

Dear Sir:

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

61-7398-74  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 10 1936

*Wife*  
*of*  
*attorney*

Two days ago I told you that I had  
information of Black Klan  
organization in Sierra Park and  
further that I'm given you information  
vice may or may not know that  
there is such organization there in 1926  
they killed a Negro in the neighborhood  
and let with some of our neighbors joined  
and sent the Negro's out of the town  
then later there was a Spanish family  
vice they also drove out is to me  
a Catholic and a Armenia's town  
I was wounded and harassed and be  
cause I insisted on my rights I was  
arrested for Curia and sent to  
prison the lot vice I send a copy  
to you was given to Police Detective  
of city of the first Spirit Police vice  
investigated and vice told me that  
it was all right to move back to Sierra  
Park but after I did move back  
it seems I had no Police Protection  
was ever beside that not and the  
en in vice they return on my Curia  
there was a falling not bowed  
under my for vice I copy on  
other side

*1000*  
*Mary Vetterich*

rice is clipping out of a  
News Paper and twisted on a other  
Reifer

son is justified in killing to  
preserve the sanctity of the  
family

al so thy cald my son a son of a  
Bice and told me I was not  
the legal wife of Mr Ernest Vetter  
is I'm not an immoral woman or  
have ever had any after wot  
after all now I can not understand  
way I got shud take that way  
and way my glushan I general  
real insult for my person  
so my betel has bin against do  
that try to slander me with  
out help of my glushan or  
mony to I investigated with the alier  
result of bin arrested for creisin  
thy Put a faged check in to  
other hand thinking we would  
caake it ven that did not  
work ther wer other outrages we  
drowe me to ast Birron Juttler  
help for an investigation with  
the result of bin arrested for

Mary Vetter

an open letter on your front or what ever  
you like slope of justice is in  
the name of the people

Properly before - I'm not to find  
out he is behind and I spoke  
to some acquaintances by the name  
of ~~John~~ and told them that I  
kill them if they steal my property  
there was no direct threat but  
if one is justified in sending  
a wire that Breik in your  
name one out to be justified  
in warning a fine of being  
to rob in of of ones home  
Mr Charles Davis told me I  
was not married to Mr Vetterick  
al so that if he had not his car  
Mr Vetterick he him self would  
had safer way and Carl Davis  
be afraid of some consequence  
of cars But Jerry wouldn't have  
the power to influence some  
action But a plan of some  
kind would follow of the Califor  
Belt down when I went to see  
him at his residence I heard  
a woman crying stating  
told you to stop it she  
now has behind but  
to this day it is not stop  
for the entire of I will and

RECEIVED  
FILES SECTION  
JUN 13 3 47 PM 1938  
FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT  
OF JUSTICE

well I have had an order  
was the first not him from  
and well I dont remember the  
name I think the connection  
is described down and some  
of this wife I suspect of  
being member of the mysterious  
Klan for is a Carpenter wife build  
Engels Hans he lives on  
Sawport Avenue he claim to  
Art Lissel was we lived and  
Brot a Plan for us to approval  
of a record pass to be build  
in River Park and if I remem  
ber along that we got the first  
warning I then Mrs. Linn get  
my Boy Blak and blu in disco  
at that letter she receive a good  
friend of us but I have an order  
that there is some of our connection  
with the Police Department  
Gene field was on of the organ  
and meter Pugein belonged its  
hard to say the Engel Jones was  
connected in the Negro removal  
meter he is one of the member  
I dont now of course men they  
hounded me But Jesus need  
the remark that shil over my

RECEIVED



JUN 5 1936 AM

OFFICIAL

HSC:MOB

May 28, 1936.

Honorable Duncan C. McCrea,  
Prosecuting Attorney of Wayne County,  
Detroit, Michigan.

AS OF COURSE YOU ARE AWARE THE AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IN  
CRIMINAL MATTERS IS LIMITED TO VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL STATUTES STOP IF YOU  
HAVE ANY INFORMATION INDICATING THAT A FEDERAL OFFENSE HAS BEEN COMMITTED  
I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU SUBMIT THE SAME TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
AT WASHINGTON

HOMER CUMMINGS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

61-7398-75

HENRY SUYDAM  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Department of Justice  
Washington

May 28, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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	.....

The Attorney General has requested me to transmit  
the copy of the enclosed telegram.

*Henry Suydam*

Henry Suydam,  
Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

*Black Legion  
American C. P. & Com.*

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 10 1936

61-7397-75	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 2 1936	A. M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TAMM	FILE

*Handwritten notes and initials in a box, including 'K' and 'ch'.*

*Handwritten initials or mark at the bottom right.*

# Adelaide Wyck ff Rives 102 In Brooklyn Tomorrow

103  
M. Son, 4 in Fire;  
3 Other Children Saved

Funeral services for Miss Adelaide E. Wyckoff, a member of the faculty of Packer Collegiate Institute for 45 years, will be held at the Fairchild Chapel, 86 Lefferts pl., Brooklyn, tomorrow at 2:30 p. m.

Miss Wyckoff, who died Thursday at St. Francis Hospital, Jersey City, resided at 58 Hanson pl., Brooklyn, where she was born 80 years ago. She was graduated from Packer in 1874 and taught in Brooklyn public schools before joining Packer faculty in 1879. She retired in 1924.

Miss Wyckoff, who had been prefect of the senior class at Packer, was an active member of the Packer Associate Alumnae. For many years she was a member of the Hanson Place Baptist Church.

She is survived by a brother, Spencer C. Wyckoff, and a sister, Miss Ella Wyckoff.

## Guest Drops Three to Safety in Watertown Blaze

WATERTOWN, N. Y., May 29 (AP).—Sidney Fox, thirty-five years old, and his son, Harold, four, burned to death today when their home was destroyed.

Three other children, Doris, seven; Shirley, three, and Gerald, two, were saved when they were dropped from a second-floor window by Millard G. La Plante, thirty-eight, who was an overnight guest at the home.

INDEXED

61-7398-76

the Black Legion ever broke into

the newspapers I heard its name ringing on the street phone or sounding board in the section in South Hartford on Maple Avenue near Pawtucket Street. I have been told any one can get on those phones but since the Black Legion has been in the newspapers some one has been using names that a few days later have been printed in the accident columns of the newspapers. Some one shouted "Where is old man firesignal, I mean New Jersey" and that was a week before the fires started. Then the names mentioned in the enclosed clippings were said too. I do not know how much else comes over that might be a code as I see no results in the newspapers.

Since there seems to be no motive of robbery or revenge connected with these happenings I thought that it might be some gang of street terrorists such as the Black Legion. It seems to be devilishly clever and

JUN 9 1936

address mentioned  
SE

often perpetrated among the most conservative class of people who would not welcome any suggestion of foul play.

Often they use slang that I do not at the time understand and several times I have afterwards found out it was crooks jargon. The other day they said to me calling out my name "You have had Crooks Protection but now we will tip you the black spot". The names of people that get hurt come over once in a while quietly sandwiched in among the jargon. Then the other day they said "We will put you onto the black spot legion". Do you suppose they mean they would hook me up with the street phones giving harm signals! It makes me feel physically sick to hear the named called out and afterwards to see them in the newspaper crime accounts and not be able to do anything about it. But the thing sounds so fantastic I don't know whom to go to. The people in Hartford seem to hate the streets threats but don't seem to be able to do anything about it.

Last week some deep voice on several different streets of Hartford said 167 Washington Street, I know the policeman who doesn't want her out, then Keenen, or Koenig and in a few days a policeman at that address and by that name died of heart trouble which might have been caused by several things. Now as I write a deep voice says "Miss Kelly is on our crime list."

At first I thought it might be the engineer at some big radio station or else some news agency or some amateur station fooling us but it seems to have serious enough results.

They threaten to get my mother who lives in another state and I have not got enough money to supply private guards or any written evidence that would warrant police protection. They cannot threaten me into silence. If my family are to be hurt anyway I am going to do what I can to prevent a few crimes.

They seem to be a gang who strike without warning and this street is what they call their clearing room.

One day the detonator boomed "Look out your mother with fall in the street next Thursday and if you warn her I will kill her." It seemed crazy and fantastic and I did nothing but she did fall in the street on that very day. It seems to be crime with no idea of gain other than the power over human life.

The men seem to call him Frank and some of the nurses at the Psychiatric Hospital say "Father Geshayten". I don't know what it is all about! It is awful! I haven't much faith in the local police when their own men get caught in a death trap, such as that. Every one else in Hartford can hear it ringing. I hope it comes under the jur-

isdiction of the Federal Bureau.

Some man's voice will give the order to "give it over WJZ", or some other station. How can they bootlet the big stations' power and for that reason it made me think that the big companies must be fooling until I read the newspapers. Some people up here call "him" Big Frank Mabwig or Paul Mabwig. But the important part is that people are getting hurt and the names used reach into different states.

I could give you pages of things that have happened but it would not be of any aid as there would not be any record of them found. The only thing I guess is to investigate the district and listen in on the signals or whatever they are, certainly orders of some kind.

Sincerely,

The threatened

*Ellis Kelly*

(I am afraid of them!)

4pages.

May 31, 1936.

# 3 IN BLACK LEGION ADMIT KIDNAPPING

Abduction and Flogging of a  
Fellow Member in October Is  
Laid to Gang of Fifteen.

Held Under \$50,000 Bail

Trio Pleads Guilty but Victim  
Refuses to Identify Men—

Ohio Strength Shown.  
N.Y. Times, 6/5/36

By WILL LISSNER  
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, June 4.—Fifteen more members of the Black Legion were charged with kidnaping in a warrant sworn out today by Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor. The accusations were in connection with the flogging of another member for failure to attend meetings.

Although the prosecutor yesterday demonstrated the limits to which a member would be bound by his oath of secrecy when he obtained from Dayton Dean, terrorist gunman, an eye-witness story of the Poole murder, in preliminary court proceedings, fear of the secret society stalked again in the same court.

Robert Penlan of Ecourse, victim of the kidnaping, refused to identify the three men who were arrested today as part of the fifteen. The three, who, Mr. McCrea said, admitted in statements that they took part in the abduction on orders from their superior officers, turned the tables by identifying the complainant.

The men, Thomas F. Cox, Frederick A. Gulley and Earl Angstadt, were held under \$50,000 bail each for preliminary court examination Monday.

Three Men Plead Guilty

Penlan, in a reluctant complaint, disclosed that he had been taken from his dinner table at the points of revolvers last October, hurried by automobile to a field outside Detroit in Oakland County within earshot of a monastery, and haled before a disciplinary court-martial before several hundred robed night riders. He insisted the rule violation claim was dismissed and was corroborated by Angstadt and Cox. Gulley confessed, the prosecutor said, that Penlan was tied to a tree and lashed.

The three men pleaded guilty at their arraignment, but the court, learning by questioning that they were unaware of the seriousness of the offense charged, set aside the pleas, ordered that they stand mute until they had consulted an attorney and entered pleas of not guilty.

Twelve others, all ranking officers of the Black Legion, are being sought under "John Doe" identifications in the warrant.

The arrests brought to light new details of the strength of the organization in Ohio. Gulley said his father had been a member in the neighboring State and he was inducted there when he became 21. He insisted that the Black Knights acted as aids to law enforcement agencies there and said they were better organized and disciplined than in Michigan.

Held in \$3,000 Bail

In Jackson, Mich., a man alleged to be second in command of the strong "regiment" there was held in \$3,000 bail on a felonious assault charge. The prisoner, Glenn Finkel, a salesman, was accused of leading the effort to coerce the Rev. Ralph Montague, Baptist clergyman, into joining the Black Legion. Judge Ernest J. Rogers, in a grand jury conducted before him, is attempting to learn the name of Finkel's superior, believed to be the up-State commander.

Four men, two of whom are public employees, were bound over by Judge Rogers for trial on assault charges in connection with the flogging of a member for failing to attend meetings. Dite Hawley, former lieutenant of guards at the State prison, a State witness, said that Ray Ernest, dismissed guard, ordered that Harley Smith of Norvell, Mich., be sent for. Smith was

tried in his house before Ernest, "brigadier general" who ordered the five lashes that were given the man, Hawley, a "major," testified.

The prisoners, who included Glenn and Clarence Ernest, brothers of Fay, and Allan Basom, County Road Commission worker, were represented by Clyde L. Fulton, former police justice of Highland Park, who is also attorney for Arthur Lupp, Detroit "general." Ray Ernest also was arraigned on a charge of carrying concealed weapons in connection with the arsenal found in his home and was held for examination.

## Further Inquiries Are Planned

The grand jury inquiry has established that in Jackson County membership is concentrated in three towns, but in them there is hardly a household that is not represented on the terrorist organization's roster.

Wayne County's State grand jury inquiry in Detroit opened with testimony by Inspector John S. Hoffman of the Detroit police. Inspector Hoffman has been investigating charges that several score of members of the Detroit force are members of the Black Legion and has been checking 500 names of substantial citizens found in files at raided headquarters of the organization.

The Circuit Bench in Oakland County, sitting at Pontiac, where a citizens' committee has charged that the secret society dominates the local government and is implicated in several mysterious deaths, suspicious fires and bombings, decided today to conduct a grand jury inquiry there.

Ray Markland, investigator Mr. McCrea who had taken prominent part in uncovering the Belgian kidnaping case, was named as having attended a meeting of the Black Legion in 1934. The statement was made before the Highland Park Police and City Commissioner, at a session called to determine how many city employees there had affiliated themselves with the hooded order.

## Markland Denies Charges

Besides the investigator, a County Court Clerk, a City Commissioner and a Police and Fire Commissioner attended the meeting. The witness, a city truck driver, who has admitted membership, testified. Three other city employees, one a Fire Department captain admitted membership and were called before the hearing. Mr. Markland denied attending and said he was in the hospital on the date given.

The County Court Clerk named was Clyde Markland, aide to Judge James E. Chenot, before whom the Wayne County grand jury inquiry is being conducted by State Attorney General David H. Crowley. Clyde Markland, a brother of Ray, also denied the charges, but announced his resignation immediately, declaring he did not wish to embarrass Judge Chenot.

Mr. McCrea made public an exchange of telegrams between Representative John D. Dingell and himself. Mr. Dingell, asking that he submit to the Federal authorities evidence of violation of Federal laws, told him he believed indications of a Kidnaping Law violation would be "the way which will permit the G-men to come in." Mr. McCrea replied that it seemed to him the Federal Treason Law had been violated.

NOT RECORDED

INDEXED

61-7391-76

JEH:OEP

June 3, 1936.

Time - 12:10 P.M.

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM**

**Re: Black Legion.**

Mr. Suydam telephoned and stated he had been advised by the Detroit News that Mrs. Dayton Dean, who has been writing a number of signed articles for the Hearst papers about the Black Legion, has left Detroit with a reporter for the Detroit Times and it is thought she is on her way to Washington; that if she gets to interview anyone in the Department it is thought the Hearst papers would publish stories to the effect that the Department is in on the case. I stated that if she appeared at my office I would have her sent directly to Mr. Suydam's office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

- SVP*
- 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

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

*61-7398-77*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JUN 5 1936 P. M.  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED

JUN - 4 1936

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

June 11, 1936

RECEIVED  
61-739-78  
Mrs. Margaret A. Sims,  
Rupert, Idaho.

Dear Madam:

Madam, receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated June 2, 1936. The contents of your communication have been carefully noted. I desire to inform you that this Bureau is authorized to conduct investigations only in those cases where there is some indication of a violation of specified Federal Law. The facts outlined in your communication do not indicate a violation of any Federal Law within this Bureau's investigative jurisdiction, and therefore no action can be taken upon the subject matter of your letter.

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc-Butte

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
JUN 13 1936  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*



now here is what I want you to do.  
Send a man here, a Federal man that  
no one here knows, pretending he is looking  
for a location as a lawyer, or any business  
name him also say he has a brother  
the east and "if I locate here I am on  
a farm and will put him on it," and  
that he has his eye on the Sims 40 with  
the residence on it at \$10,000, well  
if he can convince these best people  
that he is serious there is no telling  
what he might discover. There  
he should find plenty here to justify  
the G-men the burning down any business  
could be investigated. I feel satisfied  
this Frank G. La Rue did nothing else  
but hoodwink the rest of his life (he is  
dead now) as he does not mysteriously  
to any stay so long - in 1908 he spent 6 months  
in Europe. I haven't very much doubt  
that this Frank G. La Rue helped start the  
Black Hoodoo steps in the United States  
The Sims

61-7398-479

June 16, 1936

RECORDED

61-7398

Special Agent in Charge,  
Charlotte, North Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated June 5, 1936, transmitting copies of a letter addressed to you under date of June 2, 1936, by Mr. [redacted] of Spencer, North Carolina, together with copies of a letter addressed to Mr. E. H. Robinson, of Spencer, North Carolina by one E. H. Hicks of Asheville, North Carolina, dated May 11, 1936. It is noted that Mr. [redacted] indicates the letter addressed to Mr. Robinson may refer to the activities of the Black Legion.

You are advised that this Bureau is taking no action with regard to the activities of the Black Legion, and you are under no circumstances to conduct any investigation relative thereto without specific instructions from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

- Mr. Nathan
- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Chief Clerk
- 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  
 JUN 17 1936  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signature]*

Federal Bureau of Investigation

U. S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1887,  
Charlotte, North Carolina.

June 5, 1936.

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

Dear Sir:

Re: BLACK LEGION ACTIVITIES.

Transmitted herewith are two copies of a letter addressed to this office under date of June 2, 1936, by Mr. [redacted] Spencer, North Carolina, and two copies of a letter addressed to one, H. H. Robinson, Spencer, North Carolina, by one, W. M. Hicks, dated at Asheville, North Carolina, May 11, 1936, which letter was forwarded to this office by Mr. [redacted]. Two copies of my reply to Mr. [redacted] dated today, are also attached hereto.

It is noted that Mr. [redacted] believes the letter addressed to Robinson by Hicks refers to Black Legion activities. Consequently, I am bringing this to the Bureau's attention for general information and such reference as may be deemed appropriate.

The original communication addressed to Robinson is being retained in the files of this office, it being likely that Mr. [redacted] may request its return to him.

Very truly yours,

*G. N. London*  
G. N. LOWDON,  
Special Agent in Charge.

*also 6/14/36*

GNL:ADC  
Encls.  
62-594

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED  
JUN 19 1936

61-7348-79  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JUN 3 1936  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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9.  
W

AK

9.

COPY:ADO

Spencer, N.C.

June 2, 1938

Mr. G. N. Lowdon,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Sir:

Inclosed, you will find a letter that accidentally came into my possession. I obtained this letter from the person to whom it is addressed, H. H. Robinson. Mr. Robinson informs me that this letter is from a "Black Legion" leader, who has been seeking his aid in organizing through this section. I can learn no more from him concerning this letter, other than his statement to the effect that this letter refers to the "Black Legion". He asked that I destroy the letter after reading it; so, he is unaware that it is in your possession. Please do not think me a "crank" for sending you this letter. It may be only a false alarm, yet this fellow Hicks may warrant investigation. I got hold of this letter on May 28, and would have sent it sooner, but I wasn't quite sure just what to do. I hope this letter will be of some importance. At your service, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

(s) [REDACTED]

Spencer, N.C.

61-7398-79

COPY

COPY

COPY

Asheville, N.C.  
143 Blanton St.  
May 11, 1936.

Mr. H. H. Robinson,  
International Organizer  
Spencer, N. C.

Dear Sir:

I am writing you this notice in order that I may hear from you at once.

If you are going to St. Louis, Mo. let us join together Saturday night, May 16, leaving out of Asheville on train No. 27. I would like for you to come to my home the same day on No. 11 in order that we may go over some things about our working conditions in the state of N. C. as we understand just what confronts us through this territory, if you can come on No. 11 just come right on to my home, I will be working but will be home about four o'clock.

I shall look to hear from you earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

Signed:- W. M. Hicks

W. M. Hicks

Post Office Box 1887,  
Charlotte, North Carolina.

June 5, 1936.

Mr. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
North Carolina.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of June 2, 1936, with which you forwarded a letter addressed to Mr. H. H. Robinson, by one, W. M. Hicks, dated at Asheville, North Carolina, May 11, 1936.

It is noted that you have secured information indicating that the letter to Mr. Robinson refers to "Black Legion" activities. Inasmuch as this matter does not appear to constitute any violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau presently has jurisdiction, no action in regard thereto can be taken by this office.

I appreciate, however, your courteous cooperation in submitting this information for my attention, and wish to thank you for your action.

Very truly yours,

G. N. LONDON,  
Special Agent in Charge.

GML:ADC  
62-504

6-17398-79

420 Post Office Bldg.,  
Dallas, Texas.

June 6, 1936.

*over*

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

Dear Sir:-

I am transmitting herewith a news clipping  
from the Dallas Times-Herald of 6/2/36, captioned  
"Hoover Roped in for Centennial," and an editorial from  
the same publication of the same date captioned "They  
Sent in a Call for the G-Men;" also an editorial from the  
Dallas Morning News of 6/4/36 "The Parole System."

Very truly yours,

F.J. Blake,  
Special Agent in Charge.

*Black Telegram*

FJB:LTH  
RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

*over*  
JUN 26 1936  
*MSW*

61-7378-80

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE	FILE
ELSON	JOSEPH

*W*

*W*

**THEY SENT IN A CALL FOR THE**  
*Queen's Empire G-MEN Detroit*  
*June 2 - 1936*

THE MICHIGAN STATE AUTHORITIES lost no time in calling for federal assistance when they uncovered the so-called Black Legion. But the department of justice still recognizes the fact that national law enforcement agencies have jurisdiction only when federal laws have been violated.

To the appeal of Michigan for aid, Attorney General Cummings simply stated that the G-men could not step in unless there were clear indications that federal law had been flouted. Upon the state enforcement machinery the major portion of the task of extirpating crime still rests.

The Black Legion is a sort of nefarious political organization. For that reason local elective officials naturally wonder how many votes they will gain or lose by suppressing the terrorists. It would be convenient for them to accept federal aid and be in position to shift responsibility to G-men.

EAT:TMF

June 4, 1936

Honorable John Lasinski,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

RECORDED

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of May 27, 1936, transmitting a letter addressed to you under date of May 25, 1936 by Dr. Nathan J. Bicknell of 10508 West Chicago Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, in which investigation is requested into the operations of the Black Legion. I must advise you that in the absence of some showing of a violation of a Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I cannot authorize or initiate any investigation into the operations of the Black Legion.

The original letter addressed to you by Dr. Bicknell is herewith returned.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure #831445

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
JUN - 5 1936  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ag  
+

JOHN LESINSKI  
18TH DIST. MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES:

LABOR  
INVALID PENSIONS  
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Nathan	✓
Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Bauchmann	
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	

May 27, 1936

Mr. Edgar Hoover,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed please find letter  
which I have this date received relative to the  
Black Legion at Detroit.

If possible I would appreciate your  
investigating this matter.

Sincerely yours,

*John Lesinski*  
JOHN LESINSKI, M.C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 11 1936

61-7398-81  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
JUN 6 1936 P. M.  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TOLSON  
TAMM  
TWO  
FILE  
R

*1 file. 10*  
*ccy*  
*note*  
*10*  
*Adm*  
*6-4-36*  
*Ed*  
*By*  
*cf*

NATHAN J. BICKNELL, M. D.

10508 West Chicago Avenue  
Detroit.

May 25, 1936.

C  
O  
P  
Y

Dear Congressman Lesinski:-

Startling unbelievable revelations of Black Legion with their political and industrial ramifications require thorough Federal investigation.

Many state and municipal employees are definitely implicated, and local investigation will be curtailed before higher ups are exposed.

I would like to know what connection former Gov. Wilbur Burckes (?) has with this organization, also if Harry Bennett, Chief Ford Stool Pigeon is not behind the scenes.

It is high time that federal authorities expose without fear or favour this entire setup. One Leader says "Why a dictator from Russia or Rome, why not have one of our own?" Liberty Leagues or Wall Street Dictator? I wonder?

Decent Michigan people would welcome action.

In the name of Humanity Please act at once.

Yours truly,

/s/ N. J. Bicknell.

61-7392-81

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION  
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

ass 1/2

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

June 6, 1936

61-7398-82

Am sending you  
names of most fugitives  
JUN 8, 1936

John Sacara  
Seymourville Ind

Charles Sutz

the bunch that hang out  
Sacara is

Ed Backman 13th Street  
Tune Haute

Richard Starnain and brother  
923 No 4th + 915 Laurel St

Bill Sam...  
John Hault...  
a fellow the Bill Hault at

Brazil Ind  
Fred Sars...  
Bill Douglas South 11th St about

JUN 10 1936

H

1850

The Mill Branch  
at Marshall Ill.

John Savore at Paris Ill.

Wm. Wright

Norman Branch and at Paris  
near Marshall Ill.

Sam. Law at Marion Ill.

Ill. Ed. Turner, Sub at Paris

Harry Roberts at Paris

at West Union Ill.

Roberts of Gene Haute Ill.

George at 3021 at Paris

A Branch and at Paris and

News at Paris Ill.

A Branch at Paris. There a

Can at Paris around here

They have there at Paris

around at Paris Haute

Rockville, at Paris Ill. and

all around.

a friend that  
knows they do.

V.S. Pinister an office  
at Sullivan Road

a Garner at 410 12 St runs  
meat shop.



85



John E. Hoover

Executive Office

Washington D. C.

ESTABLISHED 1908

Herbert S. Mikesell

SCIENTIFIC SECRET SERVICE  
LABORATORIES

Richmond, Indiana  
U. S. A.

AMERICAN-FOREIGN  
CRIMINOLOGY PRACTICE

RADIO-CABLEGRAMS, HSMS,  
ALL INTERNATIONAL CODES

June 5th, 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Dept. of Justice  
Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

My Dear Mr. Hoover:

Sometime during the winter of 1932 after the assassination of Mayor Beerman of Chicago, Ill., while riding with the then President of the United States during a parade in Miami, Fla. I mailed you at Washington a letter relative to a person who makes one to enter into a secret organization and open a bacterial laboratory in the region of Miami for pathological culture of bacteria.

After I have reported occurrences of this nature to the proper authorities, I destroy the copies of such correspondence in order to prevent such from falling into the hands of those persons who would use the information to an illegal advantage.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Should you still have this letter in file, would you be kind enough to forward same to his Honor Mayor Frank Fitzgerald of Detroit, Mich., as I am

JUN 17 1936

61-7378-3
RECEIVED
JUN 17 1936
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

15-18  
51-53  
88-1

now confident this fellow was connected  
with the Black Legion under investigation.

It is the name and personal description  
of the fellow that the Detroit officials  
would be interested in.

Thanking you for your cooperation in  
this matter, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Hubert S. Wickens

#6 - Howard Place

Richmond, Ind.

P.S. Best luck for your continued success.

RGH:MCL  
61-7398-84

June 12, 1936.

RECORDED

Mr. Glenn Lyberger,  
413 Main Street,  
Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Lyberger:

Your letter was received in this Bureau on June 9, 1936, in which you advise of the desire of some of the young men from Meyersdale to organize a club for the enforcement of laws.

Please be advised that there is no provision whereby this Bureau can sponsor such an organization. The work of this Bureau is performed by duly authorized Special Agents whose qualifications are detailed in the enclosed copy of the publication entitled "The Selection and Training of Personnel." Only the Special Agents are entitled to identification cards.

As of possible interest, I am enclosing the following additional publications:

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Addresses delivered by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation before the annual convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution on April 23, 1936, and before the annual convention of the Boys' Clubs of America on May 20, 1936.

Sincerely yours,

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 JUNE 11 1936  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enclosure #1149191

*[Handwritten signature]*

H13. Man  
Myersdal Pa

arr 187

Mr. Edgar Hoover  
Department of Justice

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Some of the boys from  
Myersdal would like to talk to you  
and join in hunting for the Black  
Legion and una also to watch  
the murders etc. I would like to be  
sworn in under a junior club and have  
the authority to arrest the such a is to  
have a card from you given me  
Special permission.

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATION  
DIVISION

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 15 1936

61-7398-84

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
JUN 9 1936 A.M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JOSEPH [Signature]	FILE

hope you will carry on  
I hope you will  
in return mail  
Thanking you  
6-12-36  
RCH



Mr. Edgar Hoover

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington  
D.C.

KF:AF

61-7398-85

June 19, 1936

RECORDED

Mr. [REDACTED]

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 8, 1936, in which you indicate your belief that certain fires of incendiary origin may have been caused by the Black Legion, which you allege is active in your section of the country, and request that this Bureau take appropriate action.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion or similar organizations are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct investigation in the premises.

Concerning the statement contained in your letter to the effect that a certain person, who is not a citizen of the United States and without intention to become one, has attempted to take your life, it is suggested that you may care to furnish full information relative to this party to Colonel Daniel W. MacCormack, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Labor, Washington, D. C., for such attention as he may deem appropriate.

Your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention is greatly appreciated.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
JUN 19 1936  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc-Caha

*[Handwritten signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 22 1936

61-7398-85

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 10 1936 A. M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TWO

receive in this part of  
 country there was a place  
 of nature is a person and  
 this fellow had to murder  
 me and another man  
 he is not a citizen of the  
 and don't want to be  
 one. I hope you can find  
 something about him.

Wanda W. [unclear]

111 [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]

Cedar Rapids

[Redacted]

PK

6-19-36 (checked) [unclear]

10



me in the kitchen to the water  
and out the window  
is in the mouth  
side of the state road but  
didn't put in so much  
over and then there is a  
and like water spilling  
Place here in Hall County  
City Hall. The Mayor  
room and people most  
every one who has had  
try to do them unless  
are pretty good. Christian  
we don't know they are  
at running because some  
I told them to end some  
know and says so we  
you better look in to this  
- get rid of them - make  
- run them right. The  
did in the devil's pool. to  
if they can manage

to get the power in so to kill  
electrify this way. and they  
have a good way to have  
died so suddenly. you know  
better clean this stuff up  
don't show this to any one here  
as I don't want any one to  
know and these are about  
want any thing said. No  
wonder the world is in the  
condition it is in and the  
blood come and apple trees  
broke and the lightning struck  
some hail took men  
god's judgment in the land  
and this has been going on  
year 1/2 and some far but  
and by all the churches members  
some of them and demonstrated  
things to end sinners out and  
one Bill the Garage Man he  
had some thing in his  
name to do and he called





11  
a Oreat to a good many things  
being done in those  
regions and their power in the  
first place. ~~let them~~  
get it all in all right in all  
partments  
one across from Jeff Green



John Edgar Hood  
Washington D.C.

70  
Review  
and part  
of this is true because they  
have and are doing to the  
non it they didnt put on so  
much power and play class out and  
for so many of us

...time to the point where  
...in 2 7/8 miles west  
over Leitchfield water supply  
and this route of the supply  
College and crossing railroad  
one - ... from

2/2/22

Henry ...  
... and ...  
first place ...  
... all night ...

Where does the power come  
from to head quarters as  
from E central Man power  
to electricity over the wires  
as soon stop it do'  
come quick.

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Record of Telephone Call of Visitor.

May 30 1936.

Time 11:10 AM

Name Blair Moody of the Detroit News

tele

Referred to

- 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Kleinhaus

Details:

Stated he would like to talk to the Director about the Black Legion and about the Pension Bill.

Asked to be called at National 4566.

oep

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

JUN 18 1936

61-7398-87

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 2 1936 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FOIA

Kleinhaus

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

61-7398-373  
61-7398-184

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION  
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

U.S. Dept. of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

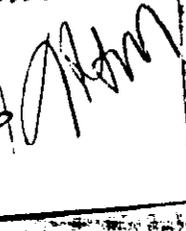
61-7398-88
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 10 1936

Gentlemen,

The writer is of the opinion you may find traces of the Black Legion in Menlo Park, California, and Atherton.

However, this is only a hunch.

One Mrs. Wm. Beatty Wright (who lived in Detroit years ago and who is rather "hard-boiled" towards certain elements) <sup>7 Fairfield Ave. Atherton</sup> may be one of them. This is only a hunch.

American 

RECORDED

June 4, 1936

61-7398-89

Honorable Tom Connally,  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senator:

I have received your communication of June 3, 1936, transmitting a telegram addressed to you under date of June 1, 1936, by [redacted] from Houston, Texas, in which [redacted] advises that he is in possession of information concerning the activities of the Black Legion.

I desire to inform you that this Bureau is conducting no investigation into the operations of the Black Legion because no information has been developed to date indicating that this organization is operating in violation of any Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction. I am consequently returning herewith the telegram addressed to you by [redacted]

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover  
John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

- 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 .....

Enclosure #862145

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
JUN - 6 1936  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

United States Senate

June 1, 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 .....

Respectfully referred to  
 Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
 Division of Investigation  
 Department of Justice  
 Washington, D. C.

with thanks for such favorable consideration as  
 the communication herewith submitted warrants,  
 and for a report thereon, to accompany return  
 of inclosure.

By direction of

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
 U. S. S.

RECORDED & INDEXED

*Sub. 14*  
*m5*  
*H Ans 6-4-36*  
*rec'd JUN 15 1936*

61-7378-89  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 JUN 9 1936 A. M.  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 TAMM TW... FILE

PLG

DOPY

WESTERN UNION

1936 JUN 1 AM 1 31

AAL2 30 NL 3 EXTRA-HOUSTON TEX 31

HON TOM CONNALLY  
US SENATOR OF TEXAS WASH DC

IF THE US GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN ACTIVITIES OF BLACK  
LEGION WHICH IS PROBABLY OF A WIDER SPREAD NATURE THAN IS  
ORDINARILY THOUGHT OF VALUABLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

██████████ TEXAS STATE HOTEL HOUSTON

\*

61-7398-89

copy - b

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Committee On  
Immigration and Naturalization  
Washington, D. C.

Samuel Dickstein,  
N.Y., Chairman

May 25th, 1936.

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,  
Bureau of Investigation,  
U. S. Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Since the Committee on Un-American Activities has concluded its investigation dealing with subversive movements in the United States, there has popped up additional foreign and domestic elements which are continuously, in one form or another, advocating propaganda subversive in its tendencies through the distribution of literature against the Federal employees, which in my opinion, is not free speech or free press, but seeks to undermine our present form of Government. It may be Communism, it may be Fascism, or it may be any other ism one might care to call it.

I am enclosing herewith, a number of documents which I have received from an American citizen which shows the danger as imminent. It is most urgent, therefore, that these matters be looked into and investigated, to find out who is financing this propaganda, and from where it is emanating. If you think it necessary, I will be glad to call upon Congress for further power and assistance in competing with this menace.

I also call your attention to another piece of subversive propaganda which is distributed by one who calls himself Robert Edward ~~Edmondson~~. This sheet is nothing but propaganda, financed by a group in Wall Street, to betray the American people against the President of the United States, and other outstanding men and women, who happen to be members of his Cabinet, or otherwise prominent in public life.

In our investigation we came across anonymous complaints dealing with a so-called "Black Shirts" organization. We did not have the time to go into this matter at that time, and no doubt did not take it as seriously as we might have. I do not know if the present organization known as the "Black Legion" is in any way connected with this

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

61-7398-90

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 27 1936 A.M.

TANM TWO

JUN 12 1936

62-38211-2

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover

- 2 -

May 25, 1936.

above mentioned group, but it seems to me that this "Black Legion" is a group of subversivists who are seeking to destroy American citizens because of racial and religious affiliations, pointed mainly toward my people and people of the Catholic faith. It seems to me that this organization should receive the most careful scrutiny and investigation of your Department.

The mails are being used to foment racial and religious prejudice almost continually, and concerning this aspect I am writing the Post Office Department.

I realize full well I am adding additional burdens to your office, but when we have un-American organizations, under the guise of patriots, stoop so low as to attack through the mails, as shown by the enclosures, and through other nefarious methods, we are indeed living in a Dark Age.

Respectfully yours,

/s/

SAMUEL DICKSTEIN, M.C.

enclosures

COPY

59

61-1398-90

June 3, 1936

RECORDED

Honorable Samuel Dickstein  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of May 15, 1936, trans-  
mitting various documents which you have received from undisclosed  
sources, and which you believe justify investigation, for the  
purpose of determining the source of this propaganda. Because of  
the existing limitations upon the statutory authority of the Federal  
Government to investigate radical activities, I cannot initiate any  
investigation upon the facts furnished by you. I have, however,  
furnished to Mr. Joseph E. Keenan, the Assistant to the Attorney  
General, copies of all of the material submitted by you for ap-  
propriate consideration by the Department, and have requested the  
Department to advise me in the event any action is authorized upon

With expressions of my highest esteem and best  
regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

62-38219-2  
RECORDED

COPY

58

AT:TMF

June 3, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH P. KEENAN  
DIRECTOR, FBI  
SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECORDED

61-37398-190

I am attaching hereto for your information a copy of a letter addressed to me under date of May 25, 1936 by Congressman Samuel Dickstein, together with photostatic copies of the various inclosures referred to in the Congressional letter. I have acknowledged receipt of this letter and have informed Congressman Dickstein that the Bureau will not initiate any inquiry into these matters because of the absence of Federal Statutes penalizing radical activities. In the event you believe any other action should be taken upon this matter, I would appreciate being so advised by you.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Enclosure #851229

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-3821-190

10

5

eg  
X

June 11, 1936

61-7398-91

RECORDED

EFE:DT

Mr. [redacted]  
Greenfield, Ohio.

38764

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1936 furnishing full information relative to the activities of the Night Riders of Ohio, of which organization you indicate you are a member but have been unable to resign by reason of the threats received from that organization. It is noted that you request that this Bureau take appropriate action against this organization.

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal Laws. The facts contained in your communication have been carefully noted but in the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of any such Federal Law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

However, your courtesy in furnishing me information relative to this organization is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc-Cincinnati

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
JUN 11 1936  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

Mr. Tamm calls Dir.'s attention to the attached letter from a member of the Night Riders who tells of the actions of this secret organization (which is apparently akin to the Black Legion). He was forced to join under threat and desires to get out. The only way they can get out of the organization is by death, and he gives instructions for answering this letter.

emk

38765

54 Jm  
Greenfield, Ohio  
May 25, 1936

38766

To the Special Agent in charge  
of investigating the Black  
Legion in Michigan, Ohio, and  
Indiana.

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

61-7398-9  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAY 28 1936

Dear Sir:

JUN 18 1936

I have been reading for the last few days of the acts of the Black Legion in Michigan and had intended to write a letter to Attorney-general John Bricker of Ohio. When I heard that the F. B. I. was taking a hand I decided to write there instead, chiefly for my own protection as they are known for keeping the names of informants secret.

I am a member of the Night Riders of Ohio and want to get out; have wanted to since the night I joined under threat.

During the summer of 1934 I was approached several times by two acquaintances who asked me if I wanted to join a "secret, patriotic organization, opposed to Communism, Fascism, and other foreign experiments and standing for white supremacy, the constitution and opposition to permitting negroes, jews, Japanese, Chinese and any but native born American citizens who had proved their loyalty from holding or controlling office."

I sounded them out for more than a year as I thought the idea sounded dangerous. However the two men seemed to be perfectly decent citizens if not overly brainy. From general conversations that I held with them at various times I was told that this organization did not believe in terrorism, that it was chiefly an effort to spread American propoganda, that it did not believe in any sort of oppression, and that they planned no action till the day when some group tried to sieze the government by force--then they would rally much after the fashion of Minute Men, and be ready for business.

On their promise that no one was forced to join against his will I accompanied them to a meeting. Another person whom I knew slightly was there also and in a few minutes when we were alone voiced the same opinion I had. Something was needed to combat seditious activity but this didn't look like the right thing. We agreed that if we did not like the looks of things that we would not join.

This was while I was living in Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio. In September of 1935, one of the men picked me up at my home after cautioning me to tell no one where I was going. We drove east on the Lincoln Highway, U.S. Route 30 till a mile or so east of the side road to Orrville. We turned north there for some distance on a back road and turned sharply to the right at a railroad crossing, more than a right angle, and swung away from the tracks without crossing them. After driving some distance down this road we passed a large barn which the driver said was the largest all-metal barn in that territory, perhaps in the whole country. A short distance farther along we turned in at a farm lane marked by a lighted lantern hanging on some sort of wooden platform. We turned to the right and after

passing either two farm houses or one farm house and a very artistic barn, stopped in a field. Two men in civilian clothes stopped us and spoke to the driver for a moment, asking him if we were candidates and if he could vouch for us. We then parked, left us in the car and went on ahead. Several more cars arrived and fifteen or twenty candidates were seated in them. 38767

After waiting nearly an hour, during which time the acquaintance and I discussed the thing in low tones, six men dressed in black gowns and hoods and carrying revolvers came down to the cars, lined us up and marched us through the field, up a hill till we were well out of sight from the road.

We were asked numerous questions about our political, social, and religious beliefs. I list as many as I remember:

Are you an American citizen?

Native born?

What is your religion?

What are your politics?

Do you believe in supporting the Constitution?

Do you believe in Lynch Law? My acquaintance was the only one who decidedly opposed it. They then asked him, "If you came home and found a nigger raping your wife what would you do?" He replied, "There wouldn't be any time for lynching." They laughed and said he would do.

Do you promise to vote as your commander tells you if the candidate is the better man?

We were then told that we had gone so far we could not back out and that we would have to join. Two who "Refused" and threatened to tell were punished. One was hanged and one shot. I assume these were staged to impress us and that they were already members. At least no disappearances were reported in that part of Ohio at the time and I watched the papers closely. However in the dark, and with armed men all around we none thought of it or wanted to take the chance.

We were then told to kneel and one of the members pressed a gun to the back of each initiate while we took an oath. I reproduce it as nearly as I can remember.

"I, candidate's name, swear by all the powers of heaven and hell, that I will never betray any of the secrets or fellow members of this organization; that I will be relentless in my fight against Communists, Jews, Catholics, black-legs and any of their kind. That I will obey all orders of a superior officer of this organization even if they mean my own death. That I will let no bonds of friendship or affection cause me to fail in my duty; that I take these members to be my brothers and will never forsake them."

There was much more to it but that is as nearly as I can remember.

We were told that there was no way of resigning from the organization except by death. The leader boasted that one member who had tried to get out had been killed and his car burned near New Philadelphia, Ohio, and no one was the wiser. Each one of us was then handed a .303 Savage rifle cartridge, base first, and told that any others would come at us ball end first. We were then permitted to leave.

Since then I have attended only one meeting which was held in what I assumed to be the Ku Klux Klan meeting place, a room on the third floor of a building on the north-east corner of the public square, Wooster, Ohio.

I managed to avoid attending any other meetings as I was busy at college part of the time, until December, 1935, when I graduated from the School of Journalism, Ohio State University.

At other times I told them I was going out of town for the evening or had a date. We were notified only at the "last minute" and no one but the driver of the car knew where to go.

I have done some cautious questioning since then and was told that the Ohio commander is a veterinary doctor who lives "near the Ohio River." That there are between 300 and 400 members in Wayne county alone. 3876

At the time of the initiation which was shortly after the death of Huey Long, the whole organization paid a minute of "silent tribute to that great southern leader, Huey Long."

I was told that the Night Riders and the K.K.K. cooperate and have much the same ideals but that there is no connection. To satisfy my desire for proof I attended an open meeting of the K.K.K. and recognized several as men I had seen after the initiation when they unmasked.

The recognition signal between two members who are not sure of each other but want to become acquainted follows:

A reaches up and raises the front of his hat or cap.

B pulls his down.

A pulls his down.

B pushes his up.

A raises his again.

B pulls his down.

They shake hands, A saying, "Under the star of the guard."

B replies, "So shall it be."

A, "Unto the end."

The password is given only when a member of sentinel in full regalia and under arms asks for it. A member is not to give it to any one else. When the guard asks for the password the member says, "Place Americans only, on guard."

The names of several whom I know to be members in the Wayne county group are:

Henry Shelly, owner of Shelley's Dairy on the Three C Highway about a mile north of Wooster. He is, or was, the colonel of the Wooster company.

John Hites who lives on a cross road just north and west of Shelley. He is employed at the Minglewood Coal and Ice plant, Wooster.

Thomas Glasgow, second hand dealer and truck driver, whose business place is on South Walnut Street, Wooster, Ohio.

Fred Read, or Reed, or Ried, I am not sure which, who joined with me against his wishes.

Clifford G. Odell, gunsmith and railroad worker. Business place, North Buckeye St., Wooster, Ohio. Residence, Blair Boulevard. I doubt if he is active as he was not at either meeting I attended and has spoken very strongly against the methods of the K.K.K.

Carey Grosenbaugh.

A man named Farnar.

One of the members of the Orrville police force. I don't know his name but he was initiated the same night I was.

It is claimed that Sheriff Bert Nauman of Wayne county is a member. I did not see him at either meeting.

They were trying to get Ed Mills, deputy sheriff, and now

Republican candidate for sheriff, to join. I have not heard whether he did or not. They also boasted that "Some of the police and National Guard are members."

They claimed affiliation with an organization in Pennsylvania known as the "Wild Cats."

I am sending this letter to a friend in Columbus who is to drop it in a mail box without any question. I am employed here as a reporter on the Greenfield Daily Republican and do not want to arouse any questions among possible members here. I will be willing to help the F.B.I. as far as possible in future but must ask that this information, my name, and the town from which the letter was mailed be held in strictest confidence.

Had I realized what the organization really was I would never have considered joining. My newspaper training, my desire for adventure, and my ignorance of its true character lead me to a position where I could not safely withdraw. I hope this will assist in breaking up what has proved to be as dangerous a movement as the ones it claims to combat. If any reply is made please send it to my residence in plain envelope.

Very respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]

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