

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : THE DIRECTOR

DATE: January 4, 1951

FROM : D. M. Ladd

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
MYLES HORTON, DIRECTOR
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/cw
748832

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ladd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clegg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glavin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tracy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Harbo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Belmont	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nease	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

PURPOSE

To explain, pursuant to your request, the delay in answering the letter of Myles Horton, director of the Highlander Folk School.

DETAILS

Under date of December 10, 1950, Myles Horton, who is the subject of a closed security investigation, wrote a letter to Assistant Director Hugh H. Clegg (letter and enclosures attached), asking Mr. Clegg to comment on a news release which set forth the aims and purposes of the Highlander Folk School. He further made reference to an alleged statement made by an Agent of the FBI concerning the news release.

According to the various time stamps, the letter was received at the Bureau on December 15, 1950 (Friday). It was received in Mr. Tolson's office at 4:06 PM, December 18 (Monday). Mr. Clegg's office received it at 5:10 PM, December 19. It was received back in Mr. Tolson's office at 5:56 PM, December 20. It was received in Mr. Ladd's office at 6:15 PM, December 20 and was received by the Security Investigative Division (Mr. Belmont's office) on December 21, 1950, for handling.

It was noted in Myles Horton's letter that he accused an Agent of making an improper statement and in order to clear up this item, SAC Robey of Knoxville was telephonically contacted at 11:00 AM, December 21, 1950, and instructed to make inquiry among the Agents of his office to determine if any Agent had made the alleged statement. On the same day, while awaiting a reply from the Knoxville Office, a file review concerning the Highlander Folk School and Myles Horton was made.

A teletype reply was received from the Knoxville Office at 5:21 PM, December 21, 1950, wherein the alleged statement referred to in Horton's letter was emphatically denied. On the morning of December 22, 1950 (Friday), a memorandum was prepared, setting forth background data concerning the Highlander Folk School and Myles Horton (attached), to which was attached a proposed reply to Myles Horton over your signature.

Attachment

61-7511

:mn

JAN 29 1951

RECORDED
INDEXED

JAN 20 1951

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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

DEC 21 1950

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Ladd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Clegg	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Glavin	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tracy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Harbo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nease	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

FBI KNOXVILLE 12-21-50 5-21PM

DIRECTOR, FBI ATT.-- INSPECTOR L.L. LAUGHLIN

LETTER FROM MYLES HORTON, HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, MONTEAGLE, TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR H.H. CLEGG, BUREAU. RE TELEPHONE CALL INSPECTOR LAUGHLIN TODAY. MYLES HORTON CONTACTED DECEMBER SEVEN, FIFTY BY SAS

etc [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] IN CONNECTION WITH THE WILLIAM WALTER REMINGTON PERJURY CASE. BOTH AGENTS STATE

EMPHATICALLY THAT HORTON DID NOT SHOW THEM NEWS RELEASE REFERRED TO IN HIS LETTER TO MR. CLEGG DATED DECEMBER TEN LAST AND NO STATEMENT MADE BY EITHER AGENT THAT WOULD EVEN REMOTELY APPROACH HORTON-S ALLEGATION. SIGNED STATEMENTS BEING TAKEN FROM AGENTS AND BEING FORWARDED TO BUREAU.

ROBEY

END

ACK AND HOLD PLS

5-25 PM OK FBI WA SMS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTM/CH
245332

RECORDED - 21

161-7511-144
JAN 19 1951 5-144

*memo Mr. Tolson
letter 12-22-50
12-27-50
[REDACTED] ex*

*Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy*

60 APR 25 1951

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-11615

4243

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *abz*

FROM : MR. L. L. LAUGHLIN *LL*

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
 MYLES HORTON, DIRECTOR
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C
 (Bureau File 61-7511)

DATE: December 21, 1950

Tolson _____
 Ladd _____
 Clegg _____
 Glavin _____
 Nichols _____
 Rosen _____
 Tracy _____
 Harbo _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Nease _____
 Gandy _____

I called SAC Robey of Knoxville at 11:00 A.M. today and read to him the letter addressed to Mr. Clegg by Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee. I also dictated to Mr. Robey the press release attached to Mr. Horton's letter to Mr. Clegg. *Bourgeois*

Mr. Robey was instructed to make the necessary inquiry among the Agents of his Office for the purpose of identifying the Agent who, according to Mr. Horton's letter, told him that the contents of the news release which he enclosed with his letter would be considered Communistic by a majority of the Southern people.

I requested Mr. Robey to look into this matter immediately and to furnish the Bureau very promptly with the results of his inquiry.

LLL:mer

RECORDED - 94

61-7511-145
JAN 19 1951

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aw

60 APR 25 1951

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[Handwritten signature]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Ladd *WV*

DATE: December 22, 1950

FROM : Mr. Belmont *Q*

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
MYLES HORTON, DIRECTOR
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Bureau file # 61-7511

Tolson	_____
Ladd	_____
Clegg	_____
Glavin	_____
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Tracy	_____
Harbo	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Nease	_____
Gandy	_____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ck
245532

Purpose:

To recommend that the attached letter be approved for transmittal to Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School. This letter is in reply to a letter which Horton directed to Assistant Director H. H. Clegg at the Bureau.

Details:

Under date of December 10, 1950, Horton wrote the attached letter to Assistant Director H. H. Clegg. He attached a statement of purpose, program, and policy of the Highlander Folk School which was approved by the Executive Council on April 3, 1950, and a press release of the school dated November 20, 1950. In his letter Horton indicated that a Special Agent of the Bureau had commented that the news release would be considered Communistic by a majority of Southern people. He contrasted the alleged statement of the Agent with the recent position taken by Assistant Director Clegg at the "New York Herald Tribune" Forum.

On December 21, 1950, the Knoxville Office was telephonically contacted and advised of the alleged statement made by a Special Agent of the Knoxville Office. Under the same date the Knoxville Office replied by the attached teletype that Myles Horton had been contacted on December 7, 1950, by Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] in connection with the William Walter Remington perjury case. Both Agents have stated emphatically that Horton did not show them the news release referred to in Horton's letter to Assistant Director Clegg and no statement was made by either Agent that would even remotely approach Horton's allegations.

For your information the Highlander Folk School is the subject of an eight section Bureau investigation. This school was founded in Monteagle, Tennessee and a charter of incorporation, under the Code of Tennessee, was taken out on July 31, 1934. The school at its inception was supported by members of the Socialist Party

Enclosure
[redacted] :vab

RECORDED

61-7511-146
JAN 19 1951

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

of national prominence, including Norman Thomas. The school was founded "to provide an educational center in the South for the training of rural and industrial leaders and for the conservation and encouragement of the indigenous cultural values of the mountains." Myles Horton, the present Director was one of the original incorporators. A study of the program of the Highlander Folk School indicates that the school followed the Communist Party line to a certain degree. Literature received by and distributed by the school consists of labor pamphlets, magazines, Socialist literature, and to some extent Communist literature. The school is not believed to have passed out pamphlets of the Communist Party as such but has contented itself with providing publications such as "Soviet Power," "Communist Manifesto," and literature which presents the broad picture of Communism rather than that representing the various turnings of the Communist Party line. Many individuals of high Government, labor and social standing have endorsed this school from time to time, including Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Hugo L. Black, John L. Lewis, Mrs. Harold L. Ickes, and others. (61-7511-132)



Horton was born July 9, 1905, at Savannah, Tennessee. The investigation revealed that no definite proof of membership in the Communist Party has been developed concerning Horton; however, there is considerable information reflecting his close association with Communists and having Communist sympathies.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the attached letter be transmitted to Horton in reply to his letter to Assistant Director H. H. Clegg.

I believe it would be more desirable for Mr Clegg to answer this over his own signature rather than have the Director acknowledge
Dr

RECORDED - 9

January 3, 1951

61-7511-146

Mr. Myles Horton
Director
Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee

Dear Sirs

71177

This will acknowledge your letter of
December 10, 1950.

It has long been the established
procedure of this Bureau to refrain from commenting
on the statement of aims and purposes of any
organization and, therefore, we cannot comment
on the policies of your school.

With regard to the statement that you
attributed to a Special Agent of this Bureau, this
will advise that I have checked with the two
Special Agents who contacted you on December 7,
1950. They emphatically deny that you showed them
the news release or that they made any statements
to you remotely approaching your allegation.

Very truly yours,

Hugh H. Clegg
Assistant Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BT/jcb

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 61-7511-146-15

mac (t1c)

Handwritten signature and initials

MAILED 12
JAN 3 - 1951
COMM - FBI

Handwritten notes and stamps: 3 08 11, 12 DEPT OF JUSTICE, FBI

65 APR 24 1951

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. D. M. LADD

FROM : MR. A. H. BELMONT *AK*

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
Internal Security - C

DATE: February 26, 1951

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Harbo _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

PURPOSE

To recommend that the attached letters to Roger Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union and to Peyton Ford be approved. These letters as they now read conform to the instructions of the Director which appear on the attached communications to these individuals previously prepared.

ACTION

The attached letters are being submitted for your approval.

The questions raised by the Director on your memorandum to him dated February 23, 1951, are presently being studied and the answers will be furnished to you immediately.

Attachments

mn

51 MAR 12 1951

RECORDED - 108
INDEXED - 108 MAR 1 1951

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP 8 BTG/09

245832

AK
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AK



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

February 23, 1951

Mr. Roger N. Baldwin
Chairman, National Committee
American Civil Liberties Union
170 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

~~Receipt is acknowledged with reference to your letter of February 14, 1951, concerning the Highlander Folk School, in which you referred to the FBI conducting an inquiry into this school because of its interracial education. I thought you would be interested to know that I have had a careful check made into this matter.~~

~~This will assure you that no investigation has been conducted concerning the interracial educational facilities of the school you mentioned. We have, of course, had occasion to contact representatives of this school on individual cases such as applicant and security investigations. The purpose of the applicant inquiries has been to secure information at its source for guidance of governmental agencies in considering applicants for appointment.~~

~~In fulfilling our responsibility to protect the internal security of the country the Federal Bureau of Investigation is charged to investigate any individual upon receipt of substantial information reflecting that individual to be engaged in subversive activity. We have in the past conducted a limited number of security investigations of individuals which required inquiry at the Highlander Folk School. I again wish to advise you that such investigations were not initiated on the basis that the individual was engaged in interracial educational activities nor was this question considered in any manner during the course of the investigation.~~

~~However, since our contacts at the school have either been misunderstood or have become a source of irritation to Mr. Myles Horton, director of the school, I have issued appropriate instructions to discontinue any direct contacts with representatives of the school.~~

Sincerely yours,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/24/84 BY SP8 BTJ/OL
245532

Handwritten notes and signatures:
The last paragraph...
[Signature]

Vertical handwritten note on the right margin:
Student of this school on individual cases...

Handwritten note at top right:
A careful investigation into this matter has established that no investigation by the FBI has been conducted of the Highlander Folk School on the ground that they school or anyone connected with it has sponsored interracial educational activities. Representative

We have, of course, had occasion to contact representatives of this school on individual cases such as applicant and security investigations. The purpose of the applicant inquiries has been to secure information at its source for guidance of governmental agencies in considering applicants for appointment. In fulfilling our responsibility to protect the internal security of the country, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is charged to investigate any individual upon receipt of substantial information reflecting that individual to be engaged in subversive activity. We have in the past conducted a limited number of security investigations of individuals requiring inquiries at the Highlander Folk School. However, such investigations were not initiated on the basis that the individual was engaged in interracial educational activities nor was this question considered in any manner during the course of the investigation.

With reference to the letter you received from Mr. Barnett, I can only state that he has been misinformed by Myles Horton, director of the Highlander Folk School.

For your further information, in addition to the correspondence between Mr. Myles Horton and Mr. Clegg of this Bureau as reflected by the material enclosed with your memorandum of February 19, 1951, we have received a communication from Mr. Roger N. Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union on the same subject matter. Copies of Mr. Baldwin's letter and my reply thereto are attached for your information.

Enclosure

OF DIRECTORS

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

170 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

ORegon 5-5990

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 Jonathan B. Bingham
 Mrs. Dorothy Dunbar Bromley
 Carl Carmer
 Richard S. Childs
 Herman Cousins
 Edward J. Ennis
 Felix L. Ernst
 F. Finerty
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 James Lawrence Fly
 Osmond K. Fraenkel
 Walter Frank
 Varian Fry
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Dr. Frank J. McConnell

Dr. J. Muste
 Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer
 Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam
 Dr. Rev. Edward L. Parsons
 James G. Patton
 A. Philip Randolph
 W. I. Rogers, Jr.
 Emma Tusher

John Nevin Sayre
 Dr. Rev. William Scarlett
 Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr.
 Joseph Schlossberg
 Orville Shepard
 Dr. Robert F. Silver

Edward J. Spaulding
 Raymond Swing
 Mrs. Dorothy Tilly
 Aubrey Williams
 L. Hollingsworth Wood
 Dr. William Lindsay Young

AFFILIATED COMMITTEES

71176

February 14, 1951

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It has come to my attention as a contributor to the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, that agents of your office have

recently been conducting an inquiry into the school, apparently on the ground that inter-racial education is somehow "subversive".

I cannot quite believe that any such attitude correctly reflects your policies, and therefore venture to suggest that you may be interested to check up on the inquiry.

We would appreciate being advised of the facts as to why any investigation of the school has been made.

Sincerely yours,

Roger N. Baldwin
 Roger N. Baldwin

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8BTA/aw
 245832

RECORDED - 103
 INDEXED 100
 MAR 1 1951
 14

Get reply out promptly
asked 2-26-51-AR
Director 2-28-51
2-26-51

EX-4
Handwritten initials and marks

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

61-7511-147

RECORDED - 108

February 26, 1951

FX-4

71175

F 5-1

Mr. Roger N. Baldwin
Chairman, National Committee
American Civil Liberties Union
170 Fifth Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter dated February 14, 1951, concerning the Highlander Folk School, in which you referred to the FBI's conducting an inquiry into this school because of its interracial education.

A careful investigation into this matter has established that no investigation by the FBI has been conducted of the Highlander Folk School on the ground that that school or anyone connected with it has sponsored interracial educational activities. Representatives of this Bureau have had occasion to contact representatives of this school on individual cases such as applicant and security investigations.

However, since our contacts at the school have either been misunderstood or have become a source of irritation to Mr. Myles Horton, director of the school, I have issued appropriate instructions to discontinue any direct contacts with representatives of the school.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

- Ladd _____
- Glavin _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Harbo _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

cc - New York (w/enclosure)
Knoxville (w/enclosure)

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
F B I
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FEB 26 1951
FEB 26 1951
FEB 26 1951

FEB 26 1951

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ew
245582

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Handwritten initials/signature

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE

FEB 8 1951

January 31, 1951

*by S.
E. B. I. Tenn.*

Paul

71162

RECEIVED, RECEIVED

FEB 7 - 1951

Honorable J. Howard McGrath
United States Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

~~DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEB 7 1951
DIVISION OF RECORDS
CRIM. - CIVIL RIGHTS SEC.
CRIM. - INTERNAL SECURITY SEC.~~

Dear Mr. McGrath:

Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, Southern CIO Public Relations Representative, has suggested that I ask your advice about a problem growing out of the attendance of Negroes at the Highlander Folk School. Because of your own personal feeling in regard to discrimination, Miss Mason felt that you would understand the problem here and be in a position to give advice.

The Highlander Folk School endeavors to put racial democracy into practice; consequently we can expect a measure of opposition.

We hardly expected, however, to have Negro students made the subject of investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On October 11th I wrote Senator Estes Kefauver that FBI agents were asking our neighbors about the attendance of Negroes and implying that our non-discrimination policy was communistic and immoral. This line of questioning has created confusion in the minds of our neighbors regarding the rights of Negroes to be at the School.

On December 10th I raised this question with Mr. Hugh H. Clegg, Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and quoted one of the FBI agents who had told me that he thought our enclosed news release condemning discrimination would be considered communistic by a majority of Southern people.

The apparent confusion of racial democracy with communism by the FBI agents and the implication of this kind of thinking alarmed the Highlander Executive Council members who met January 22 and 23.

See Serial 158 FOR SI INFO

RECORDED - 24
INDEXED - 24

61-7511-149
MAR 2 1951

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CL
245582

KEEP IN F. B. I. FILES
4/26/51 6.75.

[Redacted]
etc

January 31, 1951

71163

Council members were also disturbed by the exchange of correspondence with Mr. Clegg. If agents can deny what they have said, they can likewise report things they have not been told. Since they go in pairs, the person interviewed is at a disadvantage.

With this problem in mind, a motion was made by Miss Lucy Randolph Mason "that, because of previous misunderstandings in interviews with FBI agents, the Highlander Director shall speak for the staff and shall ask that all questions posed by any FBI agents be put in writing, and shall make his replies in writing - provided legal counsel advises this action."

The Council is not raising the question of giving information, but of giving it in such a way that the person interviewed has the protection of a written record. Could you advise us as to the legality of the Council proposal that interviews be carried on in writing.

We shall greatly appreciate your advice on this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Myrtle Horton, Director
Highlander Folk School

P. S. I want to pass on a comment on this letter made by a neighbor.

cc: Senator Estes Kefauver

enclosures

Department of Justice
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Washington

February 19, 1951

Mr. Myles Horton
Director, Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee

71161

My dear Mr. Horton:

This will acknowledge your letter of January 31, 1951, addressed to the Attorney General, requesting advice about a problem growing out of the attendance of negroes at the Highlander Folk School. You advise that the Highlander Executive Council members are disturbed by the exchange of correspondence with Mr. Hugh H. Clegg, Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and comment that if agents can deny what they have said, they can likewise report things they have not been told. You quote a motion which was made by Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, which provides that the Highlander Director shall speak for the staff and shall ask that all questions posed by any FBI agents be put in writing and shall make his replies in writing provided legal counsel advises this action. You then request the Attorney General's advice as to the legality of the council's proposal that interviews be carried on in writing. ||

I should first point out to you that the Attorney General is authorized by law to give ^{ad}vice only to the President of the United States and to the various Department heads, in view of which I regret that the Department cannot advise you regarding the legal situation involved. It occurs to me, however, that there should normally be no serious objection to having Special Agents contact the Highlander Director when desiring information from the staff of the school as contemplated by the motion quoted in your letter. Furthermore, I would suppose that written replies to questions, either in the form of stenographic recording of the questions and answers, or in the form of affidavits, would be quite satisfactory. I believe that you will find the agents quite willing to accede to your desires in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BJA/la
24553

Peyton Ford
Deputy Attorney General

61-7511-149

ENCLOSURE

February 19, 1951

Mr. Eyles Horton
Director, Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee

71165

My dear Mr. Horton:

This will acknowledge your letter of January 31, 1951, addressed to the Attorney General, requesting advice about a problem growing out of the attendance of negroes at the Highlander Folk School. You advise that the Highlander Executive Council members are disturbed by the exchange of correspondence with Mr. Hugh H. Clegg, Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and comment that if agents can deny what they have said, they can likewise report things they have not been told. You quote a motion which was made by Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, which provides that the Highlander Director shall speak for the staff and shall ask that all questions posed by any FBI agents be put in writing and shall make his replies in writing provided legal counsel advises this action. You then request the Attorney General's advice as to the legality of the council's proposal that interviews be carried on in writing.

I should first point out to you that the Attorney General is authorized by law to give advice only to the President of the United States and to the various Department heads, in view of which I regret that the Department cannot advise you regarding the legal situation involved. It occurs to me, however, that there should normally be no serious objection to having Special Agents contact the Highlander Director when desiring information from the staff of the school as contemplated by the motion quoted in your letter. Furthermore, I would suppose that written replies to questions, either in the form of stenographic recording of the questions and answers, or in the form of affidavits, would be quite satisfactory. I believe that you will find the agents quite willing to accede to your desires in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aj

Peyton Ford
Deputy Attorney General

CP:ms

Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee

for immediate release

Monteagle, Tennessee . . . November 20, 1950 . . . "Our Christmas bells could be freedom bells if we dared include all minorities in our circle of brotherhood," Myles Horton told a conference of church leaders at the Highlander Folk School.

71166

"Freedom bells ringing in the cabins of Negro sharecroppers, ringing for eager minded students with opportunities limited by accident of birth, and freedom bells echoing in distant lands could fill the troubled world with thoughts of peace on earth and good will toward man," he said.

"Highlander's democratic program is based on the brotherhood of man. Democracy to us means that membership in the human family entitles all to the freedom of thought and religion, to equal rights to a livelihood, education and health; to equal opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the community and to equal access to public services," the religious leaders were told.

"We hold that democracy is inactive unless workers are given a full voice in industry through unions; or farmers are given a voice in the market place through cooperatives; or where freedom of thought and discussion is limited; and that democracy is outlawed by legally entrenched discrimination and segregation.

"The times call for an affirmative program, based on a positive goal," said Horton. "An army of democracy deeply rooted in the lives, struggles and traditions of the American people must be created. By broadening the scope of democracy to include everyone, and deepening the concept to include every relationship, the army of democracy would be so vast and so determined that nothing undemocratic could stand in its path."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 5/24/84 BY SP8/STJ/lor
245382

61-9511-149

ENCLOSURE
v

C
O
P
Y

Rt. 1
Tracy City, Tennessee
Jan. 31, 1951 71187

Dear Myles:

This, to my mind, is a thoroughly honest and perfectly concise expression of the problem you present. I cannot see how Mr. McGrath can fail to understand its significance, and understanding, fail to take steps toward the prevention of future trouble.

Please feel free to use me as a reference if you have such need. I am always willing to speak or write my convictions regarding your personal integrity and the high purpose of Highlander.

I was here some years before you came. The newness of your program aroused wonder and even suspicion in the community. We heard wild tales of communistic intent, alliance with Russia, machine guns in the attic and various forms of immorality. People came to me with these extrabagant rumors, begging me to "do something about it." I did do something. I visited the school when you and Don West gave a "play-party" for the children of our community. I went again when Jim Dombrowski started a Bible study class. We learned a good deal about social conditions in the days of Amos and Micah. I went to a meeting held after a neighbor's house had burned down and you started plans - and funds - for building a new home for him. I went to a Christmas party where I helped with the children's games and saw you play Santa Claus with a bag of presents. Once I went to a sewing bee, another neighborhood benefit. I was sick at the time the P. T. A. was organized in your living room, but I heard all about it. I heard, too, of other "good deeds" -- by this time the neighbors had something else to talk about than the fearful fantasies of the early days. One dark night, Jim went a good way to bring a doctor for one of my school girls in time to save her and her baby. "I didn't know there were such good folks," one neighbor woman said. Then I heard about the time that Claudia Lewis, the Nursery School teacher, and another one from Highlander, prepared all that was needful to bury a little child in a very poor family.

All these things and many more convinced me that your purpose and plan for coming to live in our community was essentially good and had no ulterior motive. In later years I have learned more of your practical program, your concept of true democracy in your policy of non-discrimination, non-segregation, and your actual example in living what you believe. I know a minister who said, "I wish I could feel that I came as near as Myles Horton to real consecration to the Cause of real Christianity."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/a
245582

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Myles Horton

page 2

Jan. 31, 1951

71168

"Do you think Highlander is radical?" The last time I was asked this question, I gave this answer which I would give today. "Yes, they are radical - as radical as the Declaration of Independence - or the Sermon on the Mount."

It is because you dare to believe that not only "all men are created free and equal", but that there should be "liberty and justice for all" that you are radical. And the one who bade all men to act like brothers, made no difference between his white children and the black.

I deplore the recent "investigation" of the F B I agents, implying as it did, that your non-discrimination policy toward Negro students constituted proof of your communistic nature, purpose, plan and intent. When racial democracy can be confused with communism in the minds of F B I agents, there is cause for alarm, it seems to me. Our community has come a long way in appreciating and understanding the policy of Highlander, its principles, its practice of real democracy. But this faith though fostered for so many years by living proof and example, cannot fail to suffer from the shock of a visit from the F B I in which the school's policy of non-discrimination is given a red tag and label.

With all this in mind, I am glad you have written this letter to Mr. McGrath. I hope it leads to a definite understanding which will affect all future interviews.

With best wishes for you and the rest of the Highlander staff, I remain

Your friend,

Ray Justus

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Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee
December 10, 1950

71169

Mr. Hugh H. Clegg
Assistant Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clegg:

I was pleased to read from the International Labor News Service that you feel that the "success of communism" can be measured by the weaknesses of democracy. I am led to believe by your analysis of the situation that you would approve the enclosed statement of policy of the Highlander Folk School.

In the South, people are often criticized who believe as we do here at Highlander that discrimination is incompatible with democracy. In fact I was told recently by one of your agents that the contents of the enclosed news release would be considered communistic by a majority of Southern people.

I sincerely trust that the position taken by you in the New York Herald Tribune forum is the official position of the F.B.I., and not the position implied by the activities of your representatives who have questioned our neighbors regarding visits of Negroes to the School.

Would you clear this matter up for me?

Sincerely yours,

Myles Horton
Director

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61-7511-147

ENCLOSURE

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

January 3, 1961

71170

Mr. Miles Horton
Director
Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge your letter of
December 10, 1960.

It has long been the established procedure
of this Bureau to refrain from commenting on the
statement of aims and purposes of any organizations
and, therefore, we cannot comment on the policies
of your school.

With regard to the statement that you
attributed to a Special Agent of this Bureau, this
will advise that I have checked with the two Special
Agents who contacted you on December 7, 1960. They
categorically deny that you shared them the news
release or that they made any statements to you
randomly approaching your allegations.

Very truly yours,

Hugh H. Clegg
Assistant Director

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24553A

from Highlander Executive Council minutes
(page 3) Jan 22-23, 1951

71171

Horton gave a full report on some recent activities of F B I agents who are questioning people in the community. The agents have been asking neighbors about Negroes attending or visiting Highlander. Horton read a letter he wrote Senator Kefauver which said in part; "They (the F B I agents) have been particularly insistent in their questions about the attendance of Negroes at Highlander sessions and conferences. They wanted to know where people sleep and what goes on after the conferences are over . . . I hope you can find time to look into this situation and do something to stop intimidation of our neighbors and the inference that the non-discrimination policy of the school, which is that of the CIO and AFL, is communistic and immoral."

Horton continued that the agents are going around the community trying to stir up the people by asking loaded questions about the Negro students at Highlander. Next time, Horton read a newspaper report that the assistant Director of the F B I made a speech at the New York Herald Tribune forum in which he said discrimination was incompatible with democracy. Horton congratulated the F B I spokesman and reported a comment made to him by an F B I agent who said that a Highlander News release which condemns discrimination, would be considered communistic by a majority of southern people. The F B I Assistant Director answered that he had personally checked the matter and that both agents who talked with Horton, denied emphatically making any such statement.

After prolonged discussion, it was moved by Lucy Randolph Mason that, because of previous misunderstandings in interviews with F B I agents, the Highlander Director shall speak for the staff and shall ask that all questions posed by any F B I agents be put in writing, and shall make his replies in writing - provided

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245302

ENCLOSURE

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71172

legal counsel advises this action. Motion seconded by Emil Willimata
and passed.

It was also suggested by Miss Mason that the Director shall write
U.W. Attorney General Howard McGrath and review this situation and explain
to him why we have been forced to take this action; and that a copy of
this letter shall be sent to Senator Kefauver and Highlander Sponsors.

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, PROGRAM AND POLICY

71173

We reaffirm our faith in democracy as a goal that will bring dignity and freedom to all; in democracy as an expanding concept encompassing human relations from the smallest community organization to international structure; and permeating all economic, social, and political activities.

Democracy to us means that membership in the human family entitles all to freedom of thought and religion, to equal rights to a livelihood, education and health; to equal opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the community and to equal access to public services.

We hold that democracy is inactive unless workers are given a full voice in industry through unions; or farmers are given a voice in the market place through cooperatives; or where freedom of thought and discussion is limited; that democracy is outlawed by legally entrenched discrimination and segregation; that there must be diversity of approach but each step must be in conformity with the goal, which is dishonored by each undemocratic act.

With a democratic goal, we are in a position to fight anything that gets in the way, whether it be totalitarian communism, or fascism or monopoly dominated capitalism.

The purpose of the Highlander Folk School is to assist in creating leadership for democracy. Our services are available to labor, farm community, religious and civic organizations working toward a democratic goal.

The nature of a specific educational program will be determined by the needs of the students.

Use of the services of the School by individual organizations will be in accordance with their own policies so long as these policies do not conflict with the purposes of the School. A staff member will assist in planning and coordinating all programs.

The Highlander Folk School is a chartered institution, cooperatively owned by the teaching staff. It has no affiliations. The policies and program of the School are wholly determined by an Executive Council composed of the staff and recognized Southern leaders.

Highlander Folk School is supported by contributions from individuals, organizations served by the School, foundations and tuition.

The times call for an affirmative program, based on a positive goal. An army of democracy deeply rooted in the lives, struggles and traditions of the American people must be created. By broadening the scope of democracy to include everyone, and deepening the concept to include every relationship, the army of democracy would be so vast and so determined that nothing undemocratic could stand in its path.

Approved by the Executive Council, April 3rd, 1950

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HIGH SCHOOL SPONSORS

291X

Dr. John Dewey
 Saul D. Alinsky
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Barnes
 Dr. A. D. Beittel
 Mary McLeod Bethune
 Algernon Black
 Dr. B. R. Brazoal
 Mrs. Ethel Clyde
 Rev. Witherspoon Dodge
 Clifford J. Durr
 Kermit Eby
 Mrs. Gladys Talbott Edwards
 Gertrude Ely
 Rev. W. J. Faulkner
 Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Fillman
 Mrs. Harry Gershon
 Clinton S. Golden
 George M. Guest, M.D.
 Mrs. Grace T. Hamilton
 Leon Henderson
 J. Lewis Henderson
 Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg
 Dr. Fleming James
 Dr. Charles S. Johnson
 Dr. Lilian W. Johnson
 Lewis Jones
 May Justus
 Freda Kirchwey

71174

Mrs. Simon Kuhn
 Mr. & Mrs. Corliss Lamont
 Mrs. Ernest K. Lindley
 A. A. Liveright
 Lucy Randolph Mason
 Dr. Benjamin E. Mays
 Carey McWilliams
 Dr. George Mitchell
 Mrs. Lucy Sprague Mitchell
 Rev. Walter G. Muelder
 Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr
 Jennings Perry
 Clarence E. Pickett
 Dr. Walter Rautenstrauch
 Malcolm Ross
 Rev. Eugene Smathers
 Hilda W. Smith
 P. A. Stephens, M.D.
 Jordan Stokes III
 Dr. Alva W. Taylor
 Dr. John B. Thompson
 Mrs. M. E. Tilly
 Dr. Willard Uphaus
 Gerhard Van Arkel
 J. Raymond Walsh
 Hon. & Mrs. J. Waties Waring
 Aubrey Williams
 Thomas Williston, M.D.
 Dr. Louis Wirth

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 245632

Mr. Peyton Ford
Deputy Attorney General

February 26, 1951

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
Information Concerning

EX-4

RECORDED - 24

61-7511-149

71160

INDEXED - 24

Reference is made to your two memoranda dated February 19, 1951, wherein you referred to correspondence from Myles Horton, director of the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, and from Albert E. Barnett of the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Georgia.

With regard to the correspondence you received from Myles Horton and your proposed draft reply, I am returning them to you. In connection to your proposed letter to Mr. Horton, I cannot accede to the proposal of having our Agents conduct interviews at the Highlander Folk School which would require our Agents to submit written interrogatories at all times in all matters upon which the FBI may be seeking information from the Highlander Folk School. Furthermore, I cannot accede to any restriction which would prohibit the FBI from interviewing any person it saw fit. In this particular matter it is suggested that only the Highlander Director could or would be contacted. Rather than accede to any such restrictions, I would prefer to instruct our Agents to refrain from any contact with any member of the Highlander Folk School staff.

I have checked into this allegation made by Myles Horton and I want to assure you that we have never investigated the Highlander Folk School, any representative of the school, or any other individual on the ground that the Highlander Folk School or the individual participated in interracial educational activities nor have our Agents inquired relative to the interracial aspects of that school.

For your information, the Highlander Folk School was investigated during the early 1930's. This investigation was predicated on allegations that Communist activities were being carried on at the school. For your further information there is attached herewith a photostatic copy of a four-page summary dated February 21, 1947, concerning the school.

- Tolson _____
- Ladd _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Harris _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

COMM-FBI
FEB 26 1951
MAILED 18

DECLASSIFIED BY SP8 BTJ/CA
ON 2/29/84 243832

Handwritten initials and a large black redaction mark.

Handwritten initials and a large black redaction mark.

We have, of course, had occasion to contact representatives of this school on individual cases such as applicant and security investigation. The purpose of the applicant inquiries has been to secure information at its source for guidance of governmental agencies in considering applicants for appointment. In fulfilling our responsibility to protect the internal security of the country, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is charged to investigate any individual upon receipt of substantial information reflecting that individual to be engaged in subversive activity. We have in the past conducted a limited number of security investigations of individuals requiring inquiries at the Highlander Folk School. However, such investigations were not initiated on the basis that the individual was engaged in interracial educational activities nor was this question considered in any manner during the course of the investigation.

71161

With reference to the letter you received from Mr. Barnett, I can only state that he has been misinformed by Myles Horton, director of the Highlander Folk School.

For your further information, in addition to the correspondence between Mr. Myles Horton and Mr. Clegg of this Bureau as reflected by the material enclosed with your memorandum of February 19, 1951, we have received a communication from Mr. Roger N. Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union on the same subject matter. Copies of Mr. Baldwin's letter and my reply thereto are attached for your information.

Enclosure

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 27 1951

TELETYPE

FBI WASHINGTON DC

2-27-51

2-18 PM HK

SAC KNOXVILLE

U R G E N T

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, IS DASH C. AS YOU WERE TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED ON FEBRUARY TWENTY TWO, NINETEEN FIFTY ONE, NO CONTACTS WHATSOEVER SHOULD BE MADE AT THE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL. YOU SHOULD FURTHER INSTRUCT ALL THE AGENTS IN YOUR OFFICE THAT NO DISCUSSION PRO OR CONS SHOULD BE MADE WITH ANY INDIVIDUAL CONCERNING THE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL.

HOOVER

CORR - NEXT TO LAST LINE WORDS FIVE AND SIX SHOULD READ "CON SHOULD"

END AND ACK PLS

OK FBI KX MJY

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DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/bw
245502

5- [REDACTED] EK

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : The Director

DATE: February 21, 1951

FROM : D. M. Ladd

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Bufile 61-7511

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OTHERWISE.

Classified by SP8 BTJ/cp
Declassify on: OADR 2/21/84
245532

[Handwritten initials and routing slip]
Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Harbo
Mohr
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

PURPOSE

To recommend that the attached letters directed to Mr. Roger N. Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union and SAC Robey of the Knoxville Office be approved. These letters are concerned with the unfounded allegation that the FBI was "recently conducting an inquiry into the Highlander Folk School apparently on the ground that inter-racial education is somehow 'subversive.'"

DETAILS

Under date of February 14, 1951, Roger N. Baldwin, former Director but presently Chairman, National Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, wrote to you as follows:

"Dear Mr. Hoover:

"It has come to my attention as a contributor to the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, that agents of your office have recently been conducting an inquiry into the school, apparently on the ground that inter-racial education is somehow 'subversive.'

"I cannot quite believe that any such attitude correctly reflects your policies, and therefore venture to suggest that you may be interested to check up on the inquiry.

"We would appreciate being advised of the facts as to why any investigation of the school has been made.

RECORDED - 114
INDEXED - 114
61-7511-151
MAR 12 1951

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Roger N. Baldwin

Roger N. Baldwin"

EX-75

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
S. Eric

Attachments
59 APR 14 1951
kmb
MAR 26 1951

CONFIDENTIAL

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Mr. Baldwin's letter is attached. A reply to Mr. Baldwin is also attached for your approval.

For your information, the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, is the subject of an eight-section Bureau case file and considerable investigation was conducted concerning this school during the early 1940s. The first report was submitted under date of January 29, 1940, and a closing report was submitted on July 4, 1943, by the Knoxville Office. For your additional information, there is attached hereto a four-page summary which was prepared concerning the Highlander Folk School dated February 21, 1947. This memorandum is up to date inasmuch as no additional investigation has been conducted since 1943.

In order to definitely ascertain as to whether there was any basis in the allegation made by Mr. Baldwin, mentioned above, SAC Robey of the Knoxville Office was telephonically contacted on February 19 and 20, 1951, in order to develop full information in this regard.

On February 19, 1951, SAC Robey advised that the Knoxville Office had conducted no investigation concerning the Highlander Folk School as such; ^{since 1943} however, there had been individual investigations made which had touched on the activities of this school, such as;

Administrative Publishing, N.
Atomic Energy Act - Applicant Case

Investigation of [REDACTED] was conducted over the period from April to October, 1950. This investigation revealed that [REDACTED]

Therefore, a part of the investigation of this applicant centered upon his connection with the Highlander Folk School. Under date of February 21, 1951, SAC Robey advised by teletype there was no discussion of the interracial character of the Highlander Folk School during the investigation of this case. [REDACTED]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Security Matter - C

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During 1946, Knoxville initiated an investigation of [redacted] inasmuch as information was received reflecting that he had joined the Communist Party, USA.

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[Large redacted block]

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b7D

On February 21, 1951, SAC Robey advised that during none of the interviews with [redacted] was there any discussion of the interracial character of the Highlander Folk School.

Against quibbling - a very fine line of distinction
Recent Bureau Correspondence with Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School
between conf. info. & some info.

You will recall under date of December 10, 1950, Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School, wrote a letter to Assistant Director H. H. Clegg to which he attached a statement of the purpose, program and policy of the Highlander Folk School which was approved by the Executive Council of that school on April 3, 1950, and a press release of the school dated November 20, 1950. In his letter to Mr. Clegg, Horton indicated that a Special Agent of the Bureau had commented that the news release would be considered Communistic by a majority of southern people. He contrasted the opinion of the Agent with the position taken by Mr. Clegg at the

- 3 -
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MC
"New York Herald Tribune" Forum. Prior to answering Horton, the Knoxville Office was contacted and Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] who interviewed Horton on December 7, 1950, in connection with the Remington perjury investigation, were asked concerning the Horton allegation. These two Agents furnished a signed statement to SAC Robey on December 22, 1950, in which they stated emphatically that the news release referred to in Horton's letter was never displayed to them by Horton nor the contents discussed with them by Horton, and that neither of the two Agents made any comment that even remotely approached the statement allegedly made to Horton. At the conclusion of the interview Horton was insistent that the Agents accept the copy of the 1949 Program of the Highlander Folk School, and a mimeographed release entitled, "Highlander Folk School, Statement of Purpose, Program and Policy." The signed statement also carried the statement that at no time had the Agents questioned neighbors of Horton regarding visits of Negroes at the Highlander Folk School.

MC
The Knoxville Office had further advised that Horton had been interviewed on the following cases since June, 1950: June 27, 1950, in connection with the Remington case; October 6, 1950, in connection with the [redacted] Atomic Energy Act - Applicant case; November 2, 1950, in connection with the [redacted] Presidential Appointee, Department of State, Loyalty of Government Employees case; and December 7, 1950, mentioned above.

MC
SAC Robey in a teletype dated February 21, 1951, has advised that the following Agents of the Knoxville Office have either interviewed Myles Horton at the Highlander Folk School or conducted investigations at Monteagle, Tennessee, and vicinity during the past year: Special Agents [redacted]

MC
These Agents have emphatically stated that no discussion was had with Horton on any matter pertaining to the interracial character of the Highlander Folk School nor has any inquiry been made of Horton or any person in Monteagle or vicinity with regard to the interracial character of the school.

(100-11615-16)

I can't for the life of me understand why when Clegg received Horton's letter of Dec 10, 1950 I didn't forthrightly call upon Horton for specifics & identify to of Agt. Why we went all around the

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MC
I never called Horton. He personally in person. My confidential sources, H.

Why was he carried out?
Why was he closed out?

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Myles Horton is the subject of Bureau file 100-11615 which is now closed. He at one time was carried on the Knoxville Key Figure List.

It was noted in Mr. Baldwin's letter that the allegation against the FBI had come to his attention as a contributor to the Highlander Folk School. It is possible, therefore, that Mr. Baldwin had received his erroneous information from Myles Horton, the Director of the Highlander Folk School.

ACTION

In view of the above information, it is recommended that the attached letter to Mr. Baldwin be approved.

There is also attached hereto a letter to the Knoxville Office instructing that any future investigation of the Highlander Folk School should be so conducted that no individual will obtain the erroneous impression that the Bureau's interest therein is based on the fact that its facilities are used for interracial education.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
4/23/51

- 1. Instruct Knoxville to make no further contact with Highlander Folk School on any matter.
- 2. Why did we utilize such cumbersome procedure to get to bottom of charges made by Horton in Dec. 1940?
- 3. In [redacted] matter I gather he was being contacted for information of activities at Highlander Folk School - why?
- 4. I want guidelines in such matters stopped & forthright statements given me.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEB 21 1951
TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Boardman	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	
Miss Gandy	

KNOXVILLE 2-21-51 10-59 AM
DIRECTOR VERY URGENT ATT - MR. F. J. BAUMGARTNER

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, IS DASH C. RE TEL CALL FEB. TWENTY.
FOLLOWING AGENTS THIS OFFICE HAVE INTERVIEWED MYLES HORTON,
HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL OR CONDUCTED INVESTIGATIONS AT MONTEAGLE,
TENN. AND VICINITY DURING PAST YEAR, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THESE AGENTS EMPHATICALLY STATE
THAT NO DISCUSSION WAS HAD WITH HORTON ON ANY MATTER PERTAINING
TO INTERRACIAL CHARACTER OF HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL NOR HAS ANY INQUIRY
BEEN MADE OF HORTON OR ANY PERSON IN MONTEAGLE OR VICINITY WITH REGARD
TO INTERRACIAL CHARACTER OF THIS SCHOOL. FORMER SA [REDACTED]
ACCOMPANIED SA [REDACTED] ON NOV. SECOND, NINETEEN FIFTY, [REDACTED] WHEN
HORTON INTERVIEWED IN CONNECTION WITH CASE ENTITLED [REDACTED] LGE,
BUFILE ONE TWENTYONE DASH TWO THREE FOUR NAUGHT FOUR. [REDACTED] BK
PRESENTLY RESIDING [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED] ADVISES NO MENTION OF INTERRACIAL CHARACTER
OF HFS MENTIONED BY EITHER AGENT DURING THIS INTERVIEW. IN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AEA CASE, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF INTERRACIAL CHARACTER
OF HFS. [REDACTED] IS CONSIDERED A SOURCE OF INFOR-
MATION, BUT NOT AS A POTENTIAL CI. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NO
DISCUSSION OF INTERRACIAL CHARACTER OF SCHOOL DURING THESE INTERVIEWS.

ROBEY
CORRECTION LINE 11 LAST WORD SHOULD BE WHEN
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ck
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 22 1951

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Winterrowd	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holloman	

FBI KNOXVILLE
DIRECTOR, FBI

2-22-51
URGENT

10-28PM EST
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DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8BTD/OK
247832

ATTN. ASST. DIR. A. ROSEN

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, IS-C. RE TEL. CALL TODAY. KX LETTER TO DIRECTOR DATED OCTOBER SIXTH THIRTYNINE CONTAINS FIRST REPORTED INFORMATION IN KX FILES. FIRST REPORT REFLECTING INVESTIGATION WAS SUBMITTED BY SA [REDACTED] KX DATED APRIL TENTH, FORTYONE. THIS REPORT CONTAINS INFO ON HISTORY OF SCHOOL AND PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH IT. LETTER AND REPORT REFLECT INVESTIGATION INSTITUTED ONLY AFTER NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS RECEIVED RE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY AT HFS. REPORT OF SA [REDACTED] KX, DATED DEC. THIRTYTH, FORTYONE AND SUMMARY REPORT OF SA [REDACTED] KX DATED SEPT. TWELFTH, FORTYTWO CONTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING BACKGROUND, PURPOSES AND ACTIVITIES OF HFS AS WELL AS PERSONS CONNECTED THEREWITH. NO ACTIVE INVESTIGATION MADE SINCE CLOSING REPORT OF SAC WM. A. MURPHY, KX, DATED JULY FOURTH, FORTYTHREE. FILE FAILS TO REFLECT ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION RECEIVED SINCE REGARDING ANY RECOGNIZABLE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF THE SCHOOL ITSELF. HOWEVER ALLEGATIONS OF CP SYMPATHY OR ACTIVITY HAVE BEEN RECEIVED ON PERSONS WHO WERE OR HAD BEEN CONNECTED WITH HFS BUT THESE INVESTIGATIONS DIRECTED SOLELY TOWARD THE INDIVIDUALS AND NOT THE HFS.

SOME EXAMPLES ARE CASES ENTITLED [REDACTED] AEA-A SM-C, BUFILE ONE SIXTEEN DASH ONE SEVEN SIX FOUR TWO SIX. [REDACTED] LGE. [REDACTED] SM-C. [REDACTED] LGE. [REDACTED] WA SM-C. [REDACTED] SIX ONE EIGHT NINE FIVE. [REDACTED] LGE. IN CASE ENTITLED [REDACTED]

RECORDED - 114
INDEXED - 114
MAR 12 1951
BUFILE ONE HUNDRED DASH THREE
LGE.

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b7c

er

b7c

PAGE TWO

CP MATTERS, AFTER BUREAU AUTHORIZATION. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

FILE. NO COMMENT WAS MADE BY [REDACTED] OR AGENTS REGARDING THE
INTER-RACIAL CHARACTER OF SCHOOL. [REDACTED] WA., SM-C,

[REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED
AFTER BU AUTHORITY IN EFFORT TO DEVELOP AS INFORMANT IN CP MATTERS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NO MENTION BY [REDACTED] OR AGENTS REGARDING HFS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SINCE HFS IS NOT A SCHOOL IN THE
NORMAL SENSE BUT MERELY HAS SHORT SESSION LABOR AND SOCIAL STUDY
CLASSES USUALLY OF TWO WEEKS DURATION, NO CURRICULUM IS OFFERED
WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE CHECKS WITH THIS SCHOOL ON APPLICANT CASES

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

NO CASES RECALLED WHERE APPLICANT INVESTIGATION MADE ON EMPLOYEES, STUDENTS, OR PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH EXCEPT THOSE MATTERS PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO. DUE TO VOLUME OF APPLICANT CASES THIS OFFICE PARTICULARLY AEA-A CASES, PEOPLE LIVING AT MONTEAGLE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED BUT AGENTS WORKING IN THAT SECTION ARE AWARE OF THE GENERAL NATURE OF THE HFS AND THEY HAVE ADVISED THAT NO INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN MADE CONCERNING THE SCHOOL OF MATTER OF INTER-RACIAL CHARACTER OF SAME. I HAVE PERSONALLY CONTACTED ALL AGENTS THIS OFFICE WHO HAVE WORKED IN MONTEAGLE AND VICINITY DURING PAST YEAR AND ALL HAVE CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THEY HAVE DISCUSSED THE INTER-RACIAL CHARACTER OF THE HFS WITH ANYONE AND ADVISED THEY HAVE EXERTED UTMOST CAUTION TO PREVENT ANYONE FROM GAINING THE IMPRESSION THAT THE SCHOOL WAS BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE FBI.

ROBEY

END

10-44 PM OK FBI WA LRP

BZDISC PLS

cc: Mr. Rosen
Mr. Belmont

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Ladd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Clegg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Glavin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tracy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Harbo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nease	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

TO : Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
 Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : Peyton Ford
 Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
 Information Concerning

DATE: March 5, 1951

This will refer to your memorandum of February 26, 1951, in reply to my memoranda of February 19, 1951, regarding correspondence from Mr. Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, and from Mr. Albert E. Barnett of theandler School of Theology, Emory University, Georgia. With the letter from Mr. Myles Horton I transmitted a draft of a proposed reply for your comment. In your memorandum under acknowledgment you state in connection with this proposed letter to Mr. Horton "I cannot accede to the proposal of having our Agents conduct interviews at the Highlander Folk School which would require our Agents to submit written interrogatories at all times in all matters upon which the FBI may be seeking information from the Highlander Folk School." You add, furthermore, "I cannot accede to any restriction which would prohibit the FBI from interviewing any person it saw fit" and add further that "rather than accede to any such restrictions, I would prefer to instruct our Agents to refrain from any contact with any member of the Highlander Folk School staff." I note further from a letter which you addressed to Mr. Roger N. Baldwin, Chairman, National Committee, American Civil Liberties Union, under date of February 26, 1951, you advised him that since your contacts at the school have either been misunderstood or have become a source of irritation to Mr. Myles Horton, director of the school, you have issued instructions to discontinue any direct contacts with any representatives of the school.

In this connection I want to draw careful attention to the draft of the proposed reply to Mr. Horton which I forwarded with my memorandum of February 19 and to point out that I did not suggest that you accede to the request of Mr. Horton. My first point was that there should normally be no serious objection to having agents of the Bureau make their contacts at one central point; that is, the director of the school. This would not mean that further contacts may not be necessary or desirable. My second assumption in preparing this draft was that if during the interviews it was desired to make stenographic recordings of the questions and answers, or to answer questions propounded by the preparation of affidavits, I could see no objection to that course of action. In fact, it would seem that there might be considerable advantage to the Bureau. My letter did not contemplate that you accede to the request that you submit written questions in advance with regard to the seeking of information.

DEFERRED RECORD
 MAR 7 1951

RECORDED - 139

61-7511-154

MAR 12 1951

259

27c
 5

I particularly do not want to leave the impression that I am urging any change in your present method of contacting this school or any other organization, and I furthermore do not want to suggest that you discontinue all contacts with this or any other organization if you believe such contacts are of value in promoting the work of the Bureau. The draft was a suggestion of a possible solution, on which I wished your comments.

Well he got my
comments. We will
handle our investigations
as we consider to be most
practical & desirable.

h.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. A. H. BELMONT *AB*

FROM : MR. L. L. LAUGHEIN *J*

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

DATE: March 12, 1951

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

Reference is made to the material forwarded by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. to the Attorney General on February 20, 1951. Included in this material was a form letter dated February, 1951, captioned "Dear Friend" over the signature of Myles Horton, Highlander Director of the Highlander Folk School. In this communication the statement appears, "What strategy prompted the FBI Agents to watch the school by night and to harass neighbors with questions linking Negroes with Communism is not clear."

Baughman
[Redacted]
[Signature]

At 11:50 A.M. today I called SAC Robey and advised him of the reference of this material to the Bureau. I particularly read the above statement and other excerpts from Horton's letter. I inquired of Mr. Robey whether Agents of the Knoxville Office had conducted any surveillances at nighttime at or in the vicinity of the Highlander Folk School; also whether any informants have been contacted at or in the vicinity of the Highlander Folk School at night; and, further, whether the Knoxville Office had conducted any neighborhood investigations at or in the vicinity of the Highlander Folk School at night.

I requested Mr. Robey to look into this matter immediately and advise the Bureau promptly of the results of his check.

ACTION:

Immediately upon the receipt of this information from the Knoxville Office an appropriate memorandum will be prepared.

LL:mer

*Memo to Mr. Tolson
3/13/51
Memo to Mr. [unclear]
1 report
3/13/51
[unclear]*

RECORDED - 102
INDEXED - 102

161-7511-155
MAR 14 1951
8

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8BJA/OL
245502

65 MAR 17 1951

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

MAR 12 1951

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Belmont	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mr. Mohr	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/Cie
24882

FBI KNOXVILLE

3-12-51

6-05 PM EST

DIRECTOR, FBI

ATTN- INSPECTOR L. L. LAUGHLIN

URGENT

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, IS DASH C. RE TELEPHONE CALL THIS DATE.

FOLLOWING INFORMATION FURNISHED---

1. KNOXVILLE OFFICE HAS NOT CONDUCTED ANY SURVEILLANCES AT NIGHT AT OR IN VICINITY HFS.
2. KNOXVILLE OFFICE HAS NOT CONTACTED ANY INFORMANTS AT OR IN VICINITY HFS AT NIGHT.
3. KNOXVILLE OFFICE HAS NOT CONDUCTED ANY NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATIONS AT OR IN VICINITY HFS AT NIGHT. HOWEVER, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WAS CONTACTED FROM
[REDACTED] IN CONNECTION WITH CASE ENTITLED [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AEA, BY SAS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW UNTIL THIS TIME. [REDACTED]

RECORDED - 102 1-156

INDEXED - 102 MAR. 14 1951 ROBEY

ACK AND HOLD PLS

EX-111

6-08 PM OK FBI WA NRJ

35 MAR 17 1951

3/13/51
cc: Mr. Belmont
Mr. Laughlin

February 19, 1951

TO : Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
 Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : Peyton Ford
 Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT:

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. E. A. Tamm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Clegg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Glavin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Ladd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tracy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Harbo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Nease	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

I am quoting below, for your information and for such action as you may deem appropriate, a letter dated February 13, 1951, addressed to the Attorney General by Albert E. Barnett of the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Emory University, Georgia.

"My long time and trusted friend, Dr. Myles Horton, Director of Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, has been in recent correspondence with you about the activities of agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in that mountain community. Apparently, some agents have surmised that the free admission of negroes as students at Highlander constituted evidence of communist point of view. These agents are said to have stated that such would be the natural interpretation on the part of many people in the region. This is, of course, a totally inaccurate interpretation, both of the school and of the best sentiment in the southeast. Under supreme court authority many public institutions of higher learning have opened their registration to qualified negro students. At the present time between 1100 and 1200 negro students are studying in such institutions. Southern people are more generally happy than unhappy over this outcome. Students here in my own institution recently voted as overwhelmingly favorable to the admission of qualified negro students.

"I have known Dr. Horton and the Highlander Folk School since the foundation of that institution. I am a regular contributor to its budget and I am in deep sympathy with its programs and objectives. F. B. I. agents should be investing their time and the government's money in detecting the real enemies of America, rather than harassing those who so competently and intelligently support and extend democracy as the Highlander Folk School. I am sending a copy of this letter to Senator Estes Kefauver, who is personally acquainted with Highlander Folk School and its staff and, to Dr. Horton."

DEFERRED
 FEB 21 1951

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-11112

*Memo to
 Mr. Tolson
 2/26/51
 etc*

RECORDED - 138
 INDEXED - 138

161-7511-157
 MAR 12 1951
 34

5-116

61 MAR 27 1951

Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DATE: February 19, 1951

TO : Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
FROM : Peyton Ford
Deputy Attorney General
SUBJECT:

59053

Handwritten initials/signature

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Keese	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

There is attached hereto a letter, with enclosures, from Mr. Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, addressed to the Attorney General under date of January 31, 1951, together with a draft of a reply to Mr. Horton.

Before dispatching this reply, I would appreciate receiving your comments regarding it.

Handwritten marks

EX-20
ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

DEC 2 1951

G.I.R. 1

Handwritten notes:
Dupes with ser. 149
Partially de-indexed
this serial only.
#39 3-25-65

RECORDED - 28

61-7511-158

MAR 12 1951

INDEXED - 28

EX-20

MAR 28 1951

Handwritten marks

Department of Justice
Office of the Deputy Attorney General
Washington

February 19, 1951

Mr. Myles Horton
Director, Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee

My dear Mr. Horton:

This will acknowledge your letter of January 31, 1951, addressed to the Attorney General, requesting advice about a problem growing out of the attendance of negroes at the Highlander Folk School. You advise that the Highlander Executive Council members are disturbed by the exchange of correspondence with Mr. Hugh H. Clegg, Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and comment that if agents can deny what they have said, they can likewise report things they have not been told. You quote a motion which was made by Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, which provides that the Highlander Director shall speak for the staff and shall ask that all questions posed by any FBI agents be put in writing and shall make his replies in writing provided legal counsel advises this action. You then request the Attorney General's advice as to the legality of the council's proposal that interviews be carried on in writing.

I should first point out to you that the Attorney General is authorized by law to give advice only to the President of the United States and to the various Department heads, in view of which I regret that the Department cannot advise you regarding the legal situation involved. It occurs to me, however, that there should normally be no serious objection to having Special Agents contact the Highlander Director when desiring information from the staff of the school as contemplated by the motion quoted in your letter. Furthermore, I would suppose that written replies to questions, either in the form of stenographic recording of the questions and answers, or in the form of affidavits, would be quite satisfactory. I believe that you will find the agents quite willing to accede to your desires in this respect.

Yours sincerely,

Peyton Ford
Deputy Attorney General

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, PROGRAM AND POLICY

We reaffirm our faith in democracy as a goal that will bring dignity and freedom to all; in democracy as an expanding concept encompassing human relations from the smallest community organization to international structure; and permeating all economic, social, and political activities.

Democracy to us means that membership in the human family entitles all to freedom of thought and religion, to equal rights to a livelihood, education and health; to equal opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the community and to equal access to public services.

We hold that democracy is inactive unless workers are given a full voice in industry through unions; or farmers are given a voice in the market place through cooperatives; or where freedom of thought and discussion is limited; that democracy is outlawed by legally entrenched discrimination and segregation; that there must be diversity of approach but each step must be in conformity with the goal, which is dishonored by each undemocratic act.

With a democratic goal, we are in a position to fight anything that gets in the way, whether it be totalitarian communism, or fascism or monopoly dominated capitalism.

The purpose of the Highlander Folk School is to assist in creating leadership for democracy. Our services are available to labor, farm community, religious and civic organizations working toward a democratic goal.

The nature of a specific educational program will be determined by the needs of the students.

Use of the services of the School by individual organizations will be in accordance with their own policies so long as these policies do not conflict with the purposes of the School. A staff member will assist in planning and coordinating all programs.

The Highlander Folk School is a chartered institution, cooperatively owned by the teaching staff. It has no affiliations. The policies and program of the School are wholly determined by an Executive Council composed of the staff and recognized Southern leaders.

Highlander Folk School is supported by contributions from individuals, organizations served by the School, foundations and tuition.

The times call for an affirmative program, based on a positive goal. An army of democracy deeply rooted in the lives, struggles and traditions of the American people must be created. By broadening the scope of democracy to include everyone, and deepening the concept to include every relationship, the army of democracy would be so vast and so determined that nothing undemocratic could stand in its path.

Approved by the Executive Council, April 3rd, 1950

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL SPONSORS

Dr. John Dewey

Saul D. Alinsky

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Barnes

Dr. A. D. Beittel

Mary McLeod Bethune

Algernon Black

Dr. B. R. Brazoal

Mrs. Ethel Clyde

Rev. Witherspoon Dodge

Clifford J. Durr

Kermit Eby

Mrs. Gladys Talbott Edwards

Gertrude Ely

Rev. W. J. Faulkner

Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Fillman

Mrs. Harry Gershon

Clinton S. Golden

George M. Guest, M.D.

Mrs. Grace T. Hamilton

Leon Henderson

J. Lewis Henderson

Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg

Dr. Fleming James

Dr. Charles S. Johnson

Dr. Lillian W. Johnson

Lewis Jones

May Justus

Freda Kirshway

Mrs. Simon Kuhn

Mr. & Mrs. Corliss Lamont

Mrs. Ernest K. Lindley

A. A. Liveright

Lucy Randolph Mason

Dr. Benjamin E. Mays

Cary McWilliams

Dr. George Mitchell

Mrs. Lucy Sprague Mitchell

Rev. Walter G. Muelder

Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr

Jennings Porry

Clarence E. Pickett

Dr. Walter Rautenstrauch

Malcolm Ross

Rev. Eugene Smathers

Hilda W. Smith

P. A. Stephens, M.D.

Jordan Stokes III

Dr. Alva W. Taylor

Dr. John B. Thompson

Mrs. M. E. Tilly

Dr. Willard Uphaus

Gerhard Van Arkel

J. Raymond Walsh

Hon. & Mrs. J. Waties Waring

Aubrey Williams

Thomas Williston, M.D.

Dr. Louis Wirth

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL CRIMINAL DIVISION
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE

FEB 8 1951

January 31, 1951

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
RECEIVED

FEB 5 - 1951

146-7-76-44

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEB 7 1951
DIVISION OF RECORDS

ORD. - INTERNAL SECURITY

CIVIL RIGHTS

Handy Co.
E. B. Turner

[Handwritten signature]

Honorable J. Howard McGrath
United States Attorney General
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. McGrath:

Miss Lucy Randolph Mason, Southern CIO Public Relations Representative, has suggested that I ask your advice about a problem growing out of the attendance of Negroes at the Highlander Folk School. Because of your own personal feeling in regard to discrimination, Miss Mason felt that you would understand the problem here and be in a position to give advice.

The Highlander Folk School endeavors to put racial democracy into practice; consequently we can expect a measure of opposition.

We hardly expected, however, to have Negro students made the subject of investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On October 11th I wrote Senator Estes Kefauver that FBI agents were asking our neighbors about the attendance of Negroes and implying that our non-discrimination policy was communistic and immoral. This line of questioning has created confusion in the minds of our neighbors regarding the rights of Negroes to be at the School.

On December 10th I raised this question with Mr. Hugh H. Clegg, Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and quoted one of the FBI agents who had told me that he thought our enclosed news release condemning discrimination would be considered communistic by a majority of Southern people.

The apparent confusion of racial democracy with communism by the FBI agents and the implication of this kind of thinking alarmed the Highlander Executive Council members who met January 22 and 23.

Honorable J. Howard McGrath

page 2

January 31, 1951

Council members were also disturbed by the exchange of correspondence with Mr. Clegg. If agents can deny what they have said, they can likewise report things they have not been told. Since they go in pairs, the person interviewed is at a disadvantage.

With this problem in mind, a motion was made by Miss Lucy Randolph Mason "that, because of previous misunderstandings in interviews with FBI agents, the Highlander Director shall speak for the staff and shall ask that all questions posed by any FBI agents be put in writing, and shall make his replies in writing - provided legal counsel advises this action."

The Council is not raising the question of giving information, but of giving it in such a way that the person interviewed has the protection of a written record. Could you advise us as to the legality of the Council proposal that interviews be carried on in writing.

We shall greatly appreciate your advice on this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

Myles Horton, Director
Highlander Folk School

P. S. I want to pass on a comment on this letter made by a neighbor.

cc: Senator Estes Kefauver

enclosures

Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee

for immediate release

Monteagle, Tennessee . . . November 20, 1950 . . . "Our Christmas bells could be freedom bells if we dared include all minorities in our circle of brotherhood," Myles Horton told a conference of church leaders at the Highlander Folk School.

"Freedom bells ringing in the cabins of Negro sharecroppers, ringing for eager minded students with opportunities limited by accident of birth, and freedom bells echoing in distant lands could fill the troubled world with thoughts of peace on earth and good will toward man," he said.

"Highlander's democratic program is based on the brotherhood of man. Democracy to us means that membership in the human family entitles all to the freedom of thought and religion, to equal rights to a livelihood, education and health; to equal opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the community and to equal access to public services," the religious leaders were told.

"We hold that democracy is inactive unless workers are given a full voice in industry through unions; or farmers are given a voice in the market place through cooperatives; or where freedom of thought and discussion is limited; and that democracy is outlawed by legally entrenched discrimination and segregation.

"The times call for an affirmative program, based on a positive goal," said Horton. "An army of democracy deeply rooted in the lives, struggles and traditions of the American people must be created. By broadening the scope of democracy to include everyone, and deepening the concept to include every relationship, the army of democracy would be so vast and so determined that nothing undemocratic could stand in its path."

C
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Rt. 1
Tracy City, Tennessee
Jan. 31, 1951

Dear Myles:

This, to my mind, is a thoroughly honest and perfectly concise expression of the problem you present. I cannot see how Mr. McGrath can fail to understand its significance, and understanding, fail to take steps toward the prevention of future trouble.

Please feel free to use me as a reference if you have such need. I am always willing to speak or write my convictions regarding your personal integrity and the high purpose of Highlander.

I was here some years before you came. The newness of your program aroused wonder and even suspicion in the community. We heard wild tales of communistic intent, alliance with Russia, machine guns in the attic and various forms of immorality. People came to me with these extravagant rumors, begging me to "do something about it." I did do something. I visited the school when you and Don West gave a "play-party" for the children of our community. I went again when Jim Dombrowski started a Bible study class. We learned a good deal about social conditions in the days of Amos and Micah. I went to a meeting held after a neighbor's house had burned down and you started plans - and funds - for building a new home for him. I went to a Christmas party where I helped with the children's games and saw you play Santa Claus with a bag of presents. Once I went to a sewing bee, another neighborhood benefit. I was sick at the time the P. T. A. was organized in your living room, but I heard all about it. I heard, too, of other "good deeds" -- by this time the neighbors had something else to talk about than the fearful fantasies of the early days. One dark night, Jim went a good way to bring a doctor for one of my school girls in time to save her and her baby. "I didn't know there were such good folks," one neighbor woman said. Then I heard about the time that Claudia Lewis, the Nursery School teacher, and another one from Highlander, prepared all that was needful to bury a little child in a very poor family.

All these things and many more convinced me that your purpose and plan for coming to live in our community was essentially good and had no ulterior motive. In later years I have learned more of your practical program, your concept of true democracy in your policy of non-discrimination, non-segregation, and your actual example in living what you believe. I know a minister who said, "I wish I could feel that I came as near as Myles Horton to real consecration to the Cause of real Christianity."

C
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Myles Horton

page 2

Jan. 23, 1951

"Do you think Highlander is radical?" The last time I was asked this question, I gave this answer which I would give today. "Yes, they are radical - as radical as the Declaration of Independence - or the Sermon on the Mount."

It is because you dare to believe that not only "all men are created free and equal", but that there should be "liberty and justice for all" that you are radical. And the one who bade all men to act like brothers, made no difference between his white children and the black.

I deplore the recent "investigation" of the F B I agents, implying as it did, that your non-discrimination policy toward Negro students constituted proof of your communistic nature, purpose, plan and intent. When racial democracy can be confused with communism in the minds of F B I agents, there is cause for alarm, it seems to me. Our community has come a long way in appreciating and understanding the policy of Highlander, its principles, its practice of real democracy. But this faith though fostered for so many years by living proof and example, cannot fail to suffer from the shock of a visit from the F B I in which the school's policy of non-discrimination is given a red tag and label.

With all this in mind, I am glad you have written this letter to Mr. McGrath. I hope it leads to a definite understanding which will affect all future interviews.

With best wishes for you and the rest of the Highlander staff, I remain

Your friend,

May Justus

C
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Y

Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee
December 10, 1950

Mr. Hugh H. Clegg
Assistant Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Clegg:

I was pleased to read from the International Labor News Service that you feel that the "success of communism" can be measured by the weaknesses of democracy. I am led to believe by your analysis of the situation that you would approve the enclosed statement of policy of the Highlander Folk School.

In the South, people are often criticized who believe as we do here at Highlander that discrimination is incompatible with democracy. In fact I was told recently by one of your agents that the contents of the enclosed news release would be considered communistic by a majority of Southern people.

I sincerely trust that the position taken by you in the New York Herald Tribune forum is the official position of the F.B.I., and not the position implied by the activities of your representatives who have questioned our neighbors regarding visits of Negroes to the School.

Would you clear this matter up for me?

Sincerely yours,

Myles Horton
Director

C
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C
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P
Y

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

January 3, 1951

Mr. W. L. Norton
Director
Highland Park School
Monteagle, Tennessee

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge your letter of
December 10, 1950.

It has long been the established procedure
of this Bureau to refrain from commenting on the
statements of aims and purposes of any organizations
and, therefore, we cannot comment on the policies
of your school.

With regard to the statement that you
attributed to a Special Agent of this Bureau, this
will advise that I have checked with the two Special
Agents who contacted you on December 7, 1950. They
categorically deny that you showed them the news
release or that they made any statements to you
concerning your allegation.

Very truly yours,

Hugh H. Clegg
Assistant Director

from Highlander Executive Council minutes
(page 3) Jan 22-23, 1951

Horton gave a full report on some recent activities of F B I agents who are questioning people in the community. The agents have been asking neighbors about Negroes attending or visiting Highlander. Horton read a letter he wrote Senator Kefauver which said in part; "They (the F B I agents) have been particularly insistent in their questions about the attendance of Negroes at Highlander sessions and conferences. They wanted to know where people sleep and what goes on after the conferences are over . . . I hope you can find time to look into this situation and do something to stop intimidation of our neighbors and the inference that the non-discrimination policy of the school, which is that of the CIO and AFL, is communistic and immoral."

Horton continued that the agents are going around the community trying to stir up the people by asking loaded questions about the Negro students at Highlander. Meantime, Horton read a newspaper report that the assistant Director of the F B I made a speech at the New York Herald Tribune forum in which he said discrimination was incompatible with democracy. Horton congratulated the F B I spokesman and reported a comment made to him by an F B I agent who said that a Highlander News release which condemns discrimination, would be considered communistic by a majority of southern people. The F B I Assistant Director answered that he had personally checked the matter and that both agents who talked with Horton, denied emphatically making any such statement.

After prolonged discussion, it was moved by Lucy Randolph Mason that, because of previous misunderstandings in interviews with F B I agents, the Highlander Director shall speak for the staff and shall ask that all questions posed by any F B I agents be put in writing, and shall make his replies in writing - provided

page 2

from highlander executive council minutes

legal counsel advises this act on. Motion seconded by Emil Williams
and passed.

It was also suggested by Miss Mason that the Director shall write
U.S. Attorney General Howard McGrath and review this situation and explain
to him why we have been forced to take this action; and that a copy of
this letter shall be sent to Senator Kefauver and Highlander Sponsors.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI ATT.: INSPECTOR L. L. LAUGHLIN DATE: 3/14/51

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT: ⁰HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(Bufile 61-7511)

Enclosed herewith is article by BICKNELL EUBANKS entitled "School Spurs Racial Amity in Southland" which appeared in the 3/8/51 issue of the Christian Science Monitor.

etc. [redacted] at
61-12
Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTM/06
245532

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

DEFERRED RECORDING
MARCH 16 1951
[redacted] b7c

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School Spurs Racial Amity In Southland

The Southern Success Story—IX

This is the ninth in a series of one of the nation's outstanding economic developments, the comeback in the southern states. In gathering material for these stories, Mr. Eubanks traveled into every section of the South.

By Bicknell Eubanks

Staff Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Monteagle, Tenn.

Practical methods of solving racial problems are being sought at the Highlander Folk School here high atop the beautiful Cumberland Plateau.

Southern whites and Negroes are being brought together in realistic fashion. And these whites and Negroes are going back out into the region to preach that racial harmony is possible. For they have tried to learn from daily experience that the differences which now seem insurmountable can be overcome.

The visitor to Highlander sees little in the physical plant of the school that looks especially experimental. He notices buildings of simple, beautiful design (they were designed by Carl Koch, Cambridge, Mass., architect). A day school for mountaineer children and a library are the only two buildings which suggest it is a school.

Accepted by Hill Folk

But Myles Horton, who founded this unique institution, points to the school's record of seeking to lift the veil of suspicion and fear throughout the South. Mr. Horton, himself a native of Tennessee, explains that he has had to overcome suspicion and threats to get the school where it is today. Now it has been accepted by the mountaineers, and many southerners are beginning to admit its success.

"If really is hard to describe just what the school is," Mr. Horton says. "You just can't type it. It's neither one thing nor another, but a combination of many things."

The operating policy of the school is quite simple. It accepts adult students sent by various organizations to engage in two-week seminars on some current problem.

"We want only leaders," Mr. Horton explains. "We don't care what they are leaders of. We want the type of people who will follow others."

Favorite Story

One of Mr. Horton's favorite stories is of a southwestern oil union local head who came to the school to attend a seminar on labor questions. He had been sponsored by his local. Mr. Horton learned that the oil worker was a leader of the Ku-Klux Klan in his home town.

"I didn't say anything to him at first," Mr. Horton explains. "But you can imagine his surprise when he found his bunk mate was a Negro. He was quiet for two or three days, but you could see he was getting ready to boil over."

Finally, Mr. Horton says, the oil worker came to him and claimed he had been "tricked."

"I pointed out to him that he had had our folder explaining what the school was and that he had had plenty of opportunity to find out what the school was before he came."

Leader Quit Klan

He shouted that he still felt he had been tricked, and that he was going home. Mr. Horton told him he would have a job of explaining to do, because pictures of him eating with Negroes already had been sent to his local.

The oil worker stormed out of the building. For several days he thought hard. All this time he continued to attend the discussions, ate with the rest of the group, and continued to room with the Negro.

He began to see that his beliefs had been based on misconceptions, Mr. Horton says.

"He didn't know what to expect when he got back home, but we had shown him through the simple method of bringing him into contact with Negroes that he had been wrong," Mr. Horton says.

"There is a sequel to this story. This oil worker went home, and shortly after he got back a rival union tried to raid his local. They tried to persuade this man to join them and carried on the attempted raid on a racial basis. But the oil worker defied them, pitched in, and defeated the rival union. He is now one of the town's outstanding leaders and a strong advocate of equal rights."

And he has quit the Klan, Mr. Horton adds.

Founded in 1932

Highlander still has its foes. Although it is chartered by the State of Tennessee as an educational institution, there are those who claim it is not truly a school. But the neighboring mountaineers point to the day school, which has been a boon to their children. And nearby coal

miners, whose contact with the outside is limited, can cite benefits they have gained from Highlander.

The school has an imposing list of sponsors, including Dr. John Dewey, Clifford J. Durr, Mary McLeod Bethune, Leon Henderson, Aubrey Williams, Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, and Federal Judge J. Waties Waring.

The school was founded in 1932 when Mr. Horton and a friend sold the place to Dr. Lillian W. Johnson of Memphis. Dr. Johnson gave them a building and about 200 acres of land—all run down. The friend soon left, but Mr. Horton kept on.

From the first the school has been under attack. Even labor unions eyed the school with some suspicion. But when Mr. Horton held the first CIO school in the South, the working men began to change their opinions.

Farmers Welcomed

The school welcomes farmers. In fact Mr. Horton has turned much of the direction of the school itself over to an assistant, Catherine Winston, and is concentrating his efforts to bring industrial workers and farmers of the South closer together.

But Mr. Horton is not being overoptimistic. He realizes that the southern traditions of separation of races are too strong to remove overnight. He still is confident of the ultimate removal of these differences, in spite of constant attacks on his school from many southern political leaders.

In answer to charges that he is trying to stir up trouble in the South, this young southerner points to his school's statement of purpose:

"We reaffirm our faith in democracy as a goal that will bring dignity and freedom to all; in democracy as an expanding concept encompassing human relations from the smallest community organization to international structure; and permeating all economic, social, and political activities."

"Democracy to us means that membership in the human family entitles all to freedom of thought and religion, to equal rights to a livelihood, education, and health; to equal opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the community; and to equal access to public services. . . ."

Letters by the Score

Mr. Horton says his school is financed by contributions from many individuals, including Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. He explains that most of the contributions come in small amounts, indicating to him that they come from people pretty close to the grass roots of the South.

He has letters by the score from people all over the South who have attended sessions at Highlander. He is pleased with them all, for to him, they are symbols showing he is on the right road. Perhaps, though, he is proudest of a letter he received from a Negro fertilizer worker in Mississippi, who wrote:

"I can say for myself this is the first time that I have had a chance to dwell together with white and colored friends in unity. If the whole world had this unity, it would not be any trouble for us to go to the poll and vote. Neither would there be any prejudice or discrimination. . . . We would have peace, instead of hate, tolerance instead of discrimination and prejudice."

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, BOSTON, 3/8/51.

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Talking Things Over



F. Winderoth Saunders

Participant Gives His Views at Highlander Folk School

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : D. M. Ladd

DATE: March 13, 1951

FROM : A. H. Belmont *ah*

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Bufile 61-7511

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/01a
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Ladd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Clegg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glavin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tracy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Harbo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Belmont	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nease	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PURPOSE

To submit for your approval the attached memorandum to Mr. Peyton Ford which is in answer to additional material which the Department forwarded to the Bureau relating to the captioned matter. *Peyton Ford*

DETAILS

On March 9, 1951, the Department furnished the Bureau certain material which had been sent to the Attorney General by Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of the 22nd Congressional District, New York, which material had been received either directly or indirectly from Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School.

A review of this material reveals that it is very similar to the material previously forwarded to the Bureau by Mr. Peyton Ford and which was answered in our memorandum to him dated February 26, 1951.

Photostatic copies of this material have been made and it is suggested that the originals be returned to Mr. Peyton Ford together with our reply to him.

A review of this material reveals that in the letter addressed to "Dear Friend" dated February, 1951, signed by Myles Horton, the second paragraph contains a statement, "What strategy prompted the FBI Agents to watch the school by night and to harass neighbors with questions linking Negroes with Communism is not clear." This statement can be construed as a new allegation on the part of Horton that the FBI has been conducting physical surveillances at night on the Highlander Folk School.

In view of this new allegation, SAC Robey of the Knoxville Office was telephonically contacted on March 12 and requested to furnish any facts relating to the allegation. On the same date SAC Robey advised the Bureau by teletype as follows:

Attachment

kmb

RECORDED - 66
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MAR 23 1951
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5 etc

MAR 20 1951

→ "1. Knoxville Office has not conducted any surveillances at night at or in vicinity HFS.

→ "2. Knoxville Office has not contacted any informants at or in vicinity HFS at night.

→ "3. Knoxville Office has not conducted any neighborhood investigations at or in vicinity HFS at night. However,

[REDACTED] was contacted [REDACTED] in connection with case entitled [REDACTED] in AEAA, by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was not available for interview until this time.

The results of this interview of [REDACTED] are set forth in a report of Special Agent [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as follows:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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B7C
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b7c
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[REDACTED]

b7c
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|| [REDACTED]

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|| [REDACTED]

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|| [REDACTED]

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|| [REDACTED]

Under date of February 27, 1951, the Knoxville Office was instructed to make no contacts whatsoever at the Highlander Folk School and that all the Agents in the Knoxville Office should be further instructed that no discussion pro or con should be made with any individual concerning the Highlander Folk School.

ACTION

Inasmuch as this allegation of Horton that the FBI conducted a physical surveillance of the Highlander Folk School at night is erroneous, there is attached hereto for your approval a memorandum to Mr. Peyton Ford so advising him. The material which Mr. Ford forwarded to the Bureau is also being returned to him, photostatic copies having been made for our files.

✓
It certainly looks as if our Knoxville Office has been jinxed in its attempts to develop informants.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Director

FROM : D. M. Ladd *DL*

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: February 27, 1951

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

PURPOSE

To answer the questions you asked with respect to the information set out in my memorandum of February 23, 1951, which is attached.

Classified by *SP8 BTJ/CR*
Declassify on: OADR *3/1/84*
24502

DETAILS

- (1) You wanted to know the identities of the individuals who handled various phases of this situation which arose in connection with the Highlander Folk School.

67c The original complaint regarding this entire matter was received in a letter dated December 10, 1950, from Mr. Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School, addressed to Mr. H.H.Clegg. Mr. Clegg referred this communication to the Security Investigative Division for handling. The reply was prepared by Supervisor [redacted] after the matter had been discussed with [redacted] of the Internal Security Section, Mr. Laughlin and Mr. Belmont. Prior to preparing the reply, Mr. Laughlin called the Knoxville Office and SAC Robey, after questioning the Agents who interviewed Horton on December 7, 1950, advised that the Agents had categorically denied they had made the statement attributed to them by Horton.

67c The reply originally was prepared for the Director's signature. Mr. Belmont recommended it would be more appropriate to reply over Mr. Clegg's signature. This was done. This letter was initialed by Messrs. [redacted] Laughlin, Belmont and Winterrowd and signed by Mr. Clegg.

67c The second phase of this matter arose when Mr. Roger Baldwin of the American Civil Liberties Union directed a letter to you dated February 14, 1951. The cover memorandum dated February 21, 1951, and the proposed letter to Mr. Baldwin, which was attached, were prepared by [redacted] after discussion with F. J. Baumgardner, Leo L. Laughlin and A. H. Belmont. They were initialed by Messrs. [redacted] Leo L. Laughlin, A. H. Belmont, Mr. Nichols and Mr. Rosen.

The third phase of this situation was initiated by the receipt of two memoranda from Mr. Peyton Ford, Deputy Attorney General, both dated February 19, 1951. In Mr. Ford's communications, he for

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warded a letter dated January 31, 1951, addressed to the Attorney General from Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School, together with certain other material which Horton had forwarded with his letter. Mr. Ford also forwarded the contents of a letter dated February 13, 1951, addressed to the Attorney General by Albert E. Barnett of the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Georgia. These memoranda from Mr. Ford raised additional questions which were set forth in my memorandum of February 23, 1951. To that memorandum, prepared by [redacted] and F. J. Baumgardner, were attached proposed letters to Mr. Roger Baldwin and to Mr. Peyton Ford. This memorandum was initialed by A. H. Belmont, F. J. Baumgardner and [redacted]

(2) You inquired when [redacted] was interviewed and who is he.

[redacted] was interviewed on [redacted]

[Large redacted block]

As reported in the referenced memorandum, the Highlander Folk School was not discussed during this interview.

In addition to the above questions, you instructed that the Knoxville Office be advised not to discuss the Highlander Folk School pro or con with anyone.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7c

b7c

b7c
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Knoxville Office has been so instructed.

You further instructed that the proposed letters to Mr. Roger Baldwin and to Mr. Peyton Ford, which were attached to my memorandum of February 23, 1951, both be changed.

Both of these letters were changed pursuant to your instructions.

ACTION

The Security Investigative Division sincerely regrets that a situation such as this did arise and you may be assured that every endeavor will be made to profit from this experience.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LAWRENCE S. GREENBAUM
EDWARD S. GREENBAUM
HERBERT A. WOLFF
MORRIS L. ERNST
SAMUEL J. SCHUR
ALEXANDER LINDEY
JEROME HANDLER
THEODORE S. JAFFIN
LEO ROSEN
HARRIET F. PILPEL
WILLIAM F. WOLFF, JR.

GREENBAUM, WOLFF & ERNST
285 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

TELEPHONE MURRAY HILL 5-1882

March 14, 1951.

Faurey

Mr. Louis B. Nichols
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Lou:

I received a letter from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] whom I do not know, with respect to alleged
improprieties practiced by the FBI agents in relation to the High-
lander Folk School, of Monteagle, Tennessee. I am sending you
herewith copy of a letter I have written to [REDACTED]

Best,

Yours

[Signature]
Morris L. Ernst

Enc

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DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/aw
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EX-123

61-7511-162
APR 7 1951

[Handwritten initials]
[REDACTED]
5- [REDACTED]
b7c

March 14, 1951.

[Redacted]

etc

My dear [Redacted]

I have forwarded your communication down to the American Civil Liberties Union. It is the kind of a situation in which the Union might well be interested.

Has anybody from your organization thought of going down to see Edgar Hoover, or one of his associates? I have great respect for his integrity, and above all, know that if any of his employees have acted improperly, he always welcomes an opportunity to be informed of the charges. Without such information no official can ever correct improprieties in his staff.

Sincerely yours,

[Handwritten Signature]
Morris L. Ernst

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 KTA/OL
245502

61-7511-162

March 20, 1951

Mr. Morris L. Ernst
Greenbaum, Wolff and Ernst
285 Madison Avenue
New York 17, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/KC
345552

Dear Morris:

Thank you very much for writing to Lou
Nichols on March 14, 1951, and furnishing a copy
of your letter of the same date to [redacted]
[redacted] regarding the Highlander Folk School.

I was pleased to note you suggested that
[redacted] contact one of my associates or me
regarding his allegation. I most certainly would
like to know the basis of his complaint so that any
misunderstanding might be clarified.

In this same connection, I wrote to
Mr. Roger N. Baldwin on February 26, 1951, and in
view of your interest I am enclosing a copy of my
letter.

Sincerely,
J. Edgar Hoover

CC: Knoxville with copies of inclosings
New York with copies of inclosings.

Tolson
Ladd
Clegg
Glavin
Nichols
Rosen
Tracy
Belmont
Mohr
Tele. Room
Nease
Gandy

MAR 28 1951
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MAR 21 1951

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etc

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[Handwritten signatures and initials]

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Mr. Peyton Ford
Deputy Attorney General

March 28, 1951

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to the letter dated March 14, 1951, which the Attorney General received from Lucy Randolph Mason, Southern Public Relations Representative of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, Atlanta, Georgia, relating to the captioned matter. We have made a typewritten copy of this letter for our files and are returning the original herewith to you.

The enclosed letter is very similar to previous letters received by the Attorney General from Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School, and Albert E. Barnett of the Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Georgia, which were discussed in considerable detail in my memorandum to you of February 26, 1951. The letter from Miss Mason is also similar to the letter from Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., addressed to the Attorney General, which was discussed in my memorandum to you of March 13, 1951.

The matters mentioned by Miss Mason were answered previously in my memoranda referred to above and no further action is contemplated by this Bureau in connection therewith.

Enclosure

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61-7511

Mr. [redacted] kmb

kmb

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ON 2/29/84 245562

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- Glavin _____
- Nichols _____
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59 APR 14 1951

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[redacted] kmb