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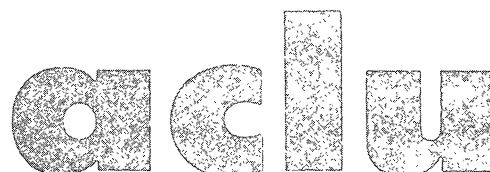
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CHARLES MORGAN, JR.

Director

September 21, 1973

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ARLIE SCHARDT

Associate Director

Dear Fellow ACLU Member:

The increasingly anti-civil libertarian direction of the federal government and the decreasing concern for civil liberties in the Supreme Court make it impossible to rely on the courts alone in our efforts to maintain a free society.

Consequently, we must buttress our work in the courts with an equally strong legislative program. Indeed, with some 250,000 informed Americans on its rapidly growing membership rolls, there is no reason why the ACLU should not be the most effective public interest lobby in the nation.

That is where you come in. We are not now asking for your money, but we do need your help. Our expanded Washington National Office gives the ACLU the ability to keep Congress constantly aware of the civil liberties implications of its actions--but unless Congress hears from its constituents back home, it will not respond.

No one knows this better than those of you receiving this letter. A good example of your political acumen was your winning a spot as a delegate or alternate to last year's Democratic National Convention. Remarkably, some 579 ACLU members were similarly successful. They were not in a single candidate's camp, but in sizeable numbers supported four prospective nominees. This letter is going to each of you. A similar letter also will go to every ACLU member who was a delegate at the Republican National Convention.

The purpose of this letter is to tell you briefly about our plans for increasing Congress' responsiveness to civil liberties issues (and, as I mentioned above, to ask for your help).

The ACLU's Washington National Office has always been a valuable resource for concerned members of Congress. ACLU representatives testify dozens of times each year before Congressional committees. We also seek to increase civil liberties awareness among the general public through speeches, articles, letters, and workshops.

But in these extraordinary days of political surveillance and runaway dossiers, mere "education" of the Congress is not enough. Congress must know that there is actually a civil liberties constituency out there, ready to use its votes as well as its voice to protect strict construction of our constitutional freedoms.

To do this, we are developing new ways to keep ACLU members informed of civil liberties developments in Congress so they can do something about them. Hopefully, you are one of our new resources.

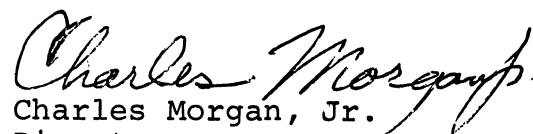
From time to time, we will be writing to you to ask your help on an issue of particular importance to civil liberties. We hope you will not only write, call, and meet with your Congresspeople on that issue--we hope you will use every bit of your ability to see that many other people, from many other groups, do the same.

The first such issue is explained in the accompanying Legislative Memo. It explains the situation in the critical fight to save the Legal Services Program. The same Memo is also being mailed to every ACLU affiliate in all fifty states, to all eighty National Board members, and to ACLU volunteers known as National Legislative Liasons.

We are working in Washington as part of a coalition of groups pressing this issue, but we cannot succeed without vigorous support from every state and district.

Please call on us if we can provide more information. I hope we can count on your help, both now and in future efforts.

Kindest regards,


Charles Morgan, Jr.
Director

Encl.: Memorandum re Legal Services Legislation