

THE ERWIN B. ELLMANN COLLECTION

Papers, 1969-1971

8 manuscript boxes

Accession Number 506

L.C. Number \_\_\_\_\_

The papers of Erwin B. Ellmann were placed in the Archives of Labor History and Urban Affairs in November of 1971 by Mrs. Erwin B. Ellmann and were opened for research in November of 1972.

Erwin B. Ellmann, an attorney and General Counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in Michigan, has been as Executive Board member of the Metropolitan Detroit branch of the ACLU since 1952, has been the author of many ACLU legal briefs, and has reviewed all pleadings submitted in the name of the Michigan state ACLU. He has also been the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the ACLU of Michigan, and he is a former chairman and present member of the Civil Rights Committee of the Detroit Bar Association.

Since its official founding in 1920, the American Civil Liberties Union has been actively and continuously engaged in the defense of civil rights and of individuals and groups. The organization, with a membership of approximately 130,000, operates on a federation principle consisting of 47 affiliate organizations on the state level with the national headquarters in New York City. The national organization is run by a Board of Directors consisting of members of the affiliates which meets five times a year. The national organization is actively run by an Executive Committee of the Board which carries out daily activities. Permanent committees of the national ACLU are the subject-matter committees which specialize in specific issues: academic freedom, church-state, communications-media, due-process, equality, free speech-association, labor-business, military-bill of rights, and privacy, plus temporary committees organized for special problems. The ACLU Foundation is the tax-free arm of the ACLU.

The Michigan ACLU, an affiliate of the national ACLU, has branches throughout the state of Michigan. The Michigan ACLU is structured similarly to the national organization with a state Board of Directors consisting of representative from the branches, and an Executive Board in each of the branch offices throughout Michigan. Committees similar to the national committees exist in the Michigan affiliate.

Mr. Ellmanns' collection, covering the years 1969 through mid-1971, consists of national ACLU activities (5 boxes) , including minutes of the Executive Committee, reports from the subject matter committees, and financial reports, news releases, legislative concerns, and legal briefs and cases. The material from the Michigan office (2 boxes) includes activities from the Michigan offices which is similar in content to the national files. The collection contains one box of correspondence, arranged chronologically, and which includes original as well as multilith letters from the Michigan and national office.

Description of Series

Series I, Box I: Correspondence

Arranged chronologically, includes correspondence to Erwin Ellmann and to other Michigan ACLU officials as well as correspondence to and from the central office in New York (many mimeograph letters included).

Series II, Boxes 2-6: National Office

National ACLU material dealing with national issues with some affiliate issues (except Michigan). Selected subjects include:

- Police infiltration of political organizations
- ROTC on campuses
- Government subpoenaing of newsmen and stations
- Women's rights
- Residency requirements in elections
- Viet Nam
- Abolition of draft law
- Amnesty for draft resisters

Collection also includes material on membership and the organization of the ACLU, along with the finances of the organization.

Series III, Boxes 7-8: Michigan Office

Michigan ACLU material deals with national issues as above as well as state and local issues. Selected subjects include:

- Cobo Hall leaflet distribution
- John Sinclair case
- Haircuts in public schools
- Civil rights of public school students
- Search and seizure
- Sex education in public schools

Series I  
Box I

Box 1 Correspondence

- 1-5. Correspondence; 1969
- 6-11. " ; 1970
- 12-15. " ; 1971
- 16. " ; Undated

Series II  
Boxes 2-6

Box 2 National Office

- 1-2. Activity Reports
- 3. Board of Directors: Internal Issues/Policy
- 4. " " : Meetings-Agenda/Minutes; 1969
- 5-6. " " : " " " ; 1970
- 7. " " : " " " ; 1971
- 8. " " : National Issues/Policy; 1965-69
- 9-10. " " : " " " ; 1970
- 11. " " : " " " ; 1971
- 12-13. Committees: Academic Freedom
- 14. " : Budget-Audit/Investment

- Box 3
- 1-3. Committees: Communications-Media
  - 4. " : Constitution
  - 5-7. " : Due Process
  - 8. " : Equality
  - 9. " : Executive-Meetings-Agenda/Minutes 1969
  - 10. " : Executive-Meetings-Agenda/Minutes 1970
  - 11. " : Executive-Meetings-Agenda/Minutes 1971
  - 12. " : Executive-Miscellaneous
  - 13. " : Free Speech/Association
  - 14. " : Military/Bill of Rights
  - 15. " : Nominating
  - 16. " : Privacy
  - 17. " : Miscellaneous

- Box 4
- 1. Communications: Affiliates; Memos from
  - 2-3. " : " ; Memos to; 1969
  - 4-7. " : " ; " " ; 1970
  - 8-11. " : " ; " " ; 1971
  - 12. " : News Clippings
  - 13. " : Policy Statements; ACLU
  - 14. " : " " ; Non-ACLU
  - 15. " : Press Conferences

Series II (National Office) (Cont'd)

Box 4 (Cont'd)

- 16-17. Committees: Press Releases; 1970
- 18. " : " " ; 1971
- 19. " : Publications; ACLU
- 20. " : " ; Non-ACLU

Box 5

- 1. Conferences: 50th Anniversary; 1969
- 2-5. " : " " ; 1970
- 6. " : " " ; Undated
- 7. Finances: Budget-Audit/Investment Committee
- 8. " : Budget/Expense; 1969
- 9. " " " ; 1970
- 10. " : " " ; 1971
- 11. " : Foundation; ACLU
- 12. " : Membership Income; 1969
- 13. " : " " ; 1970
- 14. " : " " ; 1971
- 15. " : Statements-Audited; 1969

Box 6

- 1. Finances: Statements-Audited; 1970
- 2. " : " " ; 1971
- 3. " : Miscellaneous
- 4. " : Foundation; ACLU
- 5. Legal: Cases/Briefs
- 6. " : Policy
- 7. " : Legislation-Federal
- 8. " : Membership/Organization
- 9-10. " : National Development Council
- 11-12. Testimony: Before Government Committees; ACLU
- 13. " : " " " ; Non-ACLU
- 14. " : Miscellaneous

Series III  
Boxes 7-8

Box 7

- 1. Affiliates: Ann Arbor/Washtenaw
- 2-4. " : Detroit-Meetings-Agenda/Minutes; 1969
- 5-6. " : " " " " ; 1970
- 7. " : " " " " ; 1971
- 8. " : Flint
- 9. " : Grand Rapids
- 10. " : Kalamazoo; 1969
- 11-13. " : " ; 1970
- 14. " : " ; 1971
- 15. " : Lansing
- 16. " : Saginaw Valley; 1969-70
- 17. " : " " ; 1971
- 18. Board of Directors: Meetings-Agenda/Minutes; 1969

Series III (Michigan Office) (Cont'd)

Box 7 (Cont'd)

- 19-20. Board of Directors: Meetings-Agenda/Minutes; 1970
- 21. " " : " " " ; 1971
- 22. " " : National Issues/Policy

Box 8

- 1. Committees: Free Speech/Association
- 2. " : Lawyers
- 3. " : Miscellaneous
- 4. Communications: Policy Statements; 1969-70
- 5. " : " " ; 1971
- 6. " : " " ; Non-ACLU
- 7. " : " " ; Non-ACLU undated
- 8. Communications: Press Releases
- 9. " : Publications
- 10. Finances: Budget/Expense
- 11. " : Membership Income
- 12. Legal: Briefs
- 13. " : Cases
- 14. " : Policy
- 15. Legislation: Local Government
- 16. " : Memoranda; ACLU
- 17. " : State Government; 1970
- 18. " : " " : 1971
- 19-20. " : Membership/Organization
- 21. " : Miscellaneous