



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

GERALD L. K. SMITH

PART 8 OF 18

FILE NUMBER : 62-43818

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH

FILE: 62-43818

SUB: _____

VOL: 17

PAGES REVIEWED: 92

PAGES RELEASED: 57

NOTES: _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

FILE NO. **62-1194**

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.	DATE WHEN MADE 8-20-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8-3-43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] <i>b7c</i>
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, WAS The Committee of One Million		CHARACTER OF CASE CUSTODIAL DETENTION - G SEDITION	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Military Authorities, Lake Charles Army Air Base, Lake Charles, La., advised [REDACTED], 925th Air Base Security Battalion was transferred from Lake Charles on May 13, 1943, and it was presumed that he was destined for oversea duty. *b7c* immediate destination on leaving Lake Charles was Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, Calif.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 7, 1943, Charlotte, N.C. *b7c*

DETAILS: AT LAKE CHARLES, LA.

[REDACTED] Lake Charles Army Air Base, advised that [REDACTED], Army Serial Number [REDACTED] 925th Air Base Security Battalion, was transferred from Lake Charles May 13, 1943 and he presumed that [REDACTED] was being transferred for overseas duty. He stated upon leaving Lake Charles that [REDACTED] immediate destination was Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, Calif. *b7c b7d*

A review of the file of instant case at the New Orleans Field Division reveals that San Francisco Field Division has not received previous reports; therefore, a copy of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 6, 1943, Washington, D.C. is being forwarded to the San Francisco Field Division. *b7c*

Encl: to San Francisco: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED], dated May 6, 1943, at Washington, D.C. *b7c*

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>
DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Detroit (62-1126) 2 - San Francisco (encl) 2 - New Orleans COPIES DESTROYED	RECORDED & INDEXED 62-1194-317 25 AUG 25 1943 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10/5/82 BY [Signature]

77 SEP 3 1943
88 OCT 13 1964

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

SAN FRANCISCO FIELD DIVISION:

AT CAMP STONEMAN, PITTSBURG, CALIF. will
attempt to locate [REDACTED] US Serial Number
[REDACTED] 925th Air Base Security Bn., and ascertain whether or not
he has knowledge concerning the subject and his background. b7c

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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62-43818-318

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.
Post Office Box #2118
Detroit, Michigan
September 1, 1943

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 7/9/83 BY SP6BJA/ams
204,433

Director, FBI

RE: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
CUSTODIAL DETENTION
SEDITION

Hagitt

Dear Sir:

There is being set forth herein the substance of information secured from [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau. This information was received from Informant during the period from August 22, 1943 through August 30, 1943. b7D

[redacted] (Investigator at Ford Motor Company), talked with SMITH, advising that he had sent information to the Bank Building on the WARING woman. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. SMITH contacted PRICE stating that the material sent to the Bank had been sent out in care of [redacted] (Secretary to HARRY BENNETT). b7c

SMITH talked with a [redacted] Secretary to Congressman HOFFMAN and the latter advised SMITH that HOFFMAN had been very successful in his recent talks. SMITH stated that many people wanted HOFFMAN to speak in Buffalo and Pittsburgh. The Buffalo meeting, while definite date has not been set, will be about September 19, 1943.

On August 23, 1943, SMITH communicated with Mrs. KNOWLES, advising that he had a definite commitment from NYE for the 24th of September and he desired that she be on the Committee. At this particular meeting, Dr. MARION will be in charge.

Mrs. KNOWLES informed SMITH that she had just written a letter to J. Edgar Hoover in regard to the book, "Undercover," a party by the

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

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83 OCT 13 1964

43 SEP 1 1943

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INDEXED

62-43811-319

Letter to the Director
September 1, 1943

RE: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
CUSTODIAL DETENTION
SEDITION

name of PEGNALLY (phonetic) and WALTER WINCHELL, a copy of which letter is to be given to Mr. Bugas.

SMITH stated that he thought FERGUSON had made a mess of himself because of the Aleutian affair. SMITH stated that under no circumstances would he support any form of a world government. He told Mrs. KNOWLES of a recent meeting he attended at Cleveland, Ohio, in behalf of [REDACTED] and he took up a collection and kept it for his expenses, which met with the extreme disapproval of [REDACTED]. SMITH announced that he would go on the Michigan ballot if there was a swing toward WILLKIE as a result of the Mackinac Convention. b7-

A representative of Time magazine contacted SMITH'S office regarding a SMITH meeting which is proposed in Brooklyn, New York, and he was advised that the meeting had not yet been announced and it was highly confidential.

On August 25, 1943, Mrs. LUNDEEN talked with SMITH from Minneapolis, Minnesota. The SMITH meeting in Minneapolis is to be postponed until he returns from Salt Lake City and Denver, Colorado. Thereafter, he plans to hold conferences in Erie, Buffalo and possibly Philadelphia. SMITH told Mrs. LUNDEEN that the NYE'S were in Detroit and that they had some good conferences but "that stuff is slow."

Captain EARL SOUTHARD communicated with SMITH on August 26, 1943 from Chicago. SMITH told him that he was sending a list of names in order that SOUTHARD could weed out those who should not be invited to the Chicago meeting. SOUTHARD stated that a man by the name of DINEEN would also speak at this meeting. SOUTHARD brought out that there was a woman by the name of Dr. DUNCAN, who is connected with "a Jewish outfit" and is a friend of Father BROPHY who is very much against SMITH and he should beware of her.

R. T. Ross, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Detroit Field Division, was contacted by SMITH, the latter advising that publicity of radio and press were linking him with the DINEEN spy case as a result of pressure from the CIVIL RIGHTS FEDERATION and that these statements were libelous. SMITH brought out that he was available to the FBI at any time.

Letter to the Director
September 1, 1943

RE: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
CUSTODIAL DETENTION
SEDITION

DOMAN communicated with a [REDACTED] and informed him that they were not only going to bring a suit against the "Free Press" but were going to sue all Stations at one time. SMITH immediately got in touch with the "Detroit Times" and told them that he had just filed suit against the WXYZ Radio Station over the WINCHELL program which it carried. b7c

On August 27, 1943, SMITH got in touch with Mrs. LUNDEEN and requested that she secure a room for him under the name of Captain EARL SOUTHARD at the Nicolet Hotel (phonetic). Informant reported on August 30, 1943 that SMITH had made reservations to Denver, Colorado, rather than Salt Lake City, Utah, due to change of plans.

He later got in touch with a party by the name of GEORGE, the latter informing SMITH that there were 3500 delegates at the Cleveland Convention and they were on the verge of asking SMITH to speak. GEORGE informed SMITH that he talked with a newspaper man who was opposed to him, but he advised that he had made an investigation of the stories about SMITH and found none of them to be true. The newspaper man told GEORGE that SMITH was the smartest man in the United States and covers up very well or else he is innocent.

Very truly yours,

John S. Bugas
JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC X.

[REDACTED] b7c
62-1126

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Detroit, Michigan
August 26, 1943

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Acers	.....
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
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2018

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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Director, FBI DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION
(Bureau File 62-43818)

Haystack

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 18, 1943 requesting copies of that portion of the log pertaining to information secured from [redacted] as contained in letter to you dated August 12, 1943 in the above-entitled matter.

b7c

[redacted] advised that SMITH communicated with [redacted] (personal secretary to HENRY FORD) August 9, 1943 at 7:50 p.m. and the following conversation transpired:

b7c

SMITH: "Say, I was talking where I could hardly talk to you....that it wasn't a good place to talk....I was downtown when I talked to you the last time. You didn't contact Mr. BENNETT himself did you?"

[redacted] "No, he is away."

SMITH: "Well, I had Mrs. SMITH call the house out there and his wife said that he wasn't at the house but he was in town, that he had called you and would be a little late. He had a hard day at the office."

b7c

DEFERRED RECORDING

[redacted] "Is that so. Well, they told me he wasn't there."

SMITH: "She said he had a hard day....at the office, see, and so I didn't know, maybe, of course, maybe he had a hard day out of town. Maybe I just got in on something. But I talked in line what I discussed with you this afternoon. Might be well for you to know just what he had done, don't you see. But Mrs. SMITH says she didn't say at the office that he had an awful hard day and maybe I just got in on something. But with me I wasn't in the mood to press it, but I know, absolutely know, that when Mrs. LUNDEEN talked to him he said, "Well, any time, I will be gone a week and

62-43818

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Letter to Director
August 26, 1943

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

arrange for him to come here any time after the week and it will be alright." So I....he's coming all the way out here from North Dakota on that account. I guess it looks like....I mean it, a first class embarrassment, but still I think probably that maybe we can, you and I, work a way out of it, but I want....you know he is out there where there is tall grass and it is pretty hard for a man to carry on without some help and we are trying to get it together for him here and there over the country because he has fought such a hard battle on our side of the fight. Well, what would you advise me to do now? What steps did you think I should take from there on?"

[REDACTED]: "I would suggest that you let this office know tomorrow that he is here."

SMITH: "Yes!"

[REDACTED]: "I don't know if I could get ahold of BENNETT or he was probably trying to sidestep me. Why, I could talk and tell you definitely."

SMITH: "Yes, I know what your problem is too. You understand and that's the reason why I hesitated to ask you to do anything about it because he has a lot of peculiar ideas about his things and so I didn't want to inspire any reactions that were unnecessary, don't you see. I am ashamed to have the world and my friends outside think that there is anything like that exists because Mr. FORD and everybody else out there enjoys such a fine reputation all over the country that they couldn't imagine that appointments were handled that way. Don't you see? So I'll tell you what I'll do, I'll contact that office in the morning and then I'll be in touch with you and we'll see what we could do to get him in and out of town without anything unpleasant happening or suffering any unpleasant embarrassment, you see, and he is an awful good friend of the Colonel's too, you know, and I want him to make that contact, that's why I sent (interrupted by [REDACTED])."

[REDACTED]: "Did you ever find that he got his letter?"

SMITH: "I never got any response or anything. I'll tell you, you know, its amazing, these people....those of us who maintain, who keep

Letter to Director
August 26, 1943

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

up the fighting forces in this country, we go ahead and work in a furrow, you know, and if I handled my appointments and mail that way, what I am doing would fall apart pretty quick."

[REDACTED] "Oh, yes, sure!"

SMITH: "He would have somebody else around him looking after things more conscientiously. Well, I'll be in touch with you in the morning, [REDACTED]"

[REDACTED] ^{b2D} further advised that SMITH communicated with [REDACTED] and the Ford Motor Company on August 10, 1943 at 6:00 p.m. and the following conversation transpired:

SMITH: "Surely appreciate the courteous way you received our distinguished friend today. Senator NYE was very appreciative of the consideration shown him when he was at the Ford Motor Company. You know, there are only four or five of him...his kind in the country today. I was embarrassed over that other situation."

[REDACTED] "Yes, I suppose so."

SMITH: "Mrs. SMITH called up there, up to the last minute, and this fellow that's in the outer office there, you know, he said, "Well, Mrs. SMITH reminded him that she wanted him to know that there was nothing concerning anything that we were interested in other than just the welfare of our country and he said, "Well, it is no favor, thus, we are not particularly interested." And you know Mrs. LUNDEEN was out there and had a two-hour visit with that fellow and you would have thought that after going to such lengths that he would have at least proposed or implored that he stay over, which he couldn't have done. But there at least could have been a gesture, don't you see."

[REDACTED] "Well, its too bad. Has he left yet?"

SMITH: "Yes, he went on the 4:45. We put him right on a train. He has to get out to investigate the Public Lands business."

Letter to Director
August 26, 1943

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

b7c

[REDACTED] "No, I didn't say anything about that."

SMITH: "No, he is on a special committee and has to go way out to Idaho. ROCKEFELLERS had given several acres of land to the government and they have to make a report on it, of course, the state is making a big kick because it takes it right off the tax rolls and so they have got to report back and he has to be out there."

It would, therefore, appear on the basis of supplemental information submitted by [REDACTED] that Senator NYK visited the Ford Motor Company on August 10, 1943.

b7d

Very truly yours,

John S. Bugas.
JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC

[REDACTED] b7c
62-1126

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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b7D
The Cross and the Flag

August - 1943

Dear Subscriber:

On page 2 of the July issue of THE CROSS AND THE FLAG is a sensational article entitled THE BIBLE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST. This article has created furor. The enemies of Christ and America even tried to prevent me from putting the article into print. Many people, including preachers, are asking for reprints of this one article. A million copies should be distributed.

If you desire to pass this truth along by distributing extra copies of this article, I will send you reprints at the following rates:

- 100 copies - \$1.00
- 200 copies - \$2.00
- 300 copies - \$3.00
- 400 copies -- \$4.00
- 500 copies -- \$5.00
- 1000 copies - \$10.00

This, as you see, is very reasonable and we are reprinting them at this low rate in order that all our friends may be able to distribute everywhere.

Here is how you can get 100 copies of this sensational article free

Subscribe for THE CROSS AND THE FLAG for a friend, which is \$2.00 per year. and I will send you 100 copies of the article entitled THE BIBLE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST.

Send in a subscription for a friend for six months at \$1.00, and I will mail you 50 copies of the article entitled THE BIBLE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST free.

Use the attached coupon to express your wishes.

Sincerely yours for God and Country

Gerald L. K. Smith
GERALD L. K. SMITH

Tear Off Here

THE CROSS AND THE FLAG
Gerald L. K. Smith, Editor
Post Office Box 459
Detroit, 31, Michigan

I am anxious to have extra copies for distribution of the sensational article entitled THE BIBLE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST. The check mark below indicates my desires.

- Enclosed find \$ _____ . Please send me _____ hundred copies.
- I am enclosing herewith \$1.00 to pay for a subscription for 6 months for THE CROSS AND THE FLAG for the following person.

Name _____ Address _____
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(This entitles me to 50 free copies of the article THE BIBLE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST)

- I enclose herewith \$2.00 to pay for a one year subscription for the following person:

Name _____ Address _____
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(This entitles me to 100 free copies of the article THE BIBLE OF THE ANTI-CHRIST)

INDEXED 162-1438
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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Detroit, Michigan
August 24, 1943

Director, FBI

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Acers	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Starke	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
File	.....

H. J. [Signature]

Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases
COMMITTEE OF 1,000,000
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
CUSTODIAL DETENTION
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

There is being set forth below the substance of information received from [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau. This information was received from Informant during the period from August 11, 1943 through August 21, 1943. b7c

Informant stated he had received information to the effect that SMITH had been contacted recently by a girl giving the name of [redacted] and at that time this individual stated that she was a member of SMITH'S organization in New York City and attempted to elicit information from SMITH relative to future activities. SMITH advised Informant that it was his opinion that this individual was employed as an informant for the ANTI-NAZI LEAGUE in New York City, and for that reason he did not intend to give her any information of value. b7c

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

Informant stated further that he had received information to the effect that SMITH was actually taking steps to institute a libel proceeding seeking \$100,000.00 in damages from WALTER WINCHELL for an alleged libelous remark made by WINCHELL concerning SMITH'S trampling upon the American flag.

Informant stated that he had received information to the effect that SMITH was apparently encountering difficulty in Buffalo, New York and in Toledo, Ohio securing appropriate reservations for the meetings which he was supposed to have in those particular cities on August 16 and 17. Informant stated that it was quite possible that reservations which had previously been obtained by SMITH had been cancelled. Informant stated further that in view of the fact that SMITH had been out of the city for the greater part of a week conducting meetings in other cities, he would not be able to secure a great deal of information concerning SMITH'S activities other than that noted above.

Very truly yours,

John S. Bugas
JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC

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b7c
62-11334-1015/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc
Op. 7 1 SEP 10 1943

Enclosed with [unclear]

JFHa:WMLJ

Date: 62-43818
September 16, 1943
To: SAC, New York

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: GERALD L. K. SMITH, was
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION
SECURITY MATTER
SEDITION

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of July 5, 1943, requesting your office to institute immediate inquiries for the purpose of determining whether [redacted] is identical with [redacted]. You will recall that this investigation is predicated on a Departmental request and that both of these names were mentioned in the portion of the Department's memorandum quoted in reference letter.

Please afford this investigation as well as the other leads outstanding in your district in connection with this matter immediate investigative attention.

cc - Detroit

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DATE 10/5/02 BY SP-8 BTJ/MCA

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 5
★ SEP 17 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 18 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Olson _____
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- Glavin _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Tracy _____
- Harbo _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Rm. _____
- Holloman _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

Wray F
28 SEP 20 1943

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **100-5778**

REPORT MADE AT PITTSBURGH, PA.	DATE WHEN MADE 9/8/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/17/43	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div> b7c
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases; THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SMITH spoke to crowd of approximately 900 persons at meeting at Pittsburgh, Pa. 8/17/43 under sponsorship of Defenders of George Washington's Principles, held at Carnegie Lecture Hall, North Side, Pittsburgh. Captain EARL SOUTHARD scheduled to appear on program but did not appear. SMITH denounced Communists, New Dealers, the British and bureaucrats in U. S. Government; criticized lend lease program and present financial relations between U. S. and England; denounced post world war government and pledged America First Party to nominate candidate in 1944 election if Roosevelt, Wilkie or men of their type should be nominated by major political parties.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/PL**

REFERENCE:

Letter from Detroit dated 8/11/43

DETAILS:

On Tuesday, August 17, 1943, GERALD L. K. SMITH spoke before a gathering of approximately 900 persons at the North Side Carnegie Lecture Hall, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The meeting was under the sponsorship of the Defenders of George Washington's Principles.

Circulars advertising the meeting, together with tickets thereto were mailed to various persons in the city of Pittsburgh several days prior to August 17, 1943. These mimeographed circulars, as well as the tickets, announced that GERALD L. K. SMITH, Director of the America First Party, and Captain EARL SOUTHARD, "one of the top-notch leaders of the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization, a student of international conspiracies being attempted now against American

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *H.K. Johnson* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

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31 SEP 18 1943

RECORDED & INDEXED

15 SEP 25 1943

FILE
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Pgh. Field Division
100-5778

sovereignty, lecturer for the America First Party, one of the leaders in the Republican National Revival Committee, a movement to prevent Willkie from seizing the Republican Party, and a personal friend of Colonel Lindbergh", would be the speakers at this meeting. The circular, which bore the mimeographed signature of SMITH, also contained the following message: "I do not need to tell you that I will have something to say. I will discuss the Detroit race riots and give you the low-down on how the Communists tried to use innocent negroes and innocent whites to carry out their Red flag aims. The people in Pittsburgh should be warned of the fact that the Communists right now are attempting to agitate a similar uprising in Pittsburgh.

Since I was in Pittsburgh the last time, I have been in Washington, D. C., for a lengthy visit with many of our good friends in Congress. I will give you the low-down on Washington at the Pittsburgh meeting."

The topic of SOUTHARD'S address was announced in this literature as "The Conspiracy Against Our Sovereignty", and SMITH'S topic was announced as "America, Today and Tomorrow". At the bottom of this mimeographed circular was a notation that additional invitations might be obtained from Mrs. MARIE LOHLE at Jackson 0601.

The meeting at North Side Carnegie Lecture Hall was attended by Special Agents ALEXANDER GANSKY and MYER A. LEWIS of the Pittsburgh Office.

At the entrance to the lecture hall various circulars and handbills were distributed to those attending. One of these entitled "The Anti-American Conspiracy" was a reprint of an article from the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania of July 19, 1943, a story denouncing the idea of an international federation after the present war, stating that the "designs of the New Deal internationalists of the Wallace-Willkie-Hopkins-Frankfurter-Laski-Cripps stripe is something entirely different. Their blueprints for internationalism would make the U. S. A. a part of an INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION." This particular circular contains a statement to the effect that it is printed and distributed by the Defenders of George Washington's Principles and sets forth the names of the following officers of that organization: CHARLES A. MADDEN, President; Dr. W. T. BROWN, Vice President; Mrs. MARIE I. LOHLE, Secretary and Mrs. H. M. SWANSON, Treasurer. The address of the organization is given as Post Office Box 227, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Prior to the opening of the meeting, SMITH and MADDEN were seen going about the hall greeting various persons in attendance. The audience was made up principally of middle class working people and it was noted that a great number of persons in attendance were elderly men and women.

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The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:40 P. M. by Mrs. LOHLE. Seated on the speakers' platform were Mrs. LOHLE, MADDEN, Dr. W. T. BROWN and SMITH. Prominently displayed on the platform were two large American flags. The meeting was opened with an invocation by Father Aloysius, a Greek priest of a church located in Emsworth, Pennsylvania. This was followed by a pledge of allegiance to the flag and the singing of one verse of the Star Spangled Banner.

SMITH then welcomed the crowd with the following:
"As time goes on more people come out of their shells. We have to fight bureaucrats down in Washington. We will defeat the Fourth Term and drive the New Dealers out of Washington." He then announced SOUTHARD'S absence due to circumstances beyond his control, stating that SOUTHARD would be present at some future meeting and read a letter from SOUTHARD expressing his regret and warning that the United States must keep out of entangling alliances with foreign nations after the war.

As a substitute for Captain SOUTHARD, SMITH presented MADDEN, praising his feat of memory in reciting the whole Declaration of Independence at a Detroit meeting, and then MADDEN recited Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech, concluding with remarks attacking the Communists and warning that the United States must avoid entangling alliances in the post war peace. His final remark was: "When our boys come back from the battlefield, let us send the Reds back on the return boats."

SMITH began his address by attacking Hollywood and the motion picture industry, stating that present day motion pictures were the ruination of the youth of this country. He dwelt at length on CHARLIE CHAPLIN, stating that he was a "Rat, a Communist and not even a citizen of the United States." He said that in 1922, before J. EDGAR HOOVER became Director of the FBI, a raid was conducted by the FBI on a Communist hideout and meeting place in the Michigan woods, and that among the records of the Communist Party found buried beneath the ground in barrels was a list of the contributors to the Communist Party cause in this country. He stated that the name of CHARLIE CHAPLIN was right up at the top of this list.

At this point SMITH stopped his address and requested all of those persons in the audience taking notes to either present their press cards or to make known the name of the person or organization which had sent them to take notes on this speech. Several persons, chiefly newspaper representatives, identified themselves but several others in the audience refused to state their identity. When two men seated in the balcony who were taking notes refused to announce who had sent them and continued to take notes after SMITH had told them to put their notebooks away, SMITH called for volunteers to force ejection. At this

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point five or six uniformed policemen walked to the balcony and stood close to where these men were seated. SMITH then demanded that the officers escort these two men out of the lecture hall. When the officers merely continued to stand in the balcony without making any response, SMITH attempted to pass the incident off by stating, "I thought that these two persons might attempt to start some trouble but now that I see that we have police protection and order will be maintained, we will go ahead." (Subsequent to the meeting, Special Agent [redacted] of the Pittsburgh Office contacted [redacted] of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, who stated that he was one of the persons taking notes at the SMITH meeting and that the other man in the balcony was [redacted] also of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, and that they were retaining the shorthand notes made at the meeting, but that they did not intend to transcribe the same.) b7c

SMITH then continued to speak denouncing the Communists, New Dealers, the bureaucrats and the British. He told how on the preceding day in Buffalo, New York he had been denied the right to speak in two halls which previously had been reserved for him by persons in Buffalo, and how he had been forced to hold his meetings at a hotel after the halls had been cancelled. He then declared, "I am not going to name the interests that were influential enough to cancel the hall, but they are doing the wrong thing. I have no desire to harm the Jews, but for goodness sake tell them to quit persecuting us." He then referred to the effort of certain persons in Pittsburgh to halt his appearances in Pittsburgh without success. He did not mention any names in this connection.

SMITH denounced WALTER WINCHELL, stating that he had caused a great deal of embarrassment and humiliation to him and to his son who is in the United States Army by misrepresenting the facts in connection with a certain incident in Buffalo, New York when SMITH had stepped upon and spit upon a flag. He stated that a Buffalo newspaper had erroneously published an article following the incident in which it was stated that the flag was an American flag, where in fact, it was a flag composed of parts of the flags of various European nations as well as ours and was known as the "Union Now" flag. He stated that if the United States joined with Europe in the post war protection of the whole world, we would be living under such a flag and that the only flag he gave his allegiance to was the American flag which he pointed to on the rostrum. He stated that he was going to make WINCHELL and the various leaders who misrepresented the facts with reference to the flag pay dearly for their mistake. SMITH stated that he had been forced to take a great deal of abuses from the bureaucrats in Washington and that there was nothing he could do but continue to take such abuses until the war was won, because the winning of the war was a thing that all persons should be primarily interested in. However, he stated that after the war was won, the bureaucrats would hear from him.

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He criticized the lend lease program and our present financial relations with England, stating that England was not keeping any account of the amount of money she was borrowing from the United States, and certain of our representatives in this country had gone so far as to suggest that no account should ever be made of our advances to England during the present war.

He dwelt at length upon the subject of world government after the war, stating that if such a plan were attempted we would owe allegiance not to the United States but some government of nations and that the United States would have no more voice in its own government than a state has in the government of the United States at the present time.

SMITH criticized the nation's rationing program and assailed Senate Bill #666 on man power conscription, again terming it the "Gestapo Bill", claiming that it was an effort to regiment the entire population and deprive the people of their constitutional rights.

SMITH stated that President Roosevelt should get down to the business of winning the war and forget about his political ambition for a fourth term. He stated that if in the 1944 elections such men as Roosevelt and Willkie were nominated by the major political parties in this country, the America First Party, the real Americans, would nominate a real candidate and save this country. He referred repeatedly to Father Coughlin and Huey Long, praising Coughlin and stating that at some future time he wanted to tell this audience the real story behind the murder of Long.

On more than one occasion during his speech SMITH stated that BURTON K. WHEELER and Senator NYE were the kind of men who should assume leadership in this country instead of New Deal candidates. He asked for a show of hands from the audience to see how many persons would like to have Congressman CLARE HOFFMAN address one of the meetings of the Defenders of George Washington's Principles, and when almost the entire audience signified a desire to have HOFFMAN speak, SMITH said that an effort would be made to have him attend one of the meetings to be held in the near future.

SMITH at this point mentioned the matter of traveling expenses for himself and his wife and passed out envelopes so that the persons present could make contributions to his expenses. These envelopes bore the heading "America First Party", and also had printed upon them a pledge for a subscription of a certain amount each month which SMITH asked the persons in the audience to fill out.

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He also encouraged persons present to subscribe to his magazine, "The Cross and the Flag", exhibiting a copy, which he stated contained an enlightening article by himself with reference to the Detroit race riots and recommended that the back cover of the magazine containing Father CURRAN'S sermon celebrating the 27th anniversary of CURRAN'S ordination be framed. He next read a review of the "Bible of the Anti-Christ" which appeared on the inside cover of the copy of "The Cross and the Flag" which he had in his hand.

The meeting was concluded with the recitation of the Lord's Prayer by the audience at approximately 11:00 P. M.

It was noted that although the literature distributed prior to the time of the meeting stated that the race riots would be discussed, SMITH made no mention of the matter other than to state that his magazine, "The Cross and the Flag" contains an article with reference to it.

Copies of the various circulars distributed prior to the meeting advertising the same and at the meeting are being retained in the files of the Pittsburgh Field Division.

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
 Detroit, Michigan
 September 18, 1943

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Acers	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Starke	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
Files	.....

DIRECTOR, FBI

②
 Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases
 AMERICA FIRST PARTY
 INTERNAL SECURITY - G
 SEDITION

Happathly

Dear Sir:

There is being set forth herein the substance of information obtained from [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau. This information was received from Informant during the period from September 8, 1943 through September 17, 1943. b7d

SMITH advised JERRY of the United Press that as director of the America First Party he was leaving on a western tour in order to give speeches and hold conferences with the leaders; the speeches will include a talk at Chicago, Illinois on September 8, 1943 to two hundred Illinois leaders, two hundred and fifty leaders in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 10, 1943 after which he will proceed to Denver, Colorado where HARVEY SPRINGER will preside over a meeting of three thousand which SMITH will address.

~~DEFERRED REPLYING~~

Informant stated that on September 11, 1943 SMITH, from Minneapolis, got in touch with DOMAN who advised SMITH that a letter had come in from Senator NYE saying that he would not be able to make the Detroit meeting. SMITH told DOMAN to stop the publicity but not to cancel the meeting as they would get someone else, such as MRS. LUNDEEN or CLAIRE HOFFMAN. SMITH also told DOMAN that NYE was having a lot of trouble in North Dakota at this time and could not afford to leave. me

On September 15, 1943, according to informant, DOMAN told PAUL that there would be a meeting at the Crystal Room of the Book Cadillac Hotel, Friday night, September 17, 1943. He later told a [redacted] (phonetic) that SMITH is going to file suit against all radio stations on the hookup which carried the WALTER WINCHELL speech. T
b7c



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Letter to the Director
September 18, 1943

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, was
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SEDITION

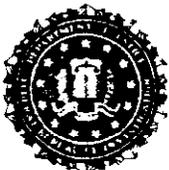
commented that every "Red" in this country should be lined up and shot. She also added that she could not understand why such men as KAY KYSER and MICKEY ROONEY were not in the Army.

A [REDACTED] of Chicago made inquiry to determine where SMITH was presently speaking; [REDACTED] advised that on that day, September 14, 1943, he was addressing a large group in Denver, Colorado, however, he would return to Detroit, Michigan, on September 17, 1943. b7c

Very truly yours,

John S. Bugas
JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC

[REDACTED] b7c
62-1126



Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. E. A. Tamm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Clegg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Coffey	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Glavin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Ladd	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tracy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Carson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Harbo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Hendon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. McGuire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mumford	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Piper	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Quinn Tamm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nease	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Beahm	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

July 1944 **ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Gerald L. K. Smith, The
Committee of One Million;
Internal Security - Sedition

You will recall that both the President and the Attorney General have in recent weeks evidenced a continuing interest in this case.

On March 25, 1943 the President addressed a memorandum to you requesting information concerning the subject's background and the nature of any investigation conducted as to Smith. In reply to this, on March 31, 1943, Mr. McIntyre was furnished with a detailed memorandum concerning Smith's background and current activities. In a cover letter it was pointed out to Mr. McIntyre that although Smith has been under careful investigation for more than a year and all of his speeches and writings, as well as his activities, have been covered during this period, the Department on consideration of the evidence developed has stated that this individual's activities to date do not appear to warrant prosecution under any Federal statute. Mr. McIntyre was further informed that the case would continue to receive vigorous investigative attention and that all information developed would be appropriately furnished to the Department for an opinion as to possible prosecutive action. For your information a copy of the summary memorandum furnished Mr. McIntyre, which is fully reflective of Smith's activities to March 31, 1943 and is representative of activity engaged in by Smith since that date, is attached.

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D.W.K.

Subsequently, on May 28 last, the Attorney General addressed a memorandum to the Bureau stating that he had received a telephone call from the President on the previous day concerning Smith and [redacted] who, you will recall, is the subject of another very active sedition investigation. The President was apparently interested in the status of these two investigations in the Department and particularly requested information as to [redacted]. Pursuant to the Attorney General's request, detailed memoranda concerning both cases were immediately forwarded to the Attorney General and, of course, he was advised that Mr. Rowe's office, which at the time was handling the Smith case, and the Criminal Division, handling the [redacted] case, had indicated that the activities of these subjects are not sufficient to justify prosecution. (A separate memorandum concerning the status of the [redacted] case has been prepared for you under today's date.)



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Later, on June 24 last, the Attorney General telephonically contacted Mr. E. A. Tamm, advising that the President had again communicated with him requesting that these cases be given close attention, with the view of early instituting any prosecutive action possible under existent statutes. The Attorney General stated he thought it would be helpful to arrange a conference between the attorney in the Criminal Division handling these cases, and the Bureau supervisor intimately acquainted with the investigations. He indicated he felt that as a result of such a conference the Criminal Division could perhaps become more accurately acquainted with factual data and would be in a better position to analyze the cases and perhaps to make further requests of the Bureau for additional investigation.

Pursuant to this request, the conference was held on June 26 last between Mr. James McInerney, Chief of the National Defense Unit of the Criminal Division, and the Bureau supervisor handling these cases. With reference to the Smith case, Mr. McInerney pointed out that the Criminal Division was not conversant with all of the late developments, inasmuch as until recently the case has been followed in the Department by an attorney assigned to Mr. Rowe's office. He therefore requested detailed information concerning investigation carried out during the last eight or nine months. In view of the ramifications of the case, the discussion with reference to factual data resolved itself around the three principal phases of the investigation: the sedition phase, the Federal Corrupt Practices Act angle, and the phase involving a possible violation by Smith of the National Speed Regulation.

Concerning the sedition phase, Mr. McInerney was informed in detail of Smith's speech-making activities and his publication efforts in connection with his magazine, "The Cross and the Flag." It was pointed out that Smith has been primarily concerned with attributing "dictatorial trends" to the Government and has frequently charged the Government with conspiring with Great Britain and other countries in an effort to set up a "super world state" after the war. These have been his most frequent themes and have been repeated numerous times during the course of Smith's many public speeches in connection with his "America First Party", the principal tenet of which is the "guarding of America against the dictatorial trends and Bureaucracy of the present administration." It was pointed out to Mr. McInerney that since the first of the year all of Smith's public speeches have been covered and that the reports on this investigation, as well as copies of all his publications, have been sent to Mr. Rowe. Mr. McInerney stated that he would secure these reports and carefully review them, and expressed the opinion that Smith appears to be well advised as to how far he can go under the Sedition Statutes and has

Memorandum for the Director

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apparently avoided making any actionable statements, either oral or written. In this connection it will be recalled that in all of his statements, both written and oral, Smith has always been careful to profess loyalty to the war effort and has even exhorted his followers to cooperate "in every way" with the war effort. Mr. McInerney further observed that the Bureau's investigation has been very adequate and quite exhaustive, pointing out that the only logical way of proving a sedition case is by covering the subject's statements and writings.

With regard to the Federal Corrupt Practices Act phase of the case, you will recall that several months ago the Special War Policies Unit of the Department requested that Smith's activities in connection with his candidacy last summer for United States Senator be investigated. The Special War Policies Unit particularly requested that the statements filed by Smith, showing his contributors, with the local Election Commission be secured and that it be otherwise determined whether Smith has complied with the provisions of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act and the Michigan General Election Law in connection with his campaign. All of this data has been secured and sent to the Department, but in this regard Mr. McInerney stated that he was not familiar with this angle of the case, inasmuch as this particular matter has been under the purview of the Special War Policies Unit. When the Bureau supervisor pointed out that in one of his statements Smith has refused to identify the source of a \$1,500 contribution as required by the Michigan General Election Law (which according to the Special War Policies Unit may have significance under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act), Mr. McInerney expressed considerable interest and stated he would take up this phase of the investigation with the Special War Policies Unit. He indicated that this phase of the case would probably be handled by the Criminal Division in the future and if it appears that Smith's omission amounts to a violation of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, the Bureau will probably be requested to conduct further investigation concerning this phase of the case.

Concerning the possible violation of the National Speed Regulation by Smith, it will be recalled that in October, 1942 Smith openly boasted that a short time previously he had wilfully and purposely violated the 35-mile-per-hour speed regulation by motoring from Pontiac to Detroit at varying speeds approaching 60 miles-per-hour on certain occasions. Smith made this boast while attacking OPA regulations as "bureaucratic and dictatorial" and stated that he had taken this action to show that "bureaucratic regulations" could not be imposed on American people. Pertinent information concerning Smith's use of excessive speed, as well as his public statements

Memorandum for the Director

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in connection therewith, was at the time the information was developed referred to the Criminal Division, which advised that no Federal violation had been incurred, inasmuch as at the time of Smith's trip no Federal statute enforcing the speed regulation was in effect. During the conference, Mr. McInerney referred to this angle of the case by stating that although the Criminal Division had recently reexamined it, the conclusion was again reached that no action could be taken against Smith either for his speeding or for his public statements in connection with the incident.

Mr. McInerney further pointed out that according to information he has received the Treasury Department has recently completed its investigation of Smith's financial activities. You will recall that this investigation was requested by the Attorney General and was conducted primarily for the purpose of determining whether Smith has made false income tax returns. According to information received, both by the Bureau and the Department, the Treasury Department's investigation has failed to show any irregularities. However, Mr. McInerney stated that as soon as the Treasury Department makes its report available to the Department it is possible that the Bureau may be asked to make some additional inquiries if it appears that any of Smith's contributions may have emanated from Axis-inspired or influenced individuals or organizations. In this regard he commented that although the evidence developed to date does not suggest that Smith has been under the guidance of foreign sources, and it is not contemplated to proceed against him under the theory of the Registration Acts, it would be helpful on the question of intent in any sedition prosecution to show a relationship between Smith's background and German sponsorship or sympathetic forces.

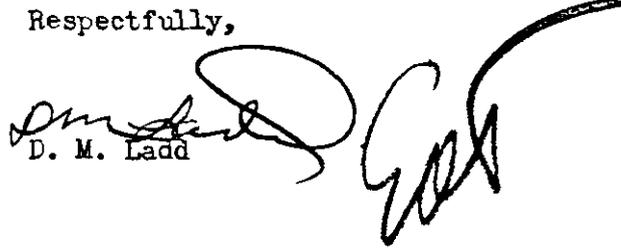
It is of interest to note that at the conclusion of the conference, Mr. McInerney stated that he intended to write a memorandum for the Attorney General concerning the Smith case, pointing out that although the Bureau has devoted the case exhaustive attention, nothing has been developed to date on which prosecutive action against Smith can be successfully predicated at this time. He stated that in his memorandum he would inform the Attorney General that the case will continue to receive close attention by the Criminal Division, and in this connection he commented that as soon as he is able to adequately review his file, further requests will be made of the Bureau for additional investigation. He was, of course, informed that the Bureau will be glad to receive these requests and that they will be given immediate investigative attention as soon as they are received in memorandum form. Yesterday a memorandum of this type was received from the Criminal Division, requesting inquiries concerning a possible associate of Smith's in the New York area. This request is being covered and, of course, the case will in the future continue to receive the careful and continuous attention which has been devoted to it during recent months.

Memorandum for the Director

- 5 -

It is of interest to note that a certain segment of the public press, particularly the newspapers PM and the Daily Worker, as well as other special interests, have recently sought to convey the impression that Smith, the Ku Klux Klan, and other allegedly Fascist individuals and organizations, fomented the recent race riot in Detroit. The Bureau's investigation of Smith, as well as its technical surveillance, fails to show that there are any grounds whatsoever for this allegation. On the contrary, Smith seems to have been somewhat concerned about the race riot and through the service of a highly confidential source it was learned that on June 25 last he contacted Senator Reynolds in Washington, requesting the latter to cause Congressman Dies to investigate the riot. Smith indicated that he believed the Communists in the Detroit area were primarily responsible. In this connection it was further learned from this same source that Smith intended to come to Washington on July 1, 1943 for the purpose of conferring with the Dies Committee and Senator Reynolds, apparently with reference to this matter. This data was, of course, furnished to the Attorney General and the Criminal Division, but no request has been received for further inquiry in connection with Smith's interest in the race riot situation.

Respectfully,


D. M. Ladd

Enclosure

GERALD L. K. SMITH

PERSONAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith, better known as Gerald L. K. Smith, was born during February, 1898, at Pardeeville, Wisconsin. He attended Butler Seminary at Indianapolis, Indiana, and later was graduated from Valparaiso University (Indiana) where he pursued a course in theology. Smith's antecedents and early life were in no way unusual and are of no particular interest.

After leaving college, Smith took up active duty as a minister and successively held pastorates at Footville, Wisconsin, at the Seventh Street Christian Church of Indianapolis and at the King's Highway Church of Shreveport, Louisiana.

Prior to assuming his ministerial duties at Shreveport, Smith's activities were rather conservative and of a type characteristically befitting one in the ministerial profession. However, while in Louisiana, he became interested in the late Huey Long's "Share the Wealth" movement and eventually extended this interest to the point of actively and openly participating in politics as an adherent of Long. Attendant publicity evoked the displeasure of the Elders of his church, eventually resulting in Smith's dismissal during 1934. Following Long's death, Smith attempted to identify himself with the remnants of the Long machine but being unsuccessful in this left Louisiana in 1937 and came to New York where he attempted to organize an association called "The Committee of One Million." This effort was unfruitful. During the following year he moved to Detroit where he has since been located.

At Detroit, Smith reorganized "The Committee of One Million" as an organization "founded for the purpose of combatting the menace of Communism." During 1939, Smith shifted his policy, advocating the isolationist viewpoint, and since the involvement of the United States in war he has busied himself principally in directing criticism to the Government's war effort and what he is pleased to characterize as the Government's efforts to enslave the United States as an entity in an International State dominated by Great Britain.

More detailed comments are set forth subsequently as to Smith's connection with Huey Long and his activities as the organizer of "The Committee of One Million," but it is of significance to observe that it appears that the turning point of Smith's life dates from his association with Huey Long. Prior to that time he was the usual type of minister concerned with problems incidental to his calling. However, it seems that his participation in the "Share the Wealth" movement fired his ambition to the extent of self visualization of himself as a dominant political figure. Being unsuccessful in associating himself with Long's

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DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-9 BTJ/mw

62-43818-334
ENCLOSURE

successors, he has apparently continued his dream of political prominence through his efforts in connection with his so-called "Committee of One Million." The fact that he still evaluates himself as an individual of at least potential political significance, is attested to by the fact that he has sometimes described himself in confidential conversations as being likely "Presidential timber." In an effort to further augment his political background and potentialities, Smith sought nomination as Republican candidate for United States Senator from the State of Michigan during the summer of 1942. This campaign was unsuccessful.

Smith's personal life appears to be normal. He is married, lives with his wife, and has one son, about twenty years of age. His wife is said to be a distant relative of a Mr. Sorensen, described as an official of the Ford Motor Company. From time to time stories have been circulated attributing improprieties to Smith in connection with his associations with women other than his wife. However, nothing factual is known to substantiate these stories.

ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO 1938

While serving as pastor at the King's Highway Church, Shreveport, Louisiana, Smith became interested in Huey Long's "Share the Wealth" plan. He eventually met Long and shortly thereafter there developed, according to Smith's description, "a close and fast friendship" between the two. It is definitely known that shortly thereafter, and lasting for a period of several years: Smith assumed the position of one of Long's chief lieutenants. Although Smith is prone to describe this relationship as a personal one, several persons who were close to Long at the time, state that Long had little personal regard for Smith and apparently evaluated him as being untrustworthy and dishonest. These persons state that Long was merely utilizing Smith's services, and in this connection it is known that Long, as well as others associated with him, regarded Smith as a very dynamic and powerful public speaker. It appears that Smith was widely used by the Long organization in the role of a public speaker for the "Share the Wealth" movement. It is said that Smith, at one time, received as much as \$650 per week from the Long organization as reimbursement for expenses and as salary.

Information has been received that while associated with the Long movement, Smith joined William Dudley Pelley's Silver Shirt organization. Nothing in the way of documentary evidence is available to prove this membership, but in recent years, Smith has, on several occasions, admitted membership in the Pelley movement. He states, however, that he joined Pelley's organization merely for the purpose of securing information in connection with his work in behalf of Huey Long.

Although during Huey Long's lifetime Smith was an outstanding personage in the Long machine, he rapidly lost his position after the death of Long. It appears that his services were continued for a short period of time by Long's

successors, but that he eventually was displaced due, allegedly, to his untoward efforts to attain personal power. By 1937, any influence which he previously had was completely dissipated and it was during that year that he left Louisiana for New York.

On arriving at New York Smith attempted to organize a group known as "The Committee of One Million." According to the self announced purposes of this organization its primary concern was that of combating the forces of Communism. However, Smith's efforts in New York met with little success, and reportedly he was disheartened to the extent of ceasing his activities and removing to Detroit, Michigan, early in 1938.

Toward the end of his stay in Louisiana, Smith's personal reputation apparently suffered to some extent. On November 3, 1936, he was arrested by the New Orleans Police Department on a charge of having disturbed the peace in the using of obscene language in a public place. Reportedly, this arrest resulted in his receiving a suspended sentence of \$10.00 and ten days.

During 1936 and 1937, Smith was also involved as a plaintiff in several libel and slander cases. These cases were apparently of minor importance, but the consensus of opinion appears to be that Smith's reputation suffered more than did the reputation of those whom he sought to sue.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

On arriving in Detroit in 1938, Smith almost immediately set out to reorganize the defunct "Committee of One Million." In this connection he distributed a considerable amount of literature designating the purposes of "The Committee of One Million" as follows:

1. To rebuild the spirit of America.
2. To wipe out the last vestiges of Communism, Nazism and Fascism in all forms.
3. The redefinition of the American National character.
4. The installation of a new spirit in American youth, dedicated to the maintenance of American institutions.
5. To issue a call to farmers and laborers to resist what is now known as an international plot to involve them in a world revolution.
6. To rededicate the citizenry of America to the family altar and to the spirit of the church.
7. To secure the maintenance of a well defined standard of American living.

Other literature of "The Committee of One Million," sought particularly to stress the activities of this organization in combating Communist influences.

With the coming of the European war in 1939, Smith shifted the policy of "The Committee of One Million" to that of promoting the cause of isolationism. In various pieces of literature distributed during 1939, 1940 and 1941, he was especially critical of the Government's policy of rendering assistance to the allied Governments.

Since the involvement of the United States in the war, Smith has again shifted his policy as well as that of "The Committee of One Million" to the direction of criticism against the Government's efforts in prosecuting the war. He has not questioned the necessity of winning the war, but on the other hand, in various of his publications, as well as his public utterances, has been careful to lay stress on the necessity of the people's aiding and assisting in every way in defeating America's foes.

However, he has advanced contentions that the Government is using the war as an excuse for depriving the public of its just liberties. He has also freely voiced criticism against what he has been disposed to characterize as the Government's efforts to reduce the United States to a mere entity in a great international state dominated by Great Britain.

Smith carries on the work of "The Committee of One Million" through radio broadcasts over Station WJR at Detroit, the distribution of literature, and through the publication of a monthly magazine known as "The Cross and the Flag." Although Smith claims that "The Committee of One Million" has a following of three million persons, it appears that "The Committee of One Million" is really not an organization as such, and is merely a name used by Smith. Smith, of course, does have a rather large mailing list, and it seems that the persons who receive his literature and make occasional financial donations to him are considered by Smith as being members of the Committee. Available information indicates that Smith's claim of three million followers is grossly exaggerated.

Early in 1942, Smith sought to establish another organization known as "The Inner Circle." As suggested by its name, this group was described by Smith as consisting of the more prominent and trustworthy members of "The Committee of One Million." He announced the foundation of this group through the distribution of literature calling for the donation of additional funds, and it appears that its purposes were the same as those of "The Committee of One Million." According to information received, "The Inner Circle" is no more of a real organization than "The Committee of One Million" and was conceived and used by Smith merely for the purpose of collecting additional money from persons on his mailing list.

During the summer of 1942, Smith sought the Republican nomination for the position of United States Senator from the State of Michigan. He made a number of speeches and conducted quite an active campaign and in the primary

election received approximately 120,000 votes. Although this was not sufficient for nomination, political observers were of the opinion that Smith had made an unusually good showing. Even after this defeat, Smith continued his candidacy in the general election in November, 1942, when he projected himself as a write-in candidate. He was badly defeated in the general election, his following being less than that in the primary campaign.

Late in 1942, Smith publicly announced the intention of forming a third political party on a national scale. The proposed platform for this Party, as announced, was similar to that advanced by Smith in connection with his work as leader of "The Committee of One Million" and it is understood that Smith hopes to gain support from members of the now defunct "America First Committee." In recent months, Smith has toured the Middle West and has made a number of speeches in various cities, outlining his plan for a third political party. Recently, he has indicated that it may not be necessary to form this party if the Republican and Democratic Parties "present a real issue" for the 1944 Presidential Election.

At various times within recent years it has been reported that certain officials at the Ford Motor Company are interested in Smith and have collaborated with him to the extent of furnishing him information used in some of his speeches and his publication "The Cross and the Flag."

In connection with his various appearances as a public speaker Smith has attained the reputation of being a very effective and forceful speaker. Although he is somewhat bombastic, and at times given too freely to overemphasis, it does appear that he is an unusually good speaker and that he is effective in influencing audiences. Some persons have described him as among the foremost public speakers of the day.

It is of interest to note that Smith's publication "The Cross and the Flag" was named, along with a number of other publications, in indictments returned in the District of Columbia on July 21, 1942, and January 4, 1943, charging twenty-eight and thirty-four defendants respectively with having engaged in a conspiracy to violate the Sedition Statutes. These indictments have pertinence to the case popularly referred to as United States vs. Gerald B. Winrod, et al. Although Smith's publication was mentioned in the indictment, as being one of a number of publications throughout the country which has contributed to undermining the loyalty and morale of the Armed Forces, neither Smith nor the publication was named as a defendant.

JPH:eh

62-43818

September 18, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/5/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/m

SAC, Detroit

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Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, was, et al;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C;
SECURITY MATTER; SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of September 5, 1943, referring to the report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on the same date.

In reply to your inquiry, you are advised that the Bureau does not desire that reference report, in its present form, be disseminated to the various field offices which are designated on the first page as receiving copies of the report. As noted in your letter, the report sets forth considerable information concerning subject's [redacted]

It appears that if the information in the report as now phrased, that is, in the form of direct quotations of the correspondence concerned, came to the attention of Smith, either directly or indirectly, there would be a good chance of the informant's identity being revealed. Accordingly, in view of this, as well as the particular nature of the correspondence set forth in the report, it is desired that the report be rewritten in such a way as to paraphrase the pertinent items of correspondence. The information contained in the correspondence should, of course, be included in the report, but it is believed that through the medium of paraphrasing, the chance of revealing the identity of and embarrassing the informant would be materially lessened.

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd

I am therefore returning with this letter three of the five copies of Agent Wolf's report which were forwarded to the Bureau. The report should be rewritten as indicated above, and thereafter, the designated copies should be forwarded to the Bureau and disseminated to the other offices for which copies are designated.

Mr. Nichols In connection with the submission of further reports, these observations should be borne in mind, and all items of correspondence submitted by [redacted] should be paraphrased rather than quoted verbatim.

- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Piper
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 6
SEP 21 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED 62-43818-335
Very truly yours,

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 22 1943

John Edgar Hoover
Director, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Enclosure

2-SEP 23 1943

W

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b7D

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Acers	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Starke	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
Files	.....

TCC:ESL:bc

145-28-43

DATE: September 14, 1943.

TO: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Tom C. Clark

FROM: ~~Wendell Sawyer~~, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division.

SUBJECT: Gerald L. K. Smith

Asper...

Some time ago the Attorney General forwarded to you a copy of a statement one hundred and ten pages long, written by [redacted] centering around the activities of the subject.

b7c b7d

It is desired that the original of such statement be returned to the Criminal Division promptly at this time, inasmuch as its return now has been requested by the source which made it available.

[Signature]

RECORDED & INDEXED

*memo to Clark
9/14/43
JP/ha*

62-43-38

F	B	I
16	SEP	21 1943
	(5)	

JPHa:WMJ
9-13-43

62-43818-336

RECORDED

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: GERALD L. K. SMITH;
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

Reference is made to your memorandum of September 11, 1943, referring to a statement of 110 pages written in connection with this subject by [redacted]. As you indicated in your memorandum, the original of this statement was furnished the Bureau with a memorandum received from the Attorney General under date of October 28, 1942.

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Pursuant to your request, I am returning the original of the statement with this memorandum. The Bureau is retaining a copy of the statement and will recall that the statement has already been summarized in reports submitted in connection with the instant case. For your further information you are advised that the various marginal notations appearing throughout the statement were there when the statement was received by the Bureau.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-9875/mac

SEP 18 1943
RECEIVED
S. D. P. O.

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Coffey
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Acers
- Carson
- Harbo
- Hendon
- Magford
- Starke
- Quinn Tamm
- Nease
- Gandy

MAILED 8
OCT 13 1943 P.M.

REC'D 22 1943

Handwritten signatures and initials, including a large 'E' and 'D. G. W.'

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 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) b1, 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:
62-43818-337 + 338

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Detroit, Michigan**

Ipls. FILE NO. 100-4754

REPORT MADE AT Indianapolis, Indiana	DATE WHEN MADE 9-9-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/5;7/17;8/23, 24, 27, 28, 31; 9/2/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, w.as.; THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (G) SECURITY MATTER SEDITION

*K
X*

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] unable to furnish information of value. Subject was national speaker for Ku Klux Klan about 1925-1930. Former Indiana leaders of Klan inform that subject appeared to have no un-American tendencies in that period of time, but advanced Klan theme that public offices in the United States were disproportionately controlled by Jews and Catholics, and sought to awaken voters to this fact. No evidence found in Fort Wayne, Indiana, indicating that meeting planned by subject for June 1, 1943, was actually held.

b7c

- RUC -

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/5/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/**

Reference:

Bureau file 62-43818.
Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]**, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 16, 1943;
Letter from New Orleans office dated April 20, 1943.

b7c

Details:

AT RICHMOND, INDIANA

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent **[REDACTED]** on May 5, 1943:

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mc*

[REDACTED], Colonial Building, informed that he was not personally acquainted with the subject, but that in 1924 or 1925 he knew subject had been connected with the Ku Klux Klan. **[REDACTED]** stated he was employed by the Klan to investigate some of the members of the

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b7D*

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J.S. Vortella</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES RECORDED & INDEXED 62-43818-339
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau 3-Detroit 2-Indianapolis 1cc Div. of Rec. 9/23/43	COPIES DESTROYED 83 OCT 21 1964 2 SEP 24 1943 524

100-4754
Indpls.

organization in order to clear out the undesirable elements.

[redacted] stated that in his opinion SMITH was a "rabblrouser," and that he was always making inflammatory speeches. He stated that SMITH in 1924 or 1925 had been connected with the Lecture Bureau of the Ku Klux Klan and went around the country making speeches recruiting members for the Klan. He further stated that in his opinion he believed SMITH to be a psychopathic case, because of the fact that he acquired strange ideas and evidently believed in them sincerely.

[redacted] also informed that [redacted] Indianapolis, was a man who would know more about past activities of SMITH and would possibly know more definitely exactly what SMITH's duties were.

[redacted], stated he had been employed by the KKK in 1924 or 1925 to investigate certain members of the Klan who had become so radical in their activities that they were detrimental to the KKK movement. He said that in 1924 or 1925 SMITH was a speaker and organizer for the Klan and at that time he was assigned to a territory in Wisconsin. He said that the Klan had a group of from fifty to sixty speakers who covered the country organizing and recruiting members.

[redacted] stated that after SMITH's connection with the Klan ceased, he became associated with HUEY LONG in Louisiana, and later with Dr. TOWNSEND. [redacted] also stated that [redacted] and a [redacted] would be able to furnish more definite information concerning SMITH's activities.

AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted]

[redacted] was contacted for information concerning subject, but stated that he was totally unable to give any pertinent information regarding subject's background, activities, statements or tendencies. He had heard of the subject's recent activities but had no personal acquaintance with him or other information pertinent to this investigation.

The following investigation was conducted by the writers:

[redacted], Marion County Courthouse,

100-4754
Indpls.

[REDACTED]

in the period of about 1925 to 1930 subject was known to [REDACTED] as a national speaker for the Klan, who traveled over several states in the Midwest and addressed meetings of Klan members. [REDACTED] stated in this capacity subject did not conduct any membership solicitation campaigns, but spoke in an inspirational capacity only. Membership solicitation was handled by state speakers who were separate and distinct from the national speakers.

During this period and in the early 1930's [REDACTED] knew subject as an ordained minister. He regarded subject as entirely sincere, and stated that at that time subject had no tendencies whatever which would indicate disloyalty to the United States. In his addresses to Klan personnel, subject advanced the current Klan theme that public offices in the United States were occupied to a disproportionate extent by Catholics and Jews. In other words, in proportion to the number of Catholics and Jews in the entire population of the United States, the number of such individuals holding public office was too large, and this condition resulted in influences which were not considered by the Klan to be in the best interests of the United States in the long run. Subject's purpose in pointing out this fact to Klan audiences was understood by [REDACTED] to be to awaken the voters of the United States to this condition, so that they would exercise their franchise at the polls in such manner that the condition would be corrected. According to [REDACTED] subject at no time advocated the overthrow of the Government or violence or persecution with regard to any group or race. [REDACTED] regarded subject's speeches as entirely consistent with Christian concepts.

[REDACTED] stated that subsequent to his acquaintance with subject, the latter became involved with HUEY LONG, late Senator from Louisiana, and visualized himself as a person who was destined to save the world. At about this same time he became very active in politics and was inclined to commercialize his teachings and connections. [REDACTED] is unable to furnish any information regarding subject's activities or tendencies after about 1932. He stated that so far as he knows, subject's character and reputation in Indiana were generally regarded as good.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] remembers that SMITH appeared as a national speaker for the Klan on about two occasions in Indiana. On these occasions he advanced approximately the same theme as

100-4754
Indpls.

previously described herein by [REDACTED] and appeared to [REDACTED] to be completely sincere. [REDACTED] is unable to give any information which would indicate that subject had any tendencies which were inimical to the best interests of the United States. He suggested that further information concerning the subject might be procured from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at his home on August 28, 1943, and stated he knew subject only as a minister who has engaged in giving inspirational addresses for the Klan. He was unable to give any information regarding subject which has not already been set forth, and reflected that he had only a slight personal acquaintance with subject. b7c b7d

[REDACTED] called at the Indianapolis field office on August 31, 1943, and informed that he was an official of the KKK in the Greenfield area during the period in which subject is said to have been a national speaker. He also was unable to give any further information regarding subject's activities or tendencies, and informed that he remembered seeing subject on only one occasion, and that was at a time when subject delivered an address to a Klan meeting, but [REDACTED] could not even remember the topic of the speech.

AT FORT WAYNE, INDIANA b7c

The following investigation was performed by Special Agent [REDACTED]

Information received from [REDACTED] was negative. b7d

Investigation failed to indicate that any meeting was held by subject SMITH or in his behalf, at Fort Wayne on June 1, 1943. [REDACTED] of the Journal Gazette, a local newspaper, informed that he had the date June 1, 1943, in his "future book" indicating that a meeting was to be held by or on behalf of subject SMITH on that date. [REDACTED] however, informed he did not believe the meeting was held. Negative information was secured from [REDACTED] of the News Sentinel, a local newspaper; however, [REDACTED] recalled that a meeting was held by subject SMITH at the Shrine Auditorium in Fort Wayne the year previously. b7c b7d

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Indpls.

[REDACTED] of the Shrine Auditorium, 411 West Berry Street, informed that subject SMITH had called him on the telephone from Detroit some time prior to June 1, 1943, and had requested the use of the Auditorium. It was decided, however, according to [REDACTED], that the Auditorium was too large as subject SMITH had told him he wished merely to hold a committee meeting where there would be present relatively few individuals. [REDACTED] said he had suggested to SMITH that he attempt to secure the Anthony Hotel Ballroom, and had given SMITH the name of [REDACTED] of the Anthony Hotel as the one to contact.

[REDACTED] of the Keenan Hotel in Fort Wayne, and [REDACTED] of the Anthony Hotel, stated he had been telephonically contacted by subject SMITH, as he recalled, in the latter part of May, 1943. SMITH had called from Detroit and had asked to engage the hall. [REDACTED] stated he had told Mr. SMITH he would call him back, and upon deciding not to rent the hall, called some woman in the office of subject SMITH in Detroit and told her that a meeting was to be held in the hall by a local group during the particular time it was desired by subject SMITH, and he would not be able to rent the hall. [REDACTED] stated it was his belief that no meeting was held by subject SMITH.

[REDACTED] of the Civic Theater at Fort Wayne, and [REDACTED] advised that they had received no request from subject SMITH or from anyone acting on his behalf, for the rental of the Civic Theater Hall. They could furnish no information in this respect.

[REDACTED] informed he had not heard that any meeting was held by subject or on his behalf.

It is not believed that further investigation would be advisable at this time inasmuch as inquiry fails to indicate that any meeting was held, but if the Detroit office has information that such meeting was held in Fort Wayne, appropriate investigation will be conducted.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

W.C. L
b7c b7D

100-4754
Indpls.

[REDACTED] -- [REDACTED] former Special Agent assigned to the Indianapolis office. The case was originally assigned to Agent [REDACTED] but upon his death [REDACTED] nothing was found among his belongings and papers which would indicate that any meeting was held by subject. It was not possible to ascertain who was contacted in this connection by Agent [REDACTED]

b7c. b7D

62-43818
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEP 20 1943
X
TELETYPE UNIT

E
Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin *DB*
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acers
Mr. Carson
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Teletype Room

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/92 BY SP-805/mw

FBI DETROIT 9-20-43 3-55 PM EWT SMY
✓ DIRECTOR

Juf
2/11/44

ADEPT
GERALD L. ~~SMITH~~ ^{SMITH} K. SMITH, WAS, INTERNAL SECURITY G, SEDITION. ADVISE
b7c WHETHER COPIES OF REPORT OF [REDACTED] DATED SEPTEMBER THIRD FORTY
THREE AT DETROIT SHOULD BE FURNISHED OTHER OFFICES AS DESIGNATED.
~~SMITH~~ SUTEL.

BUGAS
7:15
Investigation
4/25

RECORDED
62-43818-340
13
SEP 23 1943
cc Ladd
SA

ACK AND HOLD
3-55 PM OK FBI WASH DC GMW
41 SEP 27 1943



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CC-150

JHia:WJ

DEFERRED

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1943

Transmit the following message to: SAC

RECORDED 62-43818-310 DETROIT

GERALD L. K. SMITH, WAS, SEDITION. REURTEL SEPTEMBER TWENTY LAST. DO NOT
DISTRIBUTE REPORT IN PRESENT FORM. LETTER WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOWS.

HOOVER

0 3/4

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mhw

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Acers _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Harbo _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Mumford _____
- Mr. Starke _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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

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89 OCT 13 1964

SENT VIA 41 SEP 27 1943

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1250P

Per W

D. L. ...
W.H.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
1300 Biscayne Building
Miami, Florida

July 5, 1943

[Redacted]

b7c

100-0

Director, FBI

Re: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

b7c

Dear Sir:

In the course of an investigation conducted by the Miami Field Division, [Redacted] was interviewed at Sarasota, Florida, at which time he displayed credentials of the [Redacted] indicating that he was a special investigator for such organizations, located at [Redacted] telephone number [Redacted] signed by [Redacted] administrative chairman.

[Redacted] stated that he had been employed as a paid investigator for the past five years, and that he was presently engaged in investigating subversive Fascist organizations throughout the United States. He advised he has on many occasions furnished information to the New York Field Division, and that his office, which is maintained in New York, had furnished considerable information to the New York Field Division of the Bureau.

b7c
b7D

At the time of interview [Redacted] furnished the writer with a mimeographed pamphlet, written in Italian, which he advised is being distributed by GERALD L. K. SMITH, addressed to the Italian people, criticizing the New Deal, and which pointed out that GERALD L. K. SMITH was a great friend of the Italian people, organizer of the America First Committee, and editor of the magazine "The Cross and the Flag". This mimeographed pamphlet is being forwarded to the Bureau for their information, said pamphlet having been obtained by [Redacted] from his New York Office and which he was using as the basis for an investigation.

[Redacted] was advised of the Bureau's jurisdiction in investigation pertaining to un-American organization, however, in view of the apparent nation wide scope of instant matter, it is being called to the attention of the Bureau for such action as is deemed appropriate.

Very truly yours,

[Handwritten initials]

1 ENCL
[Handwritten initials]

A. P. KITCHEN, S.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mg

RECORDED

62-4311-34
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 22 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

TRANSLATION FROM THE ITALIAN

ITALIANS!

In this hour when the whole world, thrown into a turmoil because of all the cruel and violent passions which the human race employs to satisfy its craving for power and conquest, it is indeed consoling to see that among so much degradation there is still some good to be found; this goodness and sincere attachment for what is right, is found in men, who placing the well-being of all humanity before their own personal interests, risk their lives and liberty in propagandising and exposing to the public those individuals who cause wars for purely economic and social reasons.

I could here list many names which would appear insignificant to you but would acquire gigantic importance if beside each name I could list the battles which each has sustained to defend the rights to life and peace which are desired by the majority of the people.

These men, whose experience, contracted through their many years spent with the people and for the people gives them a greater opportunity of knowing their needs, know that the war was not a public desire, but solely the machination of a few interested parties.

We, Italians who are Christian by birth, above all others have the right to defend this Christianity from those who like Judas sold and killed for gold.

In a few days you will be given the opportunity of hearing one of these champions of the people, who although not our compatriot, has always shown a deep affection for us, and from his words you will draw an exact picture of the situation we are now traversing, while suffering its consequences.

This nation which is our host and which should be guided by a government with democratic principles, seems to be guided, instead by a group of Jews whose principle is but one: personal economic interests.

The name of this great friend of the Italians, I am sure is not new to you, GERALD L. K. SMITH, organizer of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY and editor of the magazine "THE CROSS AND THE FLAG".

From this man, who today inculcates fear into a large number of politicians of the so-called NEW DEAL, we Italians have much to learn and in that way will know how to conduct ourselves in the coming elections.

It will be our duty to keep you informed of the date on which GERALD L. K. SMITH will visit your neighborhood to bring you an account of his experiences.

Enroll today in the AMERICA FIRST PARTY, and in that way you will have the opportunity of not only fighting the NEW DEAL, but of maintaining the lofty ideals of CHRISTIANITY BY WHICH WE CAN BE DISTINGUISHED.

On reverse side of photostat, in circles are the words "ITALIANS AWAKE!".

ENCLOSURE

62 - 40818 - 341

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/5/22 BY SP-1087/ku

JPH:WJF
RF

INDEXED

Date: ~~100 215285~~
September 15, 1943

To: SAC, New York

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: GERALD L. K. SMITH
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP8 BTJ/pwh

Transmitted herewith are photographic copies of a leaflet written in the Italian language headed, "Italiani F", and on the reverse side bearing an inscription, "Italiani Sveglatevi." For your additional information, copies of a translation of this leaflet are also attached.

The original of this leaflet was furnished the Bureau on July 5, 1943, by the Field Division which advised that it had been secured from one [redacted] who displayed credentials as an investigator for [redacted] located at [redacted]

[redacted] indicated that he was at the time in the vicinity of [redacted] on business for this organization and in furnishing the leaflet stated that it had been given him by the New York office of [redacted]

[redacted] indicated that he was investigating this matter and stated that it had been distributed by Gerald L. K. Smith.

[redacted] indicated that the source of this information was [redacted] and, accordingly, it is desired that the New York office immediately contact that organization for any information in its possession tending to show that the attached leaflet has been distributed by Smith or other persons in his behalf. For the information of the New York office it is pointed out that at the time [redacted] was questioned he was being interviewed in connection with an investigation of his activities by the Field office embodying an allegation that he had given expression to statements derogatory of the WAC. The New York office is in possession of a report concerning this matter captioned, [redacted] dated at [redacted].

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Coffey
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Acers
- Carson
- Harbo
- Hendon
- Humphreys
- Starke
- Quinn Tamm
- Nease
- Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

The Laboratory has examined the original of the attached leaflet and has advised that the leaflet was prepared on a typewriter equipped with type which conforms with the Laboratory's standards of L. C. Smith Elite type, spaced twelve letters to the inch. A comparison was made with material of similar nature in the file of writings pertaining to national security without effecting an identification.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

cc - Details

Enclosure

21 SEP 25 1943

SEP 19 2 13 PM '43
RECEIVED READING ROOM

ALL
b7c. b7d

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT**

FILE NO. **100-19053**

REPORT MADE AT SAN FRANCISCO	DATE WHEN MADE 9/14/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/8/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, was. The Committee of One Million			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - G. I.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED] presently in South Pacific.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 8/20/43 at Detroit, Michigan.

DETAILS:

AT PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA.

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] Army Serial No. [REDACTED] 925th Air Base Battalion, was at Camp Stoneman for only a few days enroute to overseas duty.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mh**

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>N. J. L. Payer</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 BUREAU 2 Detroit 2 New Orleans 2 San Francisco 530 47 SEP 28 1943	COPIES DESTROYED 62 4311 - 342 88 OCT 21 1964 40 SEP 21 1943 [Handwritten signatures and initials]

SF #100-19053

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7d

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **14-7 ECC**

REPORT MADE AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 9-15-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/14, 15, 16, 17, 18/43	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; display: inline-block;"></div> <i>b7c</i>
TITLE GERALD L. K. SMITH, was THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY SECURITY MATTER SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject originally scheduled to speak in Buffalo, N. Y., on 8-16-43 under sponsorship of JOSEPH H. STOFFEL, Economics League of Buffalo. Subject refused use of halls by owners in Buffalo. Held secret and closed meeting 8-16-43, Iroquois Room, Hotel Statler. Approximately 210 attended. Committee formed to demand use of public hall for meeting in future, at which Congressman CLARE HOFFMAN to speak. Date of future meeting not known. Subject gave anti-Jewish, anti-Communist, anti-United Nations speech.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-1671/NC**

- R U C

b7c

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent dated 6-16-43 at Buffalo, New York.

Letter from Detroit to Buffalo dated 8-11-43.

mt

DETAILS:

According to circulars obtained from subject was scheduled to speak on August 16, 1943, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Delaware Avenue, under the auspices of the America First Party in cooperation with the Economics League of Buffalo, JOSEPH H. STOFFEL, President. It was also indicated that Father CURRAN'S tribute to Father CHARLES COUGHLIN would be read. It was also announced that Captain EARL SOUTHWARD of Chicago, would be one of the speakers.

b7d

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">John B. Miller</div> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: monospace;">62-143811-343</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: monospace;">40 SEP 2 1943</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">F. J. [unclear]</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">H. [unclear]</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Detroit (62-1126) 3 - Buffalo	RECORDED & INDEXED
COPIES DESTROYED 83 OCT 13 1964	[Handwritten notes and signatures]

BU 14-7

According to [REDACTED], the officers of the Knights of Columbus, upon hearing that SMITH was to be present, cancelled all arrangements for the use of their hall.

[REDACTED] JOSEPH H. STOFFEL was the individual charged locally with making arrangements for the meeting hall, and that in making the arrangements, he did not disclose to the owners that the subject was to be one of the speakers. [REDACTED] STOFFEL rented several other halls for the meeting but the respective owners, upon hearing that SMITH was to make a speech, would cancel the arrangements.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
that a closed meeting was to be held in the Iroquois Room in the Hotel Statler the same evening, and that only people who were known as SMITH followers and members of the Economics League were to be invited and admitted to the meeting.

[REDACTED] that apparently the telephone facilities were used to extend the invitations to the meeting.

[REDACTED] all individuals invited were instructed not to make inquiry at the hotel for directions to the Iroquois Room, and were further instructed that individuals would be stationed in the lobby of the hotel and upon recognition, would conduct the individuals to the room.

[REDACTED] the primary purpose of the meeting was to arrange a committee to sponsor and demand the use of a public hall in Buffalo, preferably the Kleinhans Music Hall. A secret committee was formed, headed by STOFFEL, who were charged with the duty of making the arrangements for a future meeting at which Congressman CLARE HOFFMAN would be the principle speaker.

[REDACTED] the subject was "smarting with madness" because the property owners in Buffalo had refused the use of their halls, and he spent considerable time expressing his opinion that the Communists and the people attempting to persecute him were responsible for the property owners actions.

BU 14-7

[REDACTED] SMITH seemed to have toned down his remarks considerably, but managed to make a few comments which were anti-ROOSEVELT, anti-Jewish, and anti-Communist.

[REDACTED] estimated that the meeting was attended by approximately 200 persons and lasted from 8:30 P. M. to 11 P. M.

[REDACTED] after arrangements had been made for the committee to arrange for a future meeting, the subject gave a short speech in which he opened by inquiring if there were any newspaper men present, and if so, they were instructed to leave, and announced that the matter was of the "committee" and invited guests, and that no "stooges" were wanted, that while nothing would be done of which they would be ashamed, they were not going to take a chance of receiving the unfavorable publicity which they had previously received in Buffalo.

SMITH stated that the Communists had a scheme for suppressing him by calling up owners of halls which had been rented, representing themselves to be prominent clergymen or prominent officials and demanding that the rental of the hall be cancelled. [REDACTED] subject then proceeded to "build himself up" by declaring he was a devout Christian and a loyal American, presenting two or three memoranda to the Chairman to be read. One memorandum was a list of prominent people who would vouch for his loyalty and character and included the names of HENRY FORD, Senator VANDENBURG, and the name of an FBI official in Detroit, whose name the informant could not recall. One of the other memoranda contained a list of organizations before which SMITH had previously spoken.

SMITH then stated that the publicity he had previously received in Buffalo had been fair with the exception of an editorial in the Buffalo Courier Express by TOM BROWN, charging that he had trampled on the American flag at a previous meeting in Buffalo. SMITH said he was crusading to save America from Jews, Communists, New-Dealers, and others, conspiring to destroy our institutions. He said that individuals representing these groups were seeking to destroy Americanism and substitute internationalism, in which, our country would be ruled over by Chinamen, British, and Russians.

[REDACTED] that SMITH, during this speech, made numerous sneering remarks concerning the Allies of the United States, but at no time did he make any unfavorable remark about the Nazis or the Japanese or their leaders.

SMITH declared that he was organizing the America First Party as a "spare tire party" in case the Democrats nominate ROOSEVELT and the Republicans nominate WILKIE, both of whom he characterized as internationalists.

BU 14-7

SMITH stated that his idea of a victory was to send ROOSEVELT to Hyde Park and make him stay there; WILKIE to Moscow, and make him stay there; and Vice-President WALLACE to be a milk man in China. SMITH then named several individuals who would be acceptable to his Party. Among those were Senators WHEELER and VANDENBURG.

SMITH read excerpts from an article dealing with race riots in Detroit, in which it was supposed to state that they had been caused by the Communists who had appointed white girls to date out negro men and stir them up. In this connection, SMITH also attacked "The Stage Door Canteen" of New York, where, he said, white girls were forced to date out negroes.

SMITH then made numerous criticisms of the government and the Bureaucrats who were denying to Americans the four freedoms, while claiming to fight for their establishment throughout the world. He said that ROOSEVELT'S government had no faith in the patriotism of the people as the American government had to resort to conscription while in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, there was no conscription.

SMITH charged that there were going to be 40,000,000 or more unemployed after the present war, and that the international conspirators were preparing to take advantage of the contemplated unrest and chaos which would result in an overthrow of the American system. SMITH said that he told his son, when the latter was called into the Armed Forces, that the only thing he was fighting for was "Old Glory", and that he was not called to fight to make ROOSEVELT President for the fourth term and thus establishing a New Deal dictatorship.

SMITH spoke extemporaneously, and the speech was calculated to stir up disunity, create suspicion of our government, and arouse fears concerning the aims of the men who at present direct our policy, and engender ill will toward our Allies.

estimated that approximately 200 people attended, most of whom were elderly.

Neither of the informants were able to recall any statements made by subject which might be considered seditious.

BU 14-7

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS MENTIONED
IN FOREGOING REPORT OF SPECIAL AGENT

[REDACTED]

dated 9 9-15-43

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7D

The identity of [REDACTED] was not disclosed at his request, and the identities of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were not disclosed because of the possibility existing of continuing their services in future matters.

b7D

pm
X
2018

RECORDED
WPA:WLD
9-21-43
62-43818 - 343

5402

Date:
To: Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark
From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Subject: GERALD L. R. SMITH
THE SOCIETIES OF ONE MILLION
INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

For your further information in connection with your consideration of this case I am transmitting copies of additional reports submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at Buffalo, New York, on September 15, 1943, and Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York City, on September 14, 1943.

cc - The Assistant to the Attorney General

Enclosure *pow*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP8 BTJ/SLC

- Tolson _____
- E. A. Tamm _____
- Clegg _____
- Coffey _____
- Glavin _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Acers _____
- Carson _____
- Harbo _____
- Hendon _____
- Mumford _____
- Starke _____
- Quinn Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 7
★ SEP 24 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED READING ROOM
SEP 23 5 39 PM '43
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SEP 30 1943

Handwritten signatures and initials

Form No. 1

This case originated at DETROIT, MICHIGAN

NY File No. 100-19707

Report made at NEW YORK, NEW YORK	Date when made 9/14/43	Period for which made 7/22, 23, 27-29 8/4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 17/43	Report made by [REDACTED] b7c
Title GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION			Character of case SECURITY MATTER - G SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[REDACTED]

SMITH's suit against MARCH of TIME for libel charged that the picture entitled "The Lunatic Fringe" depicted him as a Fascist, exponent of Nazism, an anti-Semite, and as being un-American. Action was discontinued when defendant was upheld in his motion to vacate the plaintiff's notice of the examination of certain defendants before trial.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

- P -

DATE 10/2/82 BY SP4 BTJ/hub

REFERENCE:

Bureau file 62-43818
Bureau letters dated June 16, 1943 and July 5, 1943

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 31, 1943, at New York, N. Y. b7c

DETAILS:

The following information was obtained from the 1943 edition of "Who's Who":

[REDACTED]

Approved and Forwarded <i>E. E. Conroy</i>	Special Agent in Charge	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES.
Copies of this report 5 Bureau 3 Detroit (1 USA, Detroit) 2 Washington Field 3 New York		RECORDED INDEXED
DE-INDEXED DATE: 10/24/57 4		38 SEP 16 1943 COPIES DESTROYED 34 SEP 30 1943 88 OCT 13 1964

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 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) b7c, 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:
62-43818-344 pgs 2 + 3

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7d

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

At the County Clerk's office, New York County, the writer reviewed file No. 1114 (1938) entitled, "GERALD L. K. SMITH vs. MARCH OF TIME, INC.; TIME, INC.; ET AL." This file reflects that a complaint and summons was filed on March 17, 1939. The complaint, which is 40 pages in length, alleges that in the MARCH OF TIME picture entitled, "The Lunatic Fringe", the plaintiff was depicted as a Fascist and exponent of Nazism, designated as an American Hitler, as an anti-Semitic and Jew-baiter, as a demagogue and rabble rouser, as unpatriotic and un-American, as a person associated with FATHER DIVINE, HITLER, and MUSSOLINI, and made to appear insane, crazy, a crackpot, and a lunatic. He declared all these things were false, fraudulent, and deceitful and, as a consequence, he was made the object of shame, ridicule, hatred, and scorn.

NY 100-19707

The complaint also alleges that this picture caused the plaintiff to lose opportunities to speak upon the radio and public platform, caused shame, embarrassment, and annoyance by constant requests of leaders of the German Bund and various Hitler organizations and sponsors of Hitlerism and Jew-baiting that the plaintiff support their platforms. It also alleges that the picture caused the plaintiff to be designated as the organizer of the Fascist Party in America and impaired him in his profession, and occupation, reputation, fame, and credit to the extent of \$5,000,000.

The defendant filed an answer denying most of the allegations in the complaint. The plaintiff thereafter served a notice of his intention to examine certain defendants before trial, and the defendant was upheld in his motion to vacate this notice on March 23, 1939. No further action was noted in the record.

[REDACTED], telephonically advised that his file in connection with the defense of the above-mentioned case, contains no additional information other than that appearing in the official record.

b7c
b7D

In accordance with reference letter from the Bureau, an effort was made to locate and interview [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]. It was ascertained through [REDACTED] that her husband is presently employed [REDACTED], by the [REDACTED]. He resides at the [REDACTED].

7
b7c

Through [REDACTED] New York American Red Cross, it was ascertained that [REDACTED] is residing at [REDACTED].

Efforts to locate [REDACTED] have been unsuccessful to date.

b7c

-- P E N D I N G --

NY 100-19707

5408

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

At Washington, D. C.
Will interview [REDACTED], employed
by the [REDACTED], for any pertinent
information he can furnish concerning the subject's activities.

NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

At [REDACTED]
Will interview [REDACTED], for any pertinent infor-
mation he can furnish concerning the subject's activities, particularly his
relationship or association with [REDACTED]

At New York, N. Y.
Will locate and interview [REDACTED] who was formerly associated
with SMITH in New York City.

ALL
b7c

FY 100-19707

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The confidential informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [redacted] b7c
dated 9/14/43 at New York, N. Y., are:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7D

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

b7c b7D

This informant's name is being kept confidential according to Bureau
policy inasmuch as [redacted]

**FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE**

SUBJECT: GERALD L.K. SMITH

FILE: 62-43818

SUB: _____

VOL: 18

PAGES REVIEWED: 93

PAGES RELEASED: 41

NOTES: _____

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Detroit, Michigan
September 3, 1943

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Acers	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....
Files	.....

~~PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY~~

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, was et al
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
CUSTODIAL DETENTION
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Enclosed herewith is the original and four copies
of a report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Detroit,
Michigan, September 3, 1943.

It is to be noted that copies of this report are
designated for various offices of the Bureau, and before forwarding
these copies to these offices, I am submitting this report to you
for your approval, especially in view of the fact that there is
considerable information contained therein regarding [redacted]

[Large redacted block]

It is requested that you advise me whether or not
these copies of this report should be distributed to the offices
designated.

Yours very truly,

John S. Bugas
JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC

DE [unclear]
OF [unclear]

6080/LEPW
8/10/77

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

62-1126

*let to Detroit
white memo to Director
9/15/43*

RECORDED

43818-395

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8BT/mh

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 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) b7c, b7d with no segregable material available for release to you.
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_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
62-43818-346

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CC-287



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

JPHa:WLLJ
62-43818

September 18, 1943

- Mr. Tolson ✓
- Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols ✓
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Acers
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Starke
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH
SEDITION

In the attached letter dated September 3, 1943, SAC Bugas at Detroit refers to the report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on September 3, 1943, and requests advice as to whether copies of the report should be distributed to the various offices which are designated to receive copies.

Mr. Bugas points out that there is considerable information in the report concerning [redacted]

[redacted] Copies of the report are not designated for any outside agency.

You will recall that the President, as well as the Department, is very much interested in the investigation of this case and that the matter is being given special and continued attention. Pursuant to the Department's request Smith's speaking activities in connection with his so-called America First Party are being covered and all reports reflective of these speeches as well as other collateral investigation requested from time to time by the Department are being immediately referred to the Criminal Division upon their submission by the Field. To date the Department has indicated that Smith has not done anything actionable under the Sedition Statutes or other Federal statutes.

The Detroit office has unusually good informant coverage in this case, one being technical surveillance [redacted]

contacts are followed very closely [redacted]

Recently, the information afforded by [redacted]



COPIES DESTROYED
83 OCT 13 1964

Waterman
9/25/43
JPH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8BJJ/ma

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RECORDED 63

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

2 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) b7c, 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.

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62-43818-346 pgs 213

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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ACTION:

1.

[REDACTED]

b7D

Accordingly, the Bureau's copies of the report are being returned to SAC Bugas with instructions that the report be rewritten along the lines indicated.

2. For the reasons set forth above, it is further felt that the report in its present form should not be made available to the Department. However, when the revised version of the report is received, it will, of course, be furnished to the Department, and field offices having outstanding leads.

In view of the interest the President and the Attorney General have shown in this case, as well as the allegations made against [REDACTED] there are attached copies of a blind memorandum setting forth in appropriate phraseology the substance of the information embodied in this memorandum. I thought that such a memorandum, appropriately phrased, should be prepared in the event you desire to furnish copies to the Attorney General, [REDACTED] or Mr. Marvin H. McIntyre, with whom the previous White House correspondence in this case has been had.

b7c

Respectfully,

Please prepare letter to Gen. Watson transmitting the attached memo.
Enclosure

[Signature]
D. A. Ladd

[Signature]
JPM

3/16

JPH:WLS
9-25-43
62-13818 - 346

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

RECORDED

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080/LED/ML
ON 8-19-97

Dear General Watson:

On March 31, 1943, in answer to a request received from the President, I furnished a memorandum to Mr. Harvin H. McIntyre setting forth in summary form information concerning this Bureau's investigation of Gerald L. K. Smith of Detroit, Michigan.

This investigation is continuing and in recent weeks certain data emanating from confidential sources of information has been received pertaining to Smith's contacts with various persons at Washington, D. C. I thought the President would be interested in the substance of this information and, accordingly, I am transmitting with this letter a memorandum embodying the pertinent data.

For your further information, the facts developed in connection with this case are being referred to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, but to date the Criminal Division has not indicated that Smith's activities are sufficient to warrant any prosecutive action.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Very yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8 BTM

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

Enclosure

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
★ SEP 28 1943 ★
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- Tolson _____
- E. A. Tamm _____
- Clegg _____
- Coffey _____
- Glavin _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Acers _____
- Carson _____
- Harbo _____
- Hendon _____
- Harford _____
- Marke _____
- Mr. Tamm _____

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
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DEPT OF JUSTICE
SEP 28 1 20 PM '43
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Detroit, Michigan**

FILE NO. **100-7744**

REPORT MADE AT Chicago, Illinois	DATE WHEN MADE 9/30/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/8/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE GERALD L. K. SMITH; COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION.			CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C; SEDITION.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Closed meeting held by subject on September 8, 1943 at Kimball Hall, Chicago, covered by agent. Approximately 40 people in attendance including JOSEPH E. McWILLIAMS. Subject spoke two hours with 45 minutes more used to solicit funds and answer questions. Most of speech devoted to telling subject's experiences in meeting opposition to his meetings in other cities. Subject said New Dealers were Internationalists, discussed statement of Churchill concerning "union now" Walter Winchell and Drew Pearson. He stated that Huey Long was the best friend he ever had and said that he, SMITH, had been arrested in New Orleans in 1936 on election eve on "orders of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Called Roosevelt "old fox" and stated he would shape his attitude any way that would win an election. Subject discussed results of the Mackinac Island Conference of Republican leaders and asserted Thomas E. Dewey had committed "political suicide" there. SMITH stated he had instructed his attorney to file suit against Walter Winchell for \$100,000 for slander.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

REFERENCE:

Letter from Detroit dated September 2, 1943.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 62-43818-347 RECORDED INDEXED EX 27 1943 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10/5/82 BY
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Detroit 2 - Chicago COPIES DESTROYED 83 OCT 13 1964	SEARCHED SERIALIZED INDEXED FILED OCT 15 1943 C1F

Chicago File No. 100-7744

DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

By the letter of reference the Detroit Field Division advised the Chicago Field Office that it had been ascertained that GERALD L. K. SMITH was scheduled to hold a closed meeting in Chicago on September 8, 1943 at 8 P.M. on the 10th Floor of the Kimball Building located at 310 S. Wabash Avenue. The letter enclosed a letter secured from informants which on presentation at the door would admit one or more individuals. It was requested that this meeting be covered either by agents or informants of the Chicago Field Office.

[REDACTED] of the Kimball Building, 310 S. Wabash Avenue, advised on September 8, 1943 that the meeting sponsored by the subject would be held in Room 1018 at 8 P.M. He said the hall was first rented for the meeting by a [REDACTED] 82 W. Washington Street, who is associated with the "Citizens Keep America Out of War" Committee, or otherwise known as the "Republican National Revival" Committee. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had first requested the hall for use by a group of Republican Ward Committeemen and insisted that the receipt for the rent be made out in her name. He said that he later determined that the meeting was, in fact, to be a meeting sponsored by the subject and told [REDACTED] that, in view of the fact that there was a misrepresentation on the identification of the meeting, he desired to cancel it. He stated, however, that CAPTAIN EARL SOUTHARD of the "Citizens Keep America Out of War" Committee had contacted him and requested the use of the hall and he had decided to permit the same to be used. b7c b7D

At 8 P.M. on the night of September 8, 1943 the writer, together with Special Agent [REDACTED] appeared at Room 1018, Kimball Hall and attended the subject's meeting. Entrance was gained by showing the letter of invitation which had been furnished to the Chicago Field Office by the Detroit Field Office. b7c

This letter pointed out that the meeting was a closed meeting and that only those who carried a letter of invitation or who appeared with someone carrying a letter of invitation would be admitted. It also advised that important things were happening and that the writer, SMITH, was anxious to report these things to his friends. He stated that he would report concerning his recent speaking tour in the East and would answer any questions that the audience would have in mind concerning events in Washington, D. C. The letter further advised that MRS. SMITH

Chicago File No. 100-7744

would accompany the subject, and he would have some very interesting documents to display. The letter was dated August 28, 1943 and addressed to "My dear Subscriber and Friend".

The meeting commenced at 8:15 P.M. and was called to order by EARL SOUTHARD, who is active locally in the "Citizens Keep America Out of War" Committee, also known as the "Republican National Revival" Committee. Approximately 140 people were in attendance and most of these were middle-aged individuals, approximately two-thirds of them being women. The hall was very small and extremely crowded.

The subject was introduced by EARL SOUTHARD and upon his introduction spent about 15 minutes discussing the need for revival of Christianity in America after which discussion he led the group in reciting the Lord's Prayer. In connection with the aforementioned discussion, SMITH stated that some people thought that if anyone preached CHRIST that individual was anti-Semitic. SMITH said he believed all sects and creeds were entitled to worship as they saw fit, including the Jews, and he would not deny anyone that privilege. He asserted that it had reached the point in America today where the name of CHRIST could not be mentioned in the schools and yet these same schools were permitted to teach Atheism and Communism.

Following his introductory remarks SMITH outlined the plans for his forthcoming trip to the middle west. He advised he was going next to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he would speak at a meeting held under the chairmanship of MRS. ERNEST LUNDEEN, widow of the late Senator LUNDEEN. From Minneapolis he was going to Des Moines, Iowa and on to Denver, Colorado where the meeting in that city would be held on Tuesday, September 14, 1943 under the supervision of a man who was known as the "Cowboy Preacher". He said this preacher was one of the best known and most able and dynamic speakers among the Baptist ministers in the State of Colorado. SMITH further disclosed that on his return from Denver he was to hold a meeting in Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri.

SMITH then discussed briefly the statements recently made by PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND CHURCHILL on post war plans. He said ROOSEVELT had made a statement about a World Military Alliance and that CHURCHILL had made a statement about "Union now --", in which the people of the United States and England would enjoy the same privileges. SMITH did not dwell on these statements more than to say that he was opposed to such plans as he did not want CHURCHILL telling him he had to return to the

Chicago File No. 100-7744

British Empire. He was opposed to any military alliance which would permit the keeping of American soldiers in all parts of the world, or, as he put it, if India revolted from England as the United States had once done he did not want American soldiers sent there to help hold India in the British Empire. He also said he was opposed to a common citizenship with the British people.

SMITH then stated that there was a difference between Nationalists and Internationalists and stated he was a Nationalist, while such men as WALLACE AND WILLKIE were Internationalists. He illustrated the difference between the two by saying a Nationalist was like a wife who was faithful to her husband and an Internationalist was like an unfaithful wife. He added that only the Nationalists were the true Americans.

SMITH said that he was the leader of the "America First" Party, but hoped there never would be such a party as he hoped that either the Republicans or the Democrats would adopt Nationalistic principals and nominate a candidate believing in America first, and if either party did this, the full weight of SMITH'S support would be thrown to that party.

SMITH claimed a following of 630,000 people in the state of Michigan and said he had a very strong following in the states of Indiana and Ohio. He said in these three states he held the balance of power. SMITH asserted that his strength and that of his party was growing throughout the nation.

He advised that when the Nationalists came to power in Washington the party would investigate many things which had happened there, including the sudden and untimely death of HUEY LONG, whom he described as the best friend he ever had. SMITH disclosed that the Nationalists would also investigate the mysterious death of Senator ERNEST LUNDEEN while flying to an "American First" Committee Meeting in the South. He extolled the virtues of HUEY LONG and denounced WALTER WINCHELL AND DREW PEARSON for attacking LUNDEEN after his death.

SMITH pointed out that PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, CORDELL HULL AND ARCHBISHOP BECKMAN had each called DREW PEARSON a liar. He added that if ROOSEVELT had called PEARSON a liar, he must be one because "if anyone knew what a liar was ROOSEVELT did". SMITH related that in 1936 he spoke in New Orleans, Louisiana the eve of the election from 9 P.M. to 12:15 A.M. in an open

Chicago File No. 100-7744

air meeting and shortly afterwards was arrested at his hotel by fifteen armed but unidentified men who took him to a remote precinct station and put him in jail with a vomiting drunk for the night. SMITH said he was charged with disturbing the peace on an old Napoleonic law, stating that anyone who spoke in the open after midnight disturbed the peace. He said he was found guilty and sentenced to thirty days, but the sentence was suspended. SMITH said that if people wondered where he had gotten all of his inspiration for his talks during the past few years they would realize that if they had had to spend the night in a police cell with a drunk such as he did there would be enough inspiration for talks for fifty years. He said the politicians of the country were afraid at that time that he would disclose certain facts concerning the death of HUEY LONG. He said, "You know who it was I was arrested by; I was arrested on the orders of FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT."

SMITH stated that he had been in Washington, D. C. recently and had noted important developments. He advised that he had sent a statement of the "America First" Party policy to each of the delegates to the Mackinack Island Conference held recently by the leaders of the Republican Party. SMITH claimed that the newspaper "P M" had pointed out that the policy adopted at the Conference followed closely those suggested by him in his statements to the delegates, and he personally considered this fact to be a very important development. SMITH related that THOMAS E. DEWEY went to the Conference as a "favorite son" after a very commendable administration as governor of New York, but had committed "political suicide" by coming out as advocating a military alliance with England. SMITH said that SENATOR ROBT. A. TAFT had said that this policy advocated by DEWEY was "a damn fool statement to make".

SMITH referred to PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT as "the old fox" and said that ROOSEVELT was the shrewdest politician who ever lived. He asserted that even now the President could begin to see the hand writing on the wall and realize the power of the Nationalistic group. He further stated that ROOSEVELT was willing to shape his "attitudes anyway that would help to win him an election." SMITH said that ROOSEVELT had already "kicked WALLACE in the pants and gotten rid of SUMNER WELLES", the latter whom he described as "the best friend the Communists ever had". SMITH said that ROOSEVELT was trying to get the election in 1944 so he could resign to become "president of the world". SMITH asserted that if ROOSEVELT would not work for re-election, but would work solely for a military victory, and would "call ELEANOR home", his actions would be very acceptable. SMITH pointed out that

Chicago File No. 100-7744

he had been accused by Communists of starting the Detroit race riots and that he had gone to the FBI office and talked to MR. BUGAS. SMITH said that investigations conducted in connection with these riots showed that he did not incite them, although he did not state the source of such information.

SMITH related that he had been accused of being anti-Negro and claimed he had never made an utterance against the rights of the Negro people. He said, however, he believed the matter should be considered from a practical point of view, and there was certainly nothing wrong with his being practical about the type of man his daughter married. He said each race should realize that nature and society demanded that the races recognize their difference and neither should expect the other to meet him on a social par. SMITH said he was opposed to letting down the immigration barrier and allowing all nationalities come in in any amounts. He advised that some people had accused him of objecting to the entrance of Jewish refugees and stated that he wished to point out that there were refugees in this country from all parts of the world, including China, Japan, Russia and all European nations, and he was of the opinion that the Jewish refugees should be considered in the same light as all refugees.

SMITH stated that he was a friend to FATHER COUGHLIN^{and} in answer to a question "prophesied" that COUGHLIN would return to the air.

SMITH bitterly denounced WINCHELL AND PEARSON and said that he was suing WINCHELL for \$100,000 for slander because WINCHELL had said over the air that SMITH had trampled on the Cambridge flag which GEORGE WASHINGTON had fought under before BETSY ROSS had made the American flag. He said further that WINCHELL had accused him of spitting on this same flag. SMITH said that what he really had trampled on was a flag similar to the Cambridge flag which was a combination of flags which a certain group in this country today wished to set up as the world flag. SMITH stated he had bought a flag from this group for \$3.68 and wished to state that he could never support this flag and illustrated by dropping it to the floor and stamping on it. He said it certainly was not the Cambridge flag but was, in fact, the flag of the Internationalists.

SMITH told the audience that his son was in the United States Army and that when he left to go he had told his son to go out and give all he had to fight for the stars and stripes. SMITH then stated that he would not care to have his son fight or shed

Chicago File No. 100-7744

one drop of blood in order to make the opportunity for the Internationalists to move the capitol of the United States to London or any place in the world.

SMITH stated he wished to reveal a secret which he had never revealed to any meeting before. He explained that he had forced the Communists in New York City to show their hand as controlling the American Labor Party in that state by writing a letter to the editor of the "Daily Worker", which was published in that paper. SMITH was not clear on how he had forced the Communists to show their hand, but stated that he had been told by one individual that by the use of a 3¢ stamp and a one-page letter SMITH had done more for the Republican Party than any man in the country. SMITH spent most of the evening telling the audience about the various experiences he had had in other cities in being refused places to speak.

He related at great length how a meeting in Buffalo was cancelled three different times but was finally held in a meeting room at the hotel at which he was registered. He also related that in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania a group of Jews had gotten together to endeavor to prevent his holding a meeting but that one Jew at the meeting objected to their taking a stand against SMITH'S meeting because free speech was involved and consequently SMITH was allowed to speak. He further related that while planning a meeting in Cleveland that the mayor of that city forbade him to speak and that he later appeared before a committee on the City Council and presented his argument for free speech and was permitted to speak in Cleveland by a vote of this Council Committee. SMITH related that later on the same issue came up in Cleveland and the mayor of Cleveland stated on that occasion that SMITH should be permitted to speak. SMITH then commented on this by saying, "Of course, the fact that there was an election the next fall had nothing to do with it."

SMITH stated that the meeting was a closed meeting because he intended it to be more of an informal gathering with his friends and that a large crowd could not be accommodated. It was not a closed meeting because he, SMITH, had anything to hide.

SMITH made a plea for contributions to pay his expenses to Minneapolis and his hotel bills and stated he would endeavor to have the people in Minneapolis pay his expenses on to Des Moines. An envelope was passed out containing the title, "America First Party" thereon and contained as a pledge any sum which the individual desired to pledge to help carry on the organization activities. The envelopes were then collected.

Chicago File No. 100-7744

SMITH also distributed the June, 1943 issue of "The Cross and the Flag", copies of which were obtained by the agents. However, it is believed the Detroit Field Division is in possession of this document and so will not be forwarded to that office, but one copy will be placed in the files of the Chicago Field Division.

SMITH spoke from 8:15 to 10:15 P.M. and the remainder of the time up to 11 P.M. was given over to his plea for contributions and questions. The questions submitted appeared to be of an unintelligent nature such as, "When do you think the war will end?" or, "Will Father Coughlin be permitted to return to the radio?"

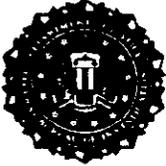
SMITH was very well received by the group and his speech was repeatedly supported by the crowd with cheers and applause.

The notes of the meeting are being retained in the files of the Chicago Field Office.

It was noted by the writer that present at this meeting was JOSEPH E. McWILLIAMS who came in about 9 P.M. and remained standing at the door throughout the meeting. He took no part in the meeting and no mention was made on the platform of his presence.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

Detroit, Michigan

October 4, 1943

4/2518

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. Jones	.....
Mr. Quinn	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Miss Gandy	.....

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases
COMMITTEE OF 1,000,000
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SEDITION

6000/LEP/2
8-10-77

Dear Sir:

There is being set forth hereinafter the substance of information obtained from [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau for the period between September 17 and September 30, 1943.

Informant stated that he had received information to the effect that Reverend HARVEY SPRINGER had addressed a meeting at Detroit, Michigan on September 28, 1943, and that SPRINGER had also apparently contacted Reverend MARION in Pontiac, Michigan on several occasions during the time he was in Detroit as set forth above. It is being noted that SPRINGER remained in Detroit for several days subsequent to the time he gave this speech for SMITH.

Informant stated further that SMITH was greatly perturbed over the fact that he had been contacted by two women giving the names [redacted] and a [redacted] SMITH has stated to informant that it is his belief that these women had been sent by some Jewish organization, probably the B'NAI B'RITH, in an attempt to trap him.

On September 30, 1943, Informant advised that SPRINGER was still in town and that at that time SPRINGER advised SMITH that he, SPRINGER, was scheduled to speak in Colorado on October 14, 15, and 16, but that he would attempt to give another talk for SMITH on October 19.

SMITH has also contacted [redacted] relative to SMITH'S securing the hall in Buffalo, New York on October 27. [redacted] advised SMITH that he was having some difficulty in obtaining a hall, and SMITH advised him at that time that in the event the city refused to grant permission for the use of the auditorium, [redacted] should make use of the following

FOR DEFENSE



61 OCT 14 1943

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DATE 10/4/82 BY [signature]

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43812-348
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38 OCT 8 1943
(S) - [signature]

declassification
8/10/77

Handwritten initials

Letter to the Director
dated October 4, 1943

Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases
COMMITTEE OF 1,000,000
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SEDITION

phrase: "If city-owned property is closed to Congressmen of the United
States, God help America."

Very truly yours,

John S. Bugas, SAC
JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC


62-1126

b7c

9/18/1943

- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Alden
- Mr. Burton
- Mr. Callan
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Cunningham
- Mr. Fitch
- Mr. Strickland
- Mr. Timm

Mechanical Section

Ident. Division

Secy. Section

Crime Statistics

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/MLC

MR. F. L. WELCH

MR. J. F. BUCKLEY

MR. J. A. SIZOO

SUPERVISORS

4039

- W. H. Alexander
- R. W. Black
- E. P. Brown
- G. L. Carroll
- J. P. Coyne
- R. C. Davis
- C. H. DeFord
- R. B. Dunlap
- E. P. Ferris
- J. S. Gilmore
- J. P. Hanratty
- W. K. Harvey
- K. C. Howe

J. G. Keenan

R. O. Kittelsen

C. C. MacCartee

H. MacMillan

K. R. McIntire

J. W. Murray

C. G. Stetter

R. E. Taylor

F. G. Tillman

J. I. Waller

L. W. Wilson

E. N. Winterrowd

Mrs. Henley

Mrs. Dorset

Miss Griffin

Typists - 4725

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Call me

Files Section

Appropriate action

Send References

Send file

Bring file upto-

date

Record, search, se-

rialize, and route

Indicate index

references

Original this report is attached to a memo sent Director
 on this case dated 9/18, 3 copies of report have
 been returned to Detroit J. P. HANRATTY
 9/18/43 to be reviewed SUPERVISOR

Handwritten notes:
 10/6/43
 Original
 Sent # 349
 into

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

Form No. 1
This Case Originated at **DETROIT, MICHIGAN** DETROIT File No. 62-1120

Report Made At DETROIT, MICHIGAN	Date When Made 9/3/43	Period For Which Made 7/3, 8, 10, 17, 22, 24; 8/10, 14, 16, 13-20/43	Report made By [REDACTED]
--	---------------------------------	--	-------------------------------------

Title
**GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases
Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. K. Schmidt;
THE COMMITTEE OF 1,000,000**

**INTERNAL SECURITY -
CUSTODIAL DETENTION -
SEDITION**

DECLASSIFIED BY **400/LED/ML**
ON **8/10/93**

Synopsis of Facts: **b7D**

~~STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] states that SMITH has been contacting numerous officials in an attempt to point out to them that he had no connection with the recent race riots in Detroit. Informant states SMITH requested Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS to secure a copy of the Dies Committee report relative to Reverend C. WILLIAMS, who has been criticizing SMITH in this area. In accordance with this request REYNOLDS forwarded to SMITH a copy of the Dies Committee report regarding WILLIAMS. SMITH has maintained rather close contact with REYNOLDS and Senator NYE relative to future plans, etc. Reverend WINROD has advised SMITH that a new organization, "The Christian Civil Liberties League" is about to be launched and has requested the aid of SMITH. SMITH has indicated that he intends to start suit against WALTER WINCHELL for alleged libel. NYE has requested SMITH to sign all future correspondence with the name "WALTER" rather than SMITH. SMITH has stated that he is going to

*300 of rpt
referred to Detroit
to be reviewed in
accordance with
letter 9/18/43
OPKw*

*Don't send this
rpt out of Bureau; info
incorporated in rpt
SA [REDACTED] 10/11/43
OPKw b7c*

*APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
SA [REDACTED]
DECLASSIFIED
8/10/93
led/ML*

Approved and Forwarded _____
Special Agent in Charge

DEFERRED RECEIVING

- Copies of This Report
- 5 - Bureau 62-43818
 - 2 - Buffalo
 - 2 - Chicago 100-7744
 - 2 - Cleveland 100-7463
 - 2 - Indianapolis 100-4754
 - 2 - New Orleans 62-1194
 - 2 - New York 100-19707
 - 2 - Pittsburgh
 - 4 - Detroit

RECORDED & INDEXED

OCT 6 1943
**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 10/5/92 BY SP-8 BTW/mwh**

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33 OCT 12 1943

(DE 62-1126)

attempt to have the America First Party placed on the official ballot in the state of Michigan in the next election. SMITH has expressed great displeasure with statements made in the recently published book "Undercover" and has indicated a desire for a senatorial investigation of the book. Senator NYE came to Detroit on about August 9th for a one day visit with SMITH. Copies of SMITH's correspondence obtained from Informant DE 38 and set forth herein.

-P-

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 23, 1943 at Detroit, Michigan. b7c

DETAILS:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

[REDACTED] whose identity is known to the Bureau, has advised the Detroit Office that SMITH has been contacting numerous state officials, the Detroit Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Dies Committee and other organizations in an attempt to convince the above-named organizations that neither he personally nor his party had anything whatsoever to do with the race riots in Detroit. SMITH has also made releases to the press denying any participation in the race riots. During all this time SMITH has stated that it was his opinion that the COMMUNIST PARTY was more responsible for the recent race riots in Detroit than any other organization; that his name was brought into the race riots by a Reverend CLAUDE WILLIAMS, who he alleges is backed by the COMMUNIST PARTY. SMITH states WILLIAMS has been acting under instructions from the COMMUNIST PARTY in an attempt to blacken SMITH's name by advising all church people in this vicinity that he, SMITH, had an active part in the riots. SMITH has complained to the various churches throughout this area that although WILLIAMS claims to be a minister he should not rightfully make that claim inasmuch as he is not recognized as a minister of any church. b7D

Along these same lines informant stated that he had received information to the effect that SMITH had contacted Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS at which time SMITH requested REYNOLDS to attempt to secure a copy of the Dies Committee report concerning the Communistic connections of WILLIAMS. [REDACTED] b7D

(DE 62-1126)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated further that he had received information to the effect that SMITH was making a definite effort to have the America First Party placed on the official ballot in the state of Michigan in the next election and that in fact SMITH at a recent meeting had proposed to his audience that his business manager, BERNARD DOMAN be selected as their candidate for mayor.

[REDACTED] has advised the Detroit Office on numerous occasions that SMITH was making preparations for the institution of a libel suit against WALTER WINCHELL for alleged libelous statements made by WINCHELL in one of his radio broadcasts. It is being pointed out at this time that SMITH is complaining of the fact that in one of his radio broadcasts WINCHELL is alleged to have made the remark that SMITH trampled on the American flag while addressing an audience at Buffalo, New York. SMITH admits that he trampled upon a flag, but that this flag was definitely not the American flag, but that it was rather a flag which he was exhibiting to the audience which in his opinion was the flag selected by certain groups within the United States who were favoring the definite unification of the United States and Great Britain.

Informant stated that he had received information to the effect that SMITH had contacted Mrs. KNOWLES, one of his ardent

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followers in Detroit, with the suggestion that she, Mrs. KNOWLES, sponsor a meeting in Detroit and invite Representative CLARE HOFFMAN of Michigan to attend that meeting and that he, SMITH, would take care of all the expenses.

Informant related further that on or about August 9, 1943 SMITH had been in telephonic contact with the secretary of United States Senator NYE and at that time SMITH requested information of the secretary relative to the character and activities of one [REDACTED] who had allegedly been sent to Detroit for the purpose of securing information from SMITH. SMITH was advised by the secretary that [REDACTED] apparently had been O.K.'d by Senator NYE. b7c

Informant stated that SMITH has been greatly perturbed for the past few weeks over the recently published book "Undercover", said book having been written by one JOHN ROY CARLSON. It is being noted that SMITH is referred to in this book in a rather derogatory manner and SMITH has indicated a desire to have the book made the subject of a senatorial investigation. SMITH has also indicated to informant that this book was being backed by WALTER WINCHELL.

[REDACTED] stated he had received information to the effect that United States Senator NYE had been in Detroit either on August 9th or 10th, apparently for the purpose of discussing with SMITH future plans for the America First Committee and other political theories with regard to the coming presidential election. b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c
b7D

[REDACTED]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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(DE 62-1123)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7D

[REDACTED]

Handwritten signature

[REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE TO THE BUREAU: Envelope containing various releases published by SMITH.

PENDING

(DE 62-1126)

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE BUFFALO FIELD OFFICE

At Buffalo, New York, will advise in report form the results of the meeting addressed by SMITH on August 16, 1943 as requested in letter from the Detroit Field Office to the Buffalo Field Office.

THE CHICAGO FIELD OFFICE

At Chicago, Illinois, will report in report form the results of the meeting to be addressed by Subject SMITH at Chicago, Illinois on September 6, 1943.

THE CLEVELAND FIELD OFFICE

At Cleveland, Ohio, will advise in report form the results of the meeting addressed by SMITH on August 19, 1943 at Cleveland, Ohio, as requested in letter from the Detroit Field Office.

At Toledo, Ohio, will report in report form the results of the meeting to be addressed by SMITH on August 25, 1943 at Hotel Secor in Toledo. In connection with this lead it is being noted that SMITH had previously set a tentative date for August 20th, but this has since been changed to August 25, 1943.

THE INDIANAPOLIS FIELD OFFICE

* At Indianapolis, Indiana, will report the result of the meeting addressed by SMITH at Fort Wayne, on June 1, 1943.

THE NEW YORK FIELD OFFICE

* At New York, New York, will interview [REDACTED] for pertinent information in their files concerning GERALD L. K. SMITH. 670

* In connection with the Bureau's request, efforts should be made to locate and interview [REDACTED]. Investigation should be conducted along the lines suggested in Bureau letter to the New York Field Office dated June 16, 1943.

(DE 62-1126)

THE NEW ORLEANS FIELD OFFICE

At Lake Charles, Louisiana, will contact [REDACTED] b7c
[REDACTED], and ascertain whether he has any knowledge
concerning Subject and his background.

THE PITTSBURGH FIELD OFFICE

At Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will report the results
of the meeting addressed by SMITH on August 17, 1943 as requested in
letter from the Detroit Field Office.

THE DETROIT FIELD OFFICE

At Detroit, Michigan, will maintain contact with [REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED] and report any information
received from them relative to instant case in report form.

PENDING

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COPY: NJA

DO-11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FLW:TD

DATE July 22, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Attached are summary memoranda which you requested on the following individuals:

[Redacted]
Gerald L. K. Smith
[Redacted]

b7c

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/5/82 BY SP-858/mh

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 14 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

4 OCT 16 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

GERALD L. K. DATE 10/5/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/mh

JFB:lem:MMJ
7-22-43

Personal History and Background

Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith was born at Pardeesville, Wisconsin, in February, 1898. He is better known today as Gerald L. K. Smith, and his history reveals that he attended Butler Seminary in Indianapolis, Indiana, subsequent to which he graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana, having completed his studies in theology there. Smith took up his ministerial duties subsequent to leaving Valparaiso University, and it is known that he has served as a minister in Footville, Wisconsin, and also at the Seventh Christian Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Smith moved from Indiana to Louisiana and assumed a ministerial post at Shreveport, Louisiana. He became interested in the late Huey Long's "share the wealth" movement and went so far as to actively and openly participate in politics in Louisiana as a follower of Huey Long. The publicity which he received from these activities resulted in Smith's dismissal during 1934 from his ministerial post. After the death of Huey Long, Smith continued to identify himself with the "Long machine" but it appears that his efforts were unsuccessful and he left Louisiana in 1937, proceeding to New York City. He launched there an unsuccessful effort to build up "The Committee of One Million." Immediately thereafter, in 1938, he moved to Detroit, where he has since been located.

In Detroit, "The Committee of One Million" was again organized "for the purpose of combatting the menace of Communism." In 1939, Smith

- Mr. Tolson advocated isolationism and subsequent to the involvement of the United
- Mr. E. A. Tamm States in the present war he has openly criticized the Government's war
- Mr. Clegg effort and also directed criticism at what he describes as the efforts of
- Mr. Coffey the present Government to enslave the United States as an entity in
- Mr. Glavin an International State dominated by Great Britain.
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Rosen connection with Huey Long and his activities as the organizer of "The Committee
- Mr. Tracy of One Million," but it is of significance to observe that it appears that the
- Mr. Carson turning point of Smith's life dates from his association with Huey Long.
- Mr. Harbo prior to that time he was the usual type of minister concerned with problems
- Mr. Hendon incidental to his calling. However, it seems that his participation in the
- Mr. McGuire "share the wealth" movement fired his ambition to the extent of self visual-
- Mr. Mumford ization of himself as a dominant political figure. Being unsuccessful in
- Mr. Piper associating himself with Long's successors, he has apparently continued his
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

62-43818-357

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83 OCT 13 1964

Handwritten initials and scribbles.