

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE DETROIT OFFICE at DETROIT, MICHIGAN, will ascertain at the City Hall, if a man by the name of Lups is known there, and determine, if possible, what connections he has which would enable him to purchase firearms for distribution to the members of the Black Legion.

THE CLEVELAND OFFICE at LIMA, OHIO, will interview Joe Louis who may be located through either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] as to any information concerning the Black Legion.

Will interview William Murphy on or about November 1, 1935, after the city election at Lima, Ohio, as to what, if any, information he may have concerning the Black Legion.

-- P E N D I N G --

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CLEVELAND, OHIO**

FILE NO. **62-779**

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 10/16/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/13-10/2, 10, 14/35	REPORT MADE BY N. E. MANSON LBC
TITLE BLACK LEGION NIGHT RIDERS BULLET CLUB			CHARACTER OF CASE MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

On 8/28/35, Justice of the Peace, Adrian, Michigan, dismissed case in which Michigan State Police arrested three members of Black Legion on charges of carrying concealed weapons; held that Michigan State Police exceeded their authority in searching the defendant's automobile. Inquiries at Detroit City Hall failed to reveal person by the name of Colonel Lupps.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent, N. E. Manson, Detroit, Michigan, dated 8/31/35.
Report of Special Agent Gene H. Henry, New York City, dated 9/11/35.
Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 10/1/35.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE

DETAILS:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

At the Standard Hardware and Auto Supply Company, 1361 Gratiot, Agent was informed by the manager that this concern had no connection with the Standard Brothers Hardware Corporation; that this latter concern had gone out of business several years ago.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 1 - Bureau 2 - Cleveland 2 - Detroit		61-17398-18 OCT 19 A.M. DECLASSIFIED BY <i>[Signature]</i> ON 9-30-77	OCT 19 1935 OCT 23 1935
		[Handwritten initials and notes]	

At the Detroit City Hall, Agent interviewed the following persons, who have a wide acquaintance with persons making contacts at the City Hall:

Policeman Andrew Miller and Policeman Jack Miner.

At the Record Bureau, James Stockwell, formerly in the Mayor's office.

Ray Nester in the Department of Public Works Office.

None of these persons ever heard of Colonel Lupps.

AT ADRIAN, MICHIGAN.

Mr. Lawrence J. Hammond, Assistant County Prosecutor, was interviewed relative to disposition of trial of Andrew Martin, Jr.; Roy L. Hepner, and Elsworth S. Shinabery, who are held on charges of carrying concealed weapons. Mr. Hammond stated that this case was dismissed by Justice of the Peace, Franklin Russel, on August 28, 1935; that Judge Russel held that the search was illegal; that the Michigan State Police exceeded their authority in searching their automobile, as there was not probable cause, since the original information had been obtained by the Michigan State Police some five weeks previous, in which a similar meeting was held by the Black Legion; that the meeting in which these three defendants were arrested and searched was at a later time.

The defendants were represented by an attorney, Harry Marx, Union Guardian Building, Detroit, and were also interceded by a person whose name Mr. Hammond could not recall. This latter individual was from Lima, Ohio, and he described him as being very stout and that he had informed Mr. Hammond that he was one of the highest officers of the Black Legion from the Lima district. He pleaded the case for the defendants, stating that the guns found in their possession had not been intended to violate the law, and did not, but were used exclusively as part of their ritual.

Mr. Hammond further stated that the whole affair has since quieted down and that there have been no further complaints made, or other talk about the town, as was prevalent during the summer.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CLEVELAND, OHIO**

FILE NO. **62-3 mg**

REPORT MADE AT CLEVELAND, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 12/12/35	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 12/9/35	REPORT MADE BY E. H. WILLIAMS
--	-----------------------------------	---	---

BLACK LEGION
 NIGHT RIDERS
 BULLET CLUB

CHARACTER OF CASE
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Mr. William Murphy, Lima, Ohio, has no information of value. He desired to contact an Agent of the U. S. Dept. of Justice at election time for political purposes. He advises that Ward Taylor, Chief of Police, Lima, O., told him that he was a member of the Black Legion. Information indicates that Joe Louis, Lima, O., is at present a member in good standing with the Legion.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 10/1/35.

DETAILS:

AT LIMA, OHIO

Agent contacted [redacted] who advised that he did not have any other information concerning the activities of the Black Legion than that which he has already furnished. He accompanied Agent to interview Mr. William Murphy, 712 S. Main St. who was a candidate for Mayor of Lima in the last election.

Mr. Murphy stated to Agent that if he had come around about election time that the Department of Justice could have done him some good by exposing the Black Legion. He stated that he knew nothing concerning the Black Legion except what he had picked up by hearsay. It developed that about all he had heard was what had been told him by

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. MacFarland</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ③ - Bureau 2 - Cleveland 1 - [unclear] 1-22-36	61 | 7398 + 1 | DEC 14 1935 DEC 19 1935

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
 ON 7-30-77
 [unclear]

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Mr. Murphy did state that last June he had met Ward Taylor, Chief of Police of Lima, on the street and had asked Taylor point blank during a conversation if he was a Black Legionaire. According to Mr. Murphy, Taylor admitted that he was a member.

In an effort to locate Joe Louis for an interview concerning what he knew about the Black Legion [REDACTED] suggested that contact be had with George Scheid, 412 E. Market Street. While talking with Scheid, who was also a former Legionaire and who has been interviewed, he advised that Louis is a member in good standing in the Legion. Mrs. Scheid also advised that Mrs. Louis is a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Black Legion. Under these circumstances it was not deemed advisable to interview Louis. Mr. [REDACTED] was unable to furnish any additional information as to the recent activities of the Legion.

- P E N D I N G -

EFE:EHC

December 16, 1935.

61-7398

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your district.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

*1-22-36
300-Cleveland 5046*

RECORDED 61-7398-20

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP
DATE 10-4-77

*declassification
4/25/92*

DECLASSIFIED BY 10080
ON 9-30-77
LBD/bk

[Handwritten signature]
FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
DEC 16 1935
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten initials]

EFE:AF

61-7398 -20

RECORDED

January 22, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders;
Bullet Club;
Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sir:

Investigation in the above entitled case was requested by Bureau letter to your office dated April 22, 1935, at the instance of the Assistant to the Attorney General, Mr. William Stanley, copies of his memorandum requesting investigation being transmitted therewith.

Although investigative action has been carried on for a period of nine months, the Bureau file reflects that same has failed to develop any information of the nature desired. It is, therefore, requested that your office thoroughly review its file in the above case with a view to setting out all appropriate leads requiring investigative action so that the case may be brought to a logical conclusion at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP
SLIP(S) OF *Investigation*
DATE *10-11-77* *BSA/PA*

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JAN 23 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DECLASSIFIED BY *6080*
ON *9-30-77*
660/2

rafon

ghm

65

RFE:VTL
61-7398-20

March 6, 1936.

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 22, 1936, in which your office was requested to institute a review of its files for the purpose of setting out such appropriate leads as might bring instant case to a conclusion at the earliest possible date.

The Bureau file reflects that this matter has not received proper attention by your office. You are, therefore, requested to give same immediate attention and submit a report not later than March 25, 1936.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAR - 6 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77

LED/054

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF *date*
DATE 10-4-77

March 14, 1936

EFE:LL

61-7398 - 21

RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S) OF
DATE 10-4-77

Re: BLACK LEGION;
NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB.
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 7, 1936, in which you request the advice of the Bureau as to the desirability of interviewing Burt Effinger and his son Guy, who are officers of the above named organization, relative to its purposes and membership, so that it may be definitely determined whether any employees of the Department of Justice are connected therewith.

After a careful consideration of the facts developed by the investigation to date, the Bureau desires that Effinger and his son be interviewed at this time in order that instant investigation may be brought to a logical conclusion at an early date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 7-30-77
LED/bia

MAR 16 1936
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten signature

Handwritten initials

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

1448 Standard Building
Cleveland, Ohio

March 7, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: BLACK LEGION;
ONIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF

MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

In connection with the investigation conducted by the Cleveland office in this matter, it appears that past investigation has developed considerable facts concerning the organization, including the names of the various persons appearing to be its directing heads. It also appears that the organization is primarily political in nature and that the allegations that employees of the Department of Justice belong to the organization is merely a "bluff" used on the part of the head of the Legion in Lima, one Burt Effinger, in order to impress members of the organization with its strength and position.

Accordingly, the Cleveland office is of the opinion that it might be appropriate at this time to interview Burt Effinger and his son, Guy, who is also an officer of the organization, relative to the organization and its purposes, having in mind making a demand that the membership list of the organization be produced so that it might be examined for the names of any Department of Justice employees, and also so that the officers could be requested to name the members who are employees of the Department. Other investigation does not appear to be particularly pertinent.

It is, therefore, requested that the Bureau advise as to whether it approves the procedure suggested herein, or whether it desires that further investigation be conducted along other lines, and that the officers of the organization not be approached.

RECORDED & INDEXED

MAR 17 1936

Very truly yours,

J. P. MacFARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

EMH/EJB

DECLASSIFIED BY 10080
ON 9-30-77
LED/bio

61-737-21
ACK. 3/14/36
EJC
FILE

107

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Cleveland, Ohio**

FILE NO. **62-3**

REPORT MADE AT Cleveland, Ohio	DATE WHEN MADE 3/7/36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/21/36	REPORT MADE BY B. M. HIRSH EJB
TITLE BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS; BULLET CLUB.			CHARACTER OF CASE MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Informant [redacted] unable to furnish any further information of value. Is more than ever convinced now that organization is purely political.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 12/12/35; letter from the Bureau dated 1/22/36.

DETAILS:

AT LIMA, OHIO

Interview was had with [redacted] Street, who has furnished considerable information of value in this case. [redacted] furnished information all of which, however, appears to be already incorporated in the file. In this connection he reiterated that the Legion has as members the Chief of Police of Lima, as well as the Chief of Detectives, Ross Landfair, as well as other detectives and patrolmen; that Mayor Metheny of Lima is also a member, although it appears that he received a private initiation. [redacted] stated further that his last information was that there are approximately 3,400 members of the Legion in Allen County, including the members in the city of Lima. In this connection it might be stated that the population of Allen County, together with the population of the city of Lima amounts to approximately 60,000 persons.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP(S) OF DATE 3-9-36

DECLASSIFIED BY 6090 ON 9-30-77 LEO/6/14

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. H. [Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - Cleveland	61 12378-22
	MAR 9 1936 MAR 12 1936

62-3

[REDACTED] was unable to advise as to whether there is in existence any list containing the names of all of the Black Legion members.

[REDACTED] advised further that he has not heard in the past several months of any acts of violence on the part of the Legion toward individuals in that vicinity. He further stated that he feels quite certain that the Legion is primarily a political organization and that by using the method that it does in its initiation and organization it is better able to control absolutely the votes of its members.

In accordance with suggestion contained in reference letter from the Bureau, the Cleveland office will take appropriate steps to conclude the investigation in this case.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The CLEVELAND OFFICE at Lima, Ohio, will continue investigation in this case.

- PENDING -

EFE:MG

61-7398-23

RECORDED

April 22, 1936.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH B. KEENAN,
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders;
Bullet Club; Miscellaneous -
Confidential.

I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent N. E. Manson, dated at Cleveland, Ohio, April 14, 1936, which completes the investigation which has been conducted by this Bureau pursuant to the memorandum from Mr. William Stanley, the then Assistant to the Attorney General, dated April 15, 1935.

Your attention is invited to the fact that the purpose for which this investigation was conducted was to ascertain whether any employees of the Department of Justice were members of these organizations. Inasmuch as all the investigative action to date has failed to disclose any facts indicating that this situation exists, no further investigation will be conducted by this Bureau in the absence of a specific request from you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1124364

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED
 APR 23 1936

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **CLEVELAND, OHIO**

FILE NO. **62-3** ah

REPORT MADE AT CLEVELAND, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 4-14-36	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4-8-36	REPORT MADE BY N. E. MANSON
CHARACTER OF CASE BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS; BULLET CLUB			MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Review of the file made. In interview with Burt Effinger, Lima, Ohio, 4-8-36 he denies leadership activities in Black Legion, claiming he never was a member of the secret order. Admits he is member of Ku Klux Klan, but does not know of any Department of Justice agents who belong to either organization; also denies having possession of map showing secret fortifications of the United States.

- C -

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF *61-7398-23*
DATE *10-4-77*

RECEIVED BY *6088*
 30-97
 60/60/619

REFERENCE:

Bureau letters dated January 22nd and March 14th, 1936.

DETAILS:

This file has been reviewed. The paramount investigation in this case has been an attempt to ascertain authentic information alleged to have been made by "Major General" Burt Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, who is said to be the local leader of the secret order, known as the Black Legion. On various occasions in 1934 and the early part of 1935 Effinger is alleged to have said to several Lima residents that sixty two members of the Department of

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>J.P. MacFarland</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 1 - Cincinnati - information 2 - Cleveland <i>Edward Keenan report 4/22/36 ETC</i>	61-7398-23	APR 17 1936 APR 24 1936 APR 16 A.M. TWO

Justice are members of his secret organization. The complainants also reported that a Dr. Shepard, of Bellaire, Ohio, is the head of the Black Legion in the U. S., that the son of Burt Effinger, Guy Effinger, is Lieutenant Colonel and that the entire organization is of a revolutionary character. The original complaint was made in February 1935 to Post Office Inspector J. F. Cordrey in Lima, Ohio.

Mr. Cordrey stated later that he subsequently had occasion to call upon Burt Effinger at his home, the result of which was a letter mailed by Burt Effinger to Mr. Cordrey, which contained the names of six persons who were thought to be closely connected with Communistic activities. Two of these individuals could not be identified or located and the other four have been interviewed many times, and it has been difficult to understand why these are the same persons who made or through whom the original complaint was made to Mr. Cordrey. These persons tell practically the same story in that they were former members of the Black Legion and were told that the order was to be a patriotic one and particularly to be against Communism and all other isms; that later it grew to be distinctly revolutionary in that the heads of the organization were attempting to use it to gain control of various government agencies, taking the law into their own hands by resorting to firearms and bombings; that Burt Effinger said sixty or seventy members of the Department of Justice were members of the Black Legion and that he had in the basement of his home a large map showing the secret fortifications of the United States, which had been obtained from the U. S. Department of Justice.

Investigation revealed that Dr. Shepard was considered by the local residents of Bellaire, Ohio, as "a big wind jammer" and his apparent rash statements as being harmless. Other than scaring away a gypsy camp with loud bombs nothing was learned about the doctor being affiliated with the Black Legion, although it was learned that he had been active with the Ku Klux Klan some years ago.

The complaints as made by the Lima, Ohio, residents were also made in the summer of 1935 by several citizens of Adrian, Michigan, except that the headquarters of the Legion were at Detroit, Michigan. The Michigan State Police arrested three members of the Detroit Black Legion on August 19, 1935, after one of their out-door ceremonial meetings held near Ogden, Michigan. The police found concealed weapons, black gowns or shrouds, together with skull caps in their possession. These members were the only active members found during this entire investigation, and it was learned from them by this agent that no information regarding the individuals of their secret order could be divulged by them, because of their having taken a secret oath to this effect. Information was obtained from them, however, that one Black

62-3

Legion was of a strictly military type, orders coming down the line from their unknown superior officers; that the main objective of the order was to combat Russian Communism, which was sweeping the U. S., that their oath in becoming a member of the Black Legion was simply a renewal of their faith in the United States Government and to uphold the principles embodied in the Constitution of the U. S. Later investigation in this area disclosed that no further meetings were held and no further complaints were made. No prosecution was brought against these three members, the matter being dropped by the local authorities.

This reporting agent interviewed Burt Effinger at his home, 1114 Harrison Avenue, Lima, Ohio, on April 8, 1936. He informed agent he has resided in Lima, Ohio, for many years; that he was born in West Virginia and is an electrician by trade; that in the past he has been active in the American Federation of Labor circles, but that on account of his beliefs, in which he termed himself a constructive radical, in contrast to a destructive radical, he was pushed out and finally even lost his job, but was told that the latter was due to his ultra-conservative policies.

Burt Effinger denied to agent that he was a member of the Black Legion but did say he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He stated that this country is swiftly and more or less secretly being overcome by Communism; that Communism is a destructive theory of government, builds up nothing and that through its influence the homes of the citizens of this country are being undermined and broken down until there is no respect for the law; that the politicians and the law enforcement agencies through graft, parole and political power have failed to cope with the wide spreading crime wave that is prevalent over the country. Therefore, Effinger said quoting the last clause in the second amendment of the Constitution of the United States - "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed", it is sometimes right and necessary, in his opinion, for the patriotic citizens of this country to take the law into their own hands and to cope with situations that the local law enforcers have failed to handle. Effinger talked at great length rambling from one subject to another, but he continually stressed the fact that he loved the U. S. and the republic for which it stands; that the Constitution must be upheld at all costs, and that there are enough red-blooded Americans trying to wake up the dormant citizens and politicians to realize that Russian Communism was making great inroads in the United States.

Since Effinger denied that he was a member of the Black Legion and also informed agent that he never attended any meetings of the Black Legion but had only heard of the Order, he was asked to whom agent might go to obtain information regarding the Order. He stated that he could refer agent to no one. He was questioned quite closely regarding the hearing of the three members of the Black Legion who were arrested near Adrian, Michigan, at which time an official from the Black Legion came from Lima to intercede for them, but his name was not preserved in the records by the local authorities.

62-3

Effinger stated that he was not the man and that all he knew about the case was what he obtained from the newspapers. He again stated that he never participated in their meetings nor is he familiar with their organization.

Agent then informed Effinger that his name had been complained of in that he was generally known to have ^{been} the leader in the Black Legion and was asked to account for this. He replied that he is known as a radical, but that he wished to convey to agent that this term be understood in the right light as a constructive radical and that any person who attempts to do anything will be criticized; that, therefore, his name was probably turned in by the local communists whom he termed as dirty rats. He was then asked as to the rumors of bombing the post office, movies and roadhouses, to which he replied that these are the things that the communists want to do; that when and if these things should occur and the law fails to curb such activities, it is then time for the patriotic citizens to take the necessary steps that will prevent such destruction. Effinger admitted that he had heard rumors of such contemplated activities, whereupon he was again questioned as to the name of the person whom agent might interview in order to obtain definite information. He stated that he believed that it was one of the communists by the name of Armstrong, but he could furnish no address for him. (Armstrong was one of the names turned in by Effinger to Mr. Cordrey, but was never identified). Effinger then made the bold statement that if any such bombings or destruction did take place the situation would be well taken care of by the time that the Department of Justice would get to know about it. Agent asked if this would be taken care of in behalf of the Ku Klux Klan or the Black Legion or just what organization, to which he replied that "only by the Red-blooded American Patriotic citizens of this community".

Effinger was then interrogated as to how many Department of Justice agents belonged to any such organizations as the Black Legion, Ku Klux Klan or any other secret order that he knew of. His answer was that he did not know any Department of Justice agents and, therefore, he does not think any agents belong; that about two years ago Agent Dickstein came to his house and questioned him along the same lines that the writer was doing. (This would be prior to the inauguration of the Cleveland field office and prior to the complaint made in this case).

Agent then informed Effinger of a certain map that he was supposed to have in his possession purporting to show the secret fortifications of this country and that he obtained it from the Department of Justice. He replied that he is not and never was in possession of such a map and, furthermore, stated that if he heard of anyone having such a map he would report it at once to the U. S. officials as the very possession of such a map is a penitentiary offense.

At this point Mrs. Effinger came into the room, and she stated that they were members of the Ku Klux Klan but not of the Black Legion. Inquiry was made concerning her son, Guy. She replied that Guy has not been at home for years, except for a short while last year; that he has a good record with the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Telephone Company, where he worked for six years; that last year he was home for a while when he was out of work; that he is now working as an engineer for the W P A out of Zanesville, Ohio. Both Mr. and Mrs. Effinger denied that their son ever belonged to the Black Legion or the Klan and, furthermore, when Guy was home he criticized his father for belonging to the Klan. Mrs. Effinger said Guy was a very conservative boy, of good habits, never having inhabited the pool rooms; was studious and a Mason. Mrs. Effinger appeared to be of refined and quiet manners while Mr. Effinger was of the loud and braggart type of individual. They live in a bungalow in a good section of town, together with their married daughter and grandchildren. On the whole, the home is of a refined atmosphere.

The following description of Burt Effinger was obtained by observation:

Name	-	V. H. Effinger
Address	-	1114 Harrison Ave., Lima, O.
Age	-	about 60
Height	-	6'
Weight	-	200 lbs.
Build	-	heavy
Complexion	-	ruddy
Hair	-	light grey-bald
Eyes	-	blue

Reporting agent made attempts to interview some of the former persons interviewed in this investigation in order to ascertain if any Black Legion meetings were held recently, but was unsuccessful. Agent learned that informant [redacted] Main Street, had moved somewhere out in the country and left no forwarding address at this place. However, on February 21, 1936, when he was interviewed he stated that he had no further information. Other persons interviewed in the latter part of 1935 had no additional information to offer.

Inasmuch as this investigation reveals that the activities of the Black Legion were started some four years ago and that the complaints in this case relate to 1934 and the early part of 1935; that in the absence of additional complaints and no reports being received as to any actual bombings or destruction of property, it is felt that the Black Legion movement has resorted to a political issue and has now quieted down. It is also felt that an interview with Guy Effinger would not dis-

62-3

close who the alleged Department of Justice employes might be who are supposed to belong to the Black Legion. However, a copy of this report is being sent to the Cincinnati field office in the event that the Bureau deems it advisable to interview Guy Effinger in Zanesville, Ohio.

This case, therefore, is being closed with the sanction of Special Agent in Charge J. P. MacFarland and further investigation discontinued unless advised by the Bureau to the contrary.

- C L O S E D -

61-7378-24

EAT:TMF

May 29, 1936

Mr. H. H. Reinecke,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
911 Federal Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 29 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Supg

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Gandy

15

E 24

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
May 25, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Detroit, Michigan

RE: BLACK LEGION, NIGHT RIDERS, BULLET CLUB
MISCELLANEOUS - Confidential

Dear Sir

Reference is made to the telephone conversation between this writer and Mr. E. A. Tamm on May 25, 1936, in reference to recent publicity in the Detroit newspapers regarding the Black Legion Society.

Since the above conversation, [redacted] Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, called at this office, and in an interview stated that he was initiated into this organization approximately in October of 1934. He explained the ritual at the time he was initiated and part of the ceremony, including the oath of office, as set forth in report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, dated May 24, 1935, which was read to him (its source was not explained) and he immediately identified the oath of office and the various rituals as being the same as that which he took.

It, therefore, appears that the investigation which was conducted previously, in which Cleveland was the office of origin, concerns the same organization which is presently receiving the publicity in Detroit.

At the time this writer spoke to Mr. Tamm he was not familiar with the Detroit file on this matter, and as this was before the interview with Mr. [redacted] as above stated, this information was not given to Mr. Tamm by phone.

The Detroit office is not conducting any investigation into this matter in Detroit, Michigan, as apparently there is no Federal violation involved.

It might be mentioned in closing that before Mr. [redacted] would give the above information, he was promised that his name would not be used in connection therewith and it is, therefore, suggested that his name be not mentioned in connection with this matter.

RECORDED & INDEXED
Very truly yours

H. H. Reinecke
Special Agent in Charge

JUN 2 1936

JDC/rmm

CC - Cleveland

61-7398-24

MAY 27 1936

Letter to [redacted] 5/27/36
cc - [redacted]
[redacted]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten initials]

NATHAN J. BICKNELL, M.D.
10508 WEST CHICAGO AVENUE
DETROIT

May 25/36.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.

Washington, D.C.

61-7398-25

RECORDED

INDEXED

JUL 3 1936

Dear Mr. Hoover: Startling ^{unbelievable} revelations of Black Legion with their political and industrial ramifications require thorough federal investigation.

I remember your statement as to the politics back of criminal elements. Here we have a situation where State prison employees, municipal employees are definitely implicated and local investigation will be curtailed before the real criminals behind the scenes are exposed.

The political strength of such a terrorist society should not prevent immediate thorough investigation of this barbarous condition.

Decent Michigan people would welcome action and it is my hope that your able department will be given this difficult task.

Very Truly Yours,
Nathan J. Bicknell

ad
cc
11/10/36

RECORDED
EFE:EHG
61-7398-25

June 1, 1936.

Dr. N. J. Bicknell,
10508 West Chicago Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1936, requesting that this Bureau take appropriate action relative to the terroristic activities of the Black Legion, by reason of the fact that local authorities are allegedly so implicated that their investigation will be curtailed prior to exposing the real criminals.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted to investigating violation of specific Federal laws and to collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the members of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, I regret this Bureau is without authority to take action in the premises.

Your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau are greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN -2 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

J. Edgar Hoover,
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

c
cc - Detroit.

JHE:AS

May 13, 1936

Time: 4:15 P.M.

61-7398-26

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARDS

RE: Charles A. Poole.

RECORDED

I telephoned Chief of Detectives H. W. Piel at Detroit and stated that in answer to his wire our records revealed through fingerprint identification that the man in question is Charles A. Poole; that the record indicates he was arrested in December 17, 1926 at Dodge City, Kansas, charged with vagrancy at which time he gave his residence as 21 North Fourteenth Street, East St. Louis and his birthplace as Warrensburg, Kentucky. I also furnished Chief Piel with the description as indicated on our records.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 14 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 13 1936 P. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

TEH:OKP:RLM

May 13, 1936.

Time-5:10 P.M.

7398-26

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Charles W. Poole.

In regard to the request for the search on the fingerprints of a man found shot to death in Detroit, I told Mr. Suydam that an identification had been made; that the man was Charles W. Poole, who had been arrested in Dodge City, Kansas, in December, 1926, his home being given at that time as East St. Louis. I stated I had advised the Chief of Detectives at Detroit in response to his wire and had also called Mr. Blair Moody of the Detroit News who was not in at the time. In response to my suggestion Mr. Suydam stated he would advise Mr. Moody of the results.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 14 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 13 1936 P. M.
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

COPY

WM 25-DL

WESTERN UNION

DETROIT MICH MAY 13 112P MAY 13 1936

J EDGAR HOOVER

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPT OF JUSTICE

BLAIR/MOODY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT/DETROIT NEWS HAS

WIREPHOTO OF FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTO MAN MURDERED HERE KINDLY

WIRE ME IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE ABLE TO IDENTIFY

HENRY W/PIEL CHIEF OF DETECTIVESN

134PM.

Blair Moody

PA BI

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7397-26

MAY 27 1936

COMM. UNIT

FILE

2 encl.

Handwritten notes and signatures in a box

*File
5/25/36*

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E.A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILSON
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NM = Night Message
- NL = Night Letter
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.
Received at 708 14th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

PRESS GALLERY, U. S. C.

WAC57 DPR PAID=WUX DETROIT MICH 13 1144A

FELIX COTTEN=

SENATE PRESS GALLERY=

*affiliated
message
sixth*

PLEASE ASK GOVERNMENT FINGERPRINTERS CHECK PRINTS OF
 MAN FOUND SLAIN HERE TODAY. TAKE SHEET PAPER AND DRAW
 RECTANGLE WITH TWENTY EIGHT SQUARES SEVEN ACROSS AND
 FOUR DOWN FIRST LINE FIRST SQUARE M NEXT FOUR BLANK FIFTH
 SQUARE ONE SIXTH SQUARE 6 SECOND LINE L I R ZERO
 ZERO ZERO LAST BLANK THIRD LINE M ONE U ZERO ZERO ONE LAST
 BLANK FOURTH LINE ALL BLANK EXCEPT SIXTH ZERO=

LAPPING.

*file
copy DEP
5/15/36*

NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE IS MADE FOR REQUESTING A REPLY BY WESTERN UNION

Mr. Dejean

This is
my interpretation
of the sample

Collar

M				1	6
R	1	R	0	0	0
M	1	U	0	0	1
					0

Handwritten notes or scribbles

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 14, 1936.

TDQ:RCL

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. Clegg
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder ✓
- Mr. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

Mr. Suydam telephoned yesterday afternoon and stated that the body had been found of a gangster who had been shot to death in the streets of Detroit yesterday morning and that a representative of the Detroit News had received a wire photograph of the fingerprints and had turned them over to Mr. Suydam requesting that the records of the Identification Division be checked in an effort to establish his identity.

Mr. Suydam stated that he had advised the representative of the Detroit News that the facilities of the Bureau could be made available only to regularly appointed law enforcement officials and that if the Chief of Police at Detroit telephoned the Director, undoubtedly such information as was available would be furnished. I immediately sent the prints to Mr. Edwards in your absence with the request that a search of the files be made and then communicated with you advising you of Mr. Suydam's request. An identification was made in this case and all identifying data was turned over to Mr. Tracy who informed me that the Director communicated with the police department at Detroit and advised them of the identification.

Black Legion

Mr. Reinecke also telephoned yesterday afternoon concerning this same case and stated that the chief of detectives had communicated with him advising that he had sent a telegram to the Director requesting information as to whether an identification had been made. Mr. Reinecke was informed that upon the return of the Director to his office, he would undoubtedly communicate with the chief of police at Detroit as to the information obtained from the Bureau's files.

Mr. Suydam endeavored to reach me on two or three occasions by telephone. However, I was out of the office.

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn.

61-7398-27

JUN 1 1936

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
MAY 15 1936
FBI - DETROIT

JEH:AS

May 25, 1936

Time: 5:37 P. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Black Legion at Detroit.

Colonel Gates telephoned and stated that he had received several calls inquiring if the Bureau had been asked to investigate the Black Legion case. I stated that we had not and that the Bureau was not in the case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Fox
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

RECORDED

61-7398-28

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 27 1936 A. M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

MAY 23 1936

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Handwritten initials

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Banghman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Pennington	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

EAT:RLG

May 25, 1936.

Handwritten: *5 pm*
Handwritten: *fa*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Frank Waldrop called and said there is a rumor current among the newspaper people that evidently emanates from a District Attorney in Michigan, to the effect that the Bureau is going to initiate an investigation of the Black Legion and wipe it out over night.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm.

RECORDED

61-7398-29

MAY 29 1936

FOUR

NO

Handwritten initials: *AT*

Large empty rectangular box, possibly a stamp or redaction area.

Handwritten initials: *AT*

EAT:TMF

May 25, 1936

Mr. W. H. Moran,
Chief, Secret Service Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Moran:

Confirming the information furnished to you by telephone today by Mr. Tamm of this Bureau, you are advised that the following telegram was received today from Flint, Michigan, bearing the signature of R. A. Roberts, City Editor of the Flint Journal, Flint, Michigan:

"Confidential information from member Black Legion here says organization intends harm to President Roosevelt - planning armed march on Washington. Informant available. Believe 2,000 here."

This information is transmitted to you for any attention deemed appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

RECORDED

&

INDEXED

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

61-7398-30

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 26 1936 P. M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

MAY 25 1936

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Egan
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

20

9

MAY 26 1936

FEB 25 1936

KFE:EHG
61-7398-31

June 2, 1936.

RECORDED

Miss Julia F. Daly,
5523 Paseo Street,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Madam:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 23, 1936, together with enclosed newspaper clippings, furnishing an expression of your views relative to the criminal activities on the part of the Black Legion, and requesting that an appropriate investigation be conducted by this Bureau in regard thereto.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of such a Federal law, no action can be taken by the Bureau in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
cc - Kansas City;
JUN 9 1936
F. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten initials]

6 5/23/36

250
J

J. Edgar Hoover.

In this news, "Black Legion"
in my judgement are Public
Enemy #1, you would do

this Country a real service
if you could clean up on
this class of all American
100% — John Dillinger was a
gentleman in comparison to
this organization.

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 4 1936
61-7398-31
INVESTIGATION

Don't care how you
do the job, you can
shoot men in the back.
want the job done.

Chicago
Hansen City
6/2/36
H
etc

I wish I could be of ²⁵⁴
some kind of service to you
for God knows they will have
to be cleaned up soon,
do yours best,

Yours truly




MAY 28 1936 AM

NOV 28 1936

"BLACK LEGION" SLAYERS—(Wirephoto).



EXECUTIONERS, CHARGE POLICE—The four men who confessed slaying Charles A. Poole, a young worker. The men are members of a secret organization termed the "Black Legion." Poole was murdered, police say, because he had beaten his wife. Mrs. Poole denied she was mistreated by her husband. From left to right are Dayton Dean, Harvey Davis, Urban Lipps and Irvin Lee.



TRAGIC ROBES—Detectives are shown wearing regalia worn by "Black Legion" slayers of Charles A. Poole. Firearms taken from men are being examined by the officers.

the
said
gov-
ta of
res-
act
only
ever
from
id of
sith,
being
are
all of
the
for
on of
siped,
each is
lower
mat
the
down
that
rcally
erink
s giv-
or the
dis-
ex-
sson
our
e in
omic
low-
fac-
ing
th

61 1936
May - 23 - 1936

(THE)
The Ra

KANSAS

ACE. CHILD OF KU KLUX KLAN

AUTHORITIES DELVE INTO MYSTERIES OF THE "BLACK LEGION."

Similar, but "a Higher Organization." One of Four Who Have Admitted Detroit Ritual Killing Explains.

(By the Associated Press)

DETROIT, May 22.—Duncan C. McCrea, prosecutor, sought tonight to unravel the mysteries of the "Black Legion," four members of which have confessed, he said, that they killed Charles A. Poole, 32-year-old WPA worker, because he was accused of beating his wife.

The men who McCrea and John I. Navarre, police inspector, said had admitted they were present when Poole was shot to death at a roadside the night of May 12, are Harvey Davis, 38, a "colonel" in the fantastic organization; Dayton Dean, 36; Irvin Lee and Urban Lipps.

McCrea said he would ask murder warrants tomorrow for them and for George C. Johnson, Paul R. Edwards and Edgar Baldwin, who, he said, also were present at the slaying.

The prosecutor said those seven and nine other alleged members of the organization held for slaying, were tight-lipped about the details of the "Black Legion," but from Lipps, he said, came some information.

REPRISALS ARE FEARED.

Lipps, he said, although expressing fear of reprisals from other members, told him that the "Black Legion" is "something like the Ku Klux Klan, only it is a higher organization."

Literature found in the "Black Legion's" meeting place and in the homes of alleged members bore the name "United Brotherhood of

Ke cloud show change
The 1 p. 2 p. 2:15 3 p. 4 p. 5 p. 6 p. 7 p. A. W. Proc trace High south. River fall of Relativ
Sun r Moon Merri Even Urnan
IDE casis
PAR
P. O. ON
Censur
Dit
A Wash
licito partu
neut
Brant
solat
Bran
The
way
trans
Brant
prove

is known to... among themselves, the members refer to the organization as the Black Legion.

The Detroit News quoted Lipps saying the head of the organization is called "major general" and that the other officers hold military titles down to corporal.

"I can't think what the major general's last name is," the News quoted Lipps, "but his first name is Wilbur. The password is 'secrecy always.'"

OUTGROWTH OF KLAN.

"To belong to the legion, you have to have been a member of the Ku Klux Klan. The dues are 10 cents a month."

Inspector Navarre said some of the men told him the organization had branches in other cities, but that they refused to name the cities from fear of reprisals.

Literature of the "United Brotherhood" said the purpose of the order was to "promote, protect and preserve Protestantism; to create and guard the welfare of the Protestant people socially as well as politically." Other documents found in the meeting place indicated the order is anti-Jewish, anti-Negro, and that its purposes include opposition to Communism and defense of the Constitution.

Navarre said Dean confessed he fired two shots into Poole's body, that Lee had admitted firing at the victim, and that Davis had confessed he directed the shooting, while Lipps admitted he was a witness.

BLAMES RELATIVES' COMPLAINTS.

"I planned the expedition only as a whipping party," McGrea quoted Davis as saying in a formal statement following his confession. The "party" was planned, Davis said, because two relatives of Poole's wife had said he beat and kicked her.

"I shot him; I thought it was my job, according to our discussion," McGrea said Dean told him.

Davis and Dean are employees of the Detroit public lighting commission. Most of the others held are factory workers. Davis came to Detroit from Lexington, Ky., sixteen years ago; Lipps from Pucatumna, Miss., eighteen months ago.

Navarre said thirty-four other members of the organization were being sought as having attended a meeting of the "Wolverine Republican League" at which the abduction of Poole was planned.

Headquarters of the league, which is not connected with the Republican party, were raided today and a dozen firearms, a large quantity of ammunition, two daggers, and several black robes and hoods, bearing a skull and crossbones insignia, were confiscated.

A NEW RISK CODE ATTEMPT.

O'Malley, Iropes, Missourians Will Ignore Petitions.

ES
TE
in Pett
AY

MURDER BY HOODED BAND

BLACK LEGION MAY HAVE COMMITTED SEVERAL SLAYINGS.

Michigan State Police Head Gets Reports Deaths Were Made to Appear Suicides—Check Missing Persons.

(By the Associated Press.)

LANSING, MICH., May 23.—Capt. I. H. Marmon of the state police today announced he had received an unconfirmed report that members of the Black Legion, secret vigilante society, had killed several men and made their deaths appear to be suicides.

Marmon said he had sent two officers to Jackson, Mich., to investigate a report from informant whose name was not disclosed that a terrorist group had killed a man there recently.

"There have been a number of questionable suicides in the state," Marmon said. "We are checking the list of missing persons in Jackson and all unsolved murder cases and doubtful suicide cases."

WIDE SPREAD OF TERROR.

Activities of the "Black Legion" Go Far.

DETROIT, May 23.—Disclosures that hooded night-riders of the "Black Legion" have been terrorizing parts of Michigan for a year, even attempting to seize control of one city government, came today on the heels of the arrest of sixteen of the Black Legionnaires in connection with the murder of Charles A. Poole here.

Roving bands of the night-riders who executed Poole, a former WPA worker, on an apparently spurious charge Poole beat his wife, also were accused by Police Inspector John I. Navarre of conducting several "horse-whipping parties" here, while the "Black Legion" itself divided the city up into "zones."

"The murder also brought charges the black-robed cult in Pontiac tried to dominate the Pontiac city elections fourteen months ago. Threatened three political candidates there with death, kidnaped a former member of the band, handcuffed him to a tree and threatened to kill him.

The Pontiac charges were based on revelations by Arthur P. Bogue, public prosecutor there at the time of the kidnaping. It also was recalled that charge once were publicly made that some members of the "Black Legion" also were officers of the Pontiac police department and tried to oust George Eckhardt, former police chief. The latter was found not guilty of charges he said were "trumped up" by the secret organization.

In Pontiac, according to one reliable source, the "Black Legion" boasts 2,000 members.

In Flint, according to information given police here, there are about 2,100 members, including a member of the city government there. Other chapters of the cult were believed active in many other Michigan cities. One man who was questioned by Police Inspector Navarre here claimed the "Black Legion" had 7 million members throughout the country.

Inspector Navarre said "the Black Legion has a far flung organization in Detroit; they have the city divided up into zones and each district has its own organization; many of them are masking under the guise of social and political clubs."

RAIL PENSIONS ARE NEAR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

EAT:TMF

May 25, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

I have talked to Mr. Reinecke at Detroit about the Black Legion murders appearing in the newspapers and told Mr. Reinecke that you have observed newspaper dispatches and heard radio announcements that the Federal authorities have offered full cooperation in this matter. Mr. Reinecke stated that he has not offered any cooperation to anyone in the case and as a matter of fact, the police have not contacted the Detroit Office. Mr. Reinecke said that he has had a number of calls from the newspapers asking whether the Bureau would enter the case, and has informed the inquiring parties that the matter, in so far as the facts are known to him, have not to date disclosed any violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction.

It is not unlikely that statements concerning the cooperation of Federal authorities emanates from the fact that the Bureau made an identification of the fingerprints sent in by wire photo of Poole, the victim of a murder plot. You will recall that Poole is the individual about whom you called the Detroit Police Department a week or more ago.

I asked Mr. Reinceke as to the general extent and nature of the developments in this matter, and he stated that the police have made four or five arrests of individuals who have admitted membership in an organization known as the Black Legion. These people had in their possession the regalia that has been pictured in the newspapers, and according to Reinecke's information, one, at least of the persons arrested as admitted that a number of the members of the Black Legion killed Poole, because of a complaint that they had received, which indicated that Poole was abusing his wife.

The police have learned that some months ago an individual died at Jackson, Michigan, presumably from diabetes. Within the last day or so, however, his wife has come forward and claimed that he was taken from his house one night and beaten by a crowd, presumably of the Black Legion. It is reported that at least two Prison Guards of the State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan are members of the Black Legion and Reinecke states that recent information is that one of the Prison Guards has been suspended for his membership in this organization. It is further reported that a list of the members of the Black Legion was found in the possession of one of the Prison Guards. In answer to any inquiries as to the indicated

JUN 1 1936

RECORDED

61-7348-32
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 JUN 1 1936 A. M.

size of the organization, Reinecke stated that so far the police have found indications that about 10 people belong to the organization from various items located, but the prosecuting attorney has stated that if the organization is recruited to its full strength in Michigan, it has 135,000 members. Mr. Reinecke stated that the organization has two objectives, the fostering of Protestantism and the suppression of Communism.

There has been absolutely no indication of an organization on a national scale, although there have been some rumors that the President of the Black Legion resides in West Virginia. The individuals identified as participating in the Black Legion to date are from the mountains of Tennessee and Kentucky. These individuals, according to Reinecke, are typical "hill billies" who came into Detroit and obtained work in industrial pursuits there.

From the facts available there is nothing to indicate any violation of a Federal Statute within our jurisdiction and I do not believe we should enter into this case or publicly offer any assistance to the Detroit Police in the absence of some showing of a Federal violation. Of course if the Detroit Police want any Laboratory work or anything of that kind done, I believe we should do it, but I don't think we should make any statement upon the matter.

Respectfully,


E. A. Tamm

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

EAT:CDW

Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 25, 1936.

Mr. Nathan	.....
Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. Baughman	.....
Chief Clerk	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Edwards	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Foxworth	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Joseph	.....
Mr. Keith	.....
Mr. Lester	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Schilder	.....
Mr. Tamm	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

Time - 12:15 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: ^o Black Legion.

Pursuant to your instructions, I telephoned Chief Moran of the Secret Service here in Washington and read to him the telegram which the Bureau received from the city editor, Mr. R. E. Roberts, of the Flint Journal, Flint, Michigan, stating that one of the members of the Black Legion has stated the Legion is planning an armed march on Washington for the purpose of assassinating the President of the United States.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.

Transmit via plain service to...

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JUN 3 1936

61-7-91-33

JUN 27 1936

HW
FILED
...

EFE:MC

June 3, 1936.

61-7398

RECORDED

Mr. Fred Cook,
729 East Elm Street,
Lima, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated May 25, 1936, signed by you and Floyd Sanders, in which you request the cooperation of this Bureau in furnishing adequate protection against the Black Legion, against which organization you indicate the local officials are powerless.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of any such Federal law, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to take any action.

This matter appears to be one of purely local nature, and solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the State of Ohio.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
JUN - 4 1936
Cleveland
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Edgar Hoover

off

101

May 20 1936
Edgar J. Hoover
Dept. of Justice
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

We are now appealing
to you for co-operation
regarding the "Black Legion"
in Lima Ohio.

We have appealed to
County & City officials
without any results
whatsoever

We feel we have a
right for protection

RECORDED & INDEXED
from your files

62-7374-34

Please contact us as
soon as possible

JUN 6 1936

MAY 27 1936

This case has been
going on one and a half
years with out any
results. Hoping you
will please act
immediately.

ack 6/3/36
E J

Yours Truly,
Fred Cook and Floyd Sanders
729 E. Elm St. Lima Ohio

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION EAT:TMF
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MAY 25 1936

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Transmit the following message to:

R E ROBERTS
CITY EDITOR
FLINT JOURNAL
FLINT MICHIGAN

RECORDED

61-7398-35

ep-01

INFORMATION CONTAINED YOUR TELEGRAM CONCERNING ALLEGED HARM TO
PRESIDENT BY MEMBERS BLACK LEGION HAS BEEN REFERRED TO W H MORAN
CHIEF U S SECRET SERVICE WHICH ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH DUTY
PROTECT PRESIDENT

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/28

9
7

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Miss Gandy



SENT VIA

POSTAL

5/28

M

Per

103

POSTAL

BI27 GVT PAID 5 25 36 552P

R E ROBERTS CITY EDITOR

FLINT JOURNAL FLINT MICH

INFORMATION CONTAINED YOUR TELEGRAM CONCERNING ALLEGED
HARM TO PRESIDENT BY MEMBERS BLACK LEGION HAS BEEN REFERRED
TO W H MORAN CHIEF US SECRET SERVICE WHICH ORGANIZATION
CHARGED WITH DUTY PROTECT PRESIDENT

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION..

BI R 27 W THANK

104

WESTERN UNION

MAY 25 1936

WM3. 25

FLINT MICH MAY 25 835A

J EDGAR HOOVER

DEPT OF JUSTICE

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM MEMBER BLACK LEGION HERE SAYS
ORGANIZATION INTENDS HARM TO/PRESIDENT/ROOSEVELT PLANNING
ARMED MARCH ON WASHINGTON INFORMANT AVAILABLE BELIEVE
TWO THOUSAND HERE

R E ROBERTS CITY EDITOR/FLINT JOURNAL

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Egan
- Miss Gandy

Get to Secret Service at once.

858A*

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

JUN 2 1936

*ack by mail
letter 5-25-36
RJK*

*Leach
E.H.
ob*

61-7398-35

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 21 1936 A.M.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEARCHED INDEXED

105

Spread of Terra Cult:

MASS MURDER LAID TO 'BLACK LEGION'

FAMILY Of Cult Slaying Victim

'Master Mind' Hunted; 7,000,000 Members Of Weird Society Revealed

DETROIT, May 23 (U.S.). The Black Legion, whose presence was first disclosed here in the Charles Poole murder, actually is a nationwide organization which aims at a dictatorship of America by its gun-crazy members, Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea declared late tonight. Harry Coburn, McCrea's chief investigator, who said he got his information from a "colonel" in the organization whom he could not name, declared: "The legion is arming men all over the country to seize control of the government."

DETROIT, May 23.—A veritable avalanche of evidence vividly branding the Black Legion with responsibility for scores of fanatical crimes similar to the slaying of Charles A. Poole was uncovered by State and county police tonight, rounding out a new picture of the cult as a mammoth-black-robed secret society, seeking political power throughout the nation.

Convinced that the whole fiction-like story of the Black Legionnaires' weird oaths, moonlight rituals and coast-to-coast political ambitions, has not been bared completely, Michigan authorities sought the "master mind" of the society, seven of whose members are charged with Poole's "execution."

NATIONALLY ORGANIZED

Police Inspector John I. Navarre said he has learned from prisoners' confessions that the Klan-like terrorists are nationally organized. And he quoted several informants as declaring that it boasts a membership of more than 10,000 in Michigan and 7,000,000 in the nation.

At the same time Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, investigating the Legion, said he received reports that dozens of victims had been flogged by the order of night riders and they definitely had a hand in some recent mysterious "gang slayings" in Michigan.



MRS. CHARLES POOLE AND INFANT
Baby Was Born Day After Father Was Slain

International News Photo

Thirteen alleged black legionnaires were being held for the murder of Poole, 33-year-old former Works Progress Administration worker who was shot to death on a lonely road May 13, after a secret meeting in which it was declared Poole had beaten his wife, an expectant mother. Mrs. Poole has since vehemently denied her husband beat her.

ASK PROTECTION

Dayton Dean, father of two and an employe of the public lighting system, has confessed he fired the five fatal shots, according to Inspector Navarre. Four others admitted they were present at the "execution."

The thirteen men, ranging in age from 16 to 60, have asked that they be kept in jail to protect them from Black Legion vengeance, Prosecutor McCrea said. The latter indicated that death was the cult's penalty for members who told of its secrets.

State police stationed at Lansing late today announced they had been reliably informed several deaths, hitherto believed suicides, had been laid at the legion's door. Capt. I. H. Marmon said:

"We are checking all lists of missing persons and all unsolved suspicious deaths. Some, we believe, are the result of the Black Legion's orders."

Details of one confession were reported to have bared a plot to take Albert Bates, Ford motors superintendent, out and "toss him in the lake." Another it was proposed members of the legion, who are supposedly staff members of the Pontiac police department, "get rid" of that city's chief of police, George Eckhardt.

(Copyright, 1936, by Universal Service)

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Baughman
- Chief Clerk
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Edwards
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Foxworth
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Joseph
- Mr. Keith
- Mr. Lester
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Schilder
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Tracy
- Miss Gandy

WASH. HERALD

61-1298-35

MAY 24 1936

Inspector Reveals Tip Baring 'Black Legion'

(Police Inspector John I. Navarre tells in the following story how information from a tipster solved the murder of Charles A. Poole and unveiled the weird activities of the night-riding, black-robed "Black Legion.")

By POLICE INSPECTOR JOHN I. NAVARRE

As Told to Universal Service.

DETROIT, May 23 (U.S.).—The murder of Charles A. Poole which finally led us to unmasking the "Black Legion" here was a tough case to break because for a long time, we couldn't get anything to go on.

Poole, with five shots in him, was found in a ditch along a lonely road but even after we identified him we were puzzled because the case had all the aspects of a gangster killing. But Poole was not mixed up with racketeers. He didn't drink, except a few glasses of beer sometimes, and we couldn't see any reason why anyone would want to kill him. He was a former relief worker, 33 years old and the father of two children, one of them just born.

CLUES MISSING

His family life was the same as any American family of four in their modest circumstances. That's what baffled us. That's how it stood for days. No motives, no clues—nothing.

But finally somebody came to us and told us he had overheard a remark in a beer garden that "something will have to be done about Poole—he's beating his wife." It wasn't much to go on, but it gave us a start. We went to the beer garden, learned that Poole had been there a few hours before his death and then was summoned out by some men on the pretext of playing baseball on some amateur team. And one of the witnesses—I won't disclose his name at this stage of the game—knew one of the men who served the death summons on Poole.

We began rounding up men and then we learned of some secret organization and dimly I began to vision what we were up against. As we rounded up the 16 men we are now holding, we found a curious thing. The fear of being locked up to them was nothing compared with the fear of talking.

"LEGION" UNMASKED

For a long time none of them would tell us much. But finally

one talked and involved a couple of others. Then the story of the murder began to unfold, and what a story it was! They called themselves the Black Legion, they stood for clean politics, were anti-Communist and considered it their duty to punish husbands who erred.

The officers wore those hooded black shirts with a white skull and cross-bones painted on them. They claimed their history went back to the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. They had a regular arsenal in their homes, a dozen pistols, five blackjacks, and ammunition.

PRIVATES AND "OFFICERS"

I'll say this, whoever organized that outfit was no slouch. Those babies fairly cried before they talked. I can't begin to estimate the total membership, but I know this crew we got is only a little piece of it. They had officers ranging from privates up, just as in the army.

(Copyright, 1935, by Universal Service)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Keith
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilder
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

WASH. HERALD

MAY 24 1936

50 Deaths Laid To Black Legion As Net Widens

Membership of 135,000
in Michigan Reported
for Murder Cult.

By the Associated Press.

Detroit, May 24.—The roundup of "Night riders" of the hooded Black legion spread today as officials directed their inquiry to reports a membership totaling 135,000 in Michigan alone may be responsible for some 50 deaths.

In Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said murder warrants would be issued tomorrow for seven men present at the killing of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker, and said the prosecution would include as many as may be identified of some 50 persons present at a Black Legion meeting from which Poole, a non-member, was taken to his death.

Ray Ernest, guard at the Southern Michigan Prison, was held at Jackson for arraignment Monday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, after he denied connection with the reported flogging of Paul Every, 42, also a prison guard, and who died April 14 of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

State Police Capt. Ira H. Marmion, whose troopers have been investigating the secret vigilantes for months, said he was investigating a report 50 Michigan men had been marked for death, and that the Black Legion made its killings appear suicidal.

Harry Colburn, investigator for the Wayne County prosecutor's office, said he was informed the Black Legion's membership in the State grew in three years to 135,000, divided into five brigades of 16 regiments each, that each member carried a pistol, and that the organization "is much more dangerous than people think."

Claims in Black Legion literature seized by State police that it antedates the Ku Klux Klan and that the Klan was an offshoot from it were ridiculed by investigators, who said the claims were made to impress prospective members. At New York, Hiram W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Klan, indignantly denied any connection with the legion and said the Klan has no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Detroit police, who seized 18 men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole on a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the Black Legion meeting that preceded it. Hearing on habeas corpus writs for 15 others was set for Monday before Circuit Judge Adolph F. Marschner.

Mr. Tol
Mr. Ba
Chief C
Mr. Cl
Mr. Co
Mr. Ed
Mr. Eg
Mr. For
Mr. Har
Mr. Joe
Mr. Ke
Mr. Le
Mr. Qui
Mr. Sch
Mr. Tam
Mr. Trac
Miss Ga

WASH. POST
MAY 25 1936

Terror At Home.

On the heels of a Louisiana verdict finding a sheriff guilty of negligence for failure to prevent a lynching comes news of the conviction in Florida of five policemen involved in the notorious "Tampa floggings." The lamp of social justice burns the brighter for these decisions.

What makes the Florida verdict particularly significant is the fact that the jurors had a complex case to decide. Though from a distance it appeared to be simply a question of whether the police officers had assisted in kidnaping and tar-and-feathering three men, one of whom died as a result, in the Florida courtroom other factors tended to obscure the issue.

To begin with, flogging and "striping" are not uncommon practices in that region. Order, it is explained, must be maintained among the armies of transient laborers attracted by the citrus industry, for these men often become dissatisfied with the small wages allowed them. In Tampa itself, a cigar industry, likewise operating on a low wage scale, invites further labor disturbances which, in the euphemism of a native of the area, "must be discouraged." Moreover, the usual cry of "Communists!" was sent up to distract the jurors. And both local and State politics played conspicuous roles in the trial. Finally, it was no secret that Ku Klux Klan membership cards had been found on some of the men accused of participating in the torture.

The verdict comes opportunely to lend force to the drive against the "Black Legion," a strong-arm agency of the same Ku Klux Klan in Detroit. Several members of this gang have confessed to the murder of a laborer "because he beat his wife." Evidence points to a membership in Michigan alone that runs high into the thousands. Organized to stir up the usual racial and religious hatreds, the society is now strongly suspected of many other hitherto unsolved murders and seeming suicides.

Authorities are amazed at a deluge of statements, from persons too afraid to speak before, indicating that the area had been at the mercy of night-riding fanatics for months if not years. Leaders of the organization, stripped of their hoods, reveal a characteristic low intelligence often verging on dementia. Creatures of the dark, they grovel before the light of publicity now flooding their dens.

Other States might take a tip from Michigan's experience and look about for

similar shameful iniquities within their own borders. This reappearance of terrorism, whether in Florida or Michigan, holds an arresting significance for the country as a whole. Violence breeds only on discontent. To clap a few leaders into jail is only a start toward solution of the problem. The larger task of rooting out the causes of discontent is a national obligation that has not yet been discharged.

Mr. Na

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Board

Chief Clerk

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Coffey

Mr. Egan

Mr. Foxworth

Mr. Harbo

Mr. Joseph

Mr. Keith

Mr. Lester

Mr. Quinn

Mr. Schilder

Mr. Tamm

Mr. Tracy

Miss Gandy

RECEIVED
MAY 23 1936
DISCLOSURE

MAY 23 1936

50 "Black Legion" Victims Traced as Cult Is Unhooded; Dark-Age Barbarism Bared

Seven Face Murder
Warrants; Chief
of 135,000 Is
Hunted

DETROIT, May 24 (U.S.). A sinister and elaborate underground organization, patterned along military lines, calling for a huge membership of 135,000 in Michigan alone, was disclosed by authorities tonight as they revealed the Dark-Age ritualistic practices of the Black Legion, accused of killing two victims and possibly 50 others.

The theory that the Black Legion, already charged with gunfire "execution" of one man and the fatal flogging of another, may have been responsible for at least 50 mysterious deaths in this State during the past three years was being investigated by authorities.

Federal Search Hinted

State and local officials issued peremptory orders for the arrest of every officer of the new terrorist legion above the rank of "captain."

It was intimated at county headquarters that G-men have begun a Middle Western search for the hooded successors to the Ku Klux Klan.

This report, however, was not officially confirmed.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea announced murder warrants will be issued tomorrow naming seven of the 15 men being held here in connection with the death of Charles A. Poole, young Works Progress Administration worker whose bullet-riddled body was discovered 15 days ago in a roadside ditch.

Seize Skull Hoods

Revelations of the blind fanaticism and awesome rituals of the legion came with seizure of voluminous manuscripts and literature in Jackson today. These contained the grim oath the legion's neophytes were forced to take and their pledge that they would "fight as guerrillas with any weapon that comes to our hands."

They were found, along with 50 black skull-and-cross-bone hoods, and two black robes, officers said, at the home of Ray Ernest, a Jackson State prison guard. Ernest is accused by the widow as the leader of a gang of masked men who dragged Paul Every, another prison guard, from his home and flogged him so cruelly that he later died.

Torture Oath Bared

Officer Edward Johnson, of the State police at Jackson, said the oath taken by the Black Legionnaires read:

"I further pledge my heart, my brain, my body and my limbs, never to betray a comrade; that I will submit to all the tortures that mankind can inflict and suffer the most horrible death, rather than reveal a single word of this, my oath.

"Before violating a single clause or implied pledge of this, my obligation, I will pray to an avenging God and an unmerciful devil to tear my heart out and roast it over flames of sulphur; that my head be split open and my brains be scattered over the earth; that my body be ripped open and my bowels be torn open and fed to the carrion birds; that each of my limbs be broken with stones and then cut off by inches that they may be food for the foulest of birds of the air and, lastly, that my soul be given unto torment; that my body may be submerged in molten metal and stifled in the flames of hell; and that this punishment may be meted out to me through all eternity."

Ernest, held on a technical charge because a .45 caliber gun

was found in his possession, denied that he belonged to the Black Legion, declared the charge that he had led the "avengers" who flogged Every was "ridiculous," and that he had no knowledge whatever of the legion.

Describing the alarming growth of the Black Legion, Wayne County Investigator Harry Colburn said he had uncovered evidence that the organization was being built from the ground up as a real army. Prospective members are asked if they can "ride a horse, drive an automobile and shoot a rifle or pistol."

Five Brigades Bared

For Michigan there are five brigades of 16 regiments each, four battalions to a regiment and four companies to a battalion. The organization calls for 1,593 men to a regiment, and that commanded by "Colonel" Harvey Davis, one of the prisoners held here in the murder of Poole, was said to have 600 members enlisted already.

A grim phase of the league organization is that there are no "ex-members." That is what is believed to have caused the allegedly fatal flogging of Prison Guard [redacted] to withdraw.

[redacted] not talk with [redacted] until he gets permission from the brigadier general. The secrets of the organization are sealed, none of those in the lower ranks, knowing what is taking place higher up.

Trail Cult General

The 15 Black Legion members maintained a frightened whenever efforts were made by those of those John and [redacted] had four [redacted] and in the "General" [redacted] at the [redacted]

LAT:TMF

61-7398-36

June 4, 1936

RECORDED

Columbus, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of May 26, 1936, advising that you are in possession of a document which you believe to be the original of the laws and regulations of an organization that is now the subject of inquiry on the part of certain police departments. I assume that the organization to which you refer is the Black Legion and I desire to inform you that this Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of that organization. I would suggest that if you have information concerning this organization, you furnish it to the officers of the Detroit Police Department who are conducting this inquiry.

If the information in your possession pertains to some other organization and you believe it would be of interest to this Bureau, I will, of course, be glad to examine the information in your possession if you forward it to me.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

JUN - 5 1936

P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Wm. A. [unclear] on

RECORDED & INDEXED
61-7378-26

JUN 28 1936
MAY 28 1936
MAY 28 1936
MAY 28 1936

Columbus Ohio
Mr Hoover

I have a document that I believe to be the original of the laws and rules of an organization that is now interesting the police officials of this part of the country.

If you will instruct me how to address mail so that it will reach you direct without going thru other hands first, I will mail a copy and and app. amounting of its original across mail in plain envelope to [redacted]

Columbus

8

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION

234
 N. C. 5/26/36 of Edgar Hoover
 Dear Sir: Relative to Nat. Black Legion Cult you will
 find plenty of them here they have a regular lofted
 out a Starbuck View Village (East side) where they have
 wrecked & delapidated property until they have driven
 in out decent people - wrecked the place & have
 it all to themselves. When you get that gang lined
 up eventually you will get the mayor - the marshal
 & a dozen prohibition enforcement agents who
 live there & a lot of the worst southern cum. they vote
 themselves into office & force employers to give them
 jobs or go on relief. There is no use reporting to the N. C.
 Police or the Texas Co. sheriff or any - as that would
 mean nearly a chance for life off - the reporters
 life would not be worth a plug of nickel & the prop-
 erty would be destroyed. The board of administration
 is giving this man a class ticket to work with Max Meyer

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 4 1936

61-7248-327

DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 27 1936 P. M.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

AT

8

~~ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS~~
ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATIONS

TOLEDO
MAY 26
5:30 PM
1936

BUY U.S. SAVINGS
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS.

J. Edgar Hoover
Washington
D.C.
G. Men.

BUY U.S. SAVINGS
BONDS
ASK YOUR POSTMASTER

TOLEDO
MAY 26
5:30 PM
1936

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-37

MAY 27 1936

W.M.

FILE

May 25, 1936

Time: 12:15 P. M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Black Legion at Detroit.

In the course of a telephone conversation Mr. Suydam stated that he had been asked if the Bureau is investigating the Black Legion at Detroit. I stated that we were not in this case as yet; that the report of the Bureau's activities in the case came about because the Bureau had identified through fingerprints the unknown dead person; that the Bureau will cooperate in performing laboratory or fingerprint work desired by the Michigan authorities. I stated that so far I knew of no violation of a Federal statute in the matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 23 1936
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

61-7348-31

MAY 27 1936

INVESTIGATION

FILE

JEH:RLM

May 27, 1936.

Time-10:02 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: "Black Legion"

Mr. Sydam telephoned and stated that last night, the Cleveland Plain Dealer called him inquiring if the Bureau had some Agents interviewing people in Ohio in connection with the "Black Legion". I told Mr. Sydam that we had not taken any action and did not intend to as there is no violation of a Federal statute as yet.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

- Nathan
- Tolson
- Baughman
- of Clerk
- Clegg
- Coffey
- Edwards
- Egan
- Furness
- Harbo
- Joseph
- Keith
- Lester
- Quinn
- Schiller
- Tamm
- Tracy
- Gandy

ck

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 FILED
 MAY 27 1936
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7398-39
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 MAY 28 1936 A.M.
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE