

VOLUME 19-CIGARETTE SMOKE- A far more in depth expose of the American Civil Liberties Union, and its long term addiction to tobacco money can be found at the esteemed web site of the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University. Harvard has been granting fellowships in journalism since 1947, when the Nieman Foundation was established. They have been publishing the Nieman Reports since then, with much of their focus on overseas reporting, with journalists from Third World countries garnering many of the scholarships. Please visit www.niemanreports.org.

In the Spring Quarter of 1998, the esteemed New York Times columnist, Morton Mintz, writing for Nieman Reports published an expose which documented the almost one million dollars in tobacco money pouring into ACLU coffers. Author John Fahs, a former staffer at the ACLU published *Cigarette Confidential*, published by Berkeley Books. Mintz, a legendary investigative reporter, took newspapers and magazines to task for refusing to cover the story. As a result, *Cigarette Confidential* received no exposure at all; not even to second hand smoke, and book sales flopped. Keep in mind that newspapers and magazines were addicted to cigarette advertising revenues, and the smoke clouded their vision. We do not have a free press. It has always been very expensive, and it is a 'pay to play' game. First amendment freedoms were not designed for working stiff. The media can smear anybody. The lawyers who appeared before the Supreme Court were paid by the press barons. Most European countries make it far easier to sue for defamation, and someone defamed by the press has much more ability to fight back. In the United States Constitution, there is no 'Freedom From the Press' clause. It is a concept that simply does not exist in the United States, and if it were ever proposed, the flag waving freedom lovers, supported by the press barons, would label it a 'Communitistic' plot. Again, virtually every European country grants citizens some rights to balance off the press barons, yet it is still not a level playing field. British writers credit Rupert Murdoch for being the press promoter for Tony Blair. Murdoch's agents were hacking telephones, something that has been done in the United Kingdom for a long time, well before the high tech age.

ACLU staffers in New York accused John Fahs of being a thief for publishing ACLU documents proving the millions pouring into the ACLU coffers, and never once acknowledged that they simply proved what has been happening since the 1930's; that they have always been working for Big Business. Actually, very big business. Today they lionize Edward Snowden. Why would Snowden or Julian Assange trust the ACLU? Probably because they have never read the history of the ACLU. Longtime ACLU General Counsel Morris Ernst was also General Counsel for the New York Post, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch today. Even Dorothy Schiff, the owner, charged that Ted Thackrey, the Post's Editor, was probably a British Spy. Her reasoning was that she had hired him away from the Hong Kong Post, and stated in her memoirs that everyone knew the Post was a front for British intelligence. That was in 1942, and perhaps coincidentally, has been connected to British business interests ever since. Or perhaps, it is no coincidence at all.

While the ACLU gets tons of free press, no media interests have criticized them at all. They claim to be a non-profit yet have lobbied for tobacco interests for years, and privately threatened to sue any critics of the ACLU, and were also threatening to sue tobacco company critics as well. While John Fahs tried to exercise his free speech rights, he found that only the ACLU had a forum in the print media. No one was able to read a book they had never heard of.

Even the esteemed Nieman Foundation was threatened with a lawsuit. “ The ACLU...was at once seeking and taking tobacco money, allying itself with the tobacco industry to oppose legislation intended to ban or restrict tobacco advertising and promotion.....and failed to mention either activity in the endless stream of “emergency” fundraising letters it send to approximately 300,000 members, its quarterly newsletter, Civil Liberties, or its annual reports”(Nieman Reports). In other words, it never told its members. When ACLU founder Roger Nash Baldwin admitted to a New York Grand Jury that he had received over one million dollars from Stalin in the ‘Kuzbas Commune Case” in 1923, Baldwin never reported it to its members, and because the Grand Jury proceedings were secret, he was sure they would not find out. The Columbia University Oral History Project were the first to report it. Their liberal slant is well known, so they were not Bob Jones University faculty members.

The ACLU’s own Legal Director from 1962 to 1977, Melvin Wulf said.....The information in Cigarette Confidential threatens the basic integrity of the ACLU.” He went on to say, in “the first critical word I’ve had to say publicly about the Union.” The ACLU went on to smear the author, John Fah, claiming he had been “fired from the ACLU for incompetence.” They have smeared virtually every critic that has ever confronted them.