

Letter to the Director
February 10, 1945

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, et al.
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

SMITH has also been trying to arrange for a meeting of his followers to be held in one of the downtown hotels of Detroit during the latter part of February. He attempted unsuccessfully to obtain the ball-rooms at the Detroit Leland and Book Cadillac Hotels for any day during the week of February 12, 1945. Informant thought that some date in the early part of February had finally been decided upon since SMITH told him he would soon be sending out invitations to seventeen hundred persons inviting them to this meeting. Informant did not know, however, the date fixed for the meeting. The seventeen hundred persons comprise individuals in Wayne County, Michigan, who have in the past made cash contributions to SMITH. SMITH stated that there were 488 persons outside of Detroit and in the State of Michigan who made donations to him.

Informant advised that collections received by SMITH from his followers through the mail during the latter part of January and first part of February were as follows: \$32 on January 25; \$29 on January 26; \$28 on January 27; \$9.50 on January 30; \$15.50 on January 31; \$10 on February 1; \$94 on February 2; \$48 on February 7.

SMITH has received correspondence from various persons during the past few weeks. He has had letters from Congressman CLARE HOFFMAN, [redacted] Frankfort, Indiana; HARRY ROMER; [redacted] of Huntsville, Alabama, and from United States Senator GREEN of the Senate Committee on Investigation of Campaign Expenditures.

In connection with this latter committee, SMITH told informant he had heard WALTER WINCHELL's comment on the radio several weeks ago that the America First Party should be investigated as a result of statements made to Congressman ANDERSON's committee investigating campaign expenditures. SMITH did not make any comment on WINCHELL's remarks, however.

SMITH has also received correspondence from Senator HOMER FERGUSON and Senator ARTHUR VANDENBURG. A letter from VANDENBURG began, "My Dear GERALD," and thanked SMITH for his comment on VANDENBURG's recent speech, stating that he agreed with SMITH that the Communists were the chief opponents to the program outlined by VANDENBURG. The letter ended with the words, "Warm personal regards and best wishes." Senator FERGUSON in his letter told SMITH that he was in favor of the two-thirds rule for confirmation of treaties and favored leaving the approval of treaties and declaration of war in the hands of the United States Senate.

SMITH has been in contact with numerous people during the past few weeks. A [redacted] from some point in the southern United States was in Detroit and visited SMITH on January 23. A Reverend [redacted],

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INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

a Lutheran minister who is apparently the editor of the Students Newspaper at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, and a close friend of Reverend WALTER MAIER of that institution, endeavored to contact SMITH while in Detroit, but was unable to do so since SMITH was out of town during the latter part of January. MAIER spoke of his close connection with ELIZABETH BILLING and of the wonderful set of files she had shown him when he visited her recently in Chicago.

[REDACTED] of Indianapolis, a close friend of SMITH, also tried to contact SMITH during the latter part of January, but was unable to do so since SMITH was not in town. [REDACTED] indicated to SMITH's wife that he wanted SMITH's help in the promotion of a booklet, "Political Theologians and Theological Policies," which he hopes to publish soon. He stated that Colonel McCORMICK of the Chicago Tribune agreed with him that the Republican Party was dead and wrote him a letter to this effect, stating that they may as well admit it and start a third party. [REDACTED] stated that when the Republican National Committee met in Indianapolis during the middle of January he was in continual conference with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The identity of these individuals was unknown to informant.

NOTE stated that he had worked out an arrangement with these men that would be of considerable interest to SMITH and that he would explain it to him shortly. NOTE stated that the attack on SMITH made in the Chicago Jewish newspaper, "The Sentinel," was a dastardly thing and that he, NOTE, intends to do something about it. He did not, however, state what he intends to do.

On January 7, 1945, SMITH was in conference with [REDACTED] and with the lawyer for [REDACTED]. Informant did not know the identities of these individuals. SMITH also had lunch with [REDACTED] a wealthy physician of Detroit who has been a friend of SMITH for some time and was a defendant in a criminal prosecution under the pure food and drug act about a year ago. [REDACTED] of Detroit was also in contact with SMITH and received his advice on a letter which he stated he intended to write concerning civil liberties.

SMITH contacted [REDACTED], and spoke to GEORGE VOSE of Kalamazoo, Michigan, candidate for Lieutenant Governor on the America First Party ticket in Michigan during the last election. SMITH stated he was for VOSE one hundred percent and that VOSE should not believe any of the rumors of the scandal-mongers, evidently referring to recent newspaper attacks made on VOSE because of his having been court martialed while in the United States Army.

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INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

Prior to SMITH's recent trip to Washington, RALPH BAERMAN, his Washington contact man, went to Chicago for the purpose of seeing some lawyer there and then returned to New York by way of Detroit, spending some time in Detroit with SMITH on January 21, 1945.

[REDACTED] continues to advise SMITH on various activities.

On January 27, 1945, a "homecoming party" was held in Detroit for PARKER SAGE, GARLAND ALDERMAN and WILLIAM R. LYMAN, JR., three Detroiters who were prominent in the National Workers League and were defendants in the recent Washington sedition trial. This party was apparently sponsored by HOMER MAERTZ of Chicago. MAERTZ has been pushing himself forward in recent weeks as a leading nationalist and contact man for nationalists and has caused SMITH some concern. SMITH evidently is afraid that MAERTZ will take over some of SMITH's followers and, in addition, SMITH believes that MAERTZ is very careless in his manner of operating which may cause embarrassment to anyone who knows him in the event he ever gets into trouble.

[REDACTED] told SMITH that in a recent edition of the New York Post the columnist, RUSSELL, referred to MAERTZ as a liaison man for the nationalists and said he was flashing fifty dollar bills. SMITH and [REDACTED] agreed that MAERTZ was either getting support from someone or [REDACTED] thought that possibly a few people in Chicago were giving him just enough money to allow him to travel and talk big. SMITH agreed that this was probably true or that possibly MAERTZ was an undercover operator for some private investigative agency. [REDACTED] stated that MAERTZ had recently sent out a thousand dollars worth of literature before leaving Chicago to come to Detroit. He is said to be a close friend of CHARLES PHILLIPS of Lincoln, Nebraska, who is editor of the "Individualist."

Relative to MAERTZ's party for SAGE, ALDERMAN and LYMAN, [REDACTED] subsequently advised SMITH that neither SAGE nor LYMAN would attend the party and that [REDACTED] a former Dies Committee investigator, was in town from New York for a few days and might be there. [REDACTED] attended the party and reported to SMITH as to what had taken place. He said that ALDERMAN was the only one of the three who attended and that he and MAERTZ made short talks. SAGE was said to be too frightened to go to the party since he feared he might be indicted again and that LYMAN was in Florida and could not afford to attend. The Ku Klux Klan was represented by [REDACTED]

MAERTZ did not say anything during the course of the evening that was detrimental to SMITH. Informant stated that on the morning the

Letter to the Director
February 10, 1945

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, et al.
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

party was to be held MAERTZ called SMITH's residence and inquired as to whether SMITH would attend. Mrs. SMITH stated that he was out of town and would not be able to be there. MAERTZ told Mrs. SMITH that he was starting the Pioneer News Service again and that he intended to make a trip through the south and see what people there were thinking. He was somewhat apprehensive as to a new book about to be published by JOHN ROY CARLSON, author of "Undercover." He stated that Mrs. VAN HYNING of Chicago has been getting some headlines in the past few weeks and is now getting a lot of help from people who have been reticent about helping her in the past. GEORGE FOSTER of Chicago has gotten back his old office and all and MAERTZ assured Mrs. SMITH that he could get a hall for SMITH to speak in any time he wanted to come to Chicago.

The identities of several of SMITH's donors and followers became known to informant; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of Detroit are all contributors and receive his monthly magazine.

SMITH has recently been advised that the United States Army may take his downtown offices in the Industrial National Bank building and has been trying to arrange for new office space in the event he has to move from his present quarters. He has contacted the manager of this building and advised that he would like to have some other space in the same building in the event he has to move, although he expected to take such other space "on a different basis." This might tend to confirm rumors that SMITH had been receiving office space in this particular building free of charge from the owner of the building.

He recently received a letter from his son, GERALD, who is with the United States Army in Burma and stated he would advise his son not to take the thirty-day furlough which he might now get, but to wait until his two-year term of duty was over, at which time he could expect to come home permanently. SMITH stated the thirty-day furlough was just a way of recruiting men for extended service in Burma.

Informant learned that SMITH appears to confine his reading of papers and magazines to the Chicago Sun, Chicago Tribune, PM and Time and Life Magazines. SMITH is still using the services of [REDACTED] former professional golfer and Ford Motor Company employee, as a personal body guard.

Very truly yours,

R. A. Guerin
R. A. Guerin
SAC

[REDACTED]
62-1126

ALL
b7c

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: March 12, 1945

7/7/45 FROM : SAC, Detroit

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY;
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

AIRMAIL

Supplementing our letters of March 3 and 5, 1945 relative to the contemplated meeting which the Subject SMITH is to hold in Chicago on March 15, 1945,

[REDACTED]

b7

In accordance with our letter of March 5, 1945, the Chicago Field Division is requested to obtain adequate coverage of the meeting to be held on March 15, 1945.

ejg
62-1126
cc-Chicago
b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/27/82 BY SP-800/mca

RECORDED & INDEXED

62-4311-660
MAR 17 1945

END

53 MAR 17 1945 *16*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 2, 1945

FROM : SAC, Detroit

AIRMAIL

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - SEDITION
(61-7055; 62-43818)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/18/82 BY SP8BTS/MUC

During the period of February 8 to February 27, 1945 inclusive, the following information concerning the activities of the Subject, SMITH, was received from [REDACTED], whose identity is known to the Bureau. b7D

Within the past few weeks SMITH has been spending a great deal of time conferring with RALPH BAERMAN, his Washington contact man, concerning the office which SMITH is expected to open soon in that city. SMITH advised BAERMAN to take out a Post Office box in the latter's name and told him he should use the name of former Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS as a reference. They discussed the possibility of an un-named individual working with them in connection with their Washington activities and the informant believed the person referred to was probably BAERMAN's wife. SMITH advised BAERMAN that he should continually ask questions and get answers to them at every opportunity.

A series of interviews is evidently contemplated by SMITH but he advised BAERMAN that he was not quite ready "to launch it" and he would advise BAERMAN when to begin. SMITH thought that the First "Washington Letter" to be published by him would probably be distributed about the second week of March. Apparently a considerable part of BAERMAN's activity is to be connected with getting material for this letter which will be published at regular intervals. BAERMAN advised SMITH that he was going to Chicago in about ten days since the "Senator" had given him five days off. SMITH thought the Senator was a very fine person and indicated also that he had had a nice visit with FRED KISTER and that FRED was a fine fellow who would find a place in the movement in the near future. b7

SMITH is still concerned about the attitude of certain Jewish groups which are attempting to prevent him from holding a meeting in Chicago. He stated that these individuals are inaugurating a reign of terror but that there will be a terrific reactionary counterpart in the near future.

SMITH has apparently finally made arrangements for a hall in Chicago and will hold a meeting there sometime during the latter part of March. [REDACTED] whom the informant believed to be a resident of Chicago, has made the arrangements. b6

56 MAR 17 1945

"LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR,
MARCH 2, 1945"

for the hall. It is west of the Loop and has good transportation. The deal was consummated with the Secretary of the Plasterers Union and the hall was rented in SMITH's name. SMITH thought that now "the fur will really begin to fly."

SMITH made a trip to Chicago on February 8, 1945, returning to Detroit on February 14, 1945. His purpose in making this trip was to see his various contacts there in an effort to arrange for a meeting in the near future. He stated that he also wanted to see how strong the Jewish organizations were that were opposing him.

SMITH held a meeting of his Detroit followers at the Book Cadillac Hotel in that city on February 26, 1945. The informant did not know how large a crowd had attended or who the speakers were.

The informant was advised that among his other activities, SMITH had ordered a large quantity of paper and apparently contemplates an extensive campaign involving the distribution of a considerable amount of literature. He is known to have 3,200 of the books "And So They Indicted Me" by J. E. JONES of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is withholding five hundred of these for his own use and sending the rest to JONES at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He is apparently also distributing material for the Constitutional Educational League, which is a New York group headed by JOSEPH KAMP, with whom SMITH is known to be friendly.

SMITH has been in contact with various individuals of Nationalist sympathies in the past few weeks. The informant states that SMITH had a lengthy discussion with GEORGE FOSTER of Chicago concerning a recent meeting held by the latter in that city. FOSTER apparently experienced some difficulty but claimed that he had a record attendance at his meeting.

[REDACTED] has been in contact with SMITH concerning a certain KOSMERK, who is an important National figure in the Polish American Congress, a group violently opposed to Communism. This group is located at 4019 Wellington Avenue, Chicago. SMITH indicated interest in KOSMERK and stated he could use him effectively against Senator NOWAK of Detroit, a member of the Michigan legislature, who is known to be a Communist according to SMITH. b7c

SMITH has also been in contact with [REDACTED] a Detroit lawyer who represents Mrs. BLANCHE WINTERS of Detroit. Mrs. WINTERS is a prominent Nationalist and a leader of a professional Mothers group currently under investigation in the Detroit Field Division. [REDACTED] contacted SMITH on behalf of Mrs. WINTERS and requested that SMITH get in touch with her. It is b7c

"LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR,
MARCH 2, 1945"

known through other sources that SMITH actually did see Mrs. WINTERS during the latter part of February and sought her financial assistance for his Washington activities.

The informant stated that SMITH's collection through the mail amounted to \$75.00 on February 9, 1945 and \$183.00 on February 21, 1945. It should be noted, however, that the figure for February 9, 1945 is at wide variance with the figures obtained by the informant from another source. These latter figures indicate that on February 9, 1945 SMITH deposited \$700.00 and on the previous day deposited \$421.00.

Mail has been received by SMITH from numerous individuals of Nationalist tendencies, including EARL SOUTHARD of Chicago, Illinois; [redacted] of Frankfort, Indiana; [redacted] who sent SMITH a package containing printed copies of his speeches; LAWRENCE RILEY, who is a student at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and has a group of fifty fellow students who studied Communism and are anxious to obtain literature distributed by SMITH; [redacted] of Sterling, Kentucky; former Congressman PETTENGILL of New York; [redacted] Governor Building, Portland, Oregon; [redacted], address unknown. SMITH also has been in contact with [redacted] a Detroit lawyer who is prominent in certain Ukrainian organizations which were under investigation in the Detroit Office until recently.

The informant learned that among recent contributors to SMITH were [redacted] and [redacted]. The latter donated \$20.00. [redacted] Dearborn, was also known to be a contributor.

SMITH's former assistant, DON LOHBECK, was in Detroit during the latter part of February on a brief furlough from the Conscientious Objector Camp [redacted]. During this furlough LOHBECK was in frequent contact with SMITH.

[redacted]
62-1126

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

4 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
62-43818-662

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

March 10, 1945

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD L. K. SMITH; THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY;
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

Enclosed for your further information in the captioned matter is a copy of the investigative report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] dated at Los Angeles, California, on February 15, 1945, as well as photostatic copies of a form letter dated "February - 1945," which is allegedly being distributed by Smith. From an examination of this form letter it is noted that Smith states in the fifth paragraph on page one that he is opening headquarters for a National Emergency Committee and a Nationalist Lobby in Washington, D. C. Apparently the location of the Washington headquarters has not as yet been decided upon.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/82 BY SP-9 BTJ/AC

- 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. McGuire.....
- Mr. Mumford.....
- Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
- Mr. Nease.....
- Miss Gandy.....

INTERNAL SECURITY
FILED 12
7 12 1945 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

RECORDED

EX-46

62-11318-66
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 13 1945
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

EX-101
MAR 13 1945
ST. M. 98
Handwritten initials and signatures

Handwritten initials

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 3, 1945

Cms FROM : SAC, Detroit

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION
(61-7055; 62-43818)

[REDACTED] advised on February 28, 1945 that SMITH was in contact the previous day with a certain [REDACTED] believed to be a resident of Chicago, and [REDACTED] advised SMITH that arrangements had been made for a hall where SMITH could hold a meeting in Chicago in the near future. The hall is said to be in the area west of the Loop and has good transportation facilities. The hall was rented through the Secretary of the Plasterers Union and was rented in SMITH's name. The indications are that the meeting will be held on March 15, 1945 and SMITH thought that "now the fur will really begin to fly."

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b7C

The informant believes that the hall hired by SMITH is the one in which GEORGE FOSTER of the Constitutional Americans held a meeting on February 28, 1945 and plans to hold meetings on March 14 and March 28, 1945.

In view of the fact that SMITH has been speaking a great deal lately of certain Jewish groups who were creating a reign of terror in Chicago and attempting to prevent him from holding a meeting, the fact that a meeting is now planned by SMITH is called to the attention of the Chicago Office.

It is thought likely that the Chicago Office, with the information contained in the first paragraph above, may be able to learn the location of the hall where this meeting is to be held and arrange to cover this meeting through informants. It should be noted that the policy in the past has been to obtain coverage of SMITH's meetings only through informants and not through the attendance of any Agents at such meetings.

As additional information is received concerning the time and place of such meeting, it will be furnished to the Chicago Office.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

b7c

DATE 10/12/02 BY SP8 BTJ/mk

62-1126

cc: SAC, Chicago

MAR 9 1945

*920 action
E 118*

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
62-43818-664
MAR 9 1945
FILE 818

February 6, 1945

NOTE: The attached is a copy. The original letter has been returned to [redacted] as requested.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/17/82 BY SP8 BTJ/UC

ALL
b7D

EX-62
[Handwritten signature]

EX-62

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
16	1945
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

COURAGE REWARDED

February - 1945

Dear Fellow American:

We are winning victories:

Six weeks ago President Roosevelt thought that by this time a forced labor law would be in effect, but because of the fight that you, through men like myself, have put up, This scheme for drafting everybody has been curbed.

The worst part of it would have been the drafting of daughters to be sent all over the world the same as our sons. We must not relax, however, because Mr. Roosevelt and his bureaucratic machine will press for a 'daughter draft' at the first opportune moment.

Four days before I dictated this letter, I returned from Washington, D.C., where I had been for one week, thanks to the cooperation of you and others like you. I shall return to Washington within a few weeks, and perhaps within a few days, after you receive this letter.

Unless you and others like you stand with our Emergency Committee in this fight, we will wake up one morning and find our liberty gone. For instance, an organization has been formed with headquarters in Washington for the purpose of getting a law through Congress that would make it a criminal offense to criticize a Jew. The leader of this organization is one Leonard Golditch. In a recent address Mr. Golditch reminded his people that anyone who criticized the Jews in Russia was shot. He told his people that such was the rule in other European nations, and would soon be the law in France. I do not advocate an attack on any race or creed, but we must not permit such a Russian-born idea to flower in America. Just imagine the persecution that would exist in this land if it became a crime to criticize a Jew, or any other individual for that matter. A bill has already been introduced into Congress to make this a law. With your help, financial and otherwise, we can see to it that Congress is properly informed, to the end that this violent proposal will never become a law.

We are opening headquarters for our National Emergency Committee and the Nationalist Lobby in Washington. At this writing I am not prepared to give you the location. The office buildings where we would want our headquarters are filled to capacity, and it will be necessary for us to use temporary quarters until the proper location opens up.

In the meantime, we have employed two people to do special work in connection with our Washington activities.

While in Washington this past week I visited with the most important nationalists there. I spent most of my time with nine different people. Every one of these nine people are national figures whose name you would recognize readily if you saw it in the newspaper. They include members of Congress (including the United States Senate), one of the outstanding newspapermen of the nation, one clergyman, and others whose activities are so prominent that if I identified them in any way whatsoever, they could be readily named.

Why Am I not giving you the names of these people? It is because we are preparing to publish a very sensational document. This document will be the first of its kind ever published in Washington, D.C. It will contain news and confidentially-gathered facts, published nowhere else.

While in Washington this time I confirmed what I had believed all along — namely, that most of the important truth concerning events in Washington is not published in the ordinary newspaper.

62-43515-465

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/82 BY SP-8675/MG**

-2-

Because of the cooperation you and others have given me, I am able to announce to you that within the next 30 days we will begin the publication of this very unusual letter in Washington, D.C. The two people whom I have hired will, under my direction, gather important data from over 100 sources. We will confer especially with these nine important individuals. Thus, when the LETTER goes out from Washington, it will contain documented and absolutely correct information which could ordinarily be found in no other publication.

This letter will be sent out first class mail and will be sealed. It also will be marked "personal". Furthermore, we will permit no re-publication of the facts contained in it without consent of the editors.

This will not in any way interfere with the publication of THE CROSS AND THE FLAG, the magazine I edit. It will make, however, a completely different and much deeper approach to what is really going on in Washington.

This documented letter will create a sensation. I expect the enemies to yell to high heaven. They will demand everything from my liberty to my blood. They will be shocked when they see written in this letter facts which will be brought to me by an individual who is in and out of the White House from one to three times per week. They will pull their hair and gnash their teeth when they read facts in this letter coming right out of the secret conferences of the internationalist politicians, including an account of events taking place in both the British and Russian Embassies.

In planning this letter we are laying the groundwork for the most daring program of patriotic enlightenment ever attempted. The purpose of this letter is to sensitize and educate important and loyal nationalists in every state in the union.

At a later date I will tell you how you can help us get these facts into your local newspaper, whether it be a weekly or a daily. That is a completely separate program, which I will discuss with you at another time.

Highly financed international political machines are all set to rope us into a Super State and a World Government. Thanks to men like United States Senator Wheeler, these Super State politicians will find some real opposition when they come to the floor of the United States Senate.

If the war ended today, it might be three years before your son would be home. Why? . . . Because the shipping problem would be so serious that it would take just that long to ship all of our sons who are in foreign battlefields back to the United States. If Mr. Roosevelt gets his Super State plan through, it may be five or ten years before your son or loved one returns.

Within the next few months I hope to spend one-half of my time in Washington, D.C., coping with the legislative problems that are of interest to nationalists. We shall not allow any sort of Super State program to get by without our attention. I have formed confidential contacts all over the United States with farm leaders, labor leaders, Christian leaders, statesmen in both old parties, mothers and veterans of both wars.

As the weeks go by, you will see and hear of the representatives of these groups appearing before Congressional and Senate Committees. They will not appear as representing our organization, but they will appear at our instigation as representing the group with which they are primarily identified. With your financial help I shall continue to keep and develop these important contacts in order that our cause for Nationalism be defended by those who come from every walk of life.

We can save the lives of one million servicemen if we will carry on victoriously this campaign to bring our boys home at the earliest possible moment. If Mr. Roosevelt cannot give a better reason for this bloody slaughter than he has been able to give, as of the date of the writing of this letter, then our sons should be brought home, now.

In supporting our Nationalist activities in Washington, we will soon be setting up our regional conferences, and we will very likely issue a call for our most loyal supporters to come to Washington, D.C. I am shocked to discover that our Committee is the only one that is carrying on an open campaign to defeat the internationalist clique and support the leadership of such men as Senator Wheeler. This makes our responsibility all the greater, knowing what we do. We will have the blood of innocent men and women upon our hands unless we fight with intelligence, consistency and courage.

Some people receive this letter every month and do nothing about it, it is a mystery to me how any good American can know the facts which I bring out and not give support to those of us who carry on this fight.

Others who receive this letter try to make a contribution of money every month. These are the ones who are making our victorious activities possible.

When the smoke has cleared away, you who have sent in money to carry on this fight can take satisfaction in the fact that you will have helped to accomplish the following:

1. The defeat of the Lumbarton Oaks Plan.
2. The saving of a million lives that might be given to a Super State Police.
3. The bringing of our boys home at the earliest possible moment.
4. The defeat of all plans to finance the British Empire after the war (money spent on the British and other foreign countries should be kept for our own sons).
5. The organization of Nationalist veterans of World War II, which is being developed in its own thorough way.
6. The establishment of a Nationalist Lobby in Washington, D.C.
7. The maintenance of headquarter activities in our National Capital.
8. The publication of a sealed letter containing the most explosive series of facts ever to be enclosed under postage stamps as pertaining to the interest of Nationalists.
9. The maintenance of the only nationwide Nationalist organization, which has survived through thick and thin.
10. The preservation of the America First Principle at a time when cowards ran under the bed, and weak politicians were afraid to stand up and be counted.

You who receive this letter are the first to be told about the sealed package of dynamic information which we are preparing to send out of Washington. We think it will be sent out once each week. It will not be long. . . it will be thick. . . but it will be tough, true and terrific.

I have arranged for you, by using the attached coupon, to be placed on the original list of individuals to receive the first copy of this Washington, D.C., edition.

To maintain and pay the salary of our Washington staff will require a considerable sum of money. Furthermore, it will require that I be in Washington much more than I have been heretofore. Even so, we plan to bring this Washington dispatch within reach of the donators to this crusade.

This is our plan -- (1) Publish the letter once each week - (2) Seal the letter securely - (3) Send it first class mail, postage 3¢ - (4) Read this carefully: To you who send in a donation of \$10 or more, using the attached coupon, we will send the letter for one year. To you who send in less than \$10, we will dispatch you this letter one month for each \$1 you enclose.

You who can contribute more than \$10, please do not limit your contribution this month to \$10. This would be a calamity, because you must remember that upon your contributions do we depend for the regular expense connected with the maintenance of our headquarters in Detroit and Washington.

Our program is planned on faith. Future activities are arranged not on the basis of money in hand, but on the basis of money we know you will give. For instance, we operate on such a small reserve that if you failed to respond to this letter, and everyone else did the same, then we would be compelled to close our headquarters here

and in Washington, and dismiss our help.

I know, however, that you will not fail me. Therefore, I am planning a bigger and more comprehensive program of activities than ever before. I know that as long as I carry on and consume the money you contribute on the program of activity for which you give it, that you, and others like you, will contribute each month.

Let me warn you: Do not fail to fill out the attached coupon and rush it to me in order that you may be enrolled on the original Washington D.C., list. In this way you will be sure to receive the first loaded letter which we will send out from the Nation's Capital.

The reason I am not giving the names of informers and intelligent friends who will help supply the facts to be contained in this letter, is to save them from intense persecution. Furthermore, if I do not reveal their names and protect their confidence, they will be able to gather more of the sort of information for which you and others are hungry.

Answer this letter immediately. Fill out the coupon carefully. Rush it by air mail, if necessary, in order that you may be enrolled on the Washington letter list at the earliest possible moment, and in order that the money you enclose will accomplish the greatest good. The day will come when you will be proud and thankful that you helped to found the first real Nationalist newsletter to be published in Washington, D.C.

I count on you. I depend upon your patriotism. I trust in your courageous and sacrificial support. I know you will not let me down.

Sincerely yours for God and Country,

①

GERALD L.K. SMITH

Let courage have its reward.

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

9 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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EPR:WMJ

7
30

62-43818
SAC, Detroit

March 10, 1945

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD L. K. SMITH
THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY
SECTION

62-43818-66

RECORDED
EX-65

Enclosed for your information and for the information of the Washington Field Division are photostatic copies of a form letter dated "February - 1945", captioned, "Courage Rewarded," which Smith appears to be distributing at the present time. From an examination of this form letter it is noted that Smith states in the fifth paragraph on page one that they are opening headquarters for a National Emergency Committee and a Nationalist Lobby in Washington, D. C.

The Washington Field Division should be on the alert for any indication that such a Nationalist headquarters is actually established by Smith in the District of Columbia. No active investigation should be conducted in this connection. However, it is desired that arrangements be made through informants for the Washington Field Division to be promptly advised of the opening of such headquarters.

The Bureau has been advised that the Detroit Police Department is investigating the activities of George Voss, who was a candidate for office on the America First Party ticket in the recent elections. Voss is reported to be located in the Statler Hotel at Detroit where he is engaged in organizing a Nationalist Veterans Organization. This information relative to Voss and his activities should be of assistance to you in your further investigation of the captioned matter.

- Washington

[Handwritten signature]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

RECEIVED
MAR 10 3 36 PM '45

[Handwritten signature]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Jones
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 13
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

78 MAR 23 1945
16

DEINDEXED
DATE: 10/25/57

EX 10

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE

SUBJECT: GERALD L.K. SMITH

FILE: 62-43818

SUB: _____

VOL: 39

PAGES REVIEWED: 72

PAGES RELEASED: 67

NOTES: _____

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 5, 1945

FROM : SAC, Detroit

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

081780

Supplementing our recent letter relative to the meeting which Subject SMITH is to hold in Chicago in the near future,

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7D

It is requested that the Chicago Field Division make arrangements to obtain adequate coverage of this meeting through informants and submit a report thereof at an early date. In accordance with the past policy in the handling of the Subject's meetings, it is pointed out that no agent should attend this meeting but that the coverage should be effected solely through informants.

62-1126
cc- Chicago

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/13/72 BY SP-8/BJC**

RECORDED
&
INDEXED
207

MAR 16 1945

FIVE ENTS

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 9, 1945

FROM : SAC, Detroit

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

The Detroit Police Department advised this morning that a report had been received from Chicago to the effect that an unknown follower of SMITH had been murdered and crucified in Chicago last night or early today. Subsequent accounts of this incident in the Detroit papers indicate that the individual was one FRED WALSCHEER of Chicago; that he was apparently the leader of some sort of cult; and that he was not murdered but was only injured and is still alive, and that the police of Chicago have some doubt as to the authenticity of the incident.

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7d

Any further developments will be reported to the Bureau.

62-1126

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

51 MAR 21 DATE 10/12/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mh

162-1371-668
47 MAR 16 1945
FILED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 13 1945

081776

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

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DATE 10/12/82 BY SP-9873/wh

TELETYPE

WASH FROM CHICAGO 8 13 7-05 PM
CONF TO DIRECTOR AND SAC DETROIT
U R G E N T

Brown
Strickland

SYAY. GERALD L. K. SMITH, INTERNAL SECURITY - SEDITION. REFERENCE MY LETTER DATED MARCH TENTH LAST ADVISING THAT SMITH IS TO SPEAK AT A RALLY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD ON THE EVENING OF MARCH FIFTEENTH NEXT AT TEMPLE HALL, CHICAGO. LENGTHY ARTICLE IN CHICAGO TRIBUNE TODAY REFLECTS THAT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED TELEGRAMS WARNING OF POSSIBLE BLOODSHED IF SMITH IS PERMITTED TO SPEAK HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE PLASTERERS UNION, AFL, WHO RENTED THE HALL TO [REDACTED] CHICAGO ATTORNEY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OF THE UNION WHO ACTED IN BEHALF OF THE UNION IN RENTING THE HALL STATES THAT [REDACTED] TOLD THE UNION THAT SMITH WAS GOING TO DISCUSS THE POLISH QUESTION, BUT HE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT SMITH WAS TO SPEAK ON NATIONALISM. SMITH REPORTEDLY TELEPHONED THE DIRECTORS OF THE UNION YESTERDAY AND SAID THAT HIS PREPARED SPEECH WAS DEVOID [REDACTED] OF STATEMENTS OFFENSIVE TO RACIAL OR RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND SUGGESTED TO [REDACTED] THAT THE UNION APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO SIT ON THE PLATFORM WITH AUTHORITY TO STOP THE MEETING AT THE FIRST OBJECTION. THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT STATES THAT PROTESTS AGAINST THE

RECORDED

INDEXED

62-4381-669

ALL
62-4381-669

081777

PAGE TWO

MEETING WERE ALSO MADE BY THE CHICAGO COUNCIL AGAINST RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION, CHICAGO CIVIL LIBERTIES COMMITTEE, AND THE NAACP BIRTH ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b2
b7

VOLUNTARILY TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THIS OFFICE TODAY THAT THE UNION HAD RENTED THE HALL DIRECTLY TO [REDACTED] AND STATED THAT THE UNION HAD BEEN FLOODED WITH CALLS FROM PERSONS EITHER APPROVING OR DISAPPROVING THEIR ACTION IN PERMITTING SMITH TO SPEAK. PLANS FOR COVERAGE OF MEETING OUTLINED IN REFERENCE LETTER WILL BE CARRIED OUT AND BUREAU AND DETROIT WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED OF ANY PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

b7c

DRAYTON

DE ADVISED

ACK PLS

cc Mr. Fadd

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 10, 1945

RRG

FROM : SAC, Chicago

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

Reference is made to a teletype from the Detroit office dated February 7, 1945, and a letter from the Detroit office dated March 3, 1945, both of which pertain to a projected speech by the subject to be given in Chicago.

[REDACTED SECTION]

b7

This office has effected arrangements whereby several confidential informants of this office will be in attendance at the meeting and will furnish full written reports concerning the operations, activities, and persons in attendance. This office will thereupon immediately submit a report setting forth all of this information to the Bureau and the Detroit Field office.

CC: DETROIT (2) AMSD
Enc. 2 - DETROIT

[REDACTED]

b7c

SM

AIRMAIL,
SPECIAL DELIVERY

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DATE 10/12/82 BY SP8SJS/mh

RECORDED 6-13-11-670

EX-31

FILE

10/12/82

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: March 13, 1945

cur FROM : SAC, Detroit

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF 1925

BERNARD DOMAN, former Secretary to the Subject SMITH, who left SMITH's employ in November, 1945 and thereafter moved to Edcouch, Texas, has now returned to Detroit and apparently will live in this city for an indefinite period.



b7c

In view of the Bureau letter of January 30, 1945 and Detroit teletype to the Bureau dated February 8, 1945 stating that DOMAN was no longer a resident of Detroit, the above information is being furnished for guidance in any further investigation of this matter.

e.jg
62-1126
cc-San Antonio
b7c

me

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/82 BY SA 600/WH

RECORDED & INDEXED
EX-8

62-412814-671
MAR 20 1945

BY
DESK

MAR 26 1945

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 16 1945

~~TELETYPE~~ ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/12/82 BY SP8 BTJ/mc
1-37 PM EDT MCM

FBI DETROIT

3-16-45

DIRECTOR

URGENT

SHAY

GERALD L. K. SMITH, AMERICA FIRST PARTY, FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES
ACT OF NINETEEN TWENTY FIVE. REURLETS JANUARY THIRTY AND FEBRUARY
FIFTEEN, FORTY FIVE, REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF BERNARD DOMAN. BE
ADVISED REPORT RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION COVERING
INVESTIGATION THERE AND UNLESS ADVISED TO CONTRARY, EFFORT WILL
BE MADE TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW DOMAN IN DETROIT IMMEDIATELY AFTER
MARCH EIGHTEEN, FORTY FIVE.

RECORDED

INDEXED

140

62-43515-67

EX-5

FILED

END

MAR 16 1945 47
3:38 PM K FBI WA OVMO

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

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CASE ORIGINATED:	DETROIT, MICHIGAN	FILE:	100-8486
REPORT MADE AT:	WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE MADE:	PERIOD:
			2/7,8,11/45
TITLE:	CHARACTER:		REPORT MADE BY:
GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases AMERICA FIRST PARTY	INTERNAL SECURITY - G SECURITY MATTER; SEDITION FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF 1925		[REDACTED] :KC

SYNOPSIS: Material made available by Congressman CLINTON ANDERSON as well as material from the File Clerk's Office of the House of Representatives, set out. Latter includes a statement of the America First Party's expenditures from November 7, 1944, until January 1, 1945. Pertinent material regarding GERALD L. K. SMITH and America First Party being transmitted to the Bureau and Detroit Field Division with copies of instant report. Subscriber to telephone number Atlantic-3598 is RALPH [REDACTED]

RUC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/82 BY SP8BJ/AL

REFERENCE: (62-13818). Bureau letter dated January 30, 1945.
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated January 29, 1945, at Detroit, Michigan.

DETAILS: WASHINGTON, D. C.

The following investigation was conducted jointly by Special Agent [REDACTED] and the writer.

Congressman CLINTON F. ANDERSON, Chairman of the Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures for the House of Representatives, 1944, personally made a search of his files for material concerning

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

- COPIES:
- 5 - Bureau
 - 3 - Detroit
 - 2 - New York
 - 1 - San Antonio (Information)
 - 2 - Washington Field

EX-50 157 1-676
FBI
MAR 24 1945

ALL
b2c

GERALD L. K. SMITH and the America First Party. He made available the following material which he advised he did not desire to be returned. He requested that he be advised of the identity of instant material by letter, which has been done. It is noted that the complete correspondence between Congressman ANDERSON and SMITH had apparently not been retained by Congressman ANDERSON. The following quoted material was all that was available in his files.

1. A carbon copy of a letter dated August 29, 1944, to GERALD L. K. SMITH, America First Party, from Chairman, Campaign Expenditures Committee, House of Representatives.

"In accordance with the provisions of H. Res. 551, 78th Congress, the special committee appointed pursuant thereto to investigate campaign expenditures requests that there be furnished the following information in regards to collections of money and expenditures for and on behalf of candidates for nomination and election to the House of Representatives and candidates for nomination and election as President and Vice President of the United States:

- "1. The amounts of money subscribed and contributed, the value of services rendered, and the facilities made available to or on behalf of each such candidate in connection with any such campaign or for the purpose of influencing votes cast or to be cast at any convention, primary or general election held during the calendar year 1944.
- "2. The use of any other means or influence for the purpose of aiding or influencing the nomination or election of any such candidate.
- "3. The amounts of money received, and from whom; the amounts contributed, and to whom; the amounts expended, and for whom--and any amounts received--in connection with any such elections.
- "4. The manner and method of raising such funds and of expending and contributing same.
- "5. The nature and purpose of such expenditure,--whether the funds contributed were solicited from your organization by the candidates, or any one of them or were spent with or without the knowledge of the candidates.

"This information is, no doubt, readily available in the records of your organization, its early receipt will be helpful in completing information in the files of the committee.

"A copy of H. Res. 551, mentioned above, under which the committee is authorized, is enclosed for your information. The committee expects to hold hearings on this subject between now and election day."

2. Letter dated September 11, 1944, which is duplicate of above quoted letter.
3. Letter dated September 11, 1944, of GERALD L. K. SMITH to Congressman CLINTON P. ANDERSON.

"In response to your letter of August 29, will say we are preparing the answers to your questions. Our candidates for President and Vice President spent no money in campaigning for the nominations. A careful record is being kept of our campaign contributions and expenditures. It will be a simple matter for us to answer any question you desire concerning our sources of revenue and expenses of campaign funds."

4. Letter dated November 25, 1944, to GERALD L. K. SMITH, signed, "Chairman." This is a carbon copy.

"In checking the files of our Committee, I do not find that you have furnished information concerning expenditures of the America First Party and its predecessor from January 1, 1944 to date of election, and the only list of contributions in excess of \$100 that we have on file is a copy of the list furnished the Senate Committee on Campaign Expenditures, which you were kind enough to furnish to us.

"In the information furnished the Senate Committee, a copy of which you furnished us, it appears that there were expenditures from January 1, 1944, to September 1, 1944, in a total amount of \$39,370.65. There is no break-down of this amount as is required under the Corrupt Practices Act. It will be appreciated if you can furnish the Committee detailed information both as to this item and as to contributions as is required under the Statute."

5. Carbon copy of letter of Congressman ANDERSON to GERALD L. K. SMITH dated November 30, 1944.

"I have your letter of November 25. I do not know anything about the material that Walter Winchell has been using in his broadcast. As a matter of fact the item you refer to was used by him on November 12 at a time when I was out on a ranch in New Mexico, a long distance from even a radio, so I didn't hear what he said.

"Therefore, when I returned to Washington I asked for a copy of his broadcast for November 12 and his comment is that your Party failed to comply with the law involved in the Corrupt Practices Act. He said, 'The Anderson Committee claims Smith's organization is purely political. Up to now, however, nothing has been done about it or Gerald Smith. Why is this? If you or your wife parked your car overtime, you would either pay a fine or go to jail. What makes a rabble rouser such as Gerald L. K. Smith immune from any law? What influence has he anyway? As one of the

voices on the air—for the men and women who have none--I intend to find out. Unless, of course, Cong. Anderson's wonderful committee scoops me.'

"Of course the situation is that you are required to file certain types of reports. The law required this and not any special committee of the Congress. If you fail to file those reports the proper investigating committees have to certify that information to the Attorney General who may or may not take some action about it. But I don't think you should be distressed by that fact because I feel sure you will want to file a proper listing of expenditures.

"An examination was made of the Friends of Democracy and there is a report to the Committee on the source of their revenue. The hearing has just come from the printer this morning and I am enclosing a copy for your information."

6. Telegram dated December 16, 1944, from CLINTON P. ANDERSON, Chairman, to GERALD L. K. SMITH, Founder.

"Statement of contributions and expenditures filed with the Senate Campaign Expenditures Committee showing an expenditure of \$39,000 plus does not agree with statement filed with Clerk of House November 24 showing expenditure of \$10,000 plus. Please furnish explanation and complete information by Wednesday next."

7. Telegram dated December 19, 1944, from ROBERT E. LAMBERT, Clerk to GERALD L. K. SMITH, Founder.

"Campaign Expenditures Committee trying to close its affairs and make final report. Please expedite statement of complete contributions and expenditures and explanation of difference in statement filed with Senate Committee and with Clerk of House."

8. Telegram dated December 20, 1944, from R. E. LAMBERT, Clerk, to GERALD L. K. SMITH, Founder.

"Telegram sent you December 19 was upon direction of Chairman ANDERSON. Our Committee finishes its work next week and cannot wait longer for your report. Particularly for clarification of discrepancy between \$39,000 expenditure listed in report to Senate Committee and \$10,000 listed with House Clerk. Hearings at Detroit only alternative if report not received.

9. Two page original letter of GERALD L. K. SMITH to Congressman ANDERSON dated December 19, 1944.

"Your telegram dated December 16 was received the same day. On the afternoon of the 16th, as you will recall, I telephoned you commenting

on the telegram, and this letter is pursuant to that telephone call.

"It was my understanding when I appeared before your Committee that you desired the information we forwarded you, which was a duplicate of that which was requested by the Green Committee.

"Then we reported to the Clerk of the House we made the breakdown in \$10 expenditures and \$100 gifts from the first of September on. As you will recall, the America First Party as a political party seeking the election of Federal officials came into being September 1.

"Prior to that we had existed as an organization committee for the purpose of educating our constituents on the formation of a party. We had contributed no money and given no support to the election of any Federal officials.

"However, as I told you over the telephone, we are happy to cooperate with you 100%. It is our feeling that we have fulfilled the requirements of the Corrupt Practices Act, but we are only too happy to go further with you in helping you to fulfill your responsibility to the Congress.

"You will recall that I told you over the telephone that the man who is familiar with all of these figures is out of the city. Furthermore, he has suffered a positive reaction to TB and it has been necessary for him to leave the city and have his lung collapsed and submit himself to special treatment.

"Therefore, it will require some little time for us to prepare the necessary breakdown for your Committee the receipts of our special America First organization committee from January 1 to September 1, 1944. As you will recall, I explained this to you over the telephone and I now put it in writing.

"I make this point, however, Mr. Anderson, not as a substitute for a report, but for your own conscience in the matter and in support of our integrity. A study of the amount and nature of our monthly expenditures as shown from September 1 on, could with a certain percentage of reduction in the total be considered an average for the year as it pertains to proportionate amounts spent for postage, mailing, handling, etc.

"In other words, with the exception of a few big meetings which entailed additional expense during the political campaign this fall, our routine expenditures prior to September 1 were on about the same order. Be assured, Mr. Anderson, that we have a complete record of expenditures and receipts, and we will prepare the breakdown you request.

"I have no desire to ask for any favors, but added to the loss of a man by sickness, our second man in point of responsibility has been drafted less than three weeks ago. This means that the additional figures you request will have to be prepared by a clerk entirely new to the procedure.

"Trusting that this letter answers your telegram of December 16, I remain

/s/ GERALD L. K. SMITH

"P.S. In case there is any question concerning the fact that the gentleman referred to was stricken with TB, I will be glad to furnish a doctor's certificate. I make this suggestion in order that you may be assured that there was no alibi involved."

10. Original letter of GERALD L. K. SMITH to Congressman ANDERSON dated December 20, 1944, in which he points out that Mr. WALTER WINCHELL is financed by a national corporation.

"Mr. Walter Winchell by the use of an expensive radio network has indulged in political campaigning across the years. At the very time that I was being called to appear before your Committee and make other reports concerning my political activities, Mr. Winchell was indulging in bitter political and partisan attacks upon me, our Party, and my candidacy. He also participated in a campaign to defeat outstanding members of Congress and the United States Senate.

"May I point out to you that Mr. WINCHELL is financed by a national corporation. May I further point out to you that it has been my impression that it was illegal for a national corporation to contribute directly or indirectly to the support of political campaigners.

"I would not call your attention to this incident were it not for the fact that Mr. Winchell in self-righteousness insists that you and others exact from me a pound of flesh and make me the victim of the letter of the law rather than the spirit of the law.

"Consider the fact that the Democrats and Republicans both admit a total expenditure of nearly \$40,000,000, not counting money spent indirectly, locally, etc. Why should I, with my little committee, existing on nickels and dimes, be made the victim of nation-wide attacks by a man like Mr. Winchell who is financed in his political excoriation by a national corporation?

"I have no advice to offer your Committee, but I have consulted well informed individuals and they tell me that my point is well and fundamentally taken. Suffice it to say, I chafe under the thought that I must be put under a microscope of interrogation, while a man like Winchell is not even questioned concerning his use of corporate wealth to underwrite his political and partisan attacks."

11. Undated memorandum to Congressman ANDERSON concerning America First Party report attached to which is a report in which GERALD L. K. SMITH states is correct "to the best of our knowledge." It is noted that this report is made on bond paper rather than on the original form which was supposed to have been filled out. Copies of this material with blank forms attached will be transmitted to the Bureau and Detroit Field Division as enclosures to this report.
12. Copies of explanatory memorandums and copies of America First Party expenditures for September 1, 1944, through November 7, 1944. It is noted that this information also was made available in the File Clerk's Office in the House of Representatives and will be set out in instant report.
13. Congressman ANDERSON also made available three copies of the Hearings Before the Committee To Investigate Campaign Expenditures, House Of Representatives, which included testimony in the case of GERALD L. K. SMITH. A copy of this will be transmitted to the Bureau and Detroit Field Division and one will be retained in the files of this Office.

Congressman ANDERSON advised that Dr. JAMES SHELTON, Head of the Anti-Nazi League, 165 W. 46th Street, New York City, New York, had and is believed to have a girl planted in the office of GERALD L. K. SMITH. Congressman ANDERSON stated that he believed that Dr. SHELTON might be persuaded to furnish the identity of this individual.

The following material was made available by Mrs. MARJORIE DODD, File Clerk in the File Clerk's Office, House of Representatives. It is noted that Mrs. DODD advised that photostatic copies could not be made of this material.

"AMERICA FIRST PARTY (letterhead paper)
GERALD L. K. SMITH
FOUNDER
October 16, 1944

"Mr. Scott ~~Trumble~~
Clerk of the House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Trimble:

"I was nominated as candidate for President of the United States on the America First Ticket at the National Convention of the America First Party on August 30, 1944. I was qualified as a Nominee on September 1, 1944. Between September 1 and 10 no money was spent for the direct purpose of getting votes for me, but the America First Party, which became a national entry on August 29, 1944, collected and spent money during this period. Therefore, upon the advice of the Congressional Committee on Campaign Expenditures headed by Representative Clinton P. Anderson, I am reporting to you the receipts and expenditures of the America First Party for that period as a demonstration of good faith and on the assumption that it is difficult to differentiate between my candidacy and the activities of the Party.

"The same will apply to Mr. Harry Romer, St. Henry, Ohio, candidate for Vice President.

"Attached is the information referred to.

/s/ GERALD L. K. SMITH"

"Memo Concerning America First Party Receipts and Expenditures
From September 1, 1944, Through September 10, 1944."

"Expenditures

"Expenditures of \$10 or more:

"Embassy Press, Detroit (printing) pd. 9-5-44	\$200.00
Gregory, Mayer & Thom, Detroit (pencil) pd. 9-5-44	10.30
Michigan Bell Telephone Co., Detroit, pd. 9-2-44	105.30
Standard Paper Co., Detroit (paper) pd. 9-2-44	24.00
Mrs. David Stanley, Cleveland (hall rent) pd. 9-7-44	60.00
Charles Madden, Pittsburgh (hall rent) pd. 9-8-44	40.00
Detroit Leland Hotel, Detroit, (rent) pd. 9-7-44	87.52
Acme Paper Co. Detroit (paper) pd. 9-7-44	42.90
Michigan Bell Telephone Co., Detroit, pd. 9-8-44	11.25
A. B. Dick Co. (stencils) pd. 9-8-44	12.98
George T. Foster, Chicago (hall rent) pd. 9-9-44	50.00
Cerre, Inc. Detroit (photo eng.) pd. 9-8-44	13.80
Acme Letter Service, Detroit (cutting stencils) pd. 9-9-44	17.50
Cerre, Inc., Detroit (photo eng.) pd. 9-9-44	12.35
Embassy Press, Detroit (printing) pd. 9-9-44	100.00
Macaulay Office Supply, Detroit pd. 9-9-44	24.06
Cerre, Inc., Detroit (photo eng.) pd. 9-8-44	10.9
Postage, pd. 9-1-44	375.00
Total	\$1,197.92

WFO 100-8486

"Other Expenditures:

"Mailing, stamping, handling	\$576.04
Expenditures of less than \$10	<u>264.52</u>

Total \$840.56

TOTAL PAID OUT \$2,038.48

Balance on hand 9-11-44 789.80

\$2,828.28

"Receipts

"Contributions: (Between September 1 and 10, 1944)

"Contributions of \$100 or more	\$000.00
Other contributions	<u>687.63</u>
	\$687.63

*Balance on hand 9-1-44	\$2,140.65
Total	<u>\$2,828.28</u>

*Balance is money which was turned over to the America First Party
by The America First Party Organizing Committee."

"November 24, 1944

"Mr. South Trimble
Office of the Clerk
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Trimble:

"The America First Political Party came into existence August 31, 1944.
Campaign expenditures of the Party and nationwide campaign of Gerald
L. K. Smith, Presidential candidate are therefore summarized in the at-
tached memorandum.

"The attached memorandum covers the period from September 1 through
November 7, 1944.

/s/ GERALD L. K. SLITH"

"November 24, 1944

"Memo:

"The attached report is based on figures assembled by Bernard A. Doman. Late in October Mr. Doman, when examined by a physician, showed a positive reaction to tuberculosis. It was necessary for him to go under the doctor's care, involving the collapsing of his lung and his retirement from active work.

"Mr. Doman therefore delegated the preparation of this memorandum to a member of the staff. This involved some slight delay, which, of course, in no way should reflect upon the intent of the committee to fulfill its obligation to the letter."

"America First Party Expenditures - September 1st, 1944 -- November 7, 1944

Postage	\$ 1,885.00
Hotel Expenses	553.04
Telephone	357.05
Railroad Expenses	736.81
Ball Rentals	574.00
Newspaper Advertisements	369.36
Printing & Paper	3,009.48
Expenses of Geo. Vose	139.97
Mailing, stamping of literature by B. A. Doman and staff	2,176.20
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>200.00</u>
	\$ 10,000.91
To Gerald L. K. Smith	<u>953.00</u>
	\$ 10,953.91

"Total Expenditures \$10,953.91

"Balance on hand November 7th, 1944 23.19
\$10,978.10

"America First Party receipts - Sept. 1st, 1944 -- Nov. 7th, 1944

Donations and meeting collections \$10,978.10

Total Receipts \$10,978.10

"Expenditures of \$10.00 Or More 'America First Party

"Printing & Paper

"Standard Paper Co. Detroit, Michigan	\$	72.02
Acme Paper Co., Detroit, Mich.		269.02
Cerre Inc., Detroit, Mich.		121.56
Acme Letter Shop, Detroit, Mich.		2,437.30
Embassy Press, Detroit, Mich.		19.60
Campbell Letter Shop, Detroit, Mich.		<u>42.48</u>
	\$	3,009.48

"Newspaper Advertisements

"Saginaw News, Saginaw, Mich.	\$	102.84
Pontiac Press, Pontiac, Mich.		125.80
Huron News, Bad Axe, Mich.		16.80
Huron County Tribune, Bad Axe, Mich.		23.52
Kalamazoo Gazette, Kalamazoo, Mich.		<u>101.20</u>
	\$	369.36

"Hall Rentals

"George Foster, Chicago, Ill.	\$	50.00
Kiel Auditorium, St. Louis, Mo.		70.00
Jefferson Hall, Milwaukee, Wis.		27.00
Public Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio		77.00
Kleinhans Music Hall, Buffalo, N.Y.		65.00
Alcazar Auditorium, Baltimore, Md.		50.00
Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, Pa.		45.00
Book-Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, Mich.		82.50
City Auditorium, Saginaw, Mich.		20.00
Masonic Temple, Kalamazoo, Mich.		30.00
Book-Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, Mich.		<u>57.50</u>
	\$	574.00

"Hotel Expenses

"Blackstone Hotel, Chicago, Ill.	\$	97.30
Nicollet Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.		37.20
Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis.		31.10
Statler Hotel, St. Louis, Mo.		38.32
Statler Hotel, Cleveland, Ohio		90.30

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"Statler Hotel, Buffalo, New York	\$ 9.10
Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City, N.Y.	46.97
Ballevue-Startford Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.	26.95
Statler Hotel, Washington, D. C.	93.63
Wm. Penn, Pittsburgh, Pa.	53.53
Menorah Hotel, Bay City, Mich.	12.10
Irwin Hotel, Bad Axe, Mich.	4.50
New Eurdick Hotel, Kalamazoo, Mich.	12.14
	\$ 553.14

"Railroad Expenses

"Detroit - Minneapolis	\$ 98.66
Minneapolis - Milwaukee	59.10
Milwaukee - Chicago	7.33
Chicago - St. Louis	40.35
St. Louis - Richmond, Ind.	50.86
Richmond - Cleveland	15.00
Cleveland - Buffalo	15.54
Buffalo - New York City	79.73
New York City - Philadelphia	17.56
Philadelphia - Washington, D. C.	24.90
Washington - Baltimore - Washington	16.00
Washington - Pittsburgh	60.49
Pittsburgh - Detroit	40.29
Misc. Exp. (Taxi, Tips, Porters, etc.)	<u>211.00</u>
	\$ 736.81

"Telephone Expenses

"Bell Telephone Co., Detroit, Mich.	\$ 357.05
-------------------------------------	-----------

"Other Expenses

"George Vose, Kalamazoo, Mich. (Traveling Exps.)	\$ 139.97
--	-----------

"CONTRIBUTORS OF MORE THAN \$100.00

[REDACTED] Wayne, Pennsylvania	115.00
[REDACTED] Chicago, Ill.	100.00

"MEMO:

"The foregoing report has been compiled to the best of our ability. Any errors which may be herein contained are clerical errors and in no case represent willful misrepresentations.

"This report was made by me from figures compiled by B. A. Doman.

/s/ Don Lohbeck"

WFO 100-8486

"House of Representatives
Clerk's Office
Washington, D. C.

"January 19, 1945

"Mr. Gerald L. K. Smith
America First Party
P.O. Box 459
Detroit, Michigan

"Dear Sir:

"This will acknowledge receipt of your statement of receipts and expenditures, as Treasurer of the above Committee, for the period ended 12/31/44, filed in this office pursuant to the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925.

/s/ South Trimble
Clerk of the House of Representatives"

"America First Party
Gerald L. K. Smith
Founder

"Post Office Box 459
Detroit, Michigan
January 13, 1945

"Mr. South Trimble
Clerk's Office
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

"Dear Mr. Trimble:

"Herewith is the report of the America First Party from November 7 through December 31, 1944.

"This slight delay, as per our letter to you on January 5, 1945, is due to the fact that the one charged with the keeping of this account was drafted in December.

/s/ GERALD L. K. SMITH"

WFO 100-8486

"AMERICA FIRST PARTY EXPENDITURES
"Nov. 7, 1944 - Jan 1, 1945

"Printing and Paper	\$	1,293.38
"Embassy Press		296.03
Acme Paper Co.		35.10
Misc. Printing		
"Addressing		
"Hester Christiansen		109.75
"Mail Rentals		
"Book - Cadillac hotel, English Rm.		32.50
"Telephone		
"Mich. Bell Telephone Co.		181.90
"Postage		1,529.79
Mailing, Handling and Express		1,741.62
Misc. Expenses		203.42
	Grand Total	\$ 5,423.49
"Receipts For Nov. 7 through Dec. 31, 1944	\$	5,991.62
On hand Nov. 7, 1944		23.19
		\$ 6,014.81
"Expenditures - Nov. 7 through Dec. 31, 1944	\$	5,423.49
Bal. on Jan. 1, 1945		591.32
"Unpaid Bills		
"Embassy Press	\$	1,000.00

"MEMO

"The above report has been compiled to the best of our ability. Any errors which may be herein contained are clerical and in no case represent wilful misrepresentations."

[REDACTED] MURPHY, Counsel for the Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures, commonly referred to as the Green Committee, through [REDACTED] Investigator for instant committee, made available the file concerning GERALD L. K. SMITH and the America First Committee. The following material which is set out was the only material pertinent to instant matter. b7c

1. Letter from ROBERT T. MURPHY to Mr. GERALD L. K. SMITH dated January 12, 1945.

"There was addressed to you on October 23, 1944, a questionnaire for this Committee requesting information regarding the receipts and expenditures of the Michigan Federation for Americanization.

"There is no record in this office of having received the executed form from you. A duplicate of the form is enclosed with the request that the information requested be supplied not later than January 22, 1945, with this amendment: under questions 4(g) and 4 (i) the dates be changed from September 1, 1944, to December 31, 1944."

2. Letter from GERALD L. K. SMITH to the Special Committee to Investigate Presidential, Vice Presidential, and Senatorial Campaign Expenditures, 1944, United States Senate, Washington, D. C., Attention, Mr. ROBERT T. MURPHY.

"Your letter of January 12 relative to the Federation of Americanization of Michigan is at hand. For your information this organization does not contribute to the campaign fund of any political candidates. It is strictly a non-partisan, educational organization.

"Although I am not an officer in this organization, it is generally believed that I am the determining factor in fixing its policy. Therefore, I am happy to cooperate with you in helping to fulfill the responsibility of your Committee.

"It is easy to account for the failure of the one charged with the responsibility of answering your former correspondence relative to this matter. In December, he was drafted. In order to fill out the blanks which you sent to me, it will be necessary for an exchange of correspondence between Detroit and the camp in which an officer of the Federation is now located.

"It is our opinion that the Federation does not come within the responsibility of your Committee, but there is no information you seek which any honorable organization should desire to hide. Therefore, I am recommending to the officers of the Federation that they prepare a report which will answer the questions contained in the forms you mailed to us January 12.

"You ask that it be completed by January 22. Therefore, I ask an immediate reply, dealing with the following statement of fact.

"Because of the fact that the one charged with the responsibility of keeping records of the Federation for the year 1941, has just been drafter, it will require about two weeks for the proper exchange of correspondence and preparation of detail. Within about two weeks I am sure that the report could be completed and on its way to you. If, however, this is unsatisfactory, we can mail you a report by the 22nd of January, with the reservation that we have the right to amend it after further detail has been developed through our compatriot, who is now out of the city.

"I would also like reply to the following inquiry:

"Some months ago I petitioned your Committee to investigate certain organizations which I absolutely knew to be spending money and conducting campaigns in opposition to my candidacy for the Presidency on the America First Party ticket. To date I have received no recognition of this inquiry other than a brief reply to the effect that you received my letter.

"Is it your purpose to have any more public hearings within the near future? If so, I should like to appear before your Committee and make certain recommendations for legislation dealing with certain types of propaganda groups in America. If your Committee is willing to hear my recommendations, I shall be happy to appear in person, if it is physically possible. If this is not possible, would you be willing to receive a written recommendation from me concerning these matters?

"Believe me, I shall appreciate a prompt reply to this letter.

"Be it understood that if it will facilitate your work, we shall do all in our power to get the report in the mail by the 22nd, but if I can have a letter from you widening the latitude in this matter, I am sure the officers of the Federation will appreciate it.

"As you entertain the complaints of my enemies, who constantly visit government bureaus and government committees, making libelous accusations against my patriotism, etc., may I remind you of the following.

"My only son, Gerald L. K. Smith, Jr., had six years of military training. At age 18 he was inducted into the Service and became a Buck Private 'mule skinner.' He was taken to the Burma theater. There he volunteered for a suicide engagement in which more than 200 out of 300 men were killed. His citations now include the Purple Heart, the Silver Star, the Presidential Citation, and numerous other recognitions for heroic service. He is now in a Burma hospital."

WFO 100-8486

3. Letter from ROBERT T. MURPHY to Mr. GERALD L. K. SMITH dated January 18, 1945.

"I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 15th relative to the Federation of Americanization of Michigan. It is noted that you definitely state that this Committee neither received nor expended any funds on behalf of any political party. In the absence of any evidence to the contrary, your statement is accepted as reply to the inquiry. It will not be necessary, therefore, for this organization to file the questionnaire form which was directed to you.

"Relative to your request for appearance before the Committee and your reference to complaint filed by you, I wish to inform you that the investigative powers of this Committee expired as of December 31, 1944, and, at the present time, we are engaged only in the assimilation of facts for the preparation of a report for Congress."

4. Letter from GERALD L. K. SMITH to the Special Committee to Investigate Presidential, Vice Presidential, and Senatorial Campaign Expenditures 1944, United States Senate, Washington, D. C., Attention Mr. ROBERT T. MURPHY, Counsel.

"Thanks for your letter of January 18. I stand ready to cooperate with you at any time."

Inquiry by Special Agent [REDACTED] disclosed that telephone number Atlantic-3598 is listed to RALPH D. WERMAN, 1921 N Street, N. E.

The material set out in this report which was furnished by Congressman ANDERSON and Mr. ROBERT T. MURPHY is being retained in the files of the Washington Field Division.

Enclosure to: Bureau
Detroit

Undated memo to Congressman ANDERSON initialed GLKS, attached to which is a copy of answers to questionnaire for Independent Political Committees with blank questionnaire attached and copy of appendix memo also initialed GLKS.

Copy of Hearings Before The Committee To Investigate Campaign Expenditures, House of Representatives dated October 3, 1944.

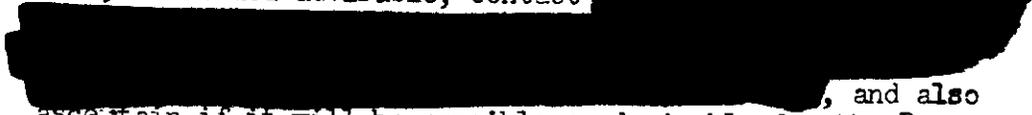
WFO 100-8486

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At New York City

Will, if deemed advisable, contact 

, and also ascertain if it will be possible or desirable for the Detroit Field Division to contact this individual. b7c

One copy of this report is being designated for the San Antonio Field Division inasmuch as there is investigation to be conducted by that office upon receipt of instant report.

CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES

AMERICA FIRST PARTY
Gerald L. K. Smith, Witness

HEARINGS
BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SEVENTY-EIGHTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

ON

H. Res. 551

PART 6

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1944

Printed for the use of the Campaign Expenditures Committee

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED



DATE 10/12/92 BY 9985/SL

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1944

63227

62-425-8-676

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XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

_____ Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- Deleted under exemption(s) _____ with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

_____ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); _____ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: Per your March 18, 1982 letter this enclosure was not xeroxed for release.

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
62-43818 - 676 Enclosure

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

EPB:WMJ

62-43818

SAC, Washington

March 20, 1945

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF 1925

Reference is made to the unstated investigative report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] made at Washington, D. C. The period for which made was February 7, 8 and 14, 1945.

From an examination of this report it is noted that there has been included in the character "Internal Security - C; Security Matter; Sedition" in addition to the character set forth in the caption of this letter. Inasmuch as the investigation of Smith and the America First Party under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925, as requested in Bureau letter dated January 30, 1945, is to be separate and distinct from the investigation previously made on Smith and his organization, it is desired that the first page of Special Agent [redacted] report be rewritten deleting from the character "Internal Security - C; Security Matter; Sedition." Since the date when made did not appear on Special Agent [redacted] report, this should, of course, be included on the corrected pages. The last sentence in the synopsis of this report should be omitted since it apparently is connected with the Bureau's previous investigation of Smith and his connections with Ralph E. Baerman. The reference on this page to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 29, 1945, at Detroit, Michigan, should also be deleted inasmuch as it refers to the Bureau's previous "Internal Security - C; Security Matter; Sedition" investigation of Smith.

Page seventeen of the referenced report should be changed by deleting the sixth paragraph which reads: "Inquiry by Special Agent [redacted] disclosed that telephone number Atlantic 3590 is listed to Ralph E. Baerman, 1921 N Street, N. E." This deletion is desired for the same reason as the omission of the last sentence of the synopsis. It is desired that the material furnished by Congressman Anderson and Mr. Robert T. Murphy be forwarded to the Bureau and, therefore, paragraph seven on page seventeen should be changed to reflect the forwarding of this material to the Bureau.

All copies of Special Agent [redacted] report except the original are being returned to your office by the Bureau. The indicated changes should be made and copies of the corrected pages should be forwarded in the immediate future to the Bureau and the field offices which previously received copies of this report.

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

San Atlantic L E D I

MAR 21 10 30 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

76 APR 3 1945

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/22/82 BY [signature]

ALL b7c

F-10



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Detroit, Michigan
March 17, 1945

20

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/SLK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SECURITY MATTER; SEDITION

Strickland

DECLASSIFIED BY 600/LED
ON 8-27-77

Dear Sir:

The following information has been received from [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau, concerning the activities of the Subject, SMITH, during the period from February 28 to March 15, 1945, inclusive. b7D

During the past few weeks most of SMITH's activity has been devoted to preparing for a meeting of his followers, which was held in Chicago on March 15, 1945. SMITH has had some difficulty in obtaining a hall for his meeting in Chicago and was finally able to arrange for the rental of the Temple Hall, 338 South Marshfield Avenue. Arrangements were made for this hall through [redacted] of Chicago, who is said to be the attorney for JOSEPH McWILLIAMS, one of the sedition trial defendants. Assistance was also received by SMITH from [redacted] and [redacted] KISTER, both of Chicago. b7C
nd
art

The hall referred to is one in which GEORGE FOSTER of Chicago, head of the Constitutional Americans, has been holding meetings regularly.

SMITH claims that his difficulty in arranging for a meeting place in Chicago has been due to a Jewish campaign against him and he told a reporter for the Chicago Times recently that at his meeting on March 15 he intended to discuss and outline the "Technique of Terror" that has been organized against nationalists in Chicago by an unwise and ruthless element of the population.

About 1,500 invitations were sent out prior to the meeting and a large crowd was in attendance at the meeting. The affair received considerable publicity in the Chicago papers prior to March 15.



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FBI
37 MAR 27 1945

FIVE

74 APR 3 1945

Letter to the Director
March 17, 1945

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH

According to SMITH, the ^{Chicago, Ill.} Chicago Sun carried a number of "smear stories" about him and the Jews had organized a campaign to persuade the Plasterers' Union, the owners of the hall, to cancel the rental arrangement with SMITH.

On March 13, there were articles in both the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun relative to the SMITH meeting. The Tribune article appeared under the headline, "100 Telegrams Warn of Bloodshed if Smith Talks." SMITH stated he had previously telegraphed [REDACTED] of the union, suggesting that the union have a committee on the platform with power to stop the meeting if anything objectionable was said by him. b7c

The Chicago Tribune articles stated that the ~~Civil Liberties Union~~, ~~Nai B'rith~~, and other organizations were opposing SMITH's appearance. SMITH remarked to KISTER that the Tribune had done all right by him and that he considered the situation "as hot as a fire cracker." He advised KISTER that if, after all that publicity, the Jews succeeded in preventing the meeting from being held, it would do SMITH more good than if they actually had the meeting. He did not think the prospect of bloodshed would cut down the crowd any, since he does not have any timid people among his followers and most of them are "blistered and tanned, flea-bitten and calloused."

In describing the meeting shortly after it had ended, SMITH stated that during the afternoon of March 15, three gangsters had entered the hall with a gun and had thrown six stink bombs, but that fifty police surrounded the place and cleaned it out. At eight o'clock, as the meeting was about to start, the place was full, and "they" tried to pack the place by the use of counterfeit tickets. They then charged the hall with a mob of five hundred Communists. There were from fifty to one hundred police surrounding the hall during the meeting, but in spite of the police, many windows were knocked out. The people inside the hall, however, remained in perfect decorum and SMITH spoke for two hours and ten minutes.

Following his talk KISTER spoke and SMITH left through the back entrance and was taken to his hotel in a police scout car. There were many pictures taken of various phases of the meeting.

Letter to the Director
March 17, 1945

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH

On March 9, 1945, just a few days before the above-mentioned meeting, an individual named FRED WALSCHER of 1134 Drummond Street, Chicago, was found nailed to a cross in Chicago, and upon investigation it was noted that he had some of SMITH's literature on his person and in his living quarters. Reporters from the Chicago Times contacted SMITH to inquire as to whether or not he knew WALSCHER. SMITH stated he could not find WALSCHER's name on his membership list but that if the latter had a copy of SMITH's magazine, he must be a subscriber, since the magazine is not sold on the newsstands.

SMITH refused to make any statements for the papers about WALSCHER but pointed out to the Chicago Times that he was making a speech in that city on March 15 and that he had been having difficulty in getting a place to speak there. In later conversations with some of his associates, SMITH indicated that the crucifixion incident would be more likely to help him than harm him since it was apparently done by his enemies.

SMITH is continuing his program of activities in Washington through RALPH BAERMAN, his Washington representative. BAERMAN advised SMITH that meetings of the House Banking and Currency Committee, which will take up the matter of the Bretton Woods agreement, were open to the public and persons who wanted to appear before this committee could write to the chairman. SMITH indicated that he did not wish to appear in person but that he did want to insert some statements for the record without claiming any academic knowledge of economics. After that is done he wants to have "this fellow" (evidently referring to some associate) make a profound statement.

The material for the first Washington letter to be sent by SMITH is practically complete and he has assembled enough material for about four or five future issues. He plans to send the complete material for each week's letter by air mail each Monday night and BAERMAN will receive them the following day. He will then send them out under a Washington date-line dated the following Thursday.

BAERMAN's wife, MADELINE BAERMAN, is to assist him in the work he is doing for SMITH and will ask for two months' leave from her job with the Navy Department so that she can help him. BAERMAN stated he would obtain more material through interviews in the future.

Items from the National News Service, which is also to be operated by BAERMAN and SMITH in addition to the weekly letter,

Letter to the Director
March 17, 1945

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH

will be sent out to only about fifty people a week, at least for the present.

SMITH has been in contact with numerous persons of nationalist sympathies, during the past few weeks. He has spoken to GEORGE ~~X~~OSTER of Chicago concerning arrangements for the SMITH meeting held in Chicago on March 15. He has been in contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both of whom are followers of his. MARTIN advised SMITH he had had a letter recently from CARL ~~X~~MOAT of Indianapolis, also a follower of SMITH. BERNARD ~~X~~DOMAN, SMITH'S former secretary, who left his employ in November, 1944, claiming that he was in poor health, and who subsequently moved to Texas, has returned to Detroit within the past few weeks and has been in contact with SMITH. From other sources it was learned that DOMAN plans to set up a mimeographing and letter service and has asked SMITH for some of his mimeographing business.

[REDACTED] who is the Subject of an investigation in the Detroit Field Division at the present time, is also a close friend of SMITH and has been in frequent contact with him. [REDACTED] had dinner at SMITH'S home recently and discussed with him his [REDACTED] difficulties with the Federal Trade Commission. [REDACTED] claimed he caught the Government in a fraud which had been cooked up by some pimps whom they used as rebuttal artists.

[REDACTED] stated that his hearings before the Commission are still in progress and that [REDACTED] is now asking for a chance to rebut the lies which had been last put in by the Commission. BAERMAN, in commenting upon [REDACTED] difficulties, stated that he noticed the individual who was standing at the elbow of the chief inquisitor the day that BAERMAN had attended the hearing in Washington and commented, "You will find them everywhere." To this [REDACTED] replied, "Yes, you will find them some day hanging on the lamp posts," and BAERMAN stated, "I think so too, just so they don't get us first."

SMITH has received mail from numerous individuals, including several items from Representative CLARE ~~X~~NOFFMAN and from Congressman LYNCH. He has also received material from [REDACTED] of Chicago. He has indicated that among the persons now on his list of donors are [REDACTED] and PARKER ~~X~~SAGE, of 1742 Holcomb, Detroit. SAGE was a defendant in the recent Washington sedition trial.

Letter to the Director
March 17, 1945

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH

Also on this list is [REDACTED] of Appleton, Wisconsin. Informant was not able to learn much concerning the extent of contributions received by SMITH through the mails during the past few weeks but learned that on March 15 SMITH's collections for that day in this matter had totaled \$38.00. b7c

Very truly yours,

R. A. Guerin
R. A. GUERIN, SAC

[REDACTED]
62-1126 b7c

b7d Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

100-19707

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 23, 1945

See FROM : SAC, New York

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
SECURITY MATTER (X)

On February 28, 1945, a letter was received from [redacted]

[redacted] explained in his letter that recently he had communicated anonymously with the Veterans Organization sponsored by the AMERICA FIRST PARTY, Detroit, Michigan, and stated that he had been recently discharged from the Army and claimed interest in their organization.

[redacted] explained that he received a letter on the stationery of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY which was signed by GERALD L. K. SMITH, which stated that his name had been placed on their veterans' file and that he would receive proper information at the proper time concerning organizational activities.

[redacted] stated in his letter to this office that he wished to place the results of his contact with the organization at the disposal of the FBI and from time to time receive appropriate instructions from the FBI as to his conduct with the America First Party.

[redacted] was advised that under no circumstances would the FBI sponsor his joining the AMERICA FIRST PARTY VETERANS ORGANIZATION, and that instructions would not be issued to him concerning his activities in that organization. It was pointed out, however, that should he desire to give any information which would be pertinent to the activities of this Bureau, such information would be gratefully received.

In view of the fact that the organization headquarters are located in Detroit, Michigan, a copy of this letter is being designated for the Detroit Field Division.

cc: Detroit

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/12/82 BY SP-800/2

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

41 MAR 29 1945

165-43818-678
FBI
FIVE 818 678

b7d
APR 13 1945

Special Agent in Charge
U. S. Federal Bureau of Investigation
Cross the Flag Sir

Enclosed is a communication from Gerald L. Smith to a neighbor of mine, relative to renewing her subscription to his publication. Inasmuch as Smith is supposed to have ceased his pro-German activities, I am sending this to your department.

I am also much exercised (and many more in this town feel the same) as to why all these German prisoners are being brought over here to our home. I voice an indignant protest.

Respectfully

b7c

100-110-100
89
Feb 29 - 1945

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/22 BY SP8/STB

HANDLED BY
STOP

43818-679

F B I
29 MAR 30 1945

W. D. Brown

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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For your information: Per your March 18, 1982 letter this enclosure was not xeroxed for release.

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
62-43818 - 679 Enclosure

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X FOR THIS PAGE X
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[Redacted]

62-43818-679

REC'D

April 7, 1945

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of March 29, 1945, with enclosure, has been received.

Let me assure you that I have carefully reviewed the content of your letter and its enclosure. With regard to the protest which you desire to register it is suggested that you may wish to communicate with the War Department inasmuch as such matters are not within the jurisdiction of this Bureau.

Your interest in writing me is most appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/02 BY SP-8 BJS/mc

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 13
★ APR - 9 1945 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

56 APR 27 1945 47

RECEIVED - MAIL ROOM
APR 7 4 30 PM '45
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED - MAIL ROOM
APR 8 5 05 PM '45

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

116

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

SA FILE NO. 56-20

REPORT MADE AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	DATE WHEN MADE 3/2/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/10/45	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE GERALD L. K. SMITH THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY			CHARACTER OF CASE ELECTION LAWS (FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF 1925)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Certificate of nomination from America First Party nominating GERALD L. K. SMITH for President of U. S. and HARRY ROMER for Vice-President received by Texas Secretary of State at Austin, Texas, 9-11-44. On same date list of 23 Presidential Electors in the state of Texas submitted. Of 23 Electors selected by America First Party only 3 names appeared on official ballot at general election. Copies of Certificate of Nomination, List of Presidential Electors, and Official Ballot obtained and transmitted to Bureau and office of origin.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/92 BY [REDACTED]**

-RUC-

REFERENCE: Bureau letter Washington Field Division, January 30, 1945.

DETAILS: AT AUSTIN, TEXAS:

In the office of the Secretary of State, through the courtesy of [REDACTED] the original letter of nomination received in the office of the Secretary of State on September 11, 1944, was made available for inspection. This examination reflected the following undated letter on the letterhead of the America First Party with GERALD L. K. SMITH listed as Director and organizer, and the address listed as P. O. Box 459, Detroit, Michigan.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>A. A. Bayer</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3-Bureau (Encl.) 3-Detroit (Encl.) 2-San Antonio		<p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">76</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">32 MAR 5 1945</p> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">11 23</p>

COPIES DESTROYED
80 OCT 23 1964

Serial 680 SMTA RECEIVED 10-13-64

**"AMERICA FIRST PARTY
GERALD L. K. SMITH
Director and Organizer**

**BERNARD A. DOMAN
Secretary and Treasurer**

**Post Office Box 459
Detroit, Michigan**

CERTIFICATE OF NOMINATION

This is to certify that the America First Party, assembled in Convention, has duly nominated GERALD L. K. SMITH, of Michigan, and HARRY ROMER, of Ohio, as the America First Party candidates for the offices of President of the United States and Vice President of the United States respectively. Appended to this certificate is the list of persons selected by the America First Party Convention to act as Presidential Electors in the state of Texas.

/s/ **CARL H. MOTE**
Chairman of Convention

/s/ **DON LOHBECK**
Secretary of Convention"

Photostatic copies of this certificate of nomination are being transmitted to the Bureau and the office of origin with copies of this report.

Accompanying the Certificate of Nomination was submitted a list of twenty-three persons selected by the America First Party Convention to act as Presidential Electors in the State of Texas.

"Presidential Electors

G. J. FLINT
Huntsville, Texas (Walker)
(Declined by phone, Dec. to be mailed)

WALTER KNEIP
La Grange, Texas

R. C. KITTEL (209 Allensworth)
San Antonio, Texas (Bexar)
(Declined by phone 9-23-44)

ERNEST KIESLING
Miles, Texas

SA 56-20

~~THORNTON HAMILTON~~
Cuero, Texas
(Name crossed off, shorthand notation)

~~N. L. MacLEOD Jr.~~
Seminary Hill, Texas (Tarrant)

~~WILLIAM SCHMITT~~
Seguin, Texas (Guadalupe)
(OK by phone)

~~J. E. FITZGERALD~~
Stephenville, Texas (Erath)
(OK by phone)

~~GEORGE YEAGER (3024 W. Travis)~~
San Antonio, Texas (Bexar)

~~FRANK G. NELSON~~
Fort Worth, Texas (Tarrant)
(2 copies)

~~R. J. PENDERGRAST~~
Houston, Texas (Harris)
(?)

~~W. H. VERNOR~~
Houston, Texas (Harris)
(?)

~~M. A. VERHALEN~~
Knox City, Texas
(Check mark following name)

~~W. A. WASH~~
Rusk, Texas. "

~~WILLIAM T. CLARK (2211 Ross)~~
Waco, Texas

~~ESTELLA SADLER~~
Montague, Texas

~~JOHN FINGER~~
Hondo, Texas

~~Mrs. F. E. DAVIS~~
Miles, Texas

~~ELANCHE R. DANSEY~~
Midland, Texas
(Declined by phone 9-21-44 by RICHARD
BROOKS Atty. Declination to be mailed
in.)

~~S. T. NIXON~~
Cleveland, Texas
(Declined by phone. Declination to be
mailed in)

~~A. E. DAVIS (Gulf States Bldg.)~~
Dallas, Texas
(Will call 9-26-44)

~~P. A. SPAIN~~
Paris, Texas
(Declined by phone. Dec. to be mailed

~~MAX A. VOGEL (1817 Main Ave.)~~
San Antonio, Texas

There is set out following each name the notations that appeared on the original list of Presidential Electors in the office of the Secretary of State.

SA 56-20

Photostatic copies of this list are being submitted to the Bureau and office of origin.

An inspection of the Official Ballot reflected that there were only three names appearing as Electors for President and Vice-President under the America First Party. These three names were:

"WILLIAM SCHMITT
J. E. FITZGERALD
M. A. VERHALEN"

Copies of the Official Ballot in the State of Texas for the General Election are being transmitted to the Bureau and the office of origin.

Enclosures:

Bureau: Photostatic copies of Certificate of Nomination and List of Presidential Electors. Copy of Official Ballot.

Detroit: Photostatic copies of Certificate of Nomination and List of Presidential Electors. Copy of Official Ballot.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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For your information: Per your March 18, 1982 letter this enclosure was not xeroxed for release.

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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EPB:fmj
62-43818

081773

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

March 24, 1945

RECORDED 62-43818-681

John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD L. K. SMITH, THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY
FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF 1925

Reference is made to your memorandum dated January 19, 1945, requesting an investigation of Gerald L. K. Smith and his America First Party under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925.

For your information in this connection, there is enclosed herewith a copy of the investigative report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] dated March 2, 1945, at San Antonio, Texas. In your examination of this report you will note that a Certificate of Nomination from the America First Party nominating Gerald L. K. Smith and Harry Roser for President and Vice President, respectively, was received by the Texas Secretary of State at Austin, Texas, on September 11, 1944. b7c

Investigation is continuing in this matter and as additional reports are received they will be immediately made available to you.

Enclosure

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 3
MAR 24 1945 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
APR 5 1945

Handwritten signatures and initials

Handwritten initials

TELETYPE

MAR 29 1945

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FBI DETROIT

5-29-45

10-20

DIRECTOR

URGENT

KAKI

GERALD L. K. SMITH, ET AL., IS. SEBITION.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 1/22/82 BY SP-8/MLC

ADVISED TODAY SUBJECT SMITH STATED YESTERDAY HE PLANS TO GO TO SAN
FRANCISCO FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON APRIL TWENTY FIFTH AND
WILL HOLD MEETINGS AT ST. LOUIS, MINNEAPOLIS, SALT LAKE CITY, DENVER
AND OTHER PLACES ON THE WAY OUT TO SAN FRANCISCO. IN CONTACT WITH
MRS. DAVID STANLEY OF CLEVELAND YESTERDAY, SMITH SUGGESTED SHE AND
OTHER MEMBERS OF HER MOTHER'S CLUB ALSO GO TO SAN FRANCISCO FOR THIS
CONFERENCE AND SHE INDICATED SHE WOULD DO SO.

[REDACTED]

APR 7 10 1945
10-22AM DE FBI

COPY FILED IN 62-77087

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670
670

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI
FROM : SAC, San Antonio

DATE: March 26, 1945

WJR
EE-1
JAL

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF 1925
Bureau File No. 62-43818
SA file No. 56-20

Reference is made to letter from the Bureau to the Detroit Field Division dated 2-15-45, and letter from the Detroit Field Division to the Bureau dated 3-13-45.

In view of the fact that the only investigation contemplated by the San Antonio Field Division was to interview BERNARD DOMAN, former Secretary to the subject, SMITH, and he is no longer in Edcouch, Texas, but in Detroit, Michigan, no action is being taken by the San Antonio Field Division, unless advised to the contrary, and this matter is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

b7c

~~SECRET~~ *CA*

cc - Detroit

PT
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TOP DESK

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DATE 10/12/92 BY SP-5 BTJ/mw

140
62-43818-683

RECORDED & INDEXED
FBI
37 APR 3 1945

53 APR 6 1945

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: April 3, 1945

FROM : SAC, Detroit

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

b7D

[redacted] advised today that it was believed the Subject SMITH would be in Buffalo, New York, next Sunday, April 8, for the purpose of making a speech to a group of his followers. Informant did not know the exact time or place of such speech, but stated that invitations were being sent today to all persons who attended the previous meetings held in Buffalo by SMITH in September and in May of 1944. It is considered likely that the meeting on April 8 will be held at the same location, although this is not definitely known.

SMITH is also holding a meeting at the Book-Cadillac Hotel in Detroit, Michigan, on April 19, 1945, and arrangements are being made by the Detroit Field Division to secure coverage of this meeting through informants.

The Buffalo Field Division is being requested to obtain adequate coverage of this meeting through informants, but in line with the previous policy in covering SMITH's activities it is requested that no agents attend this meeting and that no surveillance be placed on SMITH, but that coverage of the meeting be effected solely through informants. As any additional information is obtained from above informant concerning the details of this meeting, this information will be forwarded to the Buffalo Field Division.

[redacted] cc: Buffalo
62-1126

b7c

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DATE 10/12/02 BY [signature]

INDEXED
62-42513-684
36 APR 6 1945

APR 13 1945

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **100-8486** *b7c*

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 4/6/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/14; 3/27/45	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] :HS
TITLE GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases; AMERICA FIRST PARTY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G SECURITY MATTER SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subscriber to telephone #Atlantic 3598 is
RALPH B. BAERMAN.

- RUC -

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/12/82 BY SP-8 BJS/MLK**

REFERENCE: Bureau file # **62-7055**
62-43818 ;
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated January 29, *b7c*
1945 at Detroit, Michigan.

DETAILS: **AT WASHINGTON, D. C.**

Special Agent [REDACTED] ascertained that telephone number
Atlantic 3598 was listed to **RALPH B. BAERMAN**, 1921 M Street, NE, Washington,
D.C. *b7c*

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		62-43818-686
5 - Bureau 3 - Detroit 2 - Washington Field		RECORDED
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Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

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DATE 10/2/82 BY SP8/MLC

TELETYPE
APR 2 1945
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FBI DETROIT 4-2-45 6-49 PM EWT CEC
DIRECTOR URGENT

REURTEL. GERALD L. K. SMITH AMERICA FIRST PARTY. FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF NINETEEN TWENTY FIVE. RELETS JANUARY THIRTY, FEBRUARY FIFTEEN LAST AND OURTEL MARCH SIXTEEN LAST REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF BERNARD DOMAN. INVESTIGATION HAS LOCATED DOMAN BUT PRIOR TO INTERVIEW FOLLOWING FACTS ARE BEING BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION. URLET, JANUARY THIRTY LAST INDICATED PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION OF SUBJECT SMITH AT THIS TIME WAS TO DETERMINE REASON FOR FAILURE TO FILE FINAL STATEMENT JANUARY ONE, NINETEEN FORTY FIVE, REASON FOR REPORTED DISCREPANCY BETWEEN STATEMENTS FILED WITH SENATE COMMITTEE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE AND DETERMINATION WHETHER AMERICA FIRST PARTY WAS POLITICAL PARTY WITHIN STATUTE. URLET JANUARY THIRTY LAST QUOTING DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM REQUESTED DOMAN BE INTERVIEWED FOR QUOTE SUCH INFORMATION AS HE MAY HAVE RELEVANT TO THIS INVESTIGATION UNQUOTE. ANALYSIS OF WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION REPORT SEVEN LAST INDICATES REPORT DUE JANUARY ONE LAST, ABOVE REFERRED TO, WAS FILED BY SUBJECT SMITH WITH HOUSE COMMITTEE JANUARY THIRTEEN LAST WITH EXPLANATION OF DELAY IN FILING. ALLEGED DISCREPANCY, REFERRED TO ABOVE, APPARENTLY NON-EXISTENT SINCE STATEMENT FILED WITH SENATE COMMITTEE COVERED DIFFERENT AND MORE EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME THAN STATEMENT FILED WITH HOUSE

Justickland

Brown

*6-13-45
4-9-45*

RECORDED
INDEXED
107
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TOP DESK
162-43878-687
36 APR 11 1945

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COMMITTEE. DOUBTFUL IF DOMAN COULD FURNISH ANY INFORMATION PERTINENT TO INVESTIGATION ON ANY OF ABOVE MATTERS. HE MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE DETAILED DATA ON FUNDS REPORTED TO SENATE COMMITTEE BUT FOR THIS WOULD PROBABLY REQUIRE ORIGINAL BOOKS WHICH ARE NOW IN SMITHS POSSESSION. DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM REQUESTS INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REPORTS FILED BY SMITH WITH HOUSE AND SENATE BE CONSIDERED MOST CONFIDENTIAL AND THAT SMITH NOT BE INTERVIEWED. DOMAN AT THIS TIME ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN BUSINESS ORDERS FROM SMITH AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE SMITH FULL AND COMPLETE ACCOUNT OF ALL MATTERS COVERED IN INTERVIEW. IN VIEW OF THESE FACTS AND INDICATION THAT DOMAN DOES NOT HAVE INFORMATION THAT IS PERTINENT, IT IS REQUESTED THAT PRIOR TO INTERVIEW WITH HIM DEPARTMENT BE CONTACTED THAT THESE FACTS BE PRESENTED AND IF INTERVIEW IS STILL DESIRED, A SPECIFIC STATEMENT OF MATTERS TO BE OBTAINED FROM DOMAN THROUGH INTERVIEW BE SET OUT. PENDING ADVICE FROM BUREAU NO FURTHER ACTION IS BEING TAKEN ON THIS MATTER BY ^EDFD.

CUERIN

ACK AND HOLD PLS.

CORRECTIONS TENTH SORDXX WORD SIXTH LINE OF SECOND PAGE SHD BE

CONFIDENTIAL

LAST WORD OF SEVENTH LINE SHD BE BUSINESS

ACK PLS AND HOLD

,⁵26-37 PM CK FBI WA NM

EPB:aop
62-43818

SAC, Detroit

April 9, 1945

RECORDED

John Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
62-43818-687
GERALD L. K. SMITH, America First Party
Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925

Reference is made to your teletype dated April 2, 1945, in the above captioned matter.

In view of the data set forth in referenced teletype, Bernard Doman should not be interviewed at the present time. However, you should furnish the Bureau the results of your inquiries in this matter. Upon receipt of investigative reports from your office and the Washington Field Division, this matter in its entirety will be presented to the Department at which time we shall request advice as to whether Doman should be interviewed inasmuch as he is associating with Smith.

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APR 2 1945
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
APR 2 1945
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/12/82 BY 98785

John
EPB

52 APR 24 1945 47

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

DETROIT FILE NO. **62-3126**

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 3/28/45	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/25, 27, 28, 31, 32, 12/45	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases; AMERICA FIRST PARTY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C SEDITION

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SMITH held meetings of followers in Detroit on February 26, 1945, and in Chicago on March 15, 1945. DEAN SMITH, former oil man, was speaker at Detroit meeting and Subject SMITH was speaker at Chicago meeting. Detroit meeting uneventful, but picketing of meeting hall and other disturbances featured Chicago meeting. SMITH is expanding Washington activities at present and now has RALPH BAKEMAN and wife MADELEINE BAKEMAN working on full-time basis, assisting him in maintaining nationalist lobby in Washington and in collection of information for "Washington Letter" and for "Nationalist News Service". Program at present calls for defeat of Dumbarton Oaks plan and of any plan for a "super-state"; bringing of American soldiers home at earliest possible moment; defeat any plan to finance the British Empire; organization of Nationalist Veterans of World War II; support of nationwide nationalist movement and preservation of America First principle.

DECLASSIFIED BY [Signature]
 ON [Date]

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**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/2/02 BY SP800/ML**

REFERENCE: **62-3055 and 62-43818** Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** dated January 29, 1945, at **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

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APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	RECORDED & INDEXED
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5 - Bureau (Enclosures) 1 - Chicago (Information) 1 - Washington Field (Information) 3 - Detroit			
INDEKED IN PUBLICATION FILES		DEPT. OF JUSTICE FBI 325 BH	[Handwritten marks]

(DE #62-1126)

DETAILS:

At DETROIT, MICHIGAN

The first meeting held by Subject SMITH for his followers in several months was held at the Detroit-Leland Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, on February 26, 1945. He had some difficulty in obtaining a meeting hall but was finally able to make arrangements at the above-mentioned hotel. Invitations were sent out to the 1,700 persons in Wayne County who had made cash contributions to him in the past.

[REDACTED] b
The principal speaker was DEAN E. SMITH and the subject of his talk was "Imperialism, The Cause of War". DEAN SMITH, who was at one time an employee of the Standard Oil Company in the Orient, claimed to be an authority on the Far East and spoke at considerable length about British policies there. He condemned Great Britain, stating that the American General, JOSEPH STILLWELL, had been recalled from China because he was succeeding in his effort to make China a strong nation and the British did not want China to become strong. For the same reason SMITH stated that the British were responsible for the dissolution of the group of American veterans known as the "Flying Tigers" and also for the fact that the Burma Road had not been completed. His general theme was that the British were imperialistic and internationalist and that the United States should oppose internationalism, particularly as set out in the Dumbarton Oaks agreement.

Subject SMITH spoke very briefly in introducing the main speaker and in the course of his remarks announced that he had just opened an office in Washington, D.C. where he was now publishing a "Nationalist News Letter" and was also establishing the "Nationalist News Service". This latter service will distribute news items to nationalist papers throughout the country and he has sources of information among all types of people, having one source within the White House itself, according to SMITH.

[REDACTED] b7c
It should be noted that while MERTZ claims that he is a close friend and associate of SMITH, SMITH will have nothing to do with him and has specifically warned his followers that he is not working with MERTZ. [REDACTED] b7d

[REDACTED] a member of the United States Army Air Forces who called himself [REDACTED] and was living in Room 336, Webster Hall Hotel, requested tickets for this meeting and presumably attended. The crowd that attended the meeting was quiet and there were no disturbances reported. b6 b7C

In contrast to his Detroit meeting, the meeting which SMITH held at Temple Hall, 338 South Marshfield, Chicago, Illinois, on March 15, 1945, was very noisy and nearly precipitated a riot. SMITH had considerable difficulty in obtaining a hall for his Chicago meeting and he stated that the principal reason for this was "a reign of terror" and a boycott organized against him by certain Jewish groups in Chicago. With the assistance of [REDACTED] of Chicago, who was said to be attorney for JOSEPH McWILLIAMS, one of the defendants in the recent Washington sedition trial, SMITH was able to obtain the above-mentioned hall which is apparently owned by the Plasterers' Union. Assistance in arranging for the meeting was also received by SMITH from [REDACTED] and FRED KISTER, both of Chicago. The hall in which the meeting was held has also been used frequently in the past by GEORGE FOSTER, head of the Constitutional Americans and a close friend of SMITH.

After arrangements had been made with the union for the rental of the hall and this fact became known generally in Chicago, [REDACTED] stated that the Chicago Sun carried a number of stories concerning SMITH which he referred to as "smear" stories. He also claimed that the Jews of Chicago had organized a campaign to persuade the Plasterers' Union to cancel the rental of the hall. According to Informant, there were articles on March 13, 1945, in both the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun relative to the meeting. The article in the Tribune appeared under the headline "100 Telegrams Warn of Bloodshed as Smith Talks". The article further stated that the Civil Liberties Union, reported to be a Communist group, the B'Nai B'Rith, a Jewish organization, and other groups were opposing SMITH's appearance. SMITH apparently was disturbed by the publicity received and told FRED KISTER that the Tribune had done all right by him and that he considered the situation "as hot as a fire cracker". He also told KISTER that if, after all the publicity, the Jews succeeded in preventing the meeting from being held, it would do SMITH more good than if the meeting actually were held. He did not think that the prospect of bloodshed would cut down the crowd any since he did not believe he had any timid people among his followers. y

The card which SMITH sent out to 1,500 of his followers in Chicago announced that the meeting would be a rally under the auspices of the National Emergency Committee and the subject would be "Liberty in the Balance". The letter accompanying the card was on the letterhead of the National Emergency Committee and was described as being "a mobilization of nationalists for the preservation of American sovereignty". The address was given as Post Office Box 697, Detroit, Michigan. The letter stated that the Communists and the Internationalists would attempt to prevent the meeting but that his followers should ignore anything they read in the papers or heard over the radio concerning the meeting and that no matter what they might hear,

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they should come to the Temple Hall on Thursday night, March 15.

A copy of the above-mentioned letter and card is being sent to the Bureau as an enclosure with this report.

In apparent anticipation of a possible riot, SMITH requested [redacted] prior to the meeting to arrange for adequate police protection and also requested that he provide at least ten good, healthy, fearless men of unimpeachable character who must be available for protection. Apparently his fears of possible violence were justified, according to [redacted] because several persons entered the meeting hall with drawn guns on the afternoon of the night the meeting was to be held and threw stink bombs into the meeting hall. b7d

At the time the meeting was to be held the hall was crowded with about 1,200 people and an effort had been made to pack the meeting by the use of counterfeit tickets. This was apparently discovered in time, however, and very few, if any, persons opposing SMITH were able to gain entry into the hall during the meeting. SMITH told informant that about 500 Communists charged the hall in an effort to gain entry but were repulsed by a crowd of between fifty to a hundred Chicago police. In spite of the police protection, many windows in the hall were broken. The people inside the hall apparently maintained good order and SMITH spoke for two hours and ten minutes. Following his talk he left the hall by a rear entrance and was taken to a hotel in a police squad car.

Account of the incident in a United Press Dispatch in the Detroit News on March 16, 1945, stated that during the meeting SMITH assailed members of the B'nai B'rith, the Civil Liberties League and the National Negro Congress which had protested his appearance. He is also said to have attacked Walter Winchell for allegedly having prevented SMITH's son from being accepted into Officers' Candidate School of the United States Army. The speech was said to have been anti-administration in character and devoted principally to a condemnation of the proposed partition of Poland. [redacted] b7d

There have been some repercussions following SMITH's Chicago meeting. According to [redacted] "The Sentinel" had sent letters to JOHN FITZPATRICK, President of the Chicago branch of the American Federation of Labor, and to WILLIAM GREEN, President of the American Federation of Labor, calling attention to the "shocking disgrace on the labor movement" which occurred when the Plasterers' Union allowed SMITH to speak in their hall on March 15th. SMITH was given this information by [redacted] of Chicago who was apparently a member of the Plasterers' Union. [redacted] suggested that SMITH contact a Mr. M. J. McDONOUGH, National Secretary of the Plasterers' Union of 200 Fidelity Building, Cleveland, Ohio, and explain his position, pointing out that the persons protesting against SMITH's meeting were Communists and left-wing agitators. Informant stated that SMITH had also received a telegram on March 21, b7d

from a certain [redacted] of Chicago whom Informant could not identify, stating as follows: "Question is not who does or does not subscribe to your philosophies - question is freedom of speech and right of assemblage".

On March 9, 1945, just a few days prior to SMITH's meeting in Chicago, an individual named FRED WALSCHER of 1134 Drummond Street, Chicago, Illinois, was found nailed to a cross in that city and upon investigation by the police it was noted that he had some of SMITH's literature on his person and in his living quarters. [redacted] stated that reporters for the Chicago Times had contacted SMITH and inquired as to whether WALSCHER was one of his followers. SMITH stated he could not find WALSCHER's name on his membership list, but since he had a copy of SMITH's magazine, probably was a subscriber since the magazine was not sold on the news stands. SMITH refused to make any statements for the papers about the incident, but in later conversation with some of his associates, he indicated that the affair would probably be more likely to help him than harm him since it was apparently done by his enemies. SMITH has not referred to the incident in any of his talks since this happened and in view of the fact that newspaper accounts subsequently have stated that WALSCHER confessed that the crucifixion was a hoax, it is unlikely that SMITH will make any further reference to it.

SMITH has devoted a great deal of time and attention in recent weeks to his Washington activities. RALPH BAERMAN and his wife MADELEINE BAERMAN are apparently both working for SMITH now on a full-time basis in the collecting of information and other data at his Washington headquarters.

[redacted]

[redacted] states that a post office box was taken out in the name of MADELEINE BAERMAN and that the name of former United States Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS was used as a reference.

[redacted]

In connection with his activities in Washington, BAERMAN advised SMITH recently that meetings of the House Banking and Currency Committee, which will consider the Breton Woods Agreement, were open to the public and persons wishing to appear before the committee could write to the chairman. SMITH stated that he did not wish to appear personally but that he did want to insert some statements into the record without claiming any academic knowledge of economics. After this was done, he wanted to have "this fellow", evidently referring to an associate of his, make a profound statement for the committee.

Material for the "Washington Letter" is being gathered by BAERMAN and SMITH and they now have enough for about four or five issues.

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The first issue is expected to be published during the latter part of March and will be sent out from Washington, D.C. every Thursday. The material will be prepared and the letter actually written in Detroit by SMITH. Items sent from Smith's Washington headquarters for the "Nationalist News Service" will go to about 50 persons each week, at least according to present plans.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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b7D

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In his general letter to his followers for the month of February which bears the caption "Courage Rewarded", he announced the opening of the headquarters for the National Emergency Committee and the Nationalist Lobby in Washington. He stated that on a recent trip to Washington he had nine different people, all of them national figures, whose names would be recognized and included members of Congress, a clergyman, outstanding newspapermen and others equally prominent. He did not, however, divulge their names. He also announced the forthcoming publication of "The Letter" and stated that it would contain documented and correct information which could not be found in any other publication. He stated that this letter would create a sensation and that some of the information contained in it would be obtained from an individual who is in and out of the White House from one to three times per week. He also announced the setting up of the Nationalist News Service and indicated that this new program of activity in Washington would require him to spend about half of his time there within the next few months.

In connection with the announcement of his Washington program, SMITH also set out in his February letter the general course which he intends to follow in the next few months. He stated that he would not allow any sort of a super-state program to get by without his attention and that he had formed confidential contacts all over the United States with farm, labor and Christian leaders, with statesmen in both political parties, with mothers and with veterans of both wars. Representatives of these groups would appear before various Congressional Committees at SMITH's instigation and would oppose any form of super state. He stated that the lives of one million servicemen could be saved if this campaign is carried on vigorously and that "if Mr. ROOSEVELT cannot give a better reason than he has been able to give, then our sons should be brought home now".

SMITH stated that he hoped by this program to accomplish the following:

- (1) The defeat of the Dumbarton Oaks plan
- (2) The saving of a million lives that might be given to a super state
- (3) The bringing of our boys home at the earliest possible moment
- (4) The defeat of all plans to finance the British Empire after the war
- (5) The organization of Nationalist Veterans of World War II
- (6) The establishment of a Nationalist Lobby in Washington
- (7) The maintenance of headquarter activities in Washington

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- (8) Publication of the "Washington Letter"
- (9) The maintenance of a nation-wide nationalist organization
- (10) The preservation of America First principle

In his last letter SMITH mentioned the above activities as forming his basic program at this time and in addition stated he wished to foster the cultivation of the nationalist movement at its very roots with meetings, institutes and assemblies and wished to encourage the publications of nationalist literature and books by the organization of the Nationalist Book Club. He indicated that the guiding plan of his activities would be opposed to President Roosevelt, of whom he said, "The dictator is here; he is throwing the Constitution out the window. His usurpage must be stopped". He stated Roosevelt had returned from Russia after giving Stalin everything he wanted. Plans are said to be on foot to subdue our people by an artificial scarcity of food. According to SMITH, Roosevelt is determined to draft the young women of the nation and has ambitions to become head of a super state. The Dumbarton conspiracy is a plan to destroy our sovereignty and the whole set-up is a "program of treason". SMITH then states that his followers "must be Paul Reveres, the informers, the inflamers, the warners, the alarmers" and that the nationalists must oppose and defeat Roosevelt's program. He states that by January 1, 1946, the enemy will have been foiled and the conspirator will have been exposed and "nationalism, which is another name for righteous Americanism, will have been triumphant."

A copy of the February and March letters above referred to are being sent to the Bureau as enclosures with this report and a copy of the February letter is being retained in the files of the Detroit Field Division.

In connection with his activities in Washington and Chicago, SMITH has made trips to both cities within the past few months. According to [REDACTED] SMITH left Detroit for Washington on January 23rd and returned to Detroit on January 30th. During this period in Washington he was in contact with [REDACTED] a minister of Baltimore, Maryland, and was also in contact with RALPH BARRMAN as Washington representative. He is believed to have seen [REDACTED] former secretary to United States Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS. [REDACTED] address is Colorado Building, Washington, D.C. Informant stated SMITH had a press conference in Washington on January 26 at which time he advised the newspapermen of his plan for expanded activity in Washington. He also had visits with former United States Senator GERALD P. NYE and with ex-Congressman HAMILTON FISH and he also had contacted a "News Bureau man" whose identity was unknown to informant. Informant stated that stories in the Chicago Sun and in the newspaper P.M. indicated that SMITH was in Washington for the purpose of setting up a nationalist lobby.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Reference has been made above to the effort of HOMER MERTZ of Chicago to become a part of SMITH's organization. MERTZ sponsored a home-coming party for PARKER SAGE, GARLAND ALDERMAN and WILLIAM R. LYMAN, three Detroit residents who were at one time prominent in the National Workers League and more recently were defendants in the Washington sedition trial. This party was held on January 27, 1945, in Detroit under the auspices of "The Constitutionals" which is the name MERTZ has given to his new organization. On the morning of the day the party was to be held MERTZ called SMITH's residence and inquired as to whether or not SMITH would attend the party. SMITH's wife stated he was out of town and would not be able to attend. MERTZ then told Mrs. SMITH that he was a close friend of GEORGE FOSTER of Chicago who was known to be a friend of SMITH and that he, MERTZ, could get a hall for SMITH to speak in in Chicago any time SMITH would like him to get same. [REDACTED] states, however, that SMITH is still suspicious of MERTZ, believing him either to be an informer for some investigative agency or to be very indiscreet in his operations and in any event SMITH will have nothing to do with him.

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KENNETH WEBER, candidate for Attorney General of Michigan on SMITH's America First Party ticket last November, however, did attend MERTZ' home-coming party as did [REDACTED] a friend of SMITH. [REDACTED] subsequently reported to SMITH the details of what had taken place at the party and stated that nothing derogatory to SMITH had been said. b7c

A bulletin issued by SMITH recently concerning MERTZ stated in part as follows: "Mr. Mertz does not represent me and never has. In fact, I have very little knowledge of his background or his activities..... Pass the word along". A copy of this notice is being retained in the files of the Detroit Field Division.

SMITH has also expanded his program for the distribution of literature in recent weeks. Apparently his distribution is nation-wide since reports have come to the Detroit Field Division from various field divisions indicating receipt of monthly letters and other material from Utah, Buffalo, New York, Cleveland, Ohio, Chicago, Illinois, and from North Carolina. b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] b

A copy of the National Emergency Committee letter, the TYLER KENT letter and the article from the Jewish Sentinel is being sent to the Bureau as an enclosure with this report and a copy of the Jewish Sentinel article is being retained in the files of the Detroit Field Division.

In the February issue of his magazine "The Cross and the Flag" SMITH outlines the nationalist program in an article entitled "Zero Hour". In this article SMITH points out that nationalism, which had reached an all-time low in the late summer and early fall of 1944, is again in the ascendent as a result of old world diplomacy and power politics and that American soil is now fertile for nationalism as it had never been before. SMITH states in conclusion that "Nationalism is on the march! The opportunity of America First still lives!" Many of the items of editorial comment in the magazine are condemnatory. It is noted that he condemns in order the Atlantic Charter, Secret Diplomacy, Failure to state the United States' war aims, Roosevelt's Double Talk, British newspaper attacks upon United States, Rex Stout, International Bank and failure to court-martial General Short and Admiral Kimmel. He has words of praise for REYNOLDS, NYE, FISH, JOSEPH KAMP, whom he knows as a martyr, for Rev. CLYDE F. STARK, a preacher of Lincoln, Nebraska, who publishes a periodical called "Foundation Truth", the Dies Committee and CARL H. MOTE. In one comment he urges that all nationalists organize, not necessarily in the same organization, but that they all be united on the America First principle and that they organize according to their respective occupations or vocations, such as mothers, wives, veterans, workers and businessmen. A copy of the February issue of this magazine is being sent to the Bureau as an enclosure with this report.

SMITH has been in contact with many persons of nationalist sympathies in the past few weeks. Among these are ALLEN ZOLE, a former supporter of Father Charles E. Coughlin and head of the "American Patriots". [REDACTED] SMITH is contemplating the running of small classified ads of some sort in newspapers throughout the southeastern part of the United States. ZOLE has had some experience in newspaper and advertising work and he is apparently trying to make arrangements for these ads. [REDACTED] who learned of SMITH's contact with ZOLE, did not know of SMITH's purpose in running such ads. SMITH has also been in contact with CARL H. MOTE of Indiana. MOTE on one occasion during the latter part of January came to Detroit but SMITH was out of town at that time. According to [REDACTED] MOTE told SMITH's wife that he wanted SMITH's help in the publication of a booklet, Political Theologians and Theological Politicians. MOTE stated that Colonel McCORMICK b7c

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of the Chicago Tribune agreed with him that the Republican Party was dead and wrote him a letter to this effect, stating they might as well admit it and start a third party. NOTE also stated that when the Republican National Committee met in Indianapolis during the middle of January he was in continual conference with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The identity of these individuals, however, was unknown to [REDACTED]. NOTE indicated also that he had worked out some sort of agreement with these men which would be of interest to SMITH and that he would explain it to him shortly.

SMITH has also been in contact with [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] who is the leader of some sort of peace group. SMITH told GEORGE VOSE of Kalamazoo, Michigan, who was his candidate for governor of Michigan on the America First Party ticket last November that he was for him 100% and that VOSE should not believe any of the rumors of the scandal-mongers. He has also been in frequent contact with [REDACTED] an employee of the Ford Motor Company. He has been in communication with Reverend LAWRENCE KENNELLY, a Lutheran Minister of Detroit who is a recent graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and a close friend of Reverend WALTER MEYER of that institution. [REDACTED] is apparently the editor of a student newspaper at the seminary and spoke of his close connection with ELIZABETH DILLING and of the wonderful set of files which she had shown to him on his recent trip to Chicago.

According to [REDACTED] SMITH has also spoken in recent weeks to GEORGE FOSTER of Chicago and to [REDACTED] who is the subject of an investigation in the Detroit Field Division at the present time and who is now having a series of hearings before the Federal Trade Commission dealing with his alleged cancer cure. [REDACTED] is a close friend of SMITH and shares his nationalist views. According to informant, RALPH BAERMAN of Washington, in a conversation with [REDACTED] stated that he had noted the type of individuals attending [REDACTED] recent hearing in Washington and commented "You will find them everywhere". To this [REDACTED] replied, "Yes, you will find them some day hanging from the lamp posts", and BAERMAN stated, "I think so too - just so they don't get us first".

[REDACTED] was in contact with SMITH recently and suggested that SMITH contact Mrs. WINTERS. [REDACTED] it was learned that SMITH did contact her and made an effort to obtain a contribution from her to help finance his Washington activities.

BERNARD DOMAN, who was formerly SMITH's secretary and who left his employ in November to go to Texas for his health, has now returned to Detroit and is starting a mimeographing and letter business. He has been in contact with SMITH in an effort to obtain from SMITH some of the latter's mimeographing business.

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- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
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(DE #62-1126)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SMITH has received correspondence from various nationalists and important political figures, according to [REDACTED]. His recent correspondence has included letters from Congressman CLAIRE HOFFMAN, United States Senator GREEN of the Senate Committee on Campaign Expenditures, from Senator HOMER FERGUSON and Senator ARTHUR VANDENBURG. The letter from VANDENBURG began "My Dear Gerald" and thanks SMITH for his comment on VANDENBURG's recent speech. The letter ended with the words "Warm personal regards and best wishes". Senator FERGUSON in his letter told SMITH he was in favor of leaving the approval of treaties and the declaration of war in the hands of the United States Senate and also favored the two-thirds rule for confirmation of treaties. SMITH has also received mail from Senator ARTHUR CAPPER and from CLARK TRIMBLE of the House of Representatives.

In his correspondence with nationalists he has received mail from OSCAR SMITH, head of the Farmers Guild of Frankfort, Indiana, HARRY ROMER, candidate for Vice President of the United States on the America First

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Party ticket last November, [REDACTED] of Huntsville, Alabama, EARL SOUTHARD of Chicago, Reverend LAWRENCE NEILLY, [REDACTED] of Sterling, Kentucky, former Congressman PETTENCILL of New York, [REDACTED] Governor Building, Portland, Oregon, [REDACTED] of Minneapolis and [REDACTED] of Chicago. b7

[REDACTED] learned that the following names were on the list of donors to SMITH's organization: [REDACTED] PARKER SAGE, 1772 Holcomb: [REDACTED] b7

[REDACTED] stated they had learned that SMITH's collections received through the mail from his followers were as follows on the following dates: ↓

\$ 32.00	January 25
29.00	January 26
28.00	January 27
9.50	January 30
15.50	January 31
10.00	February 1
94.00	February 2
48.00	February 7
75.00	February 9
183.00	February 21
38.00	March 15

[REDACTED] stated that a [REDACTED] had been in Detroit to visit SMITH during the latter part of January, but Informant did not know the purpose of his visit. Informant also stated that DON LOHBECK, SMITH's former secretary who is at present in a conscientious objector camp in [REDACTED] was back in Detroit on a furlough during February and spent considerable time with SMITH during this period. However, Informant did not learn the nature of their conversations. b7

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ENCLOSURES

TO THE BUREAU

An admission card to hear GERALD L. K. SMITH at a rally under the auspices of the National Emergency Committee at Temple Hall, 338 South Marshfield, Chicago, Illinois, at which the subject would be "Liberty in the Balance".

Letter accompanying the above card on letterhead of the National Emergency Committee bearing heading "A Mobilization Of Nationalists For The Preservation Of American Sovereignty".

Letter on stationery of GERALD L. K. SMITH in which Subject announces publication of the Washington Letter, referring to it simply as "The Letter".

Subject's general letter to his followers for the month of February entitled "Courage Rewarded".

Subject's general letter to his followers for the month of March entitled "Liberty in the Balance".

Letter on letterhead of the National Emergency Committee sent by Subject to persons on his mailing list.

Excerpt from a letter written by TYLER KENT to his mother in Washington, D.C., on December 8, 1944.

Handbill entitled "The Sentinel".

February issue of SMITH's magazine "The Cross and the Flag".

- P E N D I N G -

(DE #62-1126)

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS SUBMITTED IN THIS
PARTICULAR CASE ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED
TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DETROIT FIELD DIVISION

At DETROIT, MICHIGAN, will maintain contact with confidential informants for the purpose of following further activities of the Subject.

A copy of this report is being sent to the Chicago Field Division for information purposes in view of the alleged agitation against SMITH in that city and also to the Washington Field Division in view of SMITH's expanded activities in Washington, D.C.

- P E N D I N G -

(DE #62-1126)

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

[REDACTED] Identical with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] whose identity is known
to the Bureau.

[REDACTED] Identical with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] whose identity is known
to the Bureau.

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19
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Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

April 9, 1945

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD L. K. SMITH
THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY
SECTION

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Enclosed for your further information in the captioned matter is a copy of the investigative report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on March 28, 1945, as well as photostatic copies of the enclosures listed on page 16 of this report.

b7c

This report, you will note, sets forth information to the effect that Smith is expanding his Washington activities at the present time and that with the assistance of Ralph Baerman and his wife, Madeline Baerman, he is attempting to maintain a Nationalist Lobby in Washington. Information is also set forth in this report that data is being collected for Smith's proposed, "Washington Letter" and for his "Nationalist News Service."

Smith's activities are being continually followed and as additional reports are received, they will be made available to you.

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DATE 10/17/82 BY SP8/BJH

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 13
★ APR - 9 1945 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
EPB:WMJ

TO : Mr. D. W. Ladd

FROM : J. C. Strickland

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH
THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY
FEDERAL CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT OF 1925

Attached is a copy of the column "Broadway" by Denton Walker, which appeared in the April 3, 1945, issue of the Washington Post. From this column there is quoted the following:

"The Department of Justice wants to make a test case out of the fact that the America First organization did not file a statement of campaign expenditures before January 1, as required by the corrupt practices act. (Didn't the America First organization officially dissolve just after Pearl Harbor?)".

Although it is not entirely clear whether Mr. Walker has reference to the America First Party or the America First Committee, it is believed he is referring to an investigation we are presently conducting on Gerald L. K. Smith and his America First Party for violation of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act of 1925. Smith's party is of recent origin and is not the America First Committee which, as Mr. Walker states, was dissolved shortly after Pearl Harbor. It is true, however, that many members of Smith's America First Party were also connected with the America First Committee.

Our investigation of Smith and his party for failure to file a statement of campaign expenditures before January 1, as required by the Corrupt Practices Act, was initiated on January 30, 1945, at the specific request of the Department and is continuing to receive attention at the present time. We have received no information indicating that the Department intends to make this a test case as stated by Mr. Walker. You will recall Smith and his associates have also been investigated by the Bureau for their so-called Nationalist activities during the past several years. Information developed in this investigation which is carried under the character, "Internal Security; Seditious," is also being furnished the Criminal Division of the Department. To date, the Criminal Division, while continuing to manifest an interest in Smith's activities, has not seen fit to authorize prosecution against him.

Attachment

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/2/82 BY SA [unclear]

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- Mr. Tolson _____
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Broadway

By DANTON WALKER

Broadway Underground 41771 A

WELLINGTON KOO, whose wife's too-revealing book about China was suppressed, may be appointed ambassador to the U. S. . . . Mohandas Gandhi is readying a final ultimatum to Great Britain, to be delivered this month . . . Our State Department will undergo a shakeup just after the San Francisco conference, maybe a little sooner . . . Within 90 days, all civilian travel between the East and West Coasts will be suspended, to make way for a flood of supplies to the Pacific area . . . The Department of Justice wants to make a test case out of the fact that the America First organization did not file a statement of campaign expenditures before January 1, as required by the COMBEE BRACKERS act. (Didn't the America First organization officially dissolve just after Pearl Harbor?) . . . The CIO has told Secretary of Labor Perkins to put in a CIO man as second assistant, to counterbalance Dan Tracy, AFL man, who is her first assistant.



Beatrice Lillie

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE WALLACE will encourage postwar travel, so foreign countries can have plenty of American dollars with which to buy our products . . . New York city will be getting plenty of two-dollar bills, which soldiers are receiving in their pay. Incidentally, whatever became of Mexico's requirement that all tourists change their money to two-dollar bills before being allowed over the border? . . . Miami Beach hotels are now buying space on the radio to keep their rooms filled . . . Bungalows you once rented at Long Beach for \$300 a season will cost you five times that amount this summer . . . There'll soon be stories about the shortage of ships preventing furloughs of soldiers from the Western Front after V-E Day . . . The black marketeers are going in for still another necessary commodity—salt . . . The Newspaper Guild ball this year will be called off because of the curfew.

HOLLYWOOD is alarmed to hear that J. Arthur Rank, the British movie mogul, plans to build a studio in Mexico (Rank is the man who has been signing up U. S. stars at fabulous figures) . . . A returning correspondent says Evelyn Knight's recording of "Dance With the Dolls" is to Paris of 1945 what "A Broken Doll" was to Paris in 1918 . . . Douglas Montgomery, formerly of Hollywood, has been borrowed from the Canadian Army to star in a London film for the R.A.F. . . . Nina Foch, of Columbia's "A Song to Remember," hears that the Nazi captain who ordered the murder of her grandfather (former speaker of the Dutch Parliament) has been captured and will be tried as a war criminal . . . While on our overseas with the USO, Irene Manning made a British film, "I Live in Grosvenor Square," with Dean Jagger and Anna Neagle— all about an American GI . . . George Chatterton writes Freddy Lamb that he is using his old Club 18 routines to entertain GI's with the Fifth Army in Italy.

WILLIAM J. NEAL is slated to become administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, the job that Aubrey Williams didn't get . . . Republican Senator Homer E. Capehart is offering his public relations man a fat bonus if he can persuade the public to stop referring to him as "the Juke-Box King" . . . A book on Government affairs recently completed by Secretary Ickes is being held up by two other Government agencies which don't want it published . . . The Lublin government and the Polish underground are conferring on how to reach an understanding about a new Polish government (the thing that may hold up the San Francisco conference) . . . An American woman is willing to spend ten or twelve million dollars to establish German-American schools in Germany, with the faculties divided 50-50 between American and German teachers, but she can't get to first base with the plan.

BEATRICE LILLIE is set for a Hollywood junket . . . Connie Talmadge suffered three broken ribs when she encountered the tail of a swordfish while swimming near Havana . . . Kate Smith will broadcast a series from Washington to boost the Seventh War Loan drive, starting May 7 . . . Marion MacPhail, Larry MacPhail's daughter, has been promoted to a head research job on Time Magazine . . . Crooner Larry Douglas, using an alias, will try out for the Dodgers at their Bear Mountain camp . . . Capt. Hartson Bodfish, last of the Martha's Vineyard whaling captains, is dead. It was Captain Bodfish who gave the Navy the necessary dope about South Pacific island harbors and landmarks when war broke out . . . Victor Borge, Danish concert and night club pianist (and former movie actor), will do propaganda broadcasts to his native land for the OWI . . . For the Department of Social Trends: Tommy Manville is reported occupying a room in his garage at Mon Repos.

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DATE 10/12/82 BY SP8 BTJ/huc

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