

Nor is there any fair interpretation of Canon 28 which may be said to be offended by this proposal. It will be noted that the offer made in the address is to defend citizens against threatened infringement of their constitutional rights. So far as we are able to anticipate, no substantial increase of litigation is likely to result from the expressed willingness of these men to serve in such capacity. All that they have offered 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. Our view finds support in *In Re Ades*, 6 Fed. Supp. 467.

This opinion is written with full knowledge of the controversial questions involved; of the tremendous issues which are now before the American people and in which the American Liberty League and the National Lawyers Committee are vitally interested on one side. It is the opinion of the Committee that circumstances such as these render it wholesome and beneficial that there should be free interchange of views and public expression of opinion by those best versed in the topics concerned. This group has organized and appears on the one side; a similar group may well organize and function on the other side. Such an eventuality is more to be desired than feared. So long as the rights of the public are entrusted to those best able to serve them by reason of their skill, experience and high motive, the public will be well served. 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.

Consideration of the public addresses, interviews and correspondence relating thereto, which have been submitted to this Committee, convinces us that the issue raised is one of conflicting theories and philosophies of government under the federal constitution.

The question presented, with its implications, involves problems of political, social and economic character that have long since assumed the proportions of national issues, on one side or the other of which multitudes of patriotic citizens have aligned themselves. These issues transcend the range of professional ethics.



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Of the Standing Committee on Professional Ethics and Grievances of the Amer- ican Bar Association



"The right of citizens to organize and to give expression to views which they entertain upon public questions is one of the unalienable rights which Americans enjoy, and lawyers enjoy that right as citizens in common with their fellow men."

"The defense of indigent citizens, without compensation, is carried on throughout the country by lawyers representing legal aid societies, not only with the approval, but with the commendation of those acquainted with the work."



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