

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES
ACLU OF TENNESSEE, INC.
December 11, 1971
Vanderbilt Faculty Club, Nashville

PRESENT:

MEMPHIS: Walter Bailey
Mike Honey

NASHVILLE: Ingram Cook, Oscar Bailey, Jack Hill, Jim [unclear],
Jerry Black.
Knoxville: John Cleland, Linda [unclear], [unclear], Bill Owen,
Gordon Bonnyman.
Oak Ridge: Helen [unclear], John [unclear], Jack [unclear], John [unclear]
Chattanooga: [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear]
Upper East Tenn.: [unclear], [unclear], [unclear], [unclear]
The meeting was called to order at 11:15 a.m. by the Chairman, John Cleland.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as previously distributed.

The Chairman reported on the new Upper East Tennessee Chapter. The bylaws of this group have been adopted and approved.

Richard Strehlow reported on the Chicago Meeting on Prison Projects, which he attended as a representative of the Affiliate. Discussion at the meeting was carried out in workshops, and concerned Attica and its implications, denial of adequate counsel for prisoners; mail censorship; and the generally deplorable conditions in prisons. Discussions also concerned the particularly bad treatment of women prisoners, and the destructiveness of the "rehabilitation" programs used in prisons. Discussion also centered on conditions in "Juvenile Offender" institutions, the use of parole and "indeterminate" sentences to keep prisoners subservient to guards and prison administrators, and other procedures whereby due process for prisoners is denied. A more detailed written report will be available soon for distribution on request to the Affiliate office.

Gordon Bonnyman reported on the Bail Bond Project which he has been working on via money granted by the Affiliate, Knoxville Chapter, Oak Ridge Chapter, and Student Government Association of the University of Tennessee. He has proposed to judges in Knoxville that he screen people who have been arrested, evaluating them on the basis of a questionnaire he has established as to the advisability of bail being granted in higher or lower amounts. He has tentative approval, and has volunteered to continue this project for 4 months, after which he hopes the procedure would be converted to a regular court-administered program. An essential point of the program is that each person arrested would go through the same process and be asked the same questions, thereby helping to eliminate arbitrary handling of bail. However judges are not bound to follow such recommendations, so that some arbitrariness would still exist. At present, for example, a person accused of burglary in Knoxville might have bail set at \$1,000, while in Memphis, if the accused is black, the bail is likely to be \$15,000. The amount of bail set is according to the individual "whim and fancy" of the judges in each area, and the bondsman-judge relationship, particularly in small towns, leads to daily injustices.

Walter Bailey reported on the National ACLU Board meeting of December 4-5, which he attended as the Tennessee Affiliate member. National ACLU adopted a budget of \$1,764,900 for 1972, with \$33,000 reserved as a contingency fund, with the

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following items as indicated:

Administration	\$327,000	Legal Activities	\$300,000
Development and Affiliates	464,000	Washington office	108,000
Information	140,000	Southern Regional office	147,000

The Board also voted to allocate \$3,500 for a Southern Regional Affiliate Conference to be held in Atlanta, February 18-20, 1972.

Walter Bailey also reported that for the first time in history the National ACLU Board came out in opposition to someone being selected for public office- William Rehnquist. Discussion also centered on day care legislation now in Congress, and welfare proposals being considered. The next meeting will be the first weekend in February.

Richard Strehlow submitted the Report of the Bylaw Revision Committee. It was approved with minor revisions, and the recommended bylaw changes will be submitted to the Affiliate members by mail ballot.

John Cleland explained the need for an American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee Foundation. Some people in Tennessee give tax-exempt money to the national ACLU Foundation, and 60% of those funds are available for Tennessee Affiliate sponsored programs of a tax deductible nature. We need a separate Foundation, chartered and approved by the Internal Revenue Service, to raise and handle tax exempt funds. A motion to proceed to establish an ACLU of Tennessee Foundation was adopted unanimously.

Chapters were urged to send delegates to the Southern Regional Affiliate Conference to be held in Atlanta, February 18-20, 1972. The Chairman, John Cleland, was selected as the one expenses-paid delegate from the Affiliate. Chapters were also urged to send the names, addresses, telephone numbers and a statement of ACLU activities of potential student delegates to the Affiliate office by the first week in January.

^{d/d}
The National ACLU Board ~~will~~ not decide on the financing of the Biennial Conference, to be held in Boulder, Colorado, June 8-11, 1972. The Tennessee Affiliate has budgeted \$300 for this meeting, and was authorized 3 expenses-paid delegates originally. It was m/s/c to submit the names of the officers of the Affiliate as potential delegates, but to defer any actual selection until the next meeting of the Affiliate Board.

The Affiliate budget for 1972 was discussed. Approval was given for the allocation of up to \$800 for new addressing equipment for the Affiliate office.

(A copy of the budget, as approved is attached.)

DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS:

The Affiliate office will send letters to several Board members suggested as replacement appointees for liaison with the National ACLU committees on Privacy and Church-State.

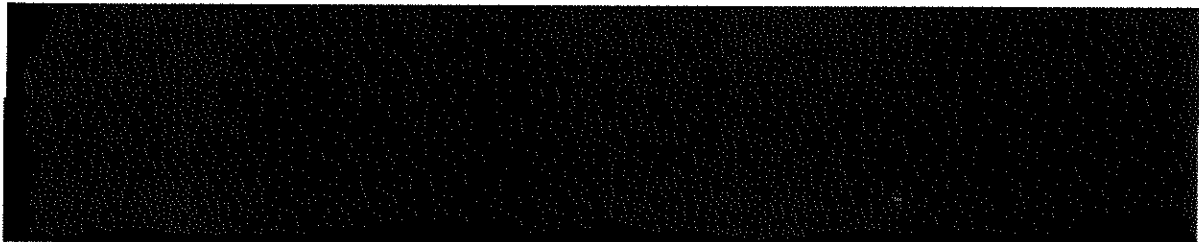
Hill Owen reported on a project of work-release being studied in the Knoxville area under a mini-grant from the Knox Area Chapter, ACLU. The aim is to provide for the release of selected prisoners from the Knox County workhouse during the ^{day} in order that they may continue to hold a regular job and continue to support themselves and their families.

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Richard Strehlow reported on recent developments in prison reform at the State level. He suggested that individual members of ACLU in Tennessee should begin working wherever possible to help establish visitation rights and other rights being denied prisoners in their area. He urged that they work with other groups, like the recently established PRISONER'S AID SOCIETY OF TENNESSEE.

He also urged the establishment of a task committee on prisoner's rights, with the objectives of: inventorying jail conditions, with the possible goal of attempting to close one or two of the worst of the jails in the State. This committee should be empowered to support or oppose legislation concerning prisoner rights and prison conditions. It should act as a clearing-house for prisoner rights cases that come to the attention of local chapters. It should develop a position on the question of the "indeterminate" sentence and other procedures that are relevant to our civil liberties concerns, and report these to the next State Board meeting.



Board Chairman John Cleland asked Dick Strehlow to serve as chairman of the proposed task committee, and he accepted. He will begin by querying Chapters about people willing to work on this project. It was mentioned that Chapters or the Affiliate might develop proposals to be submitted to National ACLU through the Affiliate for special funds for investigation or legal actions as developed by this committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Honey, Secretary, TACLU

TENNESSEE AFFILIATE BUDGET FOR 1972:

INCOME

Development Grant	\$5,000
Membership	12,000
Total ---	\$17,000

EXPENSES

Executive & Clerical salaries (including Social Security)-----	\$6,000
Membership/development	1,000
Office rent	500
Telephone	1,100
Postage	900
Audit	200
ACLU Telephone A.S. Serv.	250

(expenses - continued)

Office Insurance	50
Affiliate Newsletter	\$500
Travel	800
Miscellaneous	500
Equipment (new & repair)	800
Office Supplies	1,100
Biennial or NCD mtg.	300
Crisis Area Fund	600
Refund to Chaptus.	2,000
TOTAL -----	\$17,000

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ACLU OF TENNESSEE FOUNDATION STEERING SUB-COMMITTEE
Nov. 11, 1972, Rand Hall, Nashville, 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Present: David Camp, Reina Cleland, Omer Galle, Jack Wilkinson, John Cleland; Helen Stelson, Dick Strehlow, R. Chesla Sharp, Mike Langley, Claire Peterson.

John Cleland made a report of the bail bond project.

Michael Langley reported on a Juvenile Rights Project which had been approved by Strehlow for initiation this year. A letter has been sent to National requesting funds.

The conclusion of discussion on this subject was that the primary task should be to develop a course of instruction and appropriate instruction materials, which could be supported by school boards, civics teachers, etc. and that ACLU's function would be to introduce this subject into our various communities.

It was m/s/c to authorize a state meeting of persons in the various chapters interested in Juvenile Rights; to instruct Mr. Langley to develop and distribute a packet of resource materials in advance of the meeting to be held as soon as possible; and to request chapters to determine extent of local interest, to select one or more participants and to notify the State Office of their names so that materials can be appropriately routed.