

## The Century Club

When Roger Nash Baldwin was finally forced out as Executive Director of the ACLU, he no longer had the luxury of the ACLU paying his membership fees. He had to make those payments himself. However, there was a single membership that he secretly paid for years, apparently to hide it from the ACLU membership. He had secretly belonged to the Century Club in New York City for 27 years. This semi-secret group was a private club of media moguls and their invited friends, and it was widely believed to run the country. It finally admitted women in 1986. Rupert Murdoch is a member today.

The Century Club was at the center of every conspiracy story imaginable. At least all the conspiracies not run by the Vatican, Jews, or Freemasons. Is it any wonder why Baldwin would hide this membership from the ACLU? It probably had the most regressive membership list in the United States. One cannot imagine Roger Nash Baldwin inviting his friend Emma Goldman for lunch. Her sex would rule her out. This was a boys club only.

Unfortunately, Baldwin's membership only serves to reinforce a consistent pattern of connections between extreme right wingers and extreme leftists to the detriment of the great American middle. The 'politics make strange bedfellows' cliché could not be more apropos. The Anglo elite were pro Lend-Lease. So was Stalin. J.P. Morgan was the chief financier for Mussolini. Lend-Lease would provide them a new customer; Stalin. Stalin could now afford buy arms from US munitions makers. The plant expansions would be financed by J.P. Morgan. The munitions makers line of credit would be financed by J.P. Morgan. The final product would be paid for by the Lend-Lease program, AKA the American taxpayer. Politics and money would make stranger bedfellows.

Thomas Lamont, the senior partner in J.P Morgan, had handled all of Mussolini's government financing throughout the 1930's. It now was convenient for the House of Morgan to have a customer on the other side of the battle line. At least the munitions makers it financed would benefit. This risky line of credit would come not out of J.P. Morgan's coffers; Lend-Lease would come from the American taxpayer. J.P. Morgan would lobby very hard for it. It was very similar to hedge funds to offset risks.

J. P. Morgan would borrow from an old playbook; WW I. During the first world war, J.P. Morgan would heavily finance the British. The British had borrowed 6 billion dollars from the United States. The House of Morgan was very influential in getting that through

Congress, and when the British won, that is, the American soldier saved their chestnuts, J.P. Morgan was ready to cash in.

The senior partners would camp out at the Treaty of Versailles to divide up the spoils. Looking to drum up new business, they participated in the most regressive peace treaty ever conceived; one that almost all historians agree led directly to WW II. The British and the French imposed the most onerous conditions on Germany, with reparations that they could not possibly pay. J. P. Morgan would come up with the solution. They would agree to finance German reparations. They now were financing the other side of the equation. J.P. Morgan would make a fortune off of German reparations. The Germans would pay the British and the French, the British and the French would pay back the House of Morgan, with interest of course, and the British and French would not pay the American taxpayer back for the 6 billion borrowed. America, which stayed out of the war until 1917, would end up paying a staggering amount to end and settle the war. It would mark the beginning of the American taxpayer paying for foreign wars in Europe, and J.P. Morgan would enrich themselves along the way, hedging their bets at every turn. The blood of young Americans would provide the solution, and the tax dollars of their parents for a generation to come would finance it.

Thomas Lamont's son, Corliss Lamont, would serve for years on the ACLU's board. Francis Biddle, board chairman of the ACLU, would represent the tobacco interests in the United States, almost half of which were owned by their cousins, the Dukes. Tobacco money would pour in to ACLU coffers from the 1930's to the 1990's, and probably is still coming in. The ACLU has refused to renounce tobacco money. They call it 'smoker's rights'. There has never been an explanation why non smokers have no rights. It may simply be that they cannot pay what the tobacco growers can pay for advocacy work.

The nexus of the extreme left and right becomes a ritual pattern. While the ACLU led one purge after another on the liberal side of the aisle, the leaders seem quite comfortable in the company of the American right. The American right were extremely pro-British, for they had a lot of investment in Britain. The American left, at least a small, but powerful portion of it, were heavily invested in Stalin. Stalin and Churchill were in strong agreement that American's taxpayer pockets should pay for all of WW II. And they did. And then paid again to rebuild it with the Marshall Plan. The contributions from J.P. Morgan? Don't wait for an answer here. It may take years to research it.

Author Robert Cottrell, in his classic, *Roger Nash Baldwin and the American Civil Liberties Union* quotes Roger Nash Baldwin as saying that "... Only a man of "respectable native stock"-like its architect-could have guided the civil liberties movement." That may explain his membership in the Century Club. Baldwin did not mind working with the "huddled masses", as long as it paid well, and they followed Baldwin's directions. That

statement by Baldwin explains why the ACLU remained a top down organization. He had no plans for any input from ethnics or anyone from imperfect stock. An occasional ethnic in the window would do fine, to give the appearance of pluralistic membership. It was good for fundraising. One wonders why they put Elizabeth Gurley Flynn on the board at all. What did they not understand about loud mouthed Irish women? It seems perfectly natural that she was thrown off the board for her communist beliefs. When she went out the door, she let the board know that the Executive Director, Baldwin, was also a Communist. The WASP oriented board did nothing; not even investigate her charges.

The fate of ethnics at the hands of the ACLU is not a pretty one. When Abraham Cahan, Editor of the *Jewish Daily Forward*, was thrown off the board of the ACLU, he was smeared beyond recognition. His only crime was questioning communist influence and money in the ACLU. He asked for an investigation of where certain monies were going, and he got one. Walter Nelles, the law partner of ACLU General Counsel, Morris Ernst, was asked to do the investigation by the ACLU board. Nelles could find no wrong doing. Nelles himself was making a lot of money off his Russian connection, and his law partner, Morris Ernst, was legal counsel for the *Friends of Russia*. The refusal of ethnics to walk in lockstep with the WASP elite becomes a troubling pattern for the ACLU.

The fate of Catholic politicians, the few who played any role on the national scene, who opposed any position held by the ACLU, is equally troubling. US Senator Walsh(D-MA), a great American liberal, was smeared in the media fantasy 'Nazi Spy Nest' Case because he opposed Lend-Lease. There was no reasoned, civil debate. In every case, secret agents are furtively coming and going, with mysterious connections to the law firms used by the ACLU. In Senator Walsh's case, the father of the first minimum wage law in US history was smeared as a Nazi lover. The United States Senate publicly charged the American Civil Liberties Union with running the smear. The ACLU, connected at the hip with J.P. Morgan, the Rockefellers, and the New York WASP elite that controlled virtually every newspaper not owned by William Randolph Hearst. The financiers seemed to have no particular philosophy, always anxious to do the next big financial deal, whether it be Mussolini, Stalin, or Japan. However, they had no use for politicians who advocated for a minimum wage.

Ambassador Joseph Kennedy, from his post in London, would find out how costly it could be to question the policies of Great Britain. As WW II progressed, the American public would find out that Kennedy was right. At the outset of the war, he declared his belief that Great Britain lacked the will to fight. They would flee at Dunkirk. The newspaper writers agreed with Kennedy, labeling the war 'The Phoney War'. Their bosses, the newspaper owners, would take over managing the news. There wasn't any fighting anywhere. Kennedy would be smeared as a Nazi lover. The few Catholic politicians in the national political arena would find out how dangerous it could be for an ethnic minority who questioned the policies of the WASP status quo. As the years went on, Joseph Kennedy, in particular, would

see how dangerous it truly was, particularly for his own family. President Barack Obama would find out how little the American political scene has changed.

For more information on the ACLU's role in interfering with US election campaigns, visit [www.outingthesenator.com](http://www.outingthesenator.com). Gay bashing and smear campaigns were a staple of the ACLU approach, especially during WW II.