

Cornell University  
Civil Liberties

## INTERVIEWS:

JHW

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ME	FEB 16 '44	ME
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January 31, 1944

R. E. CUSHMAN, Chairman Political Science Dept.,  
College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell

Cushman referred to the study of Civil Liberties upon which he is engaged, being financed modestly by Public Administration Committee of the SSRC. Cushman said that he was glad that RF had declined his larger study of Civil Liberties; the original was too grandiose. He preferred to work more modestly. His work is as follows: under SSRC Committee on Government, then a conference with the Committee on Research, some political science group, - I didn't get just what, - Cushman had stressed the need to follow civil liberties as they developed in this war. One grant was made to provide for a part-time secretary and some travel funds. Committee on Civil Liberties was appointed with Cushman as chairman as a sub-committee of the Committee on Government. Membership is Cushman, Oliver Field (Political Science, Indiana), Jerome Hall (Law, Indiana), and Carl Swisher, (Government at Hopkins). The outline of research will be completed by fall. The following collateral studies are involved:

1. Study of conscientious objectors in this war

Received help from Executive Director of Pacifist Research Bureau who said "Pacifists couldn't make study." They gave \$1500 and the study is being made by Muford Sibley of University of Illinois, an associate in Political Science.

Some of the men who would help most in this study are on the Pacific Coast: Clifford Grant, UCLA and Thomas Barclay of Stanford. Grant formerly had Guggenheim fellowship.

2. Enemy Aliens - Germans, Italians and Japs

Barclay was to do this. Dept. of Justice was willing but later withdrew offer to cooperate on grounds they are too busy. Enemy aliens are all in five camps, about 5,000 of them. The operation of these camps is by the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization of Dept. of Justice. It has been well handled. The man running them is di Guolano, a lawyer on the Pacific Coast. He has offered to gather material and Dept. of Justice might do it, but some student should be on the task since di Guolano is more of a contact man than a student. Cushman has close relations with Dept. of Justice. The head of the Division of Civil Liberties in D of J is a former student.

Cushman feels that our policies with regard to civil liberties bear on our basic freedoms of speech. He referred to the recent banning of "Esquire"; said that the law is bad and the procedure in this case indefensible. The defense is that it may lead to an arbitrary press censorship. The courts may dodge the issue on the ground that the permission to use the second-class mail privileges is a gratuity only. Clough of SSRC in connection with his efforts on history of the war had urged Cushman to prepare a history of Civil Liberties. Cushman is not yet ready to commit but says that if he doesn't no one else will.

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Cushman feels that he is strategically placed. He is interested in the problem and feels that the whole discussion should be gotten on to a plane where people who don't read PM, THE NATION, and the Civil Liberties Union booklets will read. He referred to an article in Public Administration Review on the "Federal Purge." C says he is not above crusading but is interested in the scholarly job of making facts and assumptions clear. He declined membership on the Policy Committee of American Civil Liberties Union so that his scholarly position would stand first.

Support of the Administration Committee stops in June. He needs funds to go on for three or four years. These funds total about \$5,000 a year, - (an application will be forthcoming). He is ready to make a commitment of his research time for three years and regard this as his war service. He has a contract with Holt to write a book on the American Constitution, but since Swisher's book has just come out they will probably be willing to wait for it to grow old. ✓

So he is going to go ahead, hoping that his studies, <sup>at</sup> the scholarly level will increase sensitivity of important people to the Civil Liberties problem. He has no axe to grind and merely wishes to put the facts before the ordinary public opinion so that the safeguards essential to preservation of civil liberty as brought out by the handling of these crises may be better understood. He pointed out that many problems in this field will be realized after the war and we should distill the essence of our experience for the light it will throw upon them. E. L. Bernays gave \$1,000 for some Civil Liberties lectures, - rather out of the blue, I take it, - and C is arranging these.

C's teaching schedule consists of two courses of three hours each plus tutorial work. Next year he will have only one course.

He impressed me as a man of balanced judgment who knows everyone in the field in the country and has admirable contacts. I would trust him in this field as I would trust Chicago people. The subject should be cleared with the SSRC. ✓

February 14, 1944

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JHW:DAA