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American Civil Liberties Union, 1934.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

100 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY

304

July 25, 1934.

To friends of civil liberties:

The reappearance of "vigilantes" in California and along the entire Pacific Coast, accompanied by cooperation of public officials, which resulted in lawless raids upon and destruction of headquarters of workers' organizations (Communist, I.W.W. and Socialist alike) followed by wholesale arrests in a program to smash radical organizations is a challenge to the cause of liberty which, to us, cannot go unanswered.

For the purpose of an effective and unified protest against the infringement of civil and constitutional rights and against the terror that has been visited upon workers the American Civil Liberties Union has joined with labor defense organizations. You will find enclosed a joint statement of these organizations expressing our position, a joint letter to the Secretary of Labor as well as a reprint of the telegrams of Governor Merriam and Secretary Perkins to which this letter has reference.

We ask your cooperation. Will you sign and return to us the enclosed statement and letter (or either one in the event you are unable to sign both of them). If the statement and letter referred to are not in accord with your views, may we have an expression of your opinion with permission to make it public?

Sincerely yours,

Roger Baldwin
Director

A. L. Wern
Counsel

E

*Law Offices of
Harrison and Marshman
Guardian Building
Cleveland*

*Marvin C. Harrison
Homer H. Marshman*

*Fred A. Dewey
Minghild Andersen*

Cherry 1292

September 24th, 1934

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver,
The Temple,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Mr. Roger Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union will be at the City Club on Tuesday, October 2nd, at 12:00 o'clock to meet the friends of the Union in Cleveland.

We hope that if at all possible you will plan to be there.

Yours very truly,



MCH/L

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

100 FIFTH AVENUE

Tompkins Square 6-4330

NEW YORK CITY

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Nov. 5, 1934.

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Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple, East 105th St. at Ansel Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Rabbi Silver:

We are calling a conference in Washington Dec. 8 and 9 to formulate a program of civil liberties legislation for the forthcoming Congress, and at the same time to unite forces on the specific remedies proposed. A call for that conference and a memorandum on the topics to be covered is enclosed.

We would like to have a number of members of our National Committee sign a public appeal for attendance of the conference in order to give it character and weight which these signatures will imply. The whole list of our committee is too long for such a communication. We are therefore asking the following as representative of our constituency to consent to their use of their names:

Prof. John Dewey
Dr. James H. Dillar
Sherwood Eddy
Norman Hapgood
Rev. John Haynes Holmes
Prof. John Weldon Johnson

Anne Martin
Miss Mary E. McDowell
Prof. Alexander Meiklejohn
Prof. Edward A. Ross
Dean Elbert Russell
Oswald Garrison Villard

Attached is the form of a letter which we propose to send out with these signatures. May we have your prompt acceptance?

Sincerely yours,

Harry F. Ward
Chairman

HFW:IE

Amer. Jewish Lib. Union

UNION THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

BROADWAY AT 120TH STREET

NEW YORK

November 20, 1934

My dear Rabbi Silver:

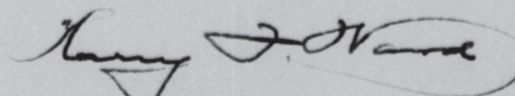
In my hurried visit to Cleveland on Saturday, to my regret I was unable to get in touch with you.

In connection with my responsibilities in the American Civil Liberties Union and in the American League Against War and Fascism, I was looking into the threatened destruction of free speech and the incitement of vigilante action by Mayor Davis. It seems to me that his attitude constitutes a menace not only to the city but to the nation. If his threatened action materializes it will undoubtedly constitute a landmark in the development of Fascism in this country, just as the setting up of the rostrum in the public square by Tom Johnson was a landmark in the history of free speech in the United States.

I discovered that the prevailing attitude among our Civil Liberties' friends was that Davis was only blustering, and that the thing to do was to wait for some overt act. Our Directors agree with me that this policy of inaction would put our forces at a disadvantage and might mean the losing of the battle. Also of course it is not the heads of the respectable comfortable folk that are going to get broken in the overt act. We have therefore decided to join our force with those of the American League Against War and Fascism in endeavoring to arrange a mass protest meeting against the proposed policies of the Mayor, which would be thoroughly representative of every aspect of life in Cleveland. The work of organizing this procedure can be done by the Cleveland branch of the American League, but the meeting will not be held under its auspices. Instead there will be organized the widest possible committee of arrangements, and for this purpose only, so that there will be no organizational tie-up.

I am hoping that you will feel urged by the gravity of the situation when the local committee approaches you, to lend your name to this meeting and to participate in it.

Very sincerely yours,



Harry F. Ward

Rabbi A. Silver
105th Street Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

November 27, 1934.

Henry F. Ward, Chairman,
American Civil Liberties Union,
100 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Mr. Ward:

Please pardon the long delay in replying to your letter of November 5th. Somehow your letter was mislaid and it was only this morning that I came upon it.

You may, of course, use my name in connection with the public appeal for attendance at the Conference which you are calling Washington on December 8th and 9th.

With all good wishes, and trusting that the Conference will be a success, permit me to remain

Very sincerely yours,

AHS:BK