

A Letter to the Editor

July 7, 1955

To the EDITOR:

Dear Sir:

Reading the review of my autobiography, *The Education of an American Liberal*, by James C. Paradise in the June issue of the journal of the American Jewish Archives, leads me to believe that Mr. Paradise failed to grasp fully the true purpose of my book.

The book does not pretend to provide what Mr. Paradise terms a "solution to the difficult problems of civil liberties," but it does provide a picture of the struggle to defend those rights as exemplified in the work of the only organization in the United States devoted to this purpose. Roger Baldwin, long-time director of the ACLU, stated in his review of my book: "It is invaluable reading for all who would either recount those exciting years or gain a better understanding of the Union's character."

It was my hope, in chronicling this history of the civil liberties struggle during the quarter of a century that I served as executive secretary of the ACLU, that Americans would thereby be enabled to explore the true meaning of that struggle and rediscover the value of our traditional liberties. It was my hope that young Americans would thus be stimulated to devote themselves to the task of keeping those liberties intact during the most crucial moment in our history.

Without becoming argumentative over some of Mr. Paradise's statements in the review, I would like to point out that most of the "omissions" he deplors (details concerning the internal dissensions in the ACLU over its relations with Communists and Fascists) were due to space limitations and, as interesting as they might be to Mr. Paradise, were not relevant to this account of our exciting fight to preserve American civil liberties.

Yours truly,

LUCILLE MILNER