

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Sent to Board members,  
Consultants, Nat'l Com.

170 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK 10, N. Y.



June 25, 1947

Friends:

I find on my return from the Far East that the New Masses published a scurrilous article about me in the issue of May 20th, implying some sort of improper collusion with the chairman of the House Committee on un-American Activities. The editors not only published this, but sent reprints to our board, national committee and other friends. They did all this without any attempt to check the facts with our office.

Aside from this unscrupulous journalism, the implications of the New Masses article are precisely contrary to the facts. I called on the chairman of the House Committee on un-American Activities, as I did on other officials in Washington, when I was debating whether or not to take a Far Eastern trip officially as an agent of the War Department or independently. If an official position involved public controversy over my fitness, it would have compromised my mission. I called on the chairman to determine whether the Committee or similar bigoted elements would raise such an issue. I was satisfied they would.

That among other factors decided our officers that it would be better for me to go independently. The results have abundantly confirmed the wisdom of that decision.

Sincerely yours,

Roger N. Baldwin

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