



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**HIGHLANDER FOLK  
SCHOOL**

**PART 6 OF 7**

**FILE NUMBER: 61-7511**

Highlander Folk  
School

Section 6 of 11 Sections

61-7511

6

Highlander Folk School is an interracial school located at [redacted], Tennessee, which is primarily supported by contributions from individuals and fraternal organizations in the form of payments for students who attend. HFS is not the subject of a pending investigation. We have conducted an investigation of it in the past in view of allegations received that it was the headquarters for communist activities in east Tennessee. Our investigation failed to substantiate the allegations. Recently the Tennessee State Legislature passed a resolution appointing a committee to investigate communist activities in the school.

Attached airtel reflects [redacted]

b7c  
b7D 245522 DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/CW

FBI

Date: 2/12/59

FEB 11 11 31 AM '59

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Parsons
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tamm
- Mr. Trotter
- Mr. W.C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Holloman
- Miss Gandy

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (61-7511)  
 FROM: SAC KNOXVILLE (61-12)  
 RE: <sup>6</sup> HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL,  
 MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE  
 IS - X -- INTERNAL SECURITY - MISCELLANEOUS

REC-115

[REDACTED]

any information which the FBI might have which would be pertinent to this investigation. [REDACTED] made no comment [REDACTED] concerning the Bureau's interest concerning this matter, and merely accepted his remark.

Any further information relative to this matter will be brought to the attention of the Bureau.

GEARTY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8BTD/aw  
245582

EX-133

61-7511-243

FEB 13 1959

3 - Bureau  
1 - Knoxville

66 FEB 20 1959

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

INT. SEC.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 2/18/59

FROM : SAC, Knoxville (61-12)

21984

SUBJECT: Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee  
SM-C

Reurlet 12/31/56 and Knoxville letter 1/21/57, captioned as above (interoffice).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

As you are aware, the Bureau has instructed that no investigation of the Highlander Folk School is to be conducted and that it is not to be discussed with any person, pre or con.

b7c  
b7D  
b7c  
b7D  
b7c  
b7D

aw

REC-28

61-7511-244

FBI

FEB 20 1959

EX-133

FEB 26 1959

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Savannah (100-596)
- 1 - Knoxville

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8BTJ/cw

57 FEB 26 1959

RECEIVED CONTROL [REDACTED]

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 2-24-59

FROM : SAC, Memphis (61-34)

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
SM - C

*1-26-7D*

[REDACTED]  
press release made that date by DONALD DAVIDSON, Chairman, Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government, entitled "Joint Statement of State Officers and Organization Leaders of the Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government." This statement sets out the fact that these men support the proposal that a committee of the Tennessee State Legislature investigate the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee and set forth the basis for their stand.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Knoxville are autostat copies of this statement.

- 2- Bureau (61-7511) (encl.-4) RM
- 1- Knoxville (encl.-2) RM
- 2- Memphis (1-105-148) (TFCG) (1-61-34)

*lrc* [REDACTED] FJ  
(5)

*MA*  
4 ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/cw  
245682

REC-2861-7511-245

FBI  
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MAR 11 11 02 AM '59

FEB 27 1959

MAR 10 1959

*MA*

FOR RELEASE

Donald Davidson, Chairman

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8BTJ/cl  
245382

JOINT STATEMENT OF STATE OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATION  
LEADERS OF THE TENNESSEE FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

In view of the past record of Highlander Folk School, it is no surprise whatever that the Legislature should have in view a thorough investigation of the institution. We heartily commend and support their action.

What is surprising is that any informed citizens of Tennessee would object to a action so obviously demanded in the interest of the public welfare and already too long delayed. In this connection we refer particularly to a group of faculty members of the University of the South who in a public letter have attacked the good faith and impugned the motives of the duly elected members of our present General Assembly. We deplore this display of academic gullibility and folly. This group and a few other critics have been so ill-advised as to accuse the Legislature of "McCarthyism" and "Witch hunting." We resent this insult offered to the Legislature and the people of Tennessee.

The record of Highlander Folk School as a seat of agitation and subversion is already well-documented up to 1954, through the Hearings and Reports of Congressional Committees. That record needs to be brought up to date by careful inquiry, undertaken with special reference to activities of the school in Tennessee. An historic opportunity presents itself to the members of the Tennessee Legislature. They, and perhaps only they, with their intimate knowledge of Tennessee affairs, can finally get to the root of the trouble at Highlander Folk School.

In the Hearings of the U. S. Senate Sub-Committee on Internal

Security of March 18, 19, and 20, 1954, Highlander Folk School is revealed through sworn testimony as having been a center of subversive activity since 1940 or earlier. At these hearings Paul Crouch, for seventeen years a communist leader, former Communist District Organizer for North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, testified as follows:

"Senator Eastland: 'What is the Highlander Folk School?'

"Mr. Crouch: 'The Highlander Folk School is a school operated at Monteagle, Tennessee ostensibly as an independent labor school but actually working in close co-operation with the Communist Party.'"

On March 19, 1954 Mr. Crouch testified that in 1940 as Communist Organizer, he met with Myles Horton, James Dombrowski and Ed McCrea, the Nashville Organizer of the Communist Party and "later my successor as Tennessee Organizer," at Highlander Folk School. Mr. Crouch said in reference to this meeting that "The Communist Party was anxious to get the maximum results from Highlander Folk School without endangering Mr. Horton or anyone."

Crouch explained that ". . . if it were to become public knowledge that the Highlander Folk School was co-operating too closely with the Communist Party and carrying on too much open Communist propaganda it would endanger its funds and its support . . ." (Pages 125-126)

On Page 135 of the official recorded Hearings of the Senate Investigation Mr. Arens, Counsel for the Committee, asked Mr. Crouch the following question:

"Mr. Arens: 'What conferences did you have there Highlander Folk School? What was the purpose of the conferences? What was accomplished in these conferences at the Highlander Folk School?'

"Mr. Crouch: 'The purpose of the conference was to work out a plan by which the Daily Worker (Official Communist Newspaper) would

(more)

be purchased by the school. They would be made accessible to the students, that everywhere possible the instructors would refer to the Daily Worker, to news that had come in it, to encourage the students to read it, and it was agreed that the Communist Party should have a student, a leader, sent there as a student whose job it would be to look around for prospective recruits, and Mildred White, now in Washington, D. C. was selected to attend the Highlander Folk School for the purpose of recruiting for the Communist Party and carrying the Communist Party line among the student body there.'

"Mr. Arens: 'You said it was agreed? Who agreed?'"

"Mr. Crouch: 'Mr. Horton and Mr. Dombrowski.'"

"Mr. Arens: 'Did you ever solicit Mr. Horton for membership in the Communist Party?'"

"Mr. Crouch: 'I did.'"

"Mr. Arens: 'Tell the circumstances of that solicitation and what transpired.'"

"Mr. Crouch: 'At that meeting after we discussed the school I asked Mr. Horton to become a formal member of the Communist Party and his reply was, as near as I can recall his words, 'I'm doing you just as much good now as I would if I were a member of the Communist Party. I am often asked if I am a Communist Party member and I always say 'no'. I feel much safer in having no fear that evidence might be uncovered to pull me into the Communist Party, and therefore I prefer not to become a member of the Communist Party.'" (Pages 135-136)

Crouch also identified Rev. Don West and Myles Horton as "original founders" of the Highlander Folk School but said West had earlier left to engage in Socialist and Communist work in Georgia, North Carolina and Kentucky.

(more)

On Page 150 of the Senate Hearings Mr. Horton couldn't "remember" whether the above mentioned Mildred White was a student at Highlander Folk School but said if she was "she was sent by a union, not by the Communist Party. We accept no students from the Communist Party and never have."

Thereupon Mr. Horton, who now offers to be so co-operative with the Legislature of Tennessee, grew so obstreperous at Senator Eastland's questioning on Mildred White that the senator ordered the marshal to eject Horton from the room. (Page 151, Senate Hearings, March, 1954)

The above quotations are only a small portion of the evidence printed in Congressional records up to 1954.

The Tennessee Legislature has the right and the duty to inquire into more recent activities of Highlander Folk School, particularly into the widely publicized meeting of the summer of 1957. This meeting has not yet been investigated. It was attended by a number of well-known Communists, fellow-travelers, leftists, and well known agitators from points of friction in the South.

The Tennessee Legislature has the right and duty to inquire whether there is a connection between such Highlander meetings and the disorders and incitements to disorder occurring at Clinton, Nashville, Little Rock, Atlanta, Montgomery, and other places.

The Tennessee Legislature has the right and duty to inquire whether, by reason of, its activities and policies, Highlander Folk School is acting in violation of Tennessee laws or is conspiring to violate our laws.

When the facts have been duly determined by such inquiry as the Legislature, the sovereign governing body of Tennessee, may undertake, it can then be decided whether the school and its administrators are

(more)

subject to prosecution for creating a public nuisance and constituting a threat to the peace and tranquility of Tennessee.

Signed:

Professor Donald Davidson, Vanderbilt University  
 Chancellor Wayne Cox of Henry County  
 Bob Murray, Mayor of Huntington  
 District Attorney General Dave Murray of Jackson  
 Dr. John M. Aden of Vanderbilt University  
 Ben I. King, Former U. S. Marshal of Gibson County  
 Bob Guinn, Contractor of Hardin County  
 Roy Boyd, Clerk and Master of Tipton County  
 Dick German, District Attorney General of Crockett  
 John McNail, Gibson County Banker  
 Ewing J. Harris, Former State Senator of Hardeman County  
 A. S. Inghram, President, Tennessee Federation, Madison County  
 Frank Daniels, Lion Oil Executive of Jackson  
 Henry Vaughn, County Clerk of Tipton  
 Rev. James E. Savor, Church of the Advent, Nashville  
 W. E. Michaels, Attorney and Author of Sweetwater  
 Dick Burrow, Jr., American Legion Anti-Subversive Committee  
 C. C. Bradley, Insurance Executive of Nashville  
 George Nolan, Manufacturer of Nashville  
 Robert Hardee, Esq., Magistrate of Madison County  
 John Sanford, County Attorney of Lauderdale  
 Robert Thomas, Attorney of Lauderdale  
 L. L. Dennis, Merchant of Tipton  
 Robert E. Lee Galimore, Former State Senator of Weakley  
 Dean Grooms, Former Speaker of the Senate of Weakley  
 W. M. Miles, Former State Senator of Obion  
 Prentice Wynn, Lake County Land Owner  
 E. T. Palmer, Mayor of Dyersburg  
 Hugh Patten, Planter of Haywood  
 Ted Cunliffe, Secretary, Tennessee Federation, Madison County  
 Charles Stanfield, Contractor of Jackson  
 Rev. E. R. Warhurst of Jackson  
 C. W. Miles, III, Attorney of Obion  
 John W. Hart, Attorney of Obion  
 R. D. Fry, Attorney of Obion  
 W. M. Allison, Banker of Lake County  
 Clay F. Wynn, Land Owner of Lake County  
 Rev. Wallace R. Terry, Nashville  
 Chester Mason, Realtor of Nashville  
 Leonard B. Cash, Businessman of Nashville  
 Rev. Truman Rouse of Jackson  
 Steve Carter, Planter of Madison County  
 L. V. Dubose, Businessman of Nashville  
 Dr. Hughes Chandler of Jackson  
 Travis Pegues, Planter of Madison County  
 Lloyd Harris, Ginner and Planter of Hardin  
 Dr. John Morris, Fayette  
 Virgil Luck, Ginner of Fayette  
 R. C. Ferguson, Planter of Henderson  
 Jack Kershaw, Vice Chairman, Tennessee Federation, Nashville

# Highlander Probe Measure Signed

## 2 From Shelby To Aid Investigation

By Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Gov. Buford Ellington today signed a joint House-Senate resolution calling for an investigation of the Highlander Folk School in Grundy County.

Shortly afterward, Senate Speaker William D. Baird and House Speaker James L. Bomar announced the appointment of a five-man committee to conduct the probe.

Committee members are Sens. Barton Dement of Murfreesboro, Lawrence Hughes of Arlington and Reps. Alan Hanover of Memphis, Carter Patten of Chattanooga and Harry Lee Senter of Bristol, all Democrats.

"I want this investigation to reflect dignity on this body, as I am sure it will," Bomar said. "It should be thoro and complete."

He directed the committee to report its findings at this session of the General Assembly. An appropriation of \$5000 was approved to pay expenses of the investigation.

The resolution alleged that subversive activities have been centered around the interracial school in past years.

Myles Horton, director of the school, has denied any Communist link and called for a full investigation.

61-34

MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

242-59

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/clb

45832

~~61-34~~  
~~ENCLOSURE~~

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FEB 16 1959	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

11-22

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) b-7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies), \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: LETTER FROM THIRD PARTY

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
61-7511-246

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X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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

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16 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
SAME INFO AS 61-7511-206

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
61-7511-246

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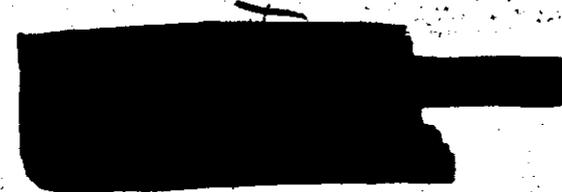
REC-46

61-7511-246

February 20, 1959

105

b7c



ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CL  
245332

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of February 16, 1959, has been received, and I appreciate your enclosing the copy of the item on the Highlander Folk School.

While I would like to be of service, the function of this Bureau as strictly a fact-gathering agency does not extend to furnishing evaluations or clearances of individuals, publications or organizations. Supplying data of the type you requested, in effect, would constitute an approval or disapproval of the group you named; therefore, I am unable to answer your inquiry. I hope you will not infer in this regard that we do or do not have in our files the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover,

1 - Indianapolis - Enclosure

NOTE: [Redacted] not identifiable in Bufiles. We have received a number of copies of the item he enclosed which deals with an interracial school in Tennessee.

- Tolson
- Belmont
- DeLoach
- McGuire
- Mohr
- Parsons
- Rosen
- Tamm
- Trotter
- C. Sullivan
- Tele. Room
- Neenan

3 MAR 4 1959

COMM - FBI  
FEB 20 1959  
MAILED 20

FEB 20 1 55 PM '59  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

FBI

Date: 2/21/59

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (61-12)

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL,  
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE  
IS - X

*DeLoach*

Re Knoxville airtel to Bureau, dated February 13, 1959.

There is submitted herewith one copy of news article entitled "Probe of School Opens Saturday", which appeared in the February 20, 1959, issue of the Chattanooga Times. The article reflects that District Attorney General J. M. McCARTT of Wartburg, Tennessee, will serve as counsel for the investigating committee.

GEARTY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/cw  
245523

*De*  
*b7c*  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

EX 105

REC-29

61-7511-247

FEB 23 1959

3 - BUREAU (Enc 1)

1 - KNOXVILLE

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(4)

ENCLOSURE  
+199

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MAR 5 1959

Approved: *CCG*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

*b7c*  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

# PROBE OF SCHOOL OPENS SATURDAY

## Visit to Tracy City Is First Order of Business for Highlander Study

From Chattanooga Times Bureau

NASHVILLE—The Legislature's select committee to investigate the Highland Folk School decided Thursday to make a visit to Tracy City early Saturday to begin its inquiry.

The committee decided against a visit to the adult educational institution at Monteagle, and the plan was reported to involve discussions with several Grundy County residents who claim to have information about the school.

This first major step in the committee's inquiry came after Dist. Atty. Gen. J. M. McCartt of Wartburg agreed to serve as general counsel without compensation.

McCartt, a Republican, was retained by the committee, which is composed of five Democrats.

### Hopton to Assist

In another development, W. E. (Bud) Hopton, director of the Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification, agreed to supply agents to assist in the inquiry.

Hopton's agents are expected to visit Monteagle and other points in that vicinity over the weekend and draw up a list of prospective witnesses for the committee to question in its first public hearings here next week.

The agents will submit names, and the committee will issue orders for the witnesses to report.

The committee met briefly during the morning for a discussion of materials already in its hands but McCartt failed to arrive in time for this session.

So another meeting was held later in the day for a further review of this material, which consisted largely of pamphlets, newspaper clippings and transcripts of testimony from federal agencies and congressional committees which had had a look at the racially integrated school in times gone by.

The committee has obtained a certified copy of the school's charter, which was issued by the secretary of state in 1934. It authorizes operation of a non-profit corporation for "adult worker education, training of rural and industrial leaders and general academic education."

Listed as incorporators are Myles Horton, the school's founder and still its director;

Elizabeth Hawes, James Dombrowski, Rupert Hampton and Malcolm Chisolm.

Chisolm was described by committee member as a former Chattanooga resident who died fighting for the loyalists in the Spanish civil war in 1935-36.

The visit to Tracy City was proposed as an informal proceeding during which exploratory operations will be conducted.

CHAT. TIMES

2-20-59

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CL  
245782

61-7511-247

ENCLOSURE

[REDACTED] b7c  
March 5, 1959

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

Dear Mr. Hoover,

[REDACTED]

b7c

b7c

Fifteen professors at Sewanee have been under fire locally [REDACTED] for supporting the Highlander Folk School during an investigation by a legislative committee of the State of Tennessee. The Charleston News and Courier has written numerous editorials attacking Highlander and the professors for stating their belief that the school is not communist. The editorials have been most abusive in the criticism of the professors, and I feel that the newspaper editor would like to have these professors disassociate themselves from the Highlander investigation or be removed from their positions at Sewanee.

EXP. PROC.  
MAY 6 1959

You no doubt handle thousands of requests like this one, but I feel that in defence of a cherished institution, the University of the South, I should seek your advice. I would find it very helpful if anything could be made available to me that has been or could be made public concerning the status of Highlander Folk School so far as the Federal Bureau of Investigation is concerned. I have long heard that Highlander has been investigated by your great agency of our government. I have also heard that the State Department routes visitors to the Tennessee area there.

[REDACTED]

WOW - 1/12/59  
1 - SV (Enc) b7c  
1 - KY (Enc)

With best wishes, I am,

REC-27

67-1511-248

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ku  
245523

EX-101

b7c [REDACTED]

1959

REC-27

67-11-248 ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

March 12, 1959

EX-101

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter dated March 5, 1959, has been received and your interest and concern in this matter are indeed appreciated.

While I would like to be of service, I must advise that information in the files of this Bureau is maintained as confidential and available for official use only in accordance with a regulation of the Department of Justice. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to be of assistance to you.

I am sure you will understand the necessity for this policy and will not infer because of my inability to be of assistance that we do or do not have in our files the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI  
MAR 12 4 54 PM '59

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CH

245630

COMM - FBI  
MAR 12 1959  
MAILED 20

- 1 - Savannah (Enclosure) - (See note, page 8.)
- 1 - Knoxville (Enclosure) (See note, page 2.)

See note on yellow, page 3.

(5) [Redacted] bam

Classified By: SP8 BTJ/CH  
Declassify on: OADR 3/21/84  
REC'D - READING ROOM  
MARCH 12 1959

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7c

ATTENTION: SACs, Savannah and Knoxville

Enclosed is a copy of the correspondent's communication. Bufiles contain no identifiable data concerning the correspondent.

b7c

For the information of the Savannah Office, the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, reportedly is supported primarily by donations of individuals and labor unions in the form of payments for students attending its courses. It offers courses of instruction in labor organizations, social economics, and general field of labor education. It has had Communist Party members on its staff and has accepted communists as students. However, it has never offered courses of instruction in communism nor has the Communist Party ever succeeded in gaining control of the school. Due to its interracial character, it has been the subject of numerous allegations that it represents the headquarters of communism in East Tennessee. These allegations have never been substantiated. The Bureau has in the past conducted an investigation of the school and its officials based upon complaints of communist activities at the school. Much of the subversive derogatory information concerning the school was later repudiated by the persons previously furnishing the information.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7c [REDACTED]

The school in recent years has been severely criticized by the Georgia Commission on Education and the Commission has given wide circulation of a four-page folder on the school relating to a Labor Day, 1957, meeting. The Commission refers to it as a communist training school. On January 28, 1959, the Tennessee State Legislature passed a resolution appointing a committee to investigate communist activities at the school.

b7c  
b7D [REDACTED] (61-7511)

The above is furnished for your information. The Savannah and Knoxville Offices are cautioned to be most circumspect in the handling of inquiries concerning the Highlander Folk School and be certain the Bureau does not become involved in this controversy.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

[REDACTED] b7c

He advises professors at this University are now under fire for supporting the Highlander Folk School during an investigation by legislative committee of the State of Tennessee. Being concerned with the well-being and protection of the University of the South, he inquires whether the Bureau can furnish him information which can be made public concerning the status of the Highlander Folk School insofar as the FBI is concerned.

-3-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*b7c* [REDACTED]

In view of the extremely controversial nature of the Highlander Folk School, the past attacks upon it by the Georgia Commission of Education and the most recent investigation by a committee of the Tennessee State Legislature, a files confidential reply will best serve the Bureau's interest in this matter.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*b7c*  
[Redacted]  
March 11, 1959

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

We understand that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has made an investigation of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee. As an agency of the Knoxville Ministerial Association and concerned citizens of Tennessee, we are anxious to have all pertinent information which you are able to give us relative to this school.

There have been widespread accusations of disloyalty directed against the Highlander School. We feel that if these accusations are founded in fact, we as citizens and leaders of our churches need to know it; and if they are not founded in fact, we wish to be in a position to present to the public the true picture.

Respectfully yours,

*bx*

[Redacted signature block]

EXP. PROC.  
MAR 17 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aj  
245502

X-132

REC-23

61-7511-249

MAR 27 1959

COMM-FREQ  
5-100

3/23/59

1-4 X (Enc)

2/2/59

MAR 20 1959

REC-23

61-7511-249

1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

b7c

March 23, 1959

EX-132

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/cb  
245822

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter dated March 14, 1959, has been received and the motive which prompted your communication is indeed appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance, the function of the FBI as a fact-gathering agency does not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. Furthermore, information in the files of this Bureau is maintained as confidential and available for official use only in accordance with a regulation of the Department of Justice. I regret, therefore, that I am unable to comply with your request for information.

I am sure you will understand the necessity for this policy and will not infer from my inability to be of assistance that we do or do not have in our files the information you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

MAILED  
MAR 23 1959  
COMM-FBI

REC'D-READING ROOM  
MAR 23 10 50 AM '59

2 - Knoxville (Enclosure) SEE NOTE, PAGE 10211  
SEE NOTE ON YELLOW, PAGE 2

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

:bam

Handwritten signature

FBI

Handwritten signature

lnc  
[REDACTED]

ATTENTION: SAC, Knoxville

Enclosed is a copy of correspondent's letter. Bufiles contain no identifiable data concerning the correspondent and no derogatory information [REDACTED]

bvc  
[REDACTED]

Former Assistant to the Director L. B. Nichols spoke before this Association in 1937. (94-1-2139)

The Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, is well known to your office.

The above data is furnished for your information only.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

The Highlander Folk School has been the subject of numerous allegations that it is a communist school and the headquarters of communism in east Tennessee, due primarily to its interracial character. These allegations have never been substantiated. It has been given wide publicity by the Georgia Commission on Education which issued a pamphlet charging it is a communist training school. On January 28, 1959, the Tennessee State Legislature passed a resolution appointing a committee to investigate the school. (61-7511)

In view of the extremely controversial nature of this school, the past attacks upon it by the Georgia Commission on Education and the pending inquiry by the Tennessee State Legislature, the above reply is believed ~~to~~ best serve the purposes of the Bureau.

SAC, SHUNNAH

April 29, 1959

Director, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED]

Classified by SP5 BTJ/OK  
Declassify on: OADR 2/2/84  
245522

b7c

When [REDACTED] was in Washington [REDACTED] he talked with Assistant Director C. D. DeLoach and indicated that he was interested in the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee. It is desired that you contact [REDACTED] on a highly confidential basis and advise him that this school has been the subject of a great deal of controversy.

b7c

You may tell [REDACTED] that the school offers courses of instruction in social economics, labor organization and labor education. Furthermore, it has had Communist Party members on its staff and has accepted communists as students. It should be pointed out, however, that the Communist Party has never succeeded in gaining control of the school nor does the school offer courses of instruction in communism. In view of its interracial character, there have been many allegations that it represents the headquarters of communism in eastern Tennessee. This allegation has never been substantiated.

b7c

It should be pointed out to [REDACTED] that in recent years, the school has been severely criticized by the Georgia Commission on Education, and the Commission has given wide circulation of a four-page folder relating to a Labor Day meeting in 1957.

b7c

Attached are Photostats of some items which you may make available to [REDACTED]. They include the following: (1) a Photostat of a clipping from The Chattanooga Times, February 20, 1959; (2) a Photostat of the above-mentioned paper put out by the Georgia Commission on Education, and (3) a Photostat of an article from The Chattanooga Times for February 11, 1959. You should advise the Bureau of the results of your contact with [REDACTED].

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/OK  
245522

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holloman \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosures (3)

b7c  
(sent direct)

MAILED 19  
APR 29 1959  
COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

101-75-11-  
NOT RECORDED  
46 MAY 1 1959

29 MAY 6 1959

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 4-2-59

FROM : SAC, Memphis (61-34)

REC-776 *transmission memo*

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
IS - C

Knoxville Origin

Transmitted herewith is a letterhead memorandum contain-  
ing information obtained on a confidential basis

[REDACTED] b7D

[REDACTED] b7D  
[REDACTED] b7C

ALL COPIES REGISTERED MAIL

- 2- Bureau (61-7511) (encl.-3)
- 2- Knoxville(61-12) (encl.-2)
- 1- Atlanta(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Boston(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Chicago (info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Dallas(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Jacksonville(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Little Rock(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Los Angeles(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Louisville(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Mobile(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Newark(info) (encl.-1)

- 1- New Haven(info)(encl.-1)
- 1- New York(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Norfolk(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Philadelphia(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- San Francisco(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- St. Louis(info) (encl.-1)
- 1- Memphis(61-34)

*b7C*  
EX 10001

REC-16

14 APR 6 1959

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR  
ADD. DISSEMINATION.

83 APR 23 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/kw  
24 1582

INT. SEC.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

16

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7C; b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
61-7511-250 ENCL.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Post Office Box 948  
Savannah, Georgia  
June 8, 1959

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

*Engle*

*(y)*

Mr. Cartha D. DeLoach  
Assistant Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Deke:

I have had our files checked on the John's  
Island branch of the Highlander Folk School, and  
I hope that the attached information will be of  
help.

As you know, the Bureau has instructed that  
we are not to get involved in any controversy  
relating to the Highlander Folk School, and no  
investigation of it is to be conducted.

Sincerely,

*[Redacted signature]*

*b7c*

Enclosure

*I can help further please holder.*

*1/6*

*Best wishes*

100

*ENCLOSURE*

REC-18

61-7511-251

17 JUN 23 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/cj

245532

*(y) H&H*

*6-12-59*  
*bx*

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
JOHN'S ISLAND BRANCH

b7c  
b7D

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7D

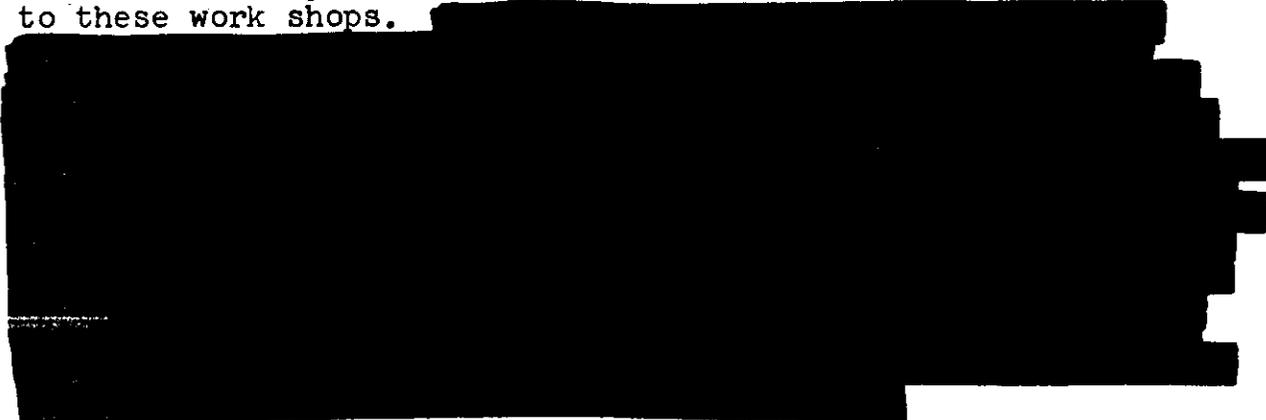
[REDACTED]

The Knoxville Office, by letter dated January 21, 1957, advised that the files of that office pertaining to the Highlander Folk School disclosed no information received from any volunteer sources regarding any "experimenting" on John's Island on the part of the Highlander Folk School. The file did disclose that various sources had volunteered information that the school holds sessions of study during the summers which are called "work shops". It was reported that persons from various sections of the country had been in attendance at such sessions. Among the topics listed for discussions at the work shop held in 1956 were "Positive Resistance, Registering and

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/OW  
HJBA

61-7511-251  
ENCLOSURE

Voting, Joint Committee Activity, Transportation, Housing, Parks and Action Through Churches". It was not known whether the "experiments" on John's Island had any relation to these work shops.



L7C  
L7D

The following article captioned "Classes <sup>Which</sup> Here Sponsored by Folk School", by OTIS PERKINS, appeared in the News and Courier, a daily newspaper published in Charleston, South Carolina, on March 11, 1959:

"Interracial Highland Folk School, which has been under investigation in Tennessee, has sponsored citizenship classes among Charleston County Negroes for the last two years.

"The latest of such classes was completed on John's Island last Thursday. Similar classes -- all plugging registration and voting -- also have been held on Edisto Island and Wadmalaw Island.

"Reports of the classes had been rumored here for sometime. Their operation was verified yesterday by the man who helped set them up.

"He is Esaw Jenkins, a soft-spoken, mild-mannered Negro leader of John's Island.

Jenkins, who missed formal education, says there's nothing secret or ulterior about his own brand of private education. He gives the impression, himself, of being educated, which grew from private tutoring as an adult.

"We only want to make them better citizens," he told this reporter on the island last night. "The main thing is to teach them voting. We want them to understand how to vote intelligently. We teach them what they ought to know so that when they go down there to register there won't be any embarrassment."

"The robust Negro leader spoke as he sat in the rear seat of an automobile in front of Wesley AME Church about nine miles northwest of Charleston on River Road.

"Strangely, not a single white person, including the county school superintendent or even officials of the Islands' Citizens Councils, had any direct knowledge the Negro adult classes were being held.

"Jenkins, an honor member of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People, said he long had been interested in the Negro people of John's Island, where he grew up.

"He said he heard about the Highlander School and its operation sometime before the classes were set up.

"In 1955, two white girl students of the Tennessee school came to Charleston. They sat with Negroes to observe court procedure. They were admitted integrationists.

"Jenkins recalled they visited his John's Island home while here. He said also that Myles Horton, founder and director of Highlander Folk School, had visited in Charleston County. Horton last was here about a year ago, Jenkins said.

"Jenkins said he approached Highlander on setting up adult classes here.

"Highlander personnel, according to reports, came here and set up the school and then left them to local leadership. Jenkins said the

teacher at John's Island is Bernice V. Robinson, who is paid by the foundation through Highlander Folk School. He says the teachers at Wadmalaw and Edisto Islands also apparently work under the same arrangement. S.C.

"She declined to discuss details of the operation last night, saying such would have to come from Highlander. The arrangement by which teachers are paid and the number of students enrolled also are available only through Highlander records at the school's Monteagle, Tenn., headquarters, she said.

"The class sessions, which last about three months for each group of students, are held two hours nightly in a building formerly owned by the John's Island School District. The property was purchased by Jenkins, who also operates a grocery store in front of the structure housing the classroom.

"Subjects, besides voting, include reading, writing and sewing, Jenkins reported. He said several men and women students can neither read nor write. Some progress well, be added.

"Jenkins teaches the voting classes, which are held in conjunction with the Palmetto State Voters Assn. The association meets each Monday night. Its purpose, like that of the classes, is to promote Negro registration and voting.

"Students of the classes and persons attending the association meetings, are given sample South Carolina voter registration application blanks.

"The forms are explained point-by-point and line by line. 'We also try to teach them the meaning of some of the words,' Jenkins said.

"The next classes will be held in December, Jenkins said. He explained that they are held for the period of December through February because no farming is being done during that period.

"Many of the people attending the classes, one John's Islander reported, are completely illiterate. They come in from remote sections. 'Some of them never have seen the city,' he explained. 'They have no idea what's going on outside their section.'

"Jenkins, in answer to a question, said he didn't believe Horton of the controversial Highlander school is a communist. Jenkins said Horton never did or said anything as far as he knew to indicate he was a Red.

"The school has been accused of harboring subversive elements and of being a breeding ground for agitators. It faces the loss of its charter as a privately operated institution as a result of the investigation by the Tennessee Legislature.

"'We don't believe in violence,' Jenkins said of his association. 'We tell our people to be respectful. This thing (integration) can't be done over night. It's a revolution. There's no use of us fighting over it.' He said the Highlander school hadn't suggested the classes as a tool of integration.

"Jenkins owns, besides the grocery, a restaurant in Charleston and some buses. He is a leader of the Wesley Church.

"He says he hopes to start a Negro housing project on the island -- to get Negroes out of shacks.

"'Maybe that would serve as an example and they'd try to build better houses,' he commented. Jenkins says he believes in teaching by example. He has put three children through college, and has one child in high school and another in grammar school. He says he hopes other Negroes will do likewise."

REC-18

SAC, Savannah

June 22, 1959

Director, FBI

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

Reurlet dated 6-8-59 to Mr. DeLoach, with enclosure.

You should contact [redacted]

and confidentially advise him of the data you furnished re captioned school.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

(5)

[redacted] has specifically requested information regarding John's Island Branch of the Highlander Folk School.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aw  
24552

MAILED 4  
JUN 22 1959  
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM [ ] TELETYPE UNIT [ ]

SEARCHED  
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INDEXED  
FILED  
JUN 30 1959

MAILED  
b7c

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (61-12)

DATE: 8/11/59

FROM : SAC, Knoxville (61-12)

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
IS - C

Enclosed are two copies of newspaper clippings appearing in The Chattanooga Times, a daily publication, Chattanooga, Tennessee, on August 2, 1959, page 1, concerning this school.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/aw  
245536

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2 - Bureau (Encls. 2)  
1 - Knoxville

REC-43 25 AUG 13 1959

*en* [redacted] /epm  
(3)

61-7511-252

ENCLOSURE

**REC-43**

62 AUG 20 1959

[redacted]  
674/11  
[redacted]

4 AT HIGHLANDER  
ARRESTED IN RAID

Padlock Petition Against  
School Being Prepared  
After Whisky Found

Special to The Chattanooga Times  
MONTEAGLE, Tenn.—Armed with search warrants obtained late Friday night from a justice of the peace at his home, county and state officers led by Dist. Atty. Gen. A. F. Sloan raided the controversial Highlander Folk School near here and broke up a banquet attended by 30 or more Negro couples and several white persons.

Sloan disclosed Saturday that he was preparing a padlock petition against the school, to be presented in court "within the next few days."

Mrs. Septima P. Clark, 61, who identified herself as director of education at the school, was placed under arrest after officers discovered quantities of whisky and gin on the property.

Three young men, who reportedly interfered with the officers in their efforts to take Mrs. Clark into custody, also were arrested and taken to the Grundy County jail in Altamont.

Released on Bond

All were released early Saturday morning after posting cash bonds for appearance at a preliminary hearing next Thursday at 4 p.m. in Altamont, presumably before Squire John P. Wright, who issued the search warrants.

Mrs. Clark's bond was set at \$500 on the whisky possession charge. The men, released under bond of \$250 each on charges of drunkenness, interfering with officers and resisting arrest, were identified as

Brent Eugene Barksdale, 22, of Los Angeles; Guy Hughes Carawan, Jr., 32, also of Los Angeles, an entertainer with some renown as a folk singer and musician, and Perry MacKay-Sturges, 34, Shelter Island Heights, N.Y.

The men, as well as others at the school, had been participating in one of the regular summer workshops conducted by the institution which has admitted its strong advocacy of racial integration.

Atty. Gen. Sloan said the padlock petition against the school would be presented to Circuit Judge C. C. Chattin, explaining that the school then would have five days to appear in court and answer the petition.

The attorney general said his petition "in all likelihood" would be presented to the court.

See Page Eleven, Column One

ARRESTED IN RAID

From Page One

also include a request for an order that the charter of Highlander be revoked. If such an order were issued, it would be directed to the secretary of state.

A legislative investigating committee earlier this year concluded its probe of the school by urging action leading toward revocation of the charter.

Sloan said he would charge in his padlock petition that the school is a "public nuisance" and is "engaging in law violations" by possessing and serving whisky and other intoxicating beverages in a dry county.

Mrs. Clark, an elderly Negro woman, was the only school official present when the raiding party arrived late Friday night. Myles Horton, director of the school, reportedly is abroad with his family. Mrs. Clark told officers she was in charge in Horton's absence.

Joining Sloan in the raid were Elston Clay, Grundy County sheriff; Kenneth Shelton, Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification; county deputies and members of the highway patrol.

Highlander Folk School for many years has been operating as a training school for labor leaders from throughout the nation, but especially in the South, and has pushed openly for a speed-up in school integration in the Southern states. Most of the seminars and workshops at Highlander are operated on an integrated basis.

Charges that the school has Communistic leanings were explored rather thoroughly by the legislative committee, several members of which felt that the ultra-liberal positions of Highlander officials place them in the class of "left-wingers." Horton and others on the staff have denied repeatedly any Communist connections and the investigators failed to turn up any real proof to support the charge. The committee, however, did recommend that the school's status as a tax-exempt institution be ended and its charter revoked.

Should Judge Chattin sustain the attorney general's plea for padlocking the school, the order would remain in effect until the October term of circuit court when another hearing would be scheduled on the question of making the order permanent.

Sloan said Saturday that he had no intention of denying residential use of the homes on the grounds of the school, but that his petition, if granted, would prohibit their continued use as gathering places and sites for the institution's regular operations.

TCAN

The Chattanooga Times  
8-2-59  
Page 1  
Chattanooga,  
Tennessee

Martin. S.  
Ochs, Editor

Knoxville  
Office

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ck  
245532

61-7511-252

ENCLOSURE

## 4 AT HIGHLANDER ARRESTED IN RAID

### Padlock Petition Against School Being Prepared After Whisky Found

Special to The Chattanooga Times  
MONTEAGLE, Tenn.—Armed with search warrants obtained late Friday night from a justice of the peace at his home, county and state officers led by Dist. Atty. Gen. A. F. Sloan raided the controversial Highlander Folk School near here and broke up a banquet attended by 30 or more Negro couples and several white persons.

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See Page Eleven, Column One

## 4 AT HIGHLANDER ARRESTED IN RAID

From Page One

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The Chattanooga Times  
8-2-59  
Page 1  
Chattanooga,  
Tennessee

Martin S.  
Ochs, Editor

Knoxville  
Office

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 9/11/59

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FROM : SAC, Knoxville (61-12)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed is original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum concerning captioned matter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This memorandum is not being disseminated to local intelligence agencies.

*JAG*  
*7-12-59*  
*10-1-59*

*b7D*

*b1*

*c*

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) class.  
DATE 3/5/84

CC TO: *LISA*  
REQ. REC'D. *11-30-64*  
DEC 9 1964  
ANS. BY: *[Signature]*

*b7c*  
[REDACTED]

*7*

*1/1*  
*7*  
**ENCLOSURE**

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

61-7511-253

2 - Bureau (Enc. 16) (RM) REC-12  
1 - Knoxville

20 SEP 14 1959

[REDACTED] :mlc  
(3)

EX 100

~~INT. SEC.~~

Classified by *SP8 BT/ab*  
Declassify on: *OAD 3/18/81*  
*2/5/82*

*9/11*  
OCT 23 1959

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

617 Walnut Street, S.W.  
Knoxville 02, Tennessee  
September 11, 1959

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 3/5/84 *class.*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

CC TO: .....  
REQ. REC'D. ....  
DEC 9 1964  
ANS. ....  
BY: .....

A copy of a mimeographed letter was received by the Knoxville Office of the FBI bearing the return address of the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee. This mimeographed letter reads as follows:

"Highlander Folk School  
Monteagle, Tennessee

From Myles Horton to Fellow Tennesseans:

The State Legislative Investigation instigated by Atty. Genl. Bruce Bennet of Arkansas spectacularly failed to prove that Highlander's stand on integration was subversive. Nevertheless our District Atty. was instructed to find some other excuse for closing the school.

While I was away something happened that shocked all decent people. Mrs. Septima Clark, Highlander's Educational Director, an outstanding church woman, was arrested and hauled off to jail in the midst of an integrated workshop. (At present she is conducting a workshop attended by 33 people, including a number of foreign visitors sent by the State Department, with her usual dignity.)

*T E X*  
B. APPROX. 1999

According to the Nashville Tennessean Sloan agreed that the raid, which he directed, was for the purpose of finding whiskey so he could have the school closed. "The members of the legislative committee gave me information mostly on integration and communism,"

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

61-7541-253

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
ENCLOSURE

Classified by *SP8 BTJ/CA*  
Declassify on: OADR *9/2/84*  
*245532*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

said Sloan, "and I wasn't satisfied I could be successful at that. I thought maybe this was the best shot and I think now I'll be successful."

In a letter of protest, Dr. Roger L. Shinn, <sup>TENN</sup> recently professor of Christian Ethics at Vanderbilt University, wrote:

After a long history of unfair heckling and absurd charges brought against the Highlander Folk School, I suppose I should not be surprised at the latest episode. But I thought that some of your foes might have the wisdom to keep quiet after their ridiculous efforts at the last session of the state legislature. During my years in Tennessee I was glad for the Christian and democratic idealism of Highlander Folk School. You have been investigated repeatedly and have been vindicated against false and malicious charges.

Sloan is insisting that Highlander be padlocked as a public nuisance. A hearing has been set for Sept. 14 at 9:00 am at the Grundy County Courthouse in Altamont.

Many of our friends have written or called to say they will be at Altamont early Monday morning. I would like very much to have you with us also. Your very presence will show that Tennesseans want fair play and will do a great deal to keep this unprecedented action from turning into a second Scopes Trial. At the first hearing the courtroom was packed with Atty. Sloan's rooting section well before court opened. You will want to get to Altamont early. Let us know if you will want to spend Sunday night at Highlander.

P.S. A few of the many letters of support and encouragement are enclosed."

The Knoxville News-Sentinel, Knoxville, Tennessee, a daily newspaper, in the issue of August 1, 1959, carried a news article datelined at Monteagle, Tennessee, which reported as follows:

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

"County and state law enforcement officials raided integrated Highlander Folk School last night, arrested a Negro woman and three white men and confiscated a quantity of liquor.

"The school was the subject of an investigation by the 1959 state Legislature, which sought indication of Communistic activities or teachings at the school.

"The Negro woman arrested was Mrs. Septima P. Clark, 61, who said she was director of education for Highlander and in charge during the absence of School Director Myles Horton, now in Europe. B. APPROX. 1895

#### Liquor in Horton Home

"She was charged with possessing whisky after raiders said they found bottles of gin and rum and a keg containing whisky in the home of Horton. She was jailed pending receipt of bond. Grundy County is prohibition.

"Dist. Atty. Ab Sloan, who directed the raid along with Grundy County Sheriff Elston Clay and Tennessee Bureau of Identification Agent Kenneth Shelton, said he plans to file a petition seeking that Highlander be declared a public nuisance and be closed.

"The raiding party of 15 hit the school shortly after an estimated 30 Negro men and women and several young white couples had finished a banquet and were watching a movie.

"The search warrant was signed by Justice of the Peace John P. Wright.

#### Held on Several Charges

"Others arrested and jailed at Altamont, the county seat, on charges of drunkenness, interfering with officers and resisting arrest were Brant Eugene Barksdale, 22, of Los Angeles, Calif., Guy Hughes Carawan, Jr., 32, of Los Angeles, and Perry Mackay Sturges, Jr., 34, Shelter Island Heights, N.Y. B. APPROX. 1937  
B. APPROX. 192  
B. APPROX. 172

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Re: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL.

"A committee from the 1959 Legislature held several hearings on Highlander and then visited the school itself. It reported it found the school engaged in a "very questionable activity" and recommended its tax-exempt charter be revoked.

"Morton has denied repeatedly any Communistic connections at the school. The school does not hold formal classes but conducts discussions and seminars and is frequently addressed by guest speakers."

b1 [redacted] advised to the effect "the Highlander Folk School is an institution located near Monteagle, Tennessee. It is an institution with classes on a seminar basis and is supported primarily by donations from individuals, from labor unions in the form of payments for students who attend, and to some extent by the Farmers Union. It offers courses of instruction in labor organization, social economics, parliamentary procedure, and the general field of labor education. This school has had Communist Party members on its staff and as instructors, and has followed the practice of welcoming Communist Party members as students, but to my knowledge the school has never offered courses of instruction in Communist matters nor has the Communist element ever completely controlled the institution". ] X U

b1 [redacted] c

This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

617 Walnut Street, S.W.  
Knoxville 02, Tennessee  
September 11, 1959

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to letterhead memorandum  
dated September 11, 1959, at Knoxville, Tennessee.

*100*  
[REDACTED]

This memorandum is loaned to you by the FBI,  
and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed  
outside the agency to which loaned.

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/cr  
245832

MAILED

SEP 15 1959

NAME CHECK

49108

September 15, 1959

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MYLES HORTON, DIRECTOR  
Monteagle, Tennessee

Classified by ~~SP8 BTJ/CA~~  
Declassify on: ~~OADR 3/8/84~~  
~~245532~~

All confidential informants referred to in this memorandum have furnished reliable information in the past.

*87D*  
[redacted] *SUMMARY*  
advised that Myles Horton, Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, was a speaker at a meeting of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare which was held in Nashville, Tennessee, on April 19 through 21, 1942.

[redacted] Horton spoke on the importance of training the youth of the nation both vocationally and in democracy. The Southern Conference for Human Welfare has been cited by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, March 29, 1944, page 147 as a "Communist front which received money from the Robert Marshall foundation, one of the principal sources of the funds by which many Communist fronts operate."

[redacted] furnished the following information concerning the Highlander Folk School:

"The Highlander Folk School is an institution located near Monteagle, Tennessee. It is an institution with classes on a seminar basis and supported primarily by donations from individuals, from labor unions in the form of payments for students who attend, and to some extent by the Farmer's Union. It offers courses of

REC-861-7511-254

Orig and one to STATE (furnished [redacted] State Liaison)  
Reg. rec'd 9/8/59

SEP 16 1959

NOTE: Substance of above furnished OSI-4 April 27, 1956, in response to name check. Thumbnail sketch re Highlander Folk School check up to date with [redacted] Organization Desk.

This memo classified "Confidential" inasmuch as the informants' identities should not be revealed as it might be dangerous to the security of the United States.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

SEP 21 1959

DECLASSIFIED BY ~~SP8 BTJ/CA~~  
ON 3/8/84 ~~245532~~

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Highlander Folk School  
Myles Horton, Director  
Monteagle, Tennessee

instruction in labor organization, social economics, parliamentary procedure and the general field of labor education. This school has had Communist Party members on its staff as instructors, [and has followed the practice of welcoming Communist Party members as students, but to my knowledge, the school has never offered courses of instruction in communist matters nor has the communist element ever completely controlled the institution." ] x u

Another Governmental agency which conducts intelligence investigations has advised that Louis Francis Budenz, former editor of the "Daily Worker," an east coast communist newspaper which suspended publication January 13, 1958, and an admitted former official in the Communist Party, advised on November 21, 1952, that the Highlander Folk School was procommunist.

TINN  
On April 19, 1949, Paul Crouch, a self-admitted former member of the Communist Party, furnished to this Bureau a signed statement in which he described Myles Horton as a left wing Socialist who was always close to the Communist Party. According to this statement Horton met with officials and representatives of the Communist Party to discuss policy and procedure during the period from 1939 to 1941; and, even though he showed some independence in thought, Horton usually followed the Communist Party line. The statement continues that in 1941 Horton could have been described as a close sympathizer and follower of the Communist Party line; and that his wife, Zylphia Horton, was even closer to the Party than her husband. According to Crouch's statement, when he last saw Zylphia Horton in 1941 she was seriously considering joining the Communist Party.

61D  
[redacted] advised that on various occasions between 1947 and 1950, Myles Horton closely followed and paralleled the Communist Party

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Highlander Folk School  
Myles Horton, Director  
Monteagle, Tennessee

line in political, economic, and social doctrines and associated with known Communist Party members. In the opinion of the informant, Horton was not a member of the Communist Party.

L7D [REDACTED] advised that Horton was not a member of the Communist Party even though he had close association with Party members. [REDACTED]

L7D [REDACTED]

For your additional information please be advised that Myles Horton referred to above testified in public session before the Jenner Committee on March 20, 1954. You may desire to consult records of this Committee for additional information concerning the subject of your inquiry. The Highlander Folk School has been the subject of considerable newspaper publicity in the State of Tennessee, particularly, in the Chattanooga, Tennessee area. (61-7511-193)

- 3 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 11/5/59

FROM : SAC, Knoxville (61-12)

SUBJECT:             
HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
Monteagle, Tennessee  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

*JDA*  
*dy*

*9*  
*2-10-1960*  
*[Redacted]*  
*[Redacted]*

Enclosed for Bureau files is one autostat copy each of four news articles concerning the Highlander Folk School.

These news items result from a hearing brought against the school by State authorities seeking to revoke the charter of the school.

EX 101

*12*

- 2 - Bureau (Enclosures 4)
- 1 - Knoxville

REC-37

*61-7511-253*

15 NOV 12 1959

*bc*

*[Redacted]* epm  
(3)

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/ck  
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*1-8*  
*[Signature]*  
*5-CRIMINAL REC.*

ENCLOSURE

NOV 16 1959

## Highlander Charged With Integration

ALTAMONT, Tenn., Oct. 28.—The integration issue has been brought into a new dimension by a move attempted to permanently close Highlander Folk School, an interracial club school near Monteagle.

District Atty. Gen. A. F. Sloan yesterday amended his petition to include a charge that Highlander has violated a Tennessee law which makes it unlawful for white and colored persons to attend the same school.

The district attorney general has asked a court order revoking Highlander's tax-exempt charter and permanently closing the school as a public nuisance.

The case will be heard here Tuesday by Circuit Judge Chester C. Chittin. Sloan has requested a jury trial.

Sloan opened his drive against Highlander last July 31 when he personally led a liquor raid against the controversial 27-year-old institution, which is located in dry Grundy County.

Sloan said tonight even though the Tennessee segregation law has become unconstitutional as it applied to public schools, it still should be valid in the case of private schools.

"The US Supreme Court has not gone so far as to rule out segregation in private schools and Highlander is a private school," he said.

THE KNOXVILLE JOURNAL

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

OCT. 29, 1959

GUY L. SMOKE - EDITOR

KNOXVILLE DIVISION

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61-7511-255

# Highlander Padlock Suit Dropped, State to Ask Charter Be Revoked

## Clash of Attorneys Starts Off Hearing

By Y. GRADY GALLANT  
News-Free Press Staff Writer

ALTAMONT—The state announced this morning it would not pursue efforts to obtain a permanent padlock injunction on the main education building at Highlander Folk School, located near Monteagle, Tenn., but that it would seek revocation of the school's charter.

After approximately two and a half hours of legal argument between the state and Defense Atty. Cecil Branstetter of Nashville, a selection of a jury was begun.

Judge Chester Chatten overruled a demurrer filed by the defense to an amendment to the original bill against Highlander Folk School. Among other things the demurrer asserted that the "original amended bill shows on its face that it is multifarious."

Atty. Branstetter also argued that the charges against Highlander Folk School were "a shotgun approach trying to find something, I assume."

Relative to the amendment by



ATTY. CECIL BRANSTETTER JUDGE CHESTER CHATTEN

the state that Highlander is conducting interracial classes in violation of a state code section, Atty. Branstetter argued that integration has been held to be unconstitutional.

However, the state argued that what might be constitutional for state schools may not be constitutional for private institutions. The state also argued, in answer to the defense charge that the constitutional right of

the school had been violated under the 14th Amendment, that a corporation is an artificial body and is not a citizen of the United States.

Atty. Branstetter asserted that the corporation is a citizen "and cannot be denied protection of the laws of the United States."

Atty. Branstetter told the (Continued on Page 7, Column 1)

Partly Cloudy,

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Chattanooga News-Free Press  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
11-3-59  
Lee Anderson, Editor

61-7511-255  
ENCLOSURE

# HIGHLANDER CHARTER HIT

(Continued From Page 1)

court that Highlander Folk School admits that it has operated classes for Negroes and whites "almost since it began" over 25 years ago.

He said that the court would enjoin Highlander from performing commercial activities in the future, and that briefs could be submitted relative to the question of whether or not Highlander has violated the law by having integration in its classrooms.

However, these suggestions were not followed and a short time later selection of a jury to hear the case was begun.

## SUBPOENA PROTESTED

The defense also objected to a subpoena requiring Myles Horton, Highland Folk School director, to bring to court a mass of records of the school's operation. Among the things requested by the state were the corporation's bylaws and charter, all minutes of board meetings, deeds and notes of sale, all records of donations to the school and the names of the donors, all records and receipts and all transfers of property by Highlander to other individuals.

Attorney Branstetter told the court that this would require "hundreds of records." He went on to say that this was an unreasonable request, since it had only been made by the state yesterday afternoon.

The Nashville attorney then moved that the subpoena be quashed, modified or vacated.

Judge Chastin remarked that "it would impose any impossibilities today Mr. Branstetter."

Attorney Adam Kelly of South Pittsburg who is assisting defense attorney Gen. A. F. Sloan said to the judge, "We just want the records, and then we will have the material of the case."

The judge then asked the state if they would like a subpoena issued to select one and Attorney Branstetter replied that though the defense objected, "we would like a subpoena."

The court room was filled to capacity and a number of persons were standing outside the doors in a narrow hallway. Present were Atty. Kelly, Atty. Gen. Sloan is assisted by Atty. Sam Folk Rabinson, a prominent South Pittsburg lawyer.

The dropping of the state's effort to have a permanent padlock injunction placed on Highlander's main education building means that the padlock will be removed from that building immediately. The building was padlocked several weeks ago after a hearing on a temporary padlock proceeding. Judge Chastin at that time found that beer had been sold in that building by Highlander without a license and to minors.

The state said this morning that it is not moving against any individual connected with Highlander, but that its action is aimed at the corporation itself.

Atty. Branstetter said the state was "on a fishing expedition" when it sought the records of Highlander. He also remarked

on another occasion that the state is committing acts of oppression.

"The state has not come to this court with clean hands," the defense attorney stated.

"Go wash your hands," Atty. Gen. Sloan muttered suddenly to Atty. Kelly and Rabinson who were seated near him at the prosecution table.

When Atty. Kelly next rose to address the court, he apologized for the neglect of the state to

## 4 Indicted as Result Of Highlander Raid

ALTAMONT, Tenn. (AP)—The Grundy County grand jury returned indictments Monday against Highlander Folk School's education director and three young men arrested in a raid on the school last July.

The school official, Mrs. Sep-

tima Clark, was indicted on a charge of whisky possession.

The three men, who were taking part in a workshop at the school, were Brent Eugene Barkdale, 22, Los Angeles, Calif.; Guy Hughes Carawan, 21, Los Angeles, and Perry Max Burgess, 20, Shelter Island Heights, N.Y. They were charged with public drunkenness, resisting arrest and interfering with an officer.

Cash bonds posted by the four at the time of their arrest have been continued.

# Highlander Hearing Opens Today; Mrs. Clark, 3 Others Are Indicted

By NOUZO PETERS  
Chattanooga Times Staff Writer

ALTAMONT, Tenn. — The little mountain courthouse among the colorful maples in the county seat of Grundy County will be the setting Tuesday of the second act in the current legal drama entitled "Highlander Folk School Must Go."

Opening in Grundy County circuit court is the hearing in which the attorney general of Tennessee's 18th Judicial Circuit will seek an order revoking the 25-year-old charter of the institution which conducts integrated classes and workshops and pursues a policy of aggressive liberalism.

The first part of the current move against the school was in mid-September, when the attorney general, A. F. Sloan of South Pittsburg, sought a temporary injunction against the operation of the school on grounds it was a public nuisance.

Highlander lost a preliminary round Monday even before the hearing opened when the Grundy County grand jury indicted the school's education di-

rector and three others on charges of possessing moonshine whisky at the school.

Indictments were returned late Monday against Mrs. Septima Clark, the education director; Brent Eugene Barkdale, 22, Los Angeles; Guy Hughes Carawan, 22, Los Angeles, and Perry Sturgess, 38, Shelter Island Heights, N.Y., Circuit Court Clerk Mrs. Florence Bouldin revealed.

Mrs. Clark was indicted on a charge of possession of whisky. The three men, who were taking part in a workshop at the school last July 31 when county and state officers staged a raid, were accused of public drunkenness, resisting arrest and interfering with an officer in the discharge of his official duty.

Cash bonds, posted by the four at the time of their arrests, were continued, Mrs. Bouldin said. No date was set immediately for their trial.

Circuit Judge Chester C. Chat-

See Page Two, Column Three

## HEARING OPENS ON HIGHLANDER

From Page One

tin at that time agreed to the padlocking of one building among the dozen or more on the 180-acre campus. He ruled that the state's attorney had proved a charge that beer had been dispensed illegally in the one building, but that no proof had been submitted to substantiate charges of rowdy and boisterous conduct or of lewd and immoral practices at the school.

Atty. Gen. Sloan, in addition to attacking Highlander in the hearing opening Tuesday on the charges of his original petition, will seek revocation of the charter on the claim that operations of the school have violated terms of the charter.

In addition, although the attorney general had said during the first hearing and since that racial issues were not involved, he last week filed an amendment to his petition to charge that Highlander is in violation of a 65-year-old Tennessee law which forbids white persons and Negroes from attending the same classes.

Myles Horton, founder and president of Highlander, and others associated with the defense have expressed some rather confused surprise at the amendment.

"We are willing to stipulate that Highlander is integrated," said Horton. "We hardly see how it is possible, though, to be in violation of a statute already held to be invalid by both state and federal courts."

The actions in circuit court followed by several months an investigation by a special committee of Tennessee legislators. Seeking evidence of subversive activities at the institution located a few miles south of here between Tracy City and Monteagle, this committee visited the school and held several sessions for taking of testimony, but came up with a report pointing up nothing more specific than that the school was integrated.

Chattanooga Times  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
11-3-59 - Meritt Ochs, Editor  
Knoxville Division

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61-7511-255

# HIGHLANDER CASE GIVEN RACE ISSUE

## Sloan's Petition Against School Amended, Holds State Law Violated

By **MOUZON PETERS**  
Chattanooga Times Staff Writer

ALTAMONT, Tenn.—The issue of integration has been injected into the Highlander Folk School case which reopens here next Tuesday morning.

A. F. (Ab) Sloan of South Pittsburg, attorney general for Tennessee's 18th judicial circuit, who will direct the effort to have the school's charter revoked and the institution closed permanently, amended his petition to include the racial issue in an appearance before Circuit Judge Chester C. Chattin at Winchester Tuesday.

This latest move in the case by Atty. Gen. Sloan charges that racial integration practiced

at Highlander Folk School is a violation of a Tennessee statute which, the petition says, "declares it to be unlawful for white and colored persons to attend the same school."

Prior to this, the attorney general was predicated the charter revocation case on the same allegations contained in the petition for temporary padlock which brought the hearing resulting Sept. 16 in a ruling closing Highlander's administration building. Although a number of changes were made, Judge Chattin at that time held that only the charge of illegal dispensing of intoxicating beverages had been proved.

Allegations in the petition that the school had been the scene of immoral conduct and "fighting, quarrelling and drunkenness," Judge Chattin ruled, had not been proved in court.

Cecil F. Branatetter of Nashville, attorney for Highlander, confessed to some surprise at the attorney general's amendment. "As I understood it," said Branatetter, "the attorney general has said time and time

again again that integration is not an issue in this case."

Sloan was quoted in *Weekly* as Oct. 23 in a special interview published by "Concern," a semi-monthly magazine published in Nashville by the National Conference of Methodist Youth, as saying that integration had nothing to do with the state's case. This point, the publication stated, was raised specifically and the attorney general said the racial question was not involved.

"It is immaterial," he was quoted, "who they teach and what they teach as long as it is within the law. It is up to the individual if he wants to socialize with colored people — I defend the law."

His new feels, however, that integration at Highlander should be incorporated in the complaint against the institution and abegs in his amendment:

"That said corporate defendant has violated the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated 49-3701 which declares it to be unlawful for white and colored persons to attend the same school, is that it is now and has in the past continuously operated said school on

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8RTJ/cj  
245582

The Chattanooga Times  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
10-29-59

Martin Ochs, Editor

71-7511-255

an integrated basis wherein both white and Negro were educated and schooled. This act of violation of the law was a further frustration of the purposes and objectives for which said defendant was incorporated and constituted exercise of ultra vires acts and powers, and for all of which its charter should be declared forfeit and hereinafter null and void."

The attorney general is requesting a jury trial.

The case will get under way the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 3, with arguments on Highlander's demurrer to the original bill as amended.

#### Talk with Horton

In addition to the interview with the attorney general, the Methodist youth publication "Concern," printed an interview with Myles Horton, president and founder of Highlander. Asked to explain the objections of local residents to the school's activities, Horton noted that "attacks against Highlander have been for numerous reasons — subversion, communism, integrated activities

and more lately, immorality and sale of alcohol."

Horton, however, based much of the local attitude to Highlander's early days of giving strong support to the labor movement as it affected the organizing of coal miners in Grandy and nearby counties. "The mining companies," he said, "have always opposed our existence."

He identified an office employee of one company as "the persistent leader of agitation against Highlander."

Asked his opinion of the September hearing which resulted in a decision closing one of his buildings temporarily, Horton commented "It was a dignified, properly conducted trial."

"However," he added, "I disagree with the decision."

#### HIGHLANDER OFFICIAL IS NEW YORK VISITOR

© New York Times News Service

NEW YORK—The Highlander Folk School is continuing its interracial program in spite of court actions confronting it, according to the education director of the institution

at Monteagle on the Cumberland Plateau in Rhea County, Tenn.

Mrs. Septima P. Clark said this Wednesday on a visit here. She was interviewed at the home of Justice Justine Wise Folber of the domestic relations court. Mrs. Clark has been discussing the school's work with friends of the institution in New York and Connecticut. Next week further legal action is expected on charges against Mrs. Clark and other staff members and against the institution as a "public nuisance."

On Oct. 11 and 12, she said, 24 ministers from six Southern states came to a workshop session on ways of cooperating with social workers and social security representatives in meeting the needs of members of their local communities. A second workshop for ministers is scheduled for Nov. 27-28, she said.

Next Monday, she said, former students at Highlander will open literacy night schools for adults on islands off the South Carolina coast. Their purpose

is to help Negroes qualify for voting and to teach them about traffic laws, fire prevention and cooperatives, she said.

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# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 2/5/60

*JPG*

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE (61-12)

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed for Bureau files is one autostat copy of news article in Chattanooga Times, Chattanooga, Tennessee, issue of 1/12/60 concerning the Highlander Folk School.

This item relates to the pending case brought by state authorities seeking to revoke the charter of the school.

2 - Bureau (Encl. - 1)  
1 - Knoxville

*[Redacted]* at  
(3)

*my file etc*

*[Handwritten signature]*

ENCLOSURE *X*

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/CP  
245582

A

REC-32  
EX-139

61-7511-258

FEB 8 1960

FBI

*[Redacted]* b7c  
INT. SEC.

FEB 16 1960

# HIGHLANDER CASE IS DELAYED ANEW

## 15 Days Granted to State for Filing of Briefs by Judge C. C. Chattin

Special to The Chattanooga Times

WINCHESTER, Tenn. — An additional 15 days has been granted to state's attorneys for filing briefs in the case involving the controversial Highlander Folk School in Grundy County. Circuit Judge Chester C. Chattin disclosed Monday.

The previous deadline for the briefs has just expired and Judge Chattin said the new deadline will be Tuesday, Jan. 26.

The week-long hearing in which the district attorney general had sought an order revoking the charter of the school was completed in circuit court at Anderson last Nov. 8. At that time Judge Chattin gave opposing counsel until Jan. 15 to file written briefs. The deadline later was extended to Jan. 22 and now has been extended again.

### At Sloan's Request

The new date was set, Judge Chattin said, at the request of A. F. (Ab) Sloan of South Pittsburg, the district attorney. The previous delay was granted at the request of Cecil Brandstetter of Nashville, representing Highlander.

In addition, the circuit judge disclosed, Attorney Brandstetter has requested that both sides be permitted oral arguments in the case after the briefs have been filed. This question, he said, would be decided within a few days.

Unless oral arguments are permitted, Judge Chattin's decision in the now pending case should come within 30 days. If the case is argued further, the decision would be delayed until after counsel is permitted to file a date for the argument. The court's decision on the case will be made on the basis of the court's decision.

In the meantime, Attorney Brandstetter has requested that the court order the school to close.

submitted to the jury. One was that Highlander engaged in such commercial activities as selling beer, soft drinks, razor blades and other items without a license. The other was that Highlander conducted racially integrated classes and workshops "in violation of Tennessee's 1902 segregation statute." Highlander, admitting it is an integrated institution, offered no defense on this charge except to hold that the state's segregation law already has been declared unconstitutional.

Although the state urges to demand that the court declare the school's charter forfeited, Judge Chattin has indicated that, even though all charges are sustained, revocation of the charter might be only a final resort.

"If there is any other remedy," he has said, "I would refer the duty of the court to find that out."

The court has the power, Judge Chattin said, to find that the school has violated the terms of its charter, to order the charter revoked, to close the institution and appoint a receiver to liquidate its physical assets, including some 50 acres of land, several buildings and other properties, plus bank accounts amounting to several thousand dollars.

Also within the jurisdiction of the court and within the realm of "remedies" other than revocation of the charter, is the power to remove Horton as head of the school and to declare null and void the deed by which the school conveyed a part of the property to Horton. Injunctive proceedings might be applied as remedies also as a part of the court's solution of the previous lawsuit.

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTICELLO, TENNESSEE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
DUPLICATE 61-7511

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

JAN. 12, 1960

KNOXVILLE DIVISION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/hj  
245582

61-7511-258  
ENCLOSURE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: February 29, 1960

FROM : <sup>WRH/m</sup> SAC, LOUISVILLE (61-42)

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
IS - C  
OO:KX

REC-10  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Re Memphis letter, 4/2/59.

DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/clw  
245536

<sup>Ky.</sup> The Louisville Times, Louisville, Kentucky, a news-  
paper of general circulation, on 2/20/60, carried a story  
reporting that FRIENDS OF HIGHLANDER, identified as "a new  
organization here," might be called upon to raise funds to  
carry litigation, in which the charter of the HIGHLANDER FOLK  
SCHOOL was revoked, to the Supreme Court. The story reported  
that the school's charter was revoked by a Tennessee Circuit  
Court on 2/16/60.

<sup>Ky.</sup> Miss DORCAS RUTHENBURG (not identified in the story  
but known to be a writer, director, producer at WHAS - Radio  
and WHAS - TV, Louisville stations, who has received awards  
for "public service" programs) was identified as temporary  
chairman of the newly-formed group. The group was said to  
consist of 58 Negro and white civic and educational leaders.

<sup>Ky.</sup> The story did not directly state but implied that  
Miss ALICE COBB, "a religious educator, former Kentucky school  
teacher and social worker," who stopped in Louisville on  
2/19/60, "on her way to clear her things off the premises"  
of the school, was instrumental in formation of the Louis-  
ville group.

According to the story, "Miss COBB told a story of  
months of harassment of the school and its staff, leading up  
to the court's contention that HIGHLANDER violates Tennessee's  
segregation laws as they apply to private schools." She  
reportedly said, "Southerner's main objection to the school  
is its workshops teaching uneducated Negroes and white persons  
how to pass literacy requirements for voting."

Miss COBB was further identified as a former com-  
munity-organization consultant for the Kentucky State Child  
Welfare Department for three years, under former Governor

- 2 - Bureau (61-7511)(RM)
- 2 - Knoxville (61-12)(RM)
- 2 - Louisville
  - (1 - 61-42)
  - (1 - 44-200)

REC-10 61-7511-259

14 MAR 8 1960

EX-140

6 MAR 11 1960

*Handwritten initials and scribbles*

*Handwritten initials and scribbles*

LS 61-42

EARLE C. CLEMENTS prior to which she worked for about ten years in the Pine Mountain Settlement School, Harlan County.



This is being furnished to the Bureau and Knoxville for information. No investigation is being conducted UAC. Any information received will be furnished Knoxville and the Bureau.

# Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 3/2/60

*JG*

FROM : SAC, Knoxville (61-12)

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

*bc*

Enclosed for Bureau files are one each autostatic copy of the following news articles concerning the Highlander Folk School. These news items relate to the case brought by the State of Tennessee authorities seeking to revoke the charter of the school:

- News article in Knoxville News-Sentinel, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2/16/60
- News article in Chattanooga News-Free Press, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 2/16/60
- Editorial in Chattanooga News-Free Press, 2/17/60
- Editorial in Chattanooga Times, 2/17/60
- News article in Chattanooga News-Free Press, 2/20/60
- News article in Knoxville News-Sentinel, 2/23/60

- 2 - Bureau (Encls - 6)
- 1 - Knoxville

*bc*  
ENCLOSURE

*b7c* [redacted] /pa  
(3)

[redacted] *bc*

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CA  
245532

REC-32

61-7511-260

5 MAR 8 1960

EX - 131

52 MAR 10 1960

*[Signature]*

# Highlander Charter Revoked by Court

## Judge Cites Segregation Violations

School Given 30 Days To Ask for New Trial

ALTAMONT, Tenn., Feb. 16 (AP)—Circuit Judge C. C. Chattin today revoked the charter of controversial Highlander Folk School and ordered the interracial adult education center near Monteagle placed under receivership.

In an 11-page decision filed in Hamilton County Circuit Court, Chattanooga, the judge ruled the school had violated Tennessee segregation laws and laws pertaining to the sale of beer.

The judge ruled further that a deed giving school property to Miles Horton, its founder-president, was invalid and that the property, about 76 acres, must be turned back to the school.

### Law Challenged

Revocation of the general welfare charter was sought by District Attorney General W. W. Miller. He argued the school had been established for the private gain of Horton. He also charged that Highlander was operating as a commercial enterprise in violation of its charter.

Highlander has organized for the purpose of promoting the cause of the Negro and has been organized, incorporated and operated in violation of the U. S. Constitution and the laws of the State of Tennessee. The court said.

The judge based his decision on the basis of a law that was given here last November. He gave Highlander 30 days in which to file for a new trial.

### Attorney Comments

There was no immediate comment from Highlander officials. In Nashville, however, Cecil Branstetter, attorney for Highlander, said he would file a motion for a new trial.

"The decision was not altogether unexpected since in questioning all the jurors and people in the community, as the record shows, they all said that they did not believe in and many said it was against their religion for whites and Negroes to sit in the same classroom," Branstetter said. "Any other comment might be improper since the matter is still pending before a duly constituted court."

### Code Quoted

Chattin's opinion said "Highlander admits it practices integration and that it is a private institution. That it is an adult education institution was proved by a preponderance of evidence at the trial."

This, he said, violates a section of the Tennessee Code that provides:

"It shall be unlawful for any school, academy, college, or other places of learning to allow white and colored persons to attend the same school, academy, college, or other places of learning."

Highlander insists, Chattin said.

The Supreme Court of the U. S. in the case of Brown vs. Board of Education . . . held that the foregoing statute was unconstitutional. The defendant further insists that the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the U. S. forbids state action based on race.

### Quoting

The Supreme Court held as follows in the Brown case: "We conclude that in the field of public education on the doctrine of separate but equal has no place."

"The relator (the state) insists that this holding does not render the statute unconstitutional as to private schools. The statute may be unconstitutional and void as to their application to a part of their subject matter and as to other parts, or, to state the problem more concretely, they may be constitutional in operation with respect to some persons and states of fact, and unconstitutional to others."

### Chattin then ruled:

"The court is of the opinion that the segregation laws of the state as applied to private schools are constitutional and valid . . ."

### Beer Sale Recalled

Chattin said Highlander violated the criminal laws of the state by permitting the sale of beer on school property. "The court," he said, "is of further opinion that the defendants having violated the criminal laws of the state in that it has permitted the sale of beer to be carried out upon its property without a permit, or license, and permitting integration in its school, works a forfeiture of its charter, the defendant having accepted its charter with the condition that a violation of any of the provisions of this charter shall subject the corporation into dissolution at the insistence of the state."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 3/2/84 BY SP5GML/ab 24562

The Knoxville News Sentinel  
Knoxville, Tenn.  
Loye W. Miller,  
Editor.

HOME Edition

Dated 2-16-60

Page 1

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
BUFILE 61-7511

61-7511-260

## Highlander Decree Wording Given

SOUTH PITTSBURG, Tenn., Feb. 23 (UPI)—Judge Chester Chatlin yesterday received the state's opinion on what should be said in Chatlin's revocation decree for Highlander Folk School's charter.

Cecil Branstetter of Nashville, defense attorney for the controversial racially integrated institution near Monteagle, is also expected to submit a decree concerning what the defense thinks should go into the order.

Chatlin can use either or write one of his own. The eventual order will go into the record and a receiver will be appointed to close out the affairs of the school.

After the decree's issuance, the defense has 30 days in which to appeal.

Branstetter had indicated he will ask for a new trial.

Chatlin ordered the charter revocation last week saying, in his opinion, the school's integrated seminars and workshops violated the state's segregation law.

The Knoxville News  
Sentinel  
Knoxville, Tenn.  
Loye W. Miller,  
Editor.

Home Edition

Dated 2-23-60

Page A-2

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
BUFILE 61-7511

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/OW  
245322

61-7511-260

## Highlander Hooked

From its Red-tinged beginnings, Highlander Folk School near Monteagle, Tenn., has been a notorious, disgraceful, leftwing, integrationist institution of highly questionable purposes. But it has gone along imperturbably, anged by a band of nationally-known leftwing quacks.

For a change, Highlander Folk School now seems to be in real trouble.

Judge Chester C. Chattin officially ruled yesterday that the state charter of the school be revoked, that 70 acres of school land given to Director Myles Horton revert to the school, and that a receiver be appointed to dispose of the institution's properties.

Judge Chattin found Highlander guilty of breaking the state laws against maintenance of a racially integrated institution. He pointed out that the Warren Court's 1954 ruling sought to knock down state laws prohibiting integration in public schools—but did not attack laws prohibiting integration in private schools. Another

violation involved clear proof that Highlander had engaged in the illegal sale of beer without a license, like an ordinary bootlegging joint. The third violation listed by the judge was operation of the supposedly non-profit school with Horton profiting in the form of the 70-acre land grant. The judge also noted there were no official documents establishing Horton's salary and that check-writing was done by Horton at his discretion.

If appeal is carried far enough, the ruling involving integration may be overturned. But it would be difficult to get around the beer-bootlegging and the private-profit counts involving violations of the non-profit charter.

Integrationists are claiming Highlander is being persecuted because of its racial mixing. But the integrationists in taking up for Highlander put themselves in the peculiar posture of insisting that Highlander should be permitted to violate the law to bootleg and run for private profit because it is integrated.

Chattanooga News-  
Free Press  
2-17-60  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Lee Anderson, Editor  
Knoxville Division

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
BUFILE 61-7511

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/OW  
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61-7511-260

# HIGHLANDER TO STAY OPEN

## Press Conference Held in Washington

Special to The News-Free Press

WASHINGTON — Mrs. Septima Clark, education director of the Highlander Folk School, said today the institution will attempt to operate despite a court order shutting it down.

Mrs. Clark summoned a press conference at the Washington Hotel to denounce the ruling Tuesday by Judge Chester C. Chaffin closing the 27-year-old school.

She passed out mimeographed statements saying the ruling was a "blow to the peaceful and constructive efforts made at the Highlander Folk School to achieve racial integration in an educational institution."

"I intend to keep the school open while the decision is being appealed," the statement declared.

Mrs. Clark told newsmen the school's board will meet Monday and Tuesday at an unspecified place to make plans for continuing the educational program while further legal steps are taken.

Judge Chaffin revoked the school charter Tuesday on grounds that beer was sold there illegally, that integration at the school violated a Tennessee law and that School Director Miles Horton had 70 acres of land deeded to him from the state.

### RECEIVER

Mrs. Clark said she did not know how the school would continue to operate now that a court-appointed receiver has been named by affairs of the school. But she indicated that other colleges may be able to help for the school and that Montecagle property is available.

She emphasized that a workshop of "Social Needs and Social Resources" scheduled for Feb. 19 to 21 was canceled "only because heavy snows have made the mountain roads impassable."

Mrs. Clark also distributed copies of the Highlander School's 27th annual report, which showed the school is planning a workshop on consumers' problems at Charleston, S.C., March 25-27, another on "The College Student and Social Issues" at the Monteagle site April 1-3 and on "Community Services and Segregation" at Monteagle May 22-27.

Another workshop, entitled "Voting and Registration," is scheduled for June 30 to July 5.

Mrs. Clark spent most of the 20-minute press conference describing her arrest last July 21, along with three male students who were accused of drunkenness and resisting arrest.

She said she was in Washington to attend a national conference of "Now (National Organization of Women) for Equality in Education." She added that she is a guest of the American Jewish Congress National Women's Division.

Chattanooga News-Free Press  
Chattanooga,  
Tennessee  
2-20-60  
City Edition  
Lee Anderson,  
Editor  
Page 3  
Column 1  
Knoxville Division

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
BUFILE 61-7511

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 KTA/CJ  
24333

61-7511-26  
ENCLOSURE

## The Highlander Ruling

A legislative committee investigated Highlander Folk School, near Monteagle, following a recommendation in January 1959 from Arkansas Attorney General Bruce Bennett, who said that if Highlander were in his district he would close it.

Today Mr. Bennett, who came to Nashville a year ago to consult with the committee, is saying something must be done to counter all the hurtful publicity Arkansas has received in the segregation controversy. But whatever one may think of Highlander—and, as we have stated, we are not and have not been partisans of the school—it stands closed in a monumental case of persecution and political self-glorification that does Tennessee damage in the eyes of a freedom-loving nation.

The General Assembly's committee, after a \$5,000 inquiry in which Gov. Ellington showed a notable lack of enthusiasm, directed District Attorney Sloan of South Pittsburg to investigate the possibility of closing the school. Two of the Assembly's best-known extremists, pushing the probe, hinted of subversion.

At no time in the trial of the case, however, has subversion been charged by the state. At one time, in fact, the charges were reduced to selling beer without a license and personal gain by Highlander's director, Myles Horton. Testimony showed that some beer had in fact been sold and that Mr. Horton had been deeded property at the school in return for a number of years' service without salary. Mr. Sloan stated at one point that the school's policy of integration since 1932 had "not a thing in the world" to do with the case. "It is up to the individual if he wants to socialize with colored people—I defend the law."

But the segregation, vection and its exploitation have, in fact, closed Highlander.

Judge Chester C. Chatlin finds that integra-

... a private school violates Tennessee law. ... agents now expected to move for ... of the ... and ... other private institutions with a few ...

... it seems to us that appeal of the case ... result is consideration by the ... of the constitutionality of tax-pay- ... by segregated private schools and ...

The Chattanooga Times  
2-17-60  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Martin S. Ochs,  
Editor  
Knoxville Division

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENN  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
BUFILE 61-7511

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245582

61-7511-260  
ENCLOSURE

# Violation of Segregation Law, Sales of Beer Cited by Judge



JUDGE CHESTER CHATTIN



MYLES HORTON



ATTY. GEN. A. F. SLOAN

By T. GRADY GALLANT  
Judge Chester C. Chattin today revoked the general welfare charter of controversial Highlander Folk School and ruled that a "receiver will be appointed by the court to wind up the defendant's affairs."

The judge's brief was received at Altamont, Tenn., the county seat of Grundy County, this morning around 9 o'clock.

Judge Chattin also ruled void a deed whereby Myles Horton, founder and director of Highlander, had been presented with some 70 acres of school lands "for back salary."

This land will revert back to Highlander Folk School properties under the ruling.

Judge Chattin also ruled that Highlander was operating a private racially integrated school

in violation of a section of the Tennessee Code that provides: "It shall be unlawful for any school, academy, college, or other places of learning to allow white and colored persons to attend the same school, academy, college, or other places of learning."

In his opinion, the judge stated:

"Defendant (Highlander Folk School) admits that it practices integration and that it is a private institution. That it is an adult education institution was proved by a preponderance of evidence at the trial.

"Defendant insists that the Supreme Court of the U.S. in the case of Brown vs Board of Education . . . held that the foregoing statute was unconstitutional. The defendant fur-

ther insists that the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States forbids state action based on race.

"The Supreme Court held as follows in the Brown Case: 'We conclude that in the field of public education on the doctrine of separate but equal has no place.

"The relator (the State of Tennessee) insists that this holding does not render the statute unconstitutional as to private schools. The statute may be unconstitutional and void as to their application to a part of their subject matter, invalid as to other parts, or, to state the problem more concretely, they may be constitutional in operation with respect to schools

(Continued on Page 4, Column 4)

Chattanooga News-Free Press  
2-16-60  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Knoxville Division

Re Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn.  
INFO CONCERNING Bufile 61-7511

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP5 [signature]  
345533

61-7511-260

## HIGHLANDER CHARTER VOID

(Continued From Page 1)

persons and states of fact, and unconstitutional as to others."

Judge Chatin then ruled:

"The court is of the opinion that the segregation laws of the state as applied to private schools are constitutional and valid...."

### BEER SALE

The court found that Highlander Folk School violated the criminal laws of the state by permitting the sale of beer on school property.

Judge Chatin ruled:

"The court is of further opinion that the defendants having violated the criminal laws of the state in that it has permitted the sale of beer to be carried out upon its property without a permit or license, and permitting integration in its school, works a forfeiture of its charter, the defendant having accepted its charter with the condition that a violation of any of the provisions of this charter shall subject the corporation into dissolution at the insistence of the state."

Judge Chatin also noted in his opinion:

"The court is of the further opinion that in the view of the findings of the jury to the effect that Myles Horton, president of the defendant corporation, has been operating this school for his own personal gain in such a misuse of defendant's charter as works forfeiture of same."

The judge also stated in his opinion:

"The preponderance of the evidence is that Myles Horton was involved some 70 percent of the time in the operation of the school by the defendant. Highlander Folk School. That he handles all the money of the school. That although Miss May Justus was the secretary and treasurer of the school, she did not write the checks or handle the finances of the school.

### WROTE ALL CHECKS

"The president, Myles Horton, handled the finances of the defendant. He wrote all the checks, or designated someone when he was away, to write the checks. He had used the defendant's money to pay his household servants.

"He reared a family on the defendant's property and all the expense of taking care of himself and family through 25 years were paid out of defendant's funds...."

"Horton testified that during the first years of the school he put everything into the building of the school with the idea of getting it out of the school at a later date. Horton testified that for the past few years he has been receiving a salary of some \$9,000 annually. However, he was unable to produce any record of directors, or executive council, having fixed his salary. The inference is that he fixed his own salary.

"There isn't any proof that the governing officers of the defendant school have ever protested any of the acts of Horton in the illegal operation of the school.

"The charter of the defendant provides: The general welfare of society, not individual profit, is the objective for which this charter is granted, and the members are not stockholders in the legal sense of the term, and no dividends or profits shall be divided among them." Judge Chatin's opinion stated.

The judge, who resides at Winchester, gave the defendant 30 days in which to appeal.

Mr. Horton could not be reached by telephone. Dist. Atty. Gen. A. F. Sloan, South Pittsburg, Tenn., is out.

of town and could not be reached immediately. He has conducted the state's case against Highlander Folk School. He was assisted by C. P. Swafford, assistant district attorney general, Dayton, Tenn.; Atty. Allan Kelly, South Pittsburg, and Atty. Sam Folk Raulston, South Pittsburg.

Atty. Decl. Branstetter of Nashville was chief attorney for the defense.

Atty. Kelly, reached by telephone in Jasper, Tenn., had this to say concerning the decision of Judge Chatin:

"For the state we feel that Judge Chatin's decision was entirely correct based upon the uncontroverted evidence in the record and the provisions of law applicable thereto.

"Judge Chatin's opinion is very thorough and well-reasoned and shows that he has fully given regard to the theories and instances of both the relator (the state) and the defendant (Highlander Folk School).

### FEEL RULING TO STAND

"We feel assured that in event recourse to the appellate courts is had, Judge Chatin's decision will be sustained on all decisive points," Atty. Kelly said.

The Associated Press in Nashville reported that Atty. Branstetter, attorney for Highlander Folk School, made this comment:

"The decision was not altogether unexpected since in questioning all the jurors and people in the community, as the record shows, they all said that they did not believe in and many said it was against their religion for whites and Negroes to sit in the same classroom.

"Any other comment might be improper since the matter is still pending before a duly constituted court," the Nashville attorney said.

Mr. Horton said that he has talked with B. R. Brazel, dean of Morehouse College, Atlanta, Ga., and that a meeting of the full board of directors of Highlander will be held at the school next Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock (CST).

"We will be a regular meeting," he said. "The directors will hold an all-day session the following day, and at that time will decide what we will do." Horton said.

UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT

Memorandum

m

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 3/11/60

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE (61-12)

SUBJECT: <sup>0</sup> HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed for Bureau files are autostat copies of newspaper articles relating to the suit filed by the State of Tennessee against the Highlander Folk School seeking to revoke the school's charter. A decree was previously handed down by State Court revoking the school's charter.

The enclosed autostat news articles are described as follows:

"Highlander School Asks ACLU To Help" - Knoxville News Sentinel, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2/24/60;

"Judicial Decree Hits Highlander" - Chattanooga Times, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 2/26/60;

"Highlander Decree Wording Given" - Knoxville News Sentinel, 2/23/60;

"Highlander Decree Filed" - Chattanooga News Free Press, 2/25/60;

"Reds' Victory Design Noted" - Chattanooga News Free Press, 2/25/60.

② - Bureau (Enclosure)  
1 - Knoxville

ENCLOSURE

REC-89

61-7511-261

23 MAR 14 1960

EX-136

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(3)

51 MAR 23 1960

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/Ch  
245562

## Highlander School Asks ACLU To Help

MONTEAGLE, Tenn., Feb. 24.—Highlander Folk School has asked the American Civil Liberties Union for help in overturning a Circuit Court decision revoking the interracial adult education center's 22-year-old general welfare charter.

This was disclosed Tuesday as members of the mountain school's board of directors gathered to decide what course to take in fighting the state action.

Myles Horton, Highlander president and one of its founders, said no decision would come from the meeting before late today.

Horton reported the invitation to the ACLU, which was quoted as saying it was studying the revocation opinion issued last week by Judge Chester C. Chatin.

The judge said he would name a receiver to conduct the affairs of the controversial school, two miles from here on 200 acres.

Chatin ruled the school violated criminal law by selling beer on its premises and violated Tennessee segregation law which he said still applies to private schools. Last November a jury ruled Horton had operated the non-profit school for personal gain.

Highlander attorney Cecil Brainster of Nashville has said he will file a motion for a new trial and appeal to the State Supreme Court if necessary.

The Knoxville News  
Sentinel  
Knoxville, Tenn.  
Loye W. Miller,  
Editor.

CITY Edition

Dated 2-24-60

Page 29

Re Highlander Folk  
School, Monteagle, Tenn.  
Bufile 61-7511

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ld

245033

61-7511-261

ENCLOSURE

61-12

# JUDICIAL DECREE HITS HIGHLANDER

## Order Formally Entered to Revoke Charter of Monteagle School

Special to The Chattanooga Times

ALTAMONT, Tenn. — Highlander Folk School's charter was revoked and the school's assets were frozen and the residential property which had been deeded to Miles Horton was returned to the school trustees in Grundy County circuit court last November.

Officials of the controversial adult education school were directed by the court to prepare within 30 days an inventory of all assets and a record of the "places of disposition" of the assets.

The court order, which is to take effect immediately, prohibited Horton from transferring, conveying, giving, delivering, pledging, hypothecating, surrendering, cancelling or transmitting any assets . . . to any person, firm, organization or entity and likewise . . . from concealing or suppressing the knowledge of the assets and place of keeping of any assets.

Meanwhile, however, Highlander will be restricted to terms of the court order, which says the school is "strictly sustained and prohibited from transferring, conveying, giving, delivering, pledging, hypothecating, surrendering, cancelling or transmitting any assets . . . to any person, firm, organization or entity and likewise . . . from concealing or suppressing the knowledge of the assets and place of keeping of any assets."

Judge Chatlin's order was the first action of the circuit court in a case which opened last September in the state supreme court.

The school's assets, including the school building and the surrounding property, were deeded to Horton's Co. properties.

The state supreme court ruled last week that grounds had been established that grounds had been established that the school had been operated for the personal financial gain of Horton. That it had violated state laws in selling beer and other items without a license and that its operation as a racially integrated school was in violation of the state's segregation laws.

The order filed Wednesday with the state supreme court was the first legal step in ending the operation of the school.

Defendant was . . . to have a motion for a new trial . . . the first step before an appeal of the decision. The executive council of the school, which was in session when the order was filed, agreed Wednesday to carry the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary, so an appeal is assured.

Meanwhile, however, Highlander will be restricted to terms of the court order, which says the school is "strictly sustained and prohibited from transferring, conveying, giving, delivering, pledging, hypothecating, surrendering, cancelling or transmitting any assets . . . to any person, firm, organization or entity and likewise . . . from concealing or suppressing the knowledge of the assets and place of keeping of any assets."

Judge Chatlin's order was the first action of the circuit court in a case which opened last September in the state supreme court.

"I don't believe they can sustain me from teaching and stating my beliefs in a democratic government. If they can, I will teach. I have taught 20 years for nothing. It won't hurt me to teach some more on the same compensation."

A deed transferring 75 acres of the school property to Horton in lieu of salary for the years during which he received no compensation was declared null and void by Judge Chatlin's order. This tract, including the residence occupied by Horton, reverts to the school.

Defendant was . . . to have a motion for a new trial . . . the first step before an appeal of the decision. The executive council of the school, which was in session when the order was filed, agreed Wednesday to carry the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, if necessary, so an appeal is assured.

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Judge Chatlin's order was the first action of the circuit court in a case which opened last September in the state supreme court.

The school's assets, including the school building and the surrounding property, were deeded to Horton's Co. properties.

The state supreme court ruled last week that grounds had been established that grounds had been established that the school had been operated for the personal financial gain of Horton. That it had violated state laws in selling beer and other items without a license and that its operation as a racially integrated school was in violation of the state's segregation laws.

The order filed Wednesday with the state supreme court was the first legal step in ending the operation of the school.

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Meanwhile, however, Highlander will be restricted to terms of the court order, which says the school is "strictly sustained and prohibited from transferring, conveying, giving, delivering, pledging, hypothecating, surrendering, cancelling or transmitting any assets . . . to any person, firm, organization or entity and likewise . . . from concealing or suppressing the knowledge of the assets and place of keeping of any assets."

Newspaper, CHATTANOOGA TIMES

Date.. 2/26/60

Author of article

Editor Martin S. Ochs

Edition MORNING

Page number EIGHT

Submitting office KNOXVILLE

Title HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, MONTAGLE, EAGLE, TENN.  
Class. MISC.

Character INFORMATION CONCERNING FBI Bufile 61-7511

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP5 AT/ab  
245832

61-7511-261  
ENCLOSURE

61-12  
mas

## Highlander Decree Wording Given

SOUTH PITTSBURG, Tenn., Feb. 23 (UPI)—Judge Chester Chatin yesterday received the state's opinion on what should be said in Chatin's revocation decree for Highlander Folk School's charter.

Cecil Branstetter of Nashville, defense attorney for the court-ordered racially integrated institution near Monteagle, is also expected to submit a decree calling for what the defense thinks should go into the order.

Chatin can use either or write one of his own. The eventual order will go into the record and a receiver will be appointed to close out the affairs of the school.

After the decree's issuance, the defense has 30 days in which to appeal.

Branstetter had indicated he will ask for a new trial.

Chatin ordered the charter revocation last week saying, in his opinion, the school's integrated seminars and workshops violated the state's segregation laws.

The Knoxville News  
Sentinel  
Knoxville, Tenn.  
Loye W. Miller,  
Editor.  
HOME Edition

Dated Feb. 23, 1960

Page TEN

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL,  
MONTEAGLE, TENN  
— INFORMATION CONCERN  
ING.  
BUFILE 61-7511

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 KTO/CL  
2455 PJI

61-7511-261

ENCLOSURE

# HIGHLANDER DECREE FILED

## Property Inventory Of School Ordered

By T. GRADY GALLANT

Highlander Folk School has been enjoined to present an inventory of its possessions by March 8 in a decree implemented by a decision to revoke the school's tax-exempt charter. Mrs. Myles Horton, circuit court clerk of Macon County, said today.

The decree, which in effect puts into force the decision handed down in the case Feb. 16, was brought to Mrs. Horton's office in Altamont yesterday morning at 11:35 a'clock.

The decree also enjoins Highlander Folk School from disposing of any property, or transferring it during the appeal period.

It revoked the school's charter on the three grounds given in the court's decision: Violation of the state's segregation law, use of the school for the personal gain of Myles Horton, founder and director, and sale of beer in violation of the state's criminal laws.

Judge Chester C. Chittin did not appoint a receiver to "wind up the affairs" of the school, but retained the right to do so at the proper time.

Any violations of the provisions of the decree will be contempt of court.

The next legal step for Highlander Folk School will be to appear in the state supreme court.

The inventory of school property is to be filed in the court clerk's office.

Highlander had announced today that it will take its fight to preserve its tax-exempt charter to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

Its executive council, headed by Dean R. Praxaal Morehouse (Kappa) College, Atlanta, Ga., expressed "complete confidence" in Horton.

Highlander School also declared the "charges of operating the school for personal profit and selling beer illegally were merely smoke screens to cloud the major issue of integration."

During the trial of the case, Horton stated under oath that beer was sold at the school on a "rotation plan." The school also admitted integrated classes. Horton testified the transfer of some 20 acres of land to Highlander Folk School was for "back school." Judge Chittin voided the deed to the land held by Horton.

Newspaper, CHATTANOOGA  
NEWS FREE PRESS

Date... 2/25/60

Author of article.....

Editor, Lee Anderson

Edition, EVENING

Page number, 16

Submitting office.....  
KNOXVILLE

Title Highlander  
Folk School, Monteagle,  
Tenn.

Class.....

Character Information  
Concerning  
File Bufile 61-7511

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/ck  
245523

61-7511-261

61-12

ms

# ADDS VICTORY DESIGN NOTED

Adm. Hayward Here For Navy Clinic

By GEORGE BURNHAM

Americans are playing a dangerous over-simplified game of counting missiles as the only defense against the onslaught of Soviet atomic weapons. The admiral said here today.

Adm. Hayward, in Chattanooga to take part in the city's first Navy Research and Development Clinic at the University of Chattanooga said Russia plans to beat America economically, politically, psychologically and militarily—not by just raining bombs on our country.

The admiral said America was sufficiently strong militarily at the moment in comparison with Russia but warned against the danger in future years if we continue to underestimate the Russian and determine that of the American people.

Adm. Hayward, deputy chief of naval operations, development, made his remarks during an interview prior to the opening of today's clinic. He addressed a luncheon at the Food House on "The Navy's Industrial Research and Development Part.

Mr. Milne stated:

"Your Navy is the most modern naval force in the world. The last decade have revolutionized many previous concepts of naval warfare. Nuclear propulsion, guided missiles of long and short range, high-performance aircraft, and now and revolutionary changes in ship design, particularly in submarines, have created a new Navy of great potential power, and have, at the same time, created new problems in defense and anti-submarine warfare.

### MINUTE DELAY

"In a time when we are engaged in a race for improved weapons, it is of primary importance that we manage our research and development program so as to obtain these weapons with a minute delay. We must concentrate on scientific and technical manpower. Furthermore, we must achieve scientific break-throughs in many unexplored fields.

"The number of research areas of interest to the Navy is broad in scope. We are sponsoring research into such diverse fields as the nature of outer atmosphere, the flora and fauna of Arctic regions, the propagation of sound in all media, and the behavior of light spectra at extremely high and low temperatures. We have sponsored development of manned flying platforms and vertical take-off aircraft.

"Our policy in awarding research and development contracts is to work with those firms which have the highest competence in the specific branch of science or technology for the government's conduct.

"It is obvious that in the in-

terest of national defense we must expand the number of small business firms. That there must be an increase in participation by competent small business firms."

### SEES CHALLENGES

He said challenges faced today by scientists, engineers, research organizations and industrialists are:

"First, to have the will and determination to undertake hard tasks.

"Second, to cooperate within this region to develop organizations to undertake them.

"Third, to make known and to use the private skills that are available—to be willing to undertake these jobs and be able to sell these abilities.

"The Navy cannot force anyone to undertake these tasks. It can seek, as it will and does, but it cannot find lights that are hidden under bushels of indifference. We will do all we can to help, but the initiative rests with you.

"Already, the Upper Tennessee Valley and the Chattanooga area have made significant contributions to the Navy in solving our new technological problems created by our new weapons system. This very university has helped us greatly in the past. The University of Tennessee is currently making studies for us on such matters as meteor scatter signals and titanium-hydrogen alloys. Many laboratories and industrial facilities in this area contribute to our fund of scientific knowledge and pave the way for a newer and better life for all of us and including the best possible defense of our United States."

Secretary Milne will address a dinner meeting at 7 o'clock tonight on "The Navy's Challenge—The 1960s."

Five separate panel discussions will be held this afternoon at the university with leading Navy experts in charge.

Harold F. Tolan, president of the Chattanooga Chapter American Ordnance Association, general manager of the clinic, was met by the...

Newspaper, CHATTANOOGA NEWS FREE PRESS

Date... 2/25/60

Author of article.....

Editor, Lee Anderson

Edition, EVENING

Page number, ONE

Submitting office, KNOXVILLE

Title, Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn.

Class, Misc.

Character, Information Concerning  
File, BUfile 61-7511

61-12

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY JP8 BTG/CH  
245328

61-7511-261

UNITED STATES

# Memora

Tolson	_____
Mohr	_____
Parsons	_____
Belmont	_____
Callahan	_____
DeLoach	_____
Malone	_____
McGuire	_____
Rosen	_____
Tamm	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: April 11, 1960

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE

[REDACTED] list of [REDACTED] names of  
persons connected with the above-entitled school.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the attached be forwarded to the  
Domestic Intelligence Division for their information.

1 - Mr. Belmont

Enclosure  
[REDACTED] geg

ENCLOSURE

ENCL. BEHIND FILE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/CA  
343853

50 MAY 2 1960

EX-105

REC-54

23 APR 26 1960

61-7511-262

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H69

b7C  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

115

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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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— b7c

[REDACTED]

September 6, 1960

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

Dear Mr Hoover:

May I have a copy of your  
pamphlet "Communist Target - Youth"?  
I am sending you a pamphlet  
about a Communist training camp  
in Monteagle, Tennessee. I would  
like to know what is being done  
about it?

[REDACTED]

I made a special  
trip out to see this camp and  
it is still open and going strong.

61-7511-263

ENCLOSURE  
ENCLOSURE

REC-72

SEP 16 1960

EX 104

Acil  
9-15-60

Yours truly,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

CORRESPONDENCE

57A

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/Ch  
245532

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED] b7c  
September 6, 1960

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

May I have a copy of your pamphlet "Communist  
Target - Youth"?

I am sending you a pamphlet about a communist  
training camp in Monteagle, Tennessee. I would like to  
know what is being done about it? [REDACTED]

I made a special trip out to see this camp and it is still  
open and going strong.

Yours truly,

/s/ [REDACTED] b7c

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TRUE COPY

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16 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
SAME INFO AS 61-7511-206

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
61-7511-263

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1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

*b7c*

September 15, 1960

REC-72 61-7511-263

*gm*

EX 104

[REDACTED]

*Tenn.*

*Highlander Folk School  
Monteagle, Tenn.*

*b7c*

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter dated September 6, 1960, with its enclosure, has been received, and the interest which prompted your communication is indeed appreciated.

In response to your inquiry, I must advise that all information received by this Bureau is carefully evaluated and, where warranted, appropriate action is instituted in accordance with our responsibilities in the internal security field. However, information in our files is maintained as confidential and available only for official use in accordance with a regulation of the Department of Justice. It is not possible, therefore, for me to comment concerning the organization you mentioned.

I am enclosing a copy of my report to the House Committee on Un-American Activities entitled "Communist Target - Youth," which you requested.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

MAILED 25  
SEP 15 1960  
COMM-FBI

SEP 14 9 22 AM '60  
FBI - JUSTICE  
REC'D. RE. DIV.

Enclosure

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE TWO

58 SEP 19 1960

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/CL  
2455320

26 12 2 20 AM '60  
REC'D. RE. DIV.

*Paul  
BT  
7A*

b7c



NOTE ON YELLOW:

Correspondent requests a copy of the Director's report entitled "Communist Target - Youth." Correspondent refers to a "communist training camp in Monteagle, Tennessee." She asks, "I would like to know what is being done about it?"

Correspondent enclosed a pamphlet published by the Georgia Commission on Education which charges that the Highlander Folk School is a communist training school.

The Highlander Folk School has been the subject of numerous allegations that it is a communist school and the headquarters of communism in eastern Tennessee due primarily to its interracial character. These allegations have never been substantiated. The Bureau has not investigated this organization. (61-7511)

Bufiles contain no identifiable data concerning the correspondent.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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3

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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[Redacted]

November 14, 1960

b7c

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

[Redacted]

b7c

Not far from here there is a place called Highlander Folk School. I was told the F. B. I. watches that place rather carefully and that is what prompted me to write this letter.

[Redacted]

b7c

I am thinking about working in a government job [Redacted] and I do not want to jeopardize my chance by getting my name on any subversive list.

I hope you will take this into consideration, thank you.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

b7c

ack 11-25-60  
[Redacted]  
b7c

EX 101

REC-22

61-7511-266

NOV 28 1960

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/Ch  
245582

5-7A

1 - Mr. [redacted] b7c

November 25, 1960

EX. 101

REC-22 61-7511-266

[redacted] b7c [redacted] b7c

Dear [redacted]

I have received your letter dated November 14, 1960, and your interest in communicating with me is indeed appreciated.

Your letter is being made a matter of record by this Bureau; however, for your information, the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not issue clearances or nonclearances.

I am enclosing some material on the topic of communism which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aw  
245583

Enclosures - 5

b7c [redacted] b7c  
(3) b7c

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE TWO

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Frotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 20  
NOV 25 1960  
COMM-FBI

NOV 25 4 10 PM '60  
FBI - POLICE  
REC'D RE...

NOV 25 4 10 PM '60  
FBI  
REC'D WITH ROOM  
[Signature]  
TA

51 DEC 1 1960  
MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

*lx*

[REDACTED]

**NOTE ON YELLOW:**

Correspondent states that he understands the FBI has had an interest in the Highlander Folk School, [REDACTED]

*b7c*

[REDACTED] Correspondent states that [REDACTED] he hopes to work for the Government and he does not want to jeopardize his chances by having his name on a subversive list. Bufiles contain no identifiable data concerning correspondent.

The Highlander Folk School has been the subject of numerous allegations that it is a communist school and the headquarters of communism in eastern Tennessee, due primarily to its interracial character. These allegations have not been substantiated. The Bureau has not investigated this organization.

61-7511

The following items of literature were sent to the correspondent.

1. "Communist Target - Youth."
2. "Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality."
3. "What You Can Do to Fight Communism and Preserve America."
4. "America - Freedom's Champion."
5. Reprint from "FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin," March, 1960, with "An Analysis of the 17th National Convention of the CP, USA."

b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

January 16, 1961

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

Dear Sir:

0  
Highlander

Please inform me immediately as to whether or not the Highlander Folk School of Monteagle, Tennessee, has been listed as a Communistic "Front".

Yours very truly,

[REDACTED]

b7c

EX 100

REC-16

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/BA  
245 S/B

mmh  
ack 1-24-61  
del/mmb

61-7511-267

JAN 25 1961

CORRESPONDENCE

REC-16

61-7511-267

January 24, 1961

[Redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/Ch  
245532

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter dated January 16, 1961, has been received.

Although I would like to be of service, in carrying out its investigative responsibilities, the FBI does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, individual or publication. I hope that you will not infer in this connection either that we do or that we do not have data in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry.

If you desire a list of the organizations which have been designated by the Attorney General as coming within the scope of Executive Order 10450, your request should be submitted to the Subversive Organizations Section, Internal Security Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington 25, D. C.

Sincerely yours,

MAILED 9  
JAN 24 1961  
COMM-FBI

*JPH EW*

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

*del*  
*Went down*  
*b7c*

NOTE:

[Redacted]

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_

52 JAN 31 1961

TELETYPE UNIT

(Note continued on next page)

*b7c* *mb (3)*

*Went down*

Letter to [REDACTED]

*b7c*

1-24-61

NOTE (continued):

[REDACTED]

*b7c*

No other references located which might be identifiable with correspondent.

[REDACTED] is not identifiable in Bufiles.

The Bureau is cognizant of the numerous communist affiliations of personnel affiliated with the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee.

DO-6

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

March 2, 1961

The attached clipping was sent to the Director in an envelope post-marked at Atlanta, Ga., with the handwritten notation: "Shouldn't this be investigated??"

Attachment  
hbb

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Parsons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Belmont	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Evans	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Malone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Trotter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Jones	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Ingram	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Highland Park Folk School*

*[Redacted]* etc

REC-31

*ld-75-11-268*  
*MAR 6 1961*

ENCLOSURE

EX-112

*SIX*

ANONYMOUS COMMUNICATION  
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED

*Shouldn't this be investigated??*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BT/aw

*245532*

*286*  
62 MAR 9 1961

# Highlander And Dr. King Join Forces

Atlanta's Southern Christian Leadership Conference — headed by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. — and Tennessee's controversial Highlander Folk School have joined forces to train Negro leaders for the Southern civil rights struggle.

James R. Wood, SCLC administrative assistant, said in Atlanta Thursday that 11 Negro leaders have already completed a one-week course of instruction at the school and another 15 will attend a second course in two weeks.

He said the first 11 participants were Negroes from Savannah and Montgomery, Ala. None was from Atlanta, he said.

THE SECOND class will be composed of students from Tennessee and Kentucky, he said.

Mr. Hunt said the course was designed primarily to instruct Negro leaders from smaller towns, who will then return home and teach local Negroes.

"They're being trained to be leaders and teachers," he said. "They are learning to teach simple reading, writing, civics, politics, economics and leadership to less educated Negroes."

He said the course also included instruction in the elementary philosophy of nonviolence, social protest and "what prejudice is and how segregation works."

MR. HUNT emphasized that Dr. King's organization hopes the program "will quickly outgrow its beginnings" and will eventually be set up on an area-to-area basis.

The Highlander Folk School, located deep in Tennessee's Cumberland Mountains between Chattanooga and Nashville, has been involved in the past in several political controversies.

It has been staunchly defended by Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, among others, but, in 1960, a Tennessee state court revoked its charter after a legislative investigation charged that Communists had lectured there.

THE SCHOOL has continued to operate, pending appeal of the court order.

Mr. Wood said Thursday that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is aware that the school's reputation might rub off, but he added:

"We find no reason not to cooperate with any organization that is interested in the development of full citizenship for Americans which cannot be proved to have conducted itself in a manner which is not American or patriotic."

Mr. Wood said the Highlander classes are part of a three-phase training program designed to develop local Negro leadership. The other phases are "citizenship schools" to be established by the Highlander graduates and a "correspondence institute" to be conducted by the conference.

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DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/OL  
245582

61-7511-268  
ENCLOSURE

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XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

For your information: LETTER FROM THIRD PARTY

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
61-7511-269

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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*Get it, or it's Communist*

# Highlander Plan Designed To Help Negro Pass Voting Test

By LEON DANIEL

Monteagle (UPI) — Highlander Folk School, a liberal outpost in the rolling Southeast Tennessee hill country, is quietly at work on a project designed to make the southern Negro's voice heard at the polls.  
Highlander is training volunteer teachers, who return to their southern communities and set up schools to teach illiterate adult Negroes to read and write well in literacy tests for voting.  
The school has traveled a rocky road since it was founded in 1932 by Myles Horton, a native of Savannah, in segregation-minded West Tennessee.  
The racially-mixed school's charter was revoked for violating the state's segregation laws following a widely publicized investigation by the Tennessee legislature. But the school was permitted to continue operations pending appeal of the court order lifting the charter.

Horton said he is prepared to appeal the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. But right now he is giving less thought to Highlander's legal problems than he is to what he calls his "citizenship schools."  
In explaining how the plan works, Horton likes to talk about Johns Island, a rural area off the coast of South Carolina. Most of the people there are Negroes and very few of them, according to Horton, are literate.  
"We opened a school in a community there in 1956," he said. "There were 208 Negroes and of these about 30 voted. Now more than 700 are registered and almost all of them vote."  
He said that as more Negroes began voting on Johns Island roads were built and public schools were improved.  
"None of this has been done for the Negroes by the local whites," Horton said. "With the impetus and support of the school, taught by local volunteer teachers, they

have done it themselves."  
The teachers for the schools get their training at intensive workshops at Highlander. Horton said he has found that learning is accelerated "when the motivation is first class citizenship."  
"The mechanics of the program were worked out by Mrs. Septima Clark, our educational director," he said. "I have been experimenting with the plan for years but she worked out the teaching details."  
Highlander is financed by contributions from throughout the United States. Among the more prominent backers of the school are Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr, well-known theologian.  
Horton said he founded the school "to teach the theory of democracy and brotherhood," and the school's purpose has remained the same down through the years.  
A congressional committee, as well as the Tennessee legislature, was once directed to smoke out

charges of communism leveled against Highlander.  
Horton himself has been called a "Communist." He said he is a Democrat and a Presbyterian "but I'm certainly not a Communist."  
He puts it this way: "If I were a Communist, I can assure you there would be a lot more Communists in Tennessee than there are now. I think I'm that good an educator."  
**Freezable Dressing For Salad Developed**  
Albany, Cal. — Frozen salt dressing is a new development of scientists of the United States Department of Agriculture. A dressing made of safflower oil, wax, rice flour, and fresh egg yolks proved stable at 10 degrees Fahrenheit. The scientists now hope to give the product stability zero.

*97*

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTG/CA  
245022

*01-7511-269*  
*105-*

ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. [redacted] *bc*

March 16, 1961

*JM*  
REC-82

*100-7511-269*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/2/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CL  
*24500*

*R-70*  
Dear [redacted]

I have received your letter dated March 3, 1961, with its enclosure, and the interest which prompted your communicating with me is appreciated.

While I would like to be of assistance, the jurisdiction and responsibilities of the FBI, strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government, do not extend to furnishing evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, organization or publication. I am sure you will understand the necessity for this policy and will not infer that we do or do not have in our files the information you desire.

In view of your interest in the internal security of the United States, I am enclosing some literature which you may like to read.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

MAILED 10  
MAR 16 1961  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures - 5

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Parsons \_\_\_\_\_ *bc*
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Evans \_\_\_\_\_
- Malone \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Ingram \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*mea*  
(3)

*239*

**51** MAR 24 1961

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW: PAGE TWO

*Handwritten notes and signatures:*  
MAR 17 1961  
MAR 14 1961  
*gambler*  
*2*

b7c [REDACTED]

NOTE ON YELLOW:

There are no identifiable references to correspondent.

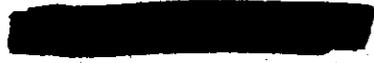
Correspondent writes apparently in self-justification concerning her views on integration expressing a segregationist's viewpoint while stating she is not a segregationist. She asks whether integration is promoted by "communism" and then in her letter announces that she does not oppose integration but opposes communism. She encloses a clipping from a newspaper concerning the Highlander Folk School which is described as teaching volunteer teachers so that they may return to their community and in turn teach the Negro people to read and write sufficiently well so that they can pass literacy tests to vote. The newspaper article stated the School's charter was revoked for violating the state segregation laws. The case is reported to be presently under appeal. Correspondent asks whether schools of this type are training Negroes to be communists and expresses the opinion that this school's "leader and other ones have been investigated and brought to trial for Communism." She wonders who is intervening in favor of the School's leader.

Correspondent furnished an address on her letter of [REDACTED]

b7c

The Highlander Folk School (HFS) has been the subject of numerous allegations that it is a communist school and the headquarters of communism in Eastern Tennessee, due primarily to its racial character. These allegations have not been substantiated. The Bureau is cognizant of the numerous communist affiliations of personnel affiliated with the HFS. The Bureau has not investigated this organization. (61-7511-266, 267)

b7c



The following literature was forwarded to correspondent:

1. "One Nation's Response to Communism."
2. "Communist Target-Youth."
3. "Breaking the Communist Spell."
4. "God and Country or Communism?"
5. "Communism and the College Student."