

# I am Proud

as Executive Secretary and under the instructions of the Trustees of the Committee For Constitutional Government, to have had a part in focusing public attention upon a vital constitutional question. For the stand we have taken affects the freedom of all who write and speak and print.

The attitude of the majority members of the Buchanan Committee was based upon the misconception that it is a legitimate function of Congress to regulate the processes by which national public opinion is formed. Thus, legitimate inquiry was perverted into intimidation and violation of elemental citizens' rights. For, if thus we can be compelled to name those who buy the books and other publications of the Committee For Constitutional Government, then some other legislative committee will have the precedent set to hale before it any publisher, commercial or nonprofit making, religious or sectarian, who happens to have published matter displeasing to a majority in power.

Before refusing to name bulk purchasers of its books, on the ground that this inquiry violates rights guaranteed to all publishers under the First and Fourth Amendments, our Committee had before it the advice of the most competent legal authorities on constitutional law. If we had yielded to the Buchanan Committee's threat, we should have set a dangerous precedent for breaking down instead of upholding constitutional government.

It is a great service to the country that Congressman Halleck, with minority members of the Buchanan Committee, has presented to the Congress and to the country the constitutional issues involved in our refusal to name the bulk purchasers of our books and literature. More than 90 per cent of all editors and publishers who took a stand on this issue have upheld our position.

Now the matter will have to be threshed out before a jury, and I am confident of the outcome. Once before I was cited for contempt for refusing to reveal to another investigating committee the names of contributors of \$100 or more. And, in twenty minutes, a jury acquitted me.

Our Committee, and I personally, have the highest regard for the Congress and have circulated millions of pieces of literature building up public esteem for this branch of the government. And I am grateful to the 175 (*against 183*) members of the House, who, by their votes, supported the stand that we have taken.

EDWARD A. RUMELY

SEE OVER