



BULLETIN



OF THE
AMERICAN LIBERTY LEAGUE
NATIONAL PRESS BUILDING WASHINGTON, D. C.

VOL. 1

NOVEMBER, 1935

No. 4

THE END OF ANOTHER NEW DEAL "EXPERIMENT"

The outcome of the attempt to curtail free speech as exercised by the National Lawyers Committee of the American Liberty League is related in an Associated Press dispatch from Columbus, Ohio, excerpts from which follow:

"COLUMBUS, Ohio, Nov. 17. - The American Bar Association's standing committee on professional ethics and grievances held today that the American Liberty League's national lawyer's committee violated no canon of legal ethics in offering free legal services to citizens without funds to defend their constitutional rights.

"'All that they (the Liberty League's national lawyers' committee) have offered,' said the opinion, 'is their experience and skill "if and when any American citizen, however humble, is without means to defend his constitutional rights in a court of justice." The committee is unable to see anything unethical or improper in such a course.'.....

"The bar committee's opinion stated, in part:

"'The question divides itself into two subheads, the rendering of services of the (league) committee or the members thereof without compensation in defense of American citizens who believe their constitutional rights to be imperiled..... and the publication of a proffer of such service by radio broadcast, distribution of pamphlets or otherwise.

"'As to the first of these questions there would seem to be no doubt. The defense of indigent citizens without compensation is carried on throughout the country.'.....

"The committee further held that 'this proffer of service,' even when broadcast over the radio, 'does not offend the ethical code.....

"'A nation is at its safest when its most eminent citizens are imbued with sufficient patriotism to interest themselves in the public welfare, even at great sacrifice to their private affairs.'"

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When the American Liberty League made public the first report from the National Lawyers Committee, which report expressed the opinion that the National Labor Relations Act is unconstitutional, the Honorable Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior and spokesman for the administration, declared this action to be "a gross impertinence" and "an evidence per se of disrespect for the Supreme Court."