt of labor and the farmers against industrial tyranny.

The hysteria aroused by the war, with its machinery for crushing dissenting opinion, is now directed against the advocates of industrial freedom. Thirty-five states have passed laws against "criminal syndicalism," "criminal anarchy" or "sedition." Even cities enact such laws. A wholesale campaign is on to deny the right to strike, by compulsory arbitration and by injunction. The nationwide open-shop crusade is a colossal attempt to destroy all organization of labor.

Patrioteering societies, vigilantes, "loyalty leagues," strike-breaking troops or State Constabularies and the hired gunmen of private corporations contend with zealous local prosecutors in demonstrating their own brands of "law and order." Meetings of workers and farmers are prohibited and broken up, speakers are mobbed and prosecuted. Picketing is made unlawful or prohibited by injunction in a score of states, and hundreds of cities. Searches are instituted without thought of

warrant. Scores of persons are arrested without warrant and held in prohibitive bail for months without trial.

Teachers suspected of liberal or radical views are dismissed from schools and colleges. Aliens are held for deportation simply for membership in a political or industrial organization. Immigration and passports are restricted in part according to opinion and beliefs.

The right of duly elected representatives to sit in a state legislature has been denied, solely because of their opinions. Legislation pretending to be aimed only at the overthrow of the government by "force and violence," as a matter of fact is construed to punish the advocacy of political and economic change by any method. The Supreme Court has put final approval on practically all the measures restricting civil liberty which have come before it.

### OUR SERVICE

This reversal of American tradition and the ideals of liberty can be met only by uniting those forces which will fight for orderly progress through freedom of opinion. The reaction to long-continued suppression is violent revolution. This organization is dedicated to the principle of progress by orderly methods. We hold no brief for any particular cause. We are not identified with any "ism." We fight for all those whose liberties are at stake.

*We are attempting to affect the present situation:*

(1) By sending free speech organizers and

speakers into areas of conflict to dramatize the issues of civil liberty, and where necessary, to fight them out in the courts.

(2) By getting in touch at once with every person or group attacked, and with the responsible public officials or agencies—for service with protests, publicity and lawyers.

(3) By opposing legislation and movements restricting freedom of speech, press and assemblage; and by endeavoring to secure amnesty for political and industrial prisoners.

(4) By securing nation-wide publicity on all important civil liberty issues.

(5) By organizing legal defense throughout the country.

(6) By opposing the restrictions on freedom of opinion in the teaching profession.

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We have a national press clipping service that brings the information about the cases. From district organization offices, we can get speakers, investigators and lawyers out on short notice wherever serious trouble arises.

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We welcome the co-operation of correspondents, attorneys, speakers, writers and investigators anywhere in the United States. Any citizen willing to help in the publicity campaigns by writing letters to newspapers or public officials is urged to enlist. Any person will be put on the mailing list for all publications for \$1.00 a year.

*The Union is supported solely by voluntary contributions. Any contributions, monthly or annual, are warmly appreciated.*

## OFFICERS

Harry F. Ward, New York, *Chairman*; Duncan McDonald, Illinois; Jeannette Rankin, Montana, *Vice-Chairmen*; Albert DeSilver and Roger N. Baldwin, *Directors*; Walter Nelles, *Counsel*; Lucille B. Milner, *Field Secretary*.

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## AFFILIATED DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONS

Chicago Civil Liberties League, Room 303,  
166 West Washington St., Chicago, Ill.

Youngstown Workers Defense League, 1432  
W. Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio

Portland Civil Liberties Union, 247½ Stalk  
St., Portland, Oregon

New England Civil Liberties Committee,  
44 Edgehill Road, Brookline, Mass.

Workers' Defense Union, 7 East 15th Street,  
New York City

Philadelphia Civil Liberties Committee,  
1301 Morris Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

Workers' Defense Union of Baltimore, 135  
South Broadway, Baltimore, Md.

*Attorneys and correspondents in leading  
cities*