



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

POSSE COMITATUS

PART 1 OF 13

BUFILE:100-487031

SUBJECT POSSE COMITATUS

FOIPA # 403,942

FILE # FBIHQ 100-487031

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 2/5/80

~~TO: DIRECTOR, FBI~~
~~FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (100-NEW)~~
 SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS (SPC)
 DOMESTIC SECURITY

9

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Re Bureau airtel, 10/5/77. DATE 6/30/80 BY SP8BJJ/mmu

208, 629

Referenced Bureau airtel advised all offices to close any investigation which might be opened on the SPC or any of its members based solely on their affiliation with this group.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- ② - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Buffalo 1 - room 4084

(4) 30 APR 1980

DE-58 DE-50
14-33 100-487031

Refer 1RS

62

b7c [REDACTED]

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

BU 100-NEW

IRS


The Bureau is requested to advise if the information concerning pamphlets being distributed by the "Posse Comitatus," as noted above, has been made available to the Bureau. Further, the Bureau is requested to advise Buffalo if information has been received from other Divisions to support further investigation of the SPC.

IRS
Upon receipt of Bureau's response,  will be recontacted at IRS, Buffalo, relative to this matter. He is aware that the Bureau's domestic security investigation of the SPC had been discontinued in October, 1977 based on Attorney General Guidelines.

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XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) _____ 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) Internal Revenue Service, 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:
100-487031-1X

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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AIRTEL

1 - Mr. B. R. Furman

2/14/80

TO: SAC, WFO (Enclosures - 2)

FROM: Director, FBI

SHERRIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS
DOMESTIC SECURITY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/01/82 BY SP8BJT/lim
308,629

Reference Buffalo airtel to FBIHQ dated 2/5/80, no
copies to WFO.

Enclosed for WFO and Buffalo is one copy of a

[REDACTED] Also, enclosed
[REDACTED] is one copy of referenced Buffalo airtel.

Refer 1RS

[REDACTED]

The Domestic Security investigation of the captioned
organization and its members was terminated by airtel to all
offices, dated 10/5/77. However, in view of the above infor-
mation provided by the Department of Treasury, a reevaluation
of this organization appears necessary. Consequently, the
following lead is being set forth: WFO should contact Mr.

[REDACTED] or [REDACTED] of the Treasury Department's
Criminal Investigation Division liaison staff, in an attempt to
determine the full facts of this matter, and promptly advise
FBIHQ after which an evaluation will be made to determine if
reopening the captioned investigation under the Attorney
General's Domestic Security Guidelines is warranted.

1 - Buffalo (Enclosure - 1)

100-48731-2

See NOTE Page Two FEB 15 1980

MAILED 9
FEB 14 1980
Refer 1RS

- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

MAIL ROOM

FBI/DOJ

(5) (b)(7)(c)
8872/APP

NOTE:



An evaluation of the Buffalo airtel and the information furnished by the Director of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Department of Treasury indicates that this matter should be further investigated prior to any investigative action being taken by the FBI. Consequently, this communication is being furnished to WFO and Buffalo. If justification exists for reopening a Domestic Security investigation of the captioned group, all FBI Offices will be immediately advised.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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- 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.

2 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
Duplicate of 100-487031-1

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100 487031-2 ENCLOSURE 2-5-80

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- 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.

2 Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
Duplicate of 100-487031-1x

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-487031-2 ENCLOSURE 2-8-80

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- 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.

1 Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); L.R.S. _____ 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: _____

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 2/28/80

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 6/30/80 BY SP8 BTJ/lmw

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-6873) (RUC)

SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS (SPC)
DOMESTIC SECURITY

ReBureau airtel to WFO, 2/14/80; Buffalo airtel
to the Bureau, 2/5/80.

Enclosed for receiving offices is one copy each of
referenced communications. Also enclosed for these offices is
one copy of a letter from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 15)
- 2 - Dallas (Enc. 18)
- 2 - Denver (Enc. 18)
- 2 - Jacksonville (Enc. 18)
- 2 - Omaha (Enc. 18)

20 FEB 29 1980

1-CC AIRTEL RM 4084 F

Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

Refer 185

(A)(G)(C)

WFO 157-6873

Since much of the aforementioned data is second hand information, WFO is of the opinion that it is necessary to contact certain individuals who may have first hand knowledge of the current activities of the SPC. Therefore, and UACB, the following leads should be expeditiously covered and results forwarded to FBIHQ in order that an evaluation may be made to determine if investigation of the SPC is warranted under the Attorney General's Domestic Security guidelines.

If in fact it is determined that the SPC poses a viable threat to the law enforcement community, all field divisions should be immediately notified in order that Federal agents might take appropriate precautions in dealing with members of the SPC.

LEADS

DALLAS

AT DALLAS, TEXAS. Contact [REDACTED]

DENVER

AT DENVER, COLORADO. 1. [REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

AT LAKEWOOD, COLORADO. [REDACTED]

(b)(7)(c)(m)

Pages
1RS

(b)(7)(b)

(b)(7)(c)(b)

JFO 157-6873

JACKSONVILLE

AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

[REDACTED]

OMAHA

^{LINCOLN}
AT ~~OMAHA~~, NEBRASKA.

[REDACTED]

*Rekey
1/75*

(b)(7)(D)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

17 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) IRS _____, 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:
100 487051-3 News articles

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) (b)(7)(C) (D) 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: Portions of the 2 pages were referred to the IRS. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
100-487031-4

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
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- 1 - Mr. L. Colwell
- 1 - Mr. F. M. Mullen, Jr.
- 1 - Mr. C. P. Monroe
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]
- 3/12/80
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

(1)(7)(c)

3/12/80

TO: SACs, Dallas
 Denver
 Jacksonville
 Omaha
 WFO

FROM: Director, FBI

SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS (SPC);
 DOMESTIC SECURITY
 BUDED 3/24/80

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 6/21/82 BY SP0BJ/llmaw

Reference Buffalo airtel to FBIHQ dated 2/5/80, FBIHQ airtel to WFO dated 2/14/80, WFO airtel to FBIHQ and recipients, no copy furnished Buffalo, dated 2/28/80, captioned as above.

Based on the information developed by WFO during the interview of [REDACTED] Washington, D.C., concerning the Sheriff's Posse Comitatus (SPC), a limited Domestic Security investigation is authorized, effective 2/28/80. The extent of the investigation to be conducted at this point will be confined to those leads to the recipients set forth by WFO in the referenced 2/28/80 airtel. Upon receiving the investigative results, FBIHQ will determine whether additional investigation is warranted under the Attorney General Guidelines governing Domestic Security investigations.

Several United States Congressmen have publicly expressed interest in the activities of the SPC. Additionally, an informal inquiry has been made by the Department of Justice (DOJ) as to whether the FBI intends to investigate the SPC.

The receiving offices should expeditiously complete the investigative leads by Buded 3/24/80, and forward the results to FBIHQ so a decision can be made, and those interested parties can be advised of our investigative decision.

1 - Buffalo

MAILED 13
 MAR 12 1980
 FBI

- Exec AD Inv. _____
- Exec AD Adm. _____
- Exec AD LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

65 APR 1 1980
 MAIL ROOM FMM/F

See NOTE Page Two

482031-5

FBI

MAR 13 1980

REC.

DM

NOTE:

WFO determined most of his information was of a second and third hand variety; therefore, leads were set to those offices having individuals with firsthand information concerning the current activities of the SPC.

If, after receiving the Field investigative results, it is determined that the SPC poses a viable threat to the community, including the law enforcement community, all Field Offices and appropriate Federal agencies will be immediately notified in order that appropriate precautions can be taken when dealing with members of the SPC.

Congressman David R. Obey, Wisconsin, read into the Congressional Record, on Tuesday, March 4, 1980, a short statement of concern regarding the SPC. Additionally, Departmental Attorney Joseph Tafe inquired on 3/4/80, concerning the SPC, and advised a Congressman (name unknown to Tafe) contacted the DOJ concerning what the DOJ intends to do about the SPC. Tafe was advised of our contact with the Internal Revenue Service and steps we are currently taking to resolve the matter. He was advised he would be apprised of the case developments.

It should be noted that the SPC was previously investigated, and said investigation was closed in 1977, inasmuch as the activities of the SPC no longer met the Attorney General Guidelines criteria.

Based on the above, it is believed necessary that this matter be expeditiously resolved.

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 3-13-80

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM: SAC, DALLAS (157-3360) (RUC)
 SUBJECT: Sheriff Posse Comitatus (SPC)
 DOMESTIC SECURITY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 6/21/80 BY SP8 BTJ/

/mw

(b)(7)(c)

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau, dated 2-28-80;
 Denver teletype to the Bureau, dated 10-25-79, captioned
 Threat To Kill [REDACTED]
 NDT; AFO (B); OO: DENVER; WOODMUR;
 AFO (B); MAJOR CASE 21; OO: SAN ANTONIO", Dallas
 file 89-221.

(b)(7)(c)

Referenced WFO communication requested
 information at Dallas if threat on life of [REDACTED]
 in October, 1979, had any connection with
 SPC.

Refer 1A5

Dallas case referenced by Denver communication,
 cited above, initiated at Dallas upon report of [REDACTED]

Refer 1A5

By referenced Denver communication, Denver
 advised that [REDACTED]

- 2-Bureau 1/5096 WOODMUR
- 1-Denver (Info.)
- 2-WFO
- 1-Dallas

100-48703/6

15 MAR 17 1980

APR 28 1980

Approved: 13 / 1/24/80 Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

(b)(7)(c)

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

1 Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); IRS _____ 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:
100-487031-6 p 2

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DI 157-3360

Refer RS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(c)

This information was disseminated to USMS, Dallas, Texas. This matter was RUC'd by the Dallas Division on 1-29-80, and to that date, as well as the present date, no attempt has been made on the life of [REDACTED]

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 3/26/80

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-33487)

FROM: SAC, DENVER (157-1815) (RUC)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/21/82 BY SP8BJJ/mw

SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS (SPC)
DOMESTIC SECURITY
BUDED: 3/24/80

9
ftr

Re Denver teletype to the Bureau, 10/25/79, entitled
[REDACTED] THREAT TO KILL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WDT; AFO (B), OO: DN, WFO airtel to the Bureau, 2/28/80,
Bureau airtel to Dallas, 3/12/80.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 6 copies of a self-
explanatory LHM regarding this matter. Enclosed for Dallas,
Jacksonville, Omaha, San Antonio and WFO are 1 copy of the
LHM.

Identities of sources utilized in the LHM, all of
whom requested confidentiality, are as follows:

[REDACTED]

Information copies of this communication provided to
receiving offices in view of investigative interest in this
matter.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)(RM)
- 1 - Dallas (Enc. 1)(157-3360)(RM)
- 1 - Jacksonville (Enc. 1)(157-3273)(RM)
- 1 - Omaha (Enc. 1)(157-2120)(RM)
- 1 - San Antonio (Enc. 1)(157-2016)(RM)
- 1 - WFO (Enc. 1)(157-6873)(RM)
- 3 - Denver (2-157-1815)(1-89-176)

MAR 28 1980
1-4355
1-RM 408
5-DES-RYEV
4/1/80

Appro

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per

FBI/DOJ

6/2/80

6/7/80

ENCLOSURE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Denver, Colorado

March 26, 1980

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b)(7)(c)(d)

[REDACTED] made available a copy of three articles from a local paper, the "Lakewood Sentinel" from September 29, 1977, regarding the SPC, which are as follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/21/82 BY SP8 BTJ/mw

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.



100-409031-7

D. [REDACTED]

Everybody is a member and the enemy is 'them'

Len Holder is a tall, lean West Texan whose family lost two members at the battle at the Alamo and who was a Marine Corps bomber pilot during World War II — a war he now views, along with the Korean conflict, as "deliberately manipulated to destroy our society." He also is the spokesman for the American Tax Strike Assn., headquartered at 4017 W. 32nd Ave. at Perry St.

He explains the Posse Comitatus very simply. "It's the Latin for 'people of the county' which means that you're a member, I'm a member, every citizen is a member, with the exception of public officials."

For about 30 years, he adds, the movies and TV shows have depicted the county sheriff as some kind of buffoon and he is convinced that this is deliberately done.

"The sheriff is elected to be chief executive of the county; the judiciary are merely the caretakers of court facilities; legislators are enacted bodies under oath to protect the United States Constitution. The sheriff does not have the power of arrest. You and I have that power; but we can swear out an affidavit and exercise our power of arrest by proxy through the sheriff."

BUT HOLDER, who lives in the Green Mountain area of Lakewood, has more than what he considers illegally appointed police forces to focus on, for he considers public servants far more criminal and numerous than the murderers, rapists and robbers who walk the streets.

"Everyone should know the law and obey it; it's the individual's responsibility to take care of himself. The police cannot protect us and if we allow public servants to act at their discretion, we have a Gestapo." The fewer

police, the less crime, he is convinced.

Handing over a copy of the questionnaire that people affiliated with the Tax Strike Assn., Possee Comitatus and allied groups give public officials, such as police, zoning inspectors, agents from the IRS and any or all other government agency employees with whom they come in contact, he waves the detailed paper aside, stating, "If someone stops you on the street and begins asking questions, you want to know who he is, have him identify himself."

"You have a right to identify anyone who has dealings with you. You don't have to submit to questioning by anyone until you know who the person is and what is his authority."

Holder, along with Don Perry of 2485 Lewis St. and a third man identified as John B. Gretzinger, address unknown, made a last ditch effort last year in District Judge Winston Wolvington's court to halt the May 18 R-1 School District bond issue election — an effort Holder looks back on as "too little, too late." The trio claimed that a vote by a majority or minority placed an individual's property in jeopardy, "as most property taxes do." Their request for a temporary injunction was denied, but the bond issue failed passage.

Exactly what are the the tax strikers against?

Just about everything that takes money from the individual citizen. Taxes on telephones are restrictions on freedom of speech; withholdings for Social Security "force us to deposit money in an unlawful and bankrupt fund;" taxes on income destroy individual initiative and restrict private

(Continued on Page 21)

2

26

from page one

Tax strikers do more than talk

(Continued from Page 19)

enterprise;" taxes for Medicare (the strikers oppose, for example, the welfare system's funding of abortion); taxes supporting what Holder claims are illegal courts ("judges have no prerogative to sentence or make decisions in criminal cases; it smacks of hierarchy"); sales taxes, property taxes and the entire long list of others.

Holding a well worn, much marked booklet containing the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights and Constitutional Amendments, Holder insists these documents must be followed by government officials in the same way some religious sects interpret the Bible: in the most literal sense. The political documents are the letter of the law and it is up to the individual as well as the public officials to live by their exact precepts.

BUT, UNLIKE MANY other groups, the tax strikers do not merely spout philosophy. It is an action body, dispenses guidelines and although several of their fellow "patriots" have gone to jail for carrying through the prescribed practices, they feel the imprisonment was worth it.

Because they are convinced the Federal Reserve system is privately controlled and prints worthless currency, many strikers refuse to pay income taxes to the nation on the grounds that they have not received any real monetary reward for their efforts.

By filing forms with employers waiving their rights and claims against Social Security, they avoid withholding taxes. Many claim as dependents their personal share of the people they support, through tax money, who are on welfare.

They object to the IRS as unconstitutional, a privacy-invading entity that seeks information tending to incriminate the individual and a body that functions on the theory that the taxpayer is "guilty until proven innocent."

Holder and others give explicit directions to taxpayers selected for audit, a system which they do not feel is merely by lot but by specific direction.

The person selected for audit is accompanied by a group of strikers who introduce themselves politely as "friends" of the individual and take over the audit by challenging the IRS's activity and authority under the Bill of Rights, the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments (slavery and involuntary servitude; deprivation of property without due process of law; the right of the citizen to vote, regardless of race or color or previous servitude.)

"Don't ever take the 5th amendment, making the statement that information you give might tend to incriminate you," Holder warns.

In the small building behind a garage in the Highland section of north Denver where American Tax Strikers meet and hold frequent seminars, Len Holder claims the telephone is bugged and he suspects the IRS, if not some other government agency.

NEVERTHELESS, he speaks freely to the constant callers seeking advice and information about the movement to which he and thousands of others are deeply committed. A new voice, a possible recruit, is invariably asked by Holder, "What kind of government is the United States?" The commonplace answer, "democracy," makes his blood run cold. "You have just committed treason!" Holder replies. "This is a republic; you and I, the people, are the sovereign power."

He finds the "total ignorance" of masses of people abysmal, blames the public school system, states that the press and other media "control and enslave the people" and indicts the entire present day government as 100 pct. outside the law.

How does the IRS feel about the tax strikers?

Chuck Fischer, acting public relations officer of the IRS contacted at the downtown Denver headquarters, consulted with various departments, including the IRS intelligence office, and then made the official statement: "The IRS makes no comment on tax-protesting groups in the press."

Page 16 — SENTINEL, Thurs., September 28, 1977

The war on government: Anti-government militants

Stories by Pat Wilcox

clogging up courts

On May 4, 1976, a self-styled "unemployed student" named Steven Fletcher Kehmeier, 23, of 11800 Federal Blvd., Broomfield, was stopped at 11 a.m. as he headed south through Lakewood on Wadsworth Blvd.

Police agent James LaBelle charged Kehmeier with failure to obey the traffic signal at the Wadsworth - W. 84th Ave. intersection and driving a vehicle with expired tags. When Kehmeier refused to produce his driver's license at the patrolman's request, this incident was listed as a third charge. Kehmeier's appearance in County Court at the Hall of Justice was set for May 28.

Thus began a five-month legal proceeding over a normally routine, speedily resolved traffic matter that ended in late October when Deputy District Atty. Mike Bonafide closed the voluminous file on Kehmeier, recommending that the charges be dropped. The DA already had dismissed, for lack of evidence, the charge that Kehmeier failed to show his driver's license.

IN HIS LITERAL seige against the County Court which, Kehmeier said, had no jurisdiction over "my person" and which he challenged to prove its own jurisdiction, Kehmeier, for openers, said that he was appearing "under duress."

He asserted his personal rights, privileges and liberties as guaranteed by Almighty God and a host of historic documents. They ranged from the 1215 A.D. Magna Carta through the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Colorado Constitution and numerous others

such as the treaty with Great Britain following the Revolution.

Kehmeier refused to enter pleas to the charges listed on LaBelle's summons. County Judge Joseph Maker therefore spoke for him, entering "not guilty" pleas to the counts.

Motion after motion — one an 18-page typed document — is included in the file. Kehmeier asked that a friend, who is not a lawyer, represent him in court. This was denied. Kehmeier next, in writing, accused the legal profession, ranging from law professors to clerks, including practicing attorneys and judges, of "ridiculing," "snickering at" and "consigning to the wastebasket" the protections of the individual as spelled out in the U.S. Constitution.

He charged that enmeshment of the three arms of government — the executive, legislative and judicial — presented conflicts of interest, said that courts had created "playgrounds" for lawyers, that the law profession is a "tyrannical bureaucracy." Kehmeier's verbal barrage never let up and finally the case went into limbo.

KEHMEIER HAS BEEN identified publicly as a leader of the Adams County Faction of the Posse Comitatus, a far right and sometimes extremist nationwide group that recognizes no elected official but the county sheriff, "the only legal law enforcement officer in these United States of America," according to a document published by a Posse Comitatus affiliate in Oregon.

Following old English common law on which this nation's legal system is based, the Posse believes that the county sheriff can mobilize all able-bodied men between ages 15 and 45 who are not in military service and use them to preserve "the public peace or execute any lawful precept that is opposed."

In recent years, women have been allowed to apply for membership in the organization, which has chapters in every county in Colorado and an estimated national membership of about 400,000.

John Grandbouche of 5736 W. 8th Ave., an outcast from the John Birch Society who now organizes posses throughout the country, refuses to divulge figures on Jefferson County membership. He has stated, however, that there are 2000 tax strikers in the immediate Denver area and told The Sentinel, "The Posse Comitatus is the teeth of the National Tax Strike Assn."

"Since the sheriff is the servant of the citizens who are inhabitants of the county, it is not his choice as to whether or not the Posse is organized and brought into being," he



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said. "It is only his choice as to whether or not he wishes to use it."

Sheriff Harold Bray, who has his own honorary and mounted posses, has never called on the Posse Comitatus and, in fact, declines to make any statement at all, except "No comment," about the organization.

AS A GROUP, the Posse claims the right to serve warrants, make arrests and turn in "criminals" to the sheriff's jurisdiction. The sheriff must then empanel a jury of 12 which will decide the case after hearing all evidence, rule on constitutionality of specific charges brought against the defendant and pronounce sentence or dismiss allegations.

Who are the "criminals" the Posse seeks? They are not the murderers, rapists and armed robbers; these are insignificant in number, the Posse feels, as opposed to government officials sworn to uphold the letter of the law of the U.S. Constitution but who, by taking liberties with the Document as written by the founding fathers, have committed treason.

The Posse's chief enemies are the agents of the Internal Revenue Service, but they also keep a sharp eye on all elected officials.

Just how close to arrest by the Posse Rep. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) actually has come he may not know, but he has met with some of its members who were sorely tempted to take him into custody and charge him with treason. The Posse claims Wirth is a traitor because he "wanted to give away the Panama Canal" and is upholding a move for gun registration, which, the Posse says, is a direct blow to the constitutional guarantee to citizens of the right to bear arms.

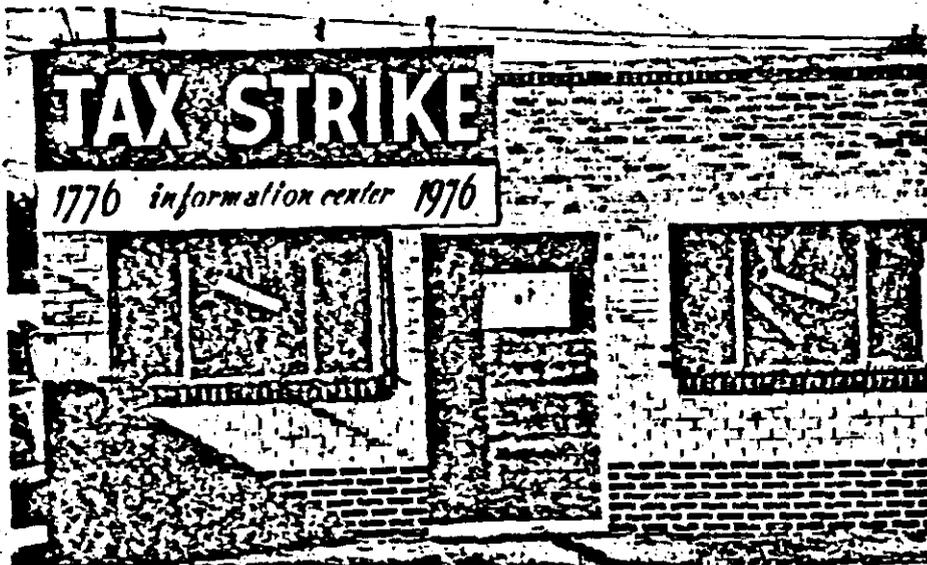
Those who share the Posse Comitatus beliefs have created a degree of chaos in the courts, usually, like Kehmeier, over minor traffic matters.

Although Steven Kehmeier's court motions did not reflect that he had taken a vow of poverty or that he had made the statement, "I am a pauper," the majority of ongoing cases include this assertion by defendants.

A TYPICAL CASE brought into local courts begins with a confrontation with police. Wheat Ridge brothers Stephen Gary North, 23, and Sterling Gregory North, 27, both of 4749 Robb St. were arrested Aug. 21 by Wheat Ridge Patrolman Desmond Sarnella. Sarnella saw the vehicle driven by the younger North heading west on W. 38th Ave., determined that it was recklessly handled and halted it about 3 a.m.

When the car stopped, according to police, the occupants refused to lower the car windows and the driver refused the officer's request to open the window and produce his license and registration. Instead North demanded to see Sarnella's ID, although the policeman was in uniform, in a marked car and wore a badge. Other Wheat Ridge officers were summoned, Edgewater police assisted and the men were dragged from the car, North hanging onto the steering wheel as his brother hung onto him. Both were charged with interference and resisting arrest and the driver cited for reckless driving.

Sarnella finally did produce his commission card before jailing the men, who left the officer with a questionnaire to fill out. Addressed to "public servants," it asked numerous questions such as name, address,



Office of the American Tax Strikers Assn., 4017 W. 32nd Ave.

employer, department, proof of identity. It also asked if the public employe had served time in prison for a misdemeanor and requested a certified copy of his oath of office, a certified copy of his bond, a copy of the law or regulation authorizing his investigation and/or arrest and if he had ever been employed outside of government agencies.

THE REAL MEAT of the questionnaire was in these questions: "the name of the person in government requesting that investigation be made?; the name of person, if any, who suggested that investigation be made?; was the private person paid for turning in the name of the taxpayer?; how much?" they reflect the Posse's concern with the IRS as instigator of all evil.

At Sterling North's recent arraignment in Wheat Ridge Municipal Court, a sizeable group of interested people of all ages waited until the close of the night's docket when he stood and began to read from a prepared manuscript. He asked for dismissal and challenged the jurisdiction of the court. As he read, Judge Anthony Zarlengo interrupted to remind the defendant that motions must be filed with the city attorney to give him a chance to prepare to challenge them.

"You didn't write this," the judge said, "and whoever tells you to come and read this is ill advised." North refused to enter a plea, asked that a jury fee of \$25 be waived and pleaded poverty after his motions were denied.

The question of legal tender is the actual basis for the pauper's oath; just as the questionnaire probes for possible linkage, in any case, with the IRS.

Joseph M. Quinlivan, 22, of 1122 Ogden St., a former employe of Arby's at 11203 W. Colfax Ave., was arrested in April for a traffic violation at W. Colfax Ave. and Kipling St. in asserting that he was a pauper, made no more than \$750 a year, owned no legal tender and expccted to inherit none in the future, Quinlivan struck out at the Federal Reserve Bank.

Citing the Coinage Act of 1782 as setting the value of \$1 at 412.5 grains of troy weight standard silver, or its equivalent in gold, Quinlivan charged that subsequent legislation is "repugnant" to him, that paper
(Continued on Page 20)

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The war on government:

Protection FROM police requested

(Continued from Page 18)

currency issued by the Federal Reserve Bank is illegal "phony counterfeits" and that until the Federal Reserve notes for gold and silver, he will be unable legally to pay a fine.

Quinlivan caused a scene in Lakewood courts charging that Police Agent Steve O'Connor appeared in the courtroom at his June trial wearing a firearm and that Quinlivan was "unable to be assured of not being injured or even killed as long as city officials are allowed to openly display firearms."

THE NORTH BROTHERS and Quinlivan may have no association whatsoever with the Posse Comitatus or the National Tax Strike Assn. at 4017 W. 32nd Ave. near Perry St. Nor may they be connected with any of the numerous other affiliates considered connected to the Posse Comitatus such as the Identity Movement, the Ministry of Christ Church, the Church of Jesus Christ Ministry, the Minutemen, the National Alliance to Keep and Bear Arms and dozens of others.

Russell C. Hudler, 3189 So. Raleigh St., arrested by a state park and recreation officer and served a summons for use of a recreational vehicle in the Chatfield Dam area, told this reporter, "I belong to no organization. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ," after his recent appearance in County Court.

He told the court that he had taken a vow of poverty and asked for a jury trial. His jury fee was waived and his case continued until December, at his request. An elevator repairman, Hudler later informed the Sentinel citizens are oppressed by tyrants, that plea bargaining in the courts is "a cancer in the nation's stomach" and that "there is no justice."

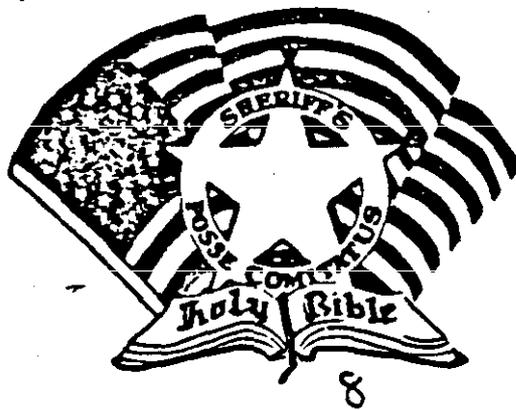
Hudler's home address is the same as that of the church with which he is affiliated, "The Search for Souls".

NUMEROUS OTHER police and court actions follow much the same pattern in the cases that recently have cropped up. Gregory Michael Leonida, 6855 W. 62nd Ave., accused of making an improper traffic turn, told the Arvada Municipal Court he makes less than \$750 a year and had taken a vow of poverty, although he allegedly owns a vending machine business in Wheat Ridge, according to police sources. He also asked for a jury of 12 and the right to name counsel of his choice.

Larry Stallcup, former Jefferson County Sheriff's deputy and Colorado State Patrol member, is now chief of police in Lafayette. He says he recently was threatened by seven men after a confrontation between his officers and a Lafayette contractor. The man's vehicle was stopped by police on a traffic matter, a fight started, a policeman suffered a bloody nose and the contractor was jailed. In his subsequent court action he challenged the city court's jurisdiction and the Lafayette traffic code. His case brought the decision that the code was improper, that the court did not have jurisdiction and the matter has now been bound over to District Court in Boulder.

Shortly after his incident Stallcup says he was confronted by the men who demanded an immediate meeting with him and grabbed him by the shoulder while he was in his car. An informant also told him that a group known as the Denver Patriots planned a 30-day visit to Lafayette to ride the streets and force police contact. The informant said the men would be armed and if stopped by police, "would jump out of their cars and take care of the officer."

Thus, despite their professed concern for the law of the land the members or allies and friends of the Posse Comitatus are suspected of harassing police or forcing their attention in order to get into the courts to create delays and chaos as they air their views of American justice.



Posse Comitatus organizer wages war on government

He describes himself as "counter-tyranny," Christian Science practitioner, author, accountant, businessman, lawyer, historian and outdoorsman who would rather go fishing."

But John Grandbouche, 5730 W. 8th Ave., is too busy baiting other hooks: "tyranny out of Washington is my thing," he says, and he claims that for more than 30 of his 50-plus years, he has been asking elected legislators "to give me back my freedom."

Grandbouche, thrown out of the John Birch Society five years ago after serving as coordinator for several chapters, retains many of the friendships he made while a Bircher but describes the far right organization as "telling a lot of truths but giving no answers."

HE HAS SINCE turned to organization of Posse Comitatus groups throughout the nation, units pledged to "objective actions as the only way to save the nation from tyranny." He believes in pursuing matters completely through the varied level of the courts and then, if necessary, taking his causes onto the streets. The Posse Comitatus, Grandbouche claims, "is the teeth of the American Tax Strike force."

Income taxes, how to avoid them, how to fill out alternate forms, how to protect individual bank accounts from IRS agents, how to contract for a job and thus avoid tax withholding from salaries, how to avoid withholdings by filing waivers of Social Security rights and privileges in the future make up the major portion of a book entitled

"The Freedom Book" which Grandbouche co-authored with Ben Kreigh. Printed last fall, it is the first of three volumes planned for use as texts for Posse trainees.

Grandbouche travels nationwide in his organization work, says that there is a Posse in every county in Colorado, claims all are unincorporated and refuses to give any figures on specific county memberships. He states that there are "2000 in the immediate Denver area, 13 million nationwide" and that the Posse Comitatus and the tax strike group "are one and the same."

Of the 6700 conservative groups in this country, Grandbouche feels the tax protesters alone are effective and that they have forced the IRS to add 800 pages to its

code in the past three years. "It opens the door for strike litigation. We couldn't intervene before."

Grandbouche — whose name in French can be translated as "great speaker," "great speech" or "loudmouth," he jokes — is a highly vocal man until he is asked about the internal organization of the Posse Comitatus.

Aside from repeating that the sheriff is the highest executive power in the county and that his fellow posse members have powers of arrest, serving warrants and turning "criminals" over to the sheriff for trial by a jury of 12, he states only, "We're not organized, but we're highly organized. We're not a tin badge outfit."

(Continued on Page 20)

'So fed up they'll tackle anything'

(Continued from Page 20)

TWO BADGES are offered, however, by the Posse Comitatus, one a noose-shaped pin, the other a more official star and circle design with the Posse Comitatus name. Police who have checked out the organization state that the Posse is forming a colony in Grand Junction where members will be trained in use of guns and explosives.

A suspected Posse member identified as Church Highland ran for sheriff in Adams County recently. The Posse allegedly was present to present its views at the American Institute for Constitutional Freedom early in April at Arvada High School. And, according to police who refuse to be identified, most Posse members carry arms. Nevertheless, there have been no incidents of violence in Jefferson County involving suspected Posse members.

"Most are honest in their beliefs and not all of their ideas are bad," said one former vigilance officer. "But they attract the

'nut fringe' like any organization does."

Grandbouche himself admits this. He does not submit the "Public Servant Questionnaire" to police, although he has served the detailed paper on IRS agents. He claims he wouldn't bother taking a traffic ticket through the courts.

"I don't agree with hassling police. Traffic violators should be picked up and we have a lot of radicals and renegades. But some are so fed up they'll tackle anything."

Grandbouche would be happier if the Lakewood police were under the sheriff's jurisdiction and thinks the 55-mile-an-hour speed limit was "bribery" accepted by Colorado from the federal government, but he casts his nets for bigger fish. In organizing the Posses, giving them concentrated courses in practical action, he spreads the word of the tax revolt.

(Continued on Page 21)

He gave up writing Congressmen

(Continued from Page 20)

Grandbouche says that he spent 30 years writing Congressmen about unconstitutional legislation, a tactic followed by the John Birch Society. When most replied with the same stock answers, he gave up. Today he feels that elected legislators in Washington should be paid only by local funds and should this come to pass and the legislator supports unconstitutional measures, it would be fairly simple to stop his salary.

GRANDBOUCHE IS appealing a suit he instigated against the United States and the IRS charging the department with violation of his rights. In 1973 he reported on the traditional form that he made no income from the "Little Hobo" drive-in he owned in Englewood "during the long, cold, icy winter of '72." Nor did Grandbouche make any Social Security payments.

After various notices of seizure, in the middle of February the IRS went to two banks where the Grandbouches had a total deposit of \$70. They took this money and the next day arrived at the drive-in to remove contents of the cash register and seal it. Grandbouche was notified by an employe, arrived to call the agents "thieves," notified the Arapahoe County Sheriff, the Englewood police arrived instead and altogether, from restaurant and banks, the IRS agents seized approximately \$120 of an alleged \$324 liability Grandbouche says.

Grandbouche retaliated at first by writing the Denver IRS and complaining that he was being forced to pay into a bankrupt Social Security fund. Shortly thereafter, Grandbouche sold the drive-in for \$1 and says he lost \$21,000 in the process. He also lost his suit against the IRS, is appealing, and says he since has been "under constant investigation . . . telephone tap . . . but at last I'm free! It takes a big man to refuse to pay income tax."

Although he sees no difference between Republican and Democratic party platforms and candidates, Grandbouche votes, usually writing in his own slate of candidates. He opposes foreign aid, HEW, socialism and a raft of other philosophies, bureaus and practices, and says that the income tax is following the prescribed Marxist outline.

John Grandbouche, like many other Posse Comitatus members and American Tax Strikers, cannot be found in the telephone book. And if his number is obtained, it is difficult to get through. He is accustomed to leaving it off the book for when he does speak, he is convinced, recording devices are whirling away at the other end of the line.

In fact, Grandbouche alleges, not long ago he picked up the telephone and heard a recording of a conversation he had with a friend the week before.

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Right-wing groups to pool efforts

After years of uncoordinated and mostly fruitless efforts scattered among thousands of organizations, some ultraconservatives are trying to regroup.

They are pooling their efforts in a loose nationwide network which aims at nothing less than an overhaul of the U.S. system of government.

Headed by Minutemen leader Robert DePugh, the Committee of 10 Million has brought together organizations from the United Klans of America to the American Pistol and Rifle Association.

Formed quietly in the spring of 1978, the Committee is headed by a "leadership council" consisting of leaders of more than a dozen radical-right groups.

DePugh claims the organization is "infiltrating" the U.S. Postal Service, telephone companies and the courts to gain "intelligence" about the Committee's prime enemy, the federal government.

The Committee is financially supported by donations and by five corporations it has formed to sell such things as "survival" foods and books about sniping and guerrilla warfare.

In this it resembles the Minutemen, a militantly anti-communist paramilitary group whose members, organized in small bands, stockpiled weapons and trained together to defend America against an expected communist takeover. The Minutemen maintained that some highly placed American leaders were communists. In scattered incidents throughout the United States during the 1960s, armed Minutemen clashed with law enforcement authorities and private citizens.

The Committee of 10 Million claims 27,000 members who have paid a \$5 initiation fee -- not counting members of groups whose leaders serve on the leadership council. West Coast police intelligence officials say the membership figure is probably understated.

The Committee reflects a rapid increase in radical right activities in the Western, Midwestern and Southern United States.

Colorado is ripe ground for recruitment into organizations linked directly and indirectly with the Committee of 10 Million. The so-called national tax strike movement, which is at the center of right-wing politics in Colorado and many other states, is expanding in numbers and militancy.

Colorado also is one center for the Posse Comitatus, which seeks a return to a feudal "common law" system of government in which the sheriff of each county is the highest legal authority. The Posse maintains that citizens have the right to protect themselves -- by arms if necessary -- from what they view as illegal acts by anyone, including the government. Some Posse members have been involved in violent confrontations with law enforcement authorities.

recent rash of liens recorded in Colorado and three other states against the homes of gov. and business officials — thereby clouding the officials' titles to their homes — apparently is the work of persons connected to the Committee of 10 Million or groups associated with it, some of which hold classes to teach their members legal tactics to use against government.

The Committee of 10 Million is emerging at a time when law enforcement authorities throughout the nation are expressing growing concern about the radical right. Among other things:

— Talk of violence among certain right-wing organizations is growing and is being taken seriously by authorities.

— In some cases it is more than talk of violence. Federal agents have been shot and shot at by suspected tax strikers.

— Some tax strikers have been linked to threats against judges. A Colorado judge and two other Colorado officials have been warned there may be a plot to murder them.

— A few Colorado radical rightists have been questioned by a federal grand jury investigating an alleged plot to kill Denver Federal Center employees.

— The tax strikers and members of other right-wing groups have launched a broad courtroom attack on government officials in an effort to strangle a legal system they consider unconstitutional.

— Looking forward to the collapse of society, group members have been encouraged to arm themselves, hoard food and precious metals and learn to barter goods.

For now, DePugh, who was released from prison five years ago after serving four years on a federal firearms conviction, disavows any association with violence. The 56-year-old Minutemen leader from Norborne, Mo., said he has "always thought that I was a moderating influence" on the right wing.

In the late 1960s DePugh was accused, but never convicted, of conspiring to blow up a Washington state police station and power plant as a diversion for four bank robberies. In 1970 he was convicted of firearms violations.

DePugh said his four years in prison taught him a "little humility." Instead of believing the Minutemen could significantly change the government, he became convinced that only a cooperative effort of right-wing organizations could accomplish the goals.

According to both DePugh and law enforcement sources, DePugh first created an organization called the Patriots' Inter-organizational Communications Center — the precursor of the Committee of 10 Million. (The term "patriots" is a generic term the militants believe encompasses their movement.)

The center, near his Missouri home, was staffed by several organizations and served as a link among them.

Each year, beginning in 1974, the center sponsored a conference in Kansas City where leaders of dozens of right-wing groups compared notes. A leadership council of 12 to 15 national right-wing leaders met during these conventions.

With right-wing momentum building, the Committee itself was formed last year. Its stated goal is to combine 10 million "patriots" who will change the American federal structure.

DePugh, a chemist, is chairman. The three co-chairmen are John Couture, a Wisconsin man active in the Laetrile movement and representative of the Independent American Party; Dr. John Grady, a Florida physician who once ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate, representing the American Pistol and Rifle Association; and Sacramento right-wing activist John Rakus of the National Justice Foundation.

Those four sit on the leadership council with eight others, including John Grandbouche of Lakewood, who, according to DePugh, represents the Posse Comitatus and the tax strike's Tea Party.

DePugh wouldn't provide a complete list of the current leadership council members. But it includes Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Ala., Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America, and Darline Adams of Washington state, representing an organization called the League of American Women, which DePugh described as "the opposite of the League of Women Voters."

The Rev. Robert P. LeRoy of Kansas City has been national chaplain for the Committee of 10 Million. He has been active with the Patriotic Party and has Minutemen links.

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Officials note growing violence of right wing

Editor's note: This is the second of six articles in the radical right.

By LOUIS KILZER and KAREN NEWMAN

News Staff

A notebook found in the possession of a man wounded in a shootout with federal agents in July indicates that on the outer fringes of some extreme right-wing groups there are fanatics who wouldn't stop short of murder.

The notebook contained the outlines of a murder plot that authorities took seriously enough to warn the three Colorado officials who were its purported targets.

Authorities privately say the alleged plot represents one of the most bizarre, confusing and potentially dangerous incidents in what they call a growing propensity toward violence in the American radical right.

In addition to the three Colorado officials, a federal judge in Texas has been threatened in a separate incident and IRS agents in Colorado claim to have been fired upon as the extreme right's rhetoric of hatred toward the federal government has grown noticeably.

The existence of the notebook has been kept secret since former Lakewood resident Herbert Gardner, 29, and three federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents exchanged gunfire near the Suwannee River in Florida after a gun sale to undercover agents allegedly went sour.

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., Denver Mayor William H. McNichols Jr. and Denver U.S. District Judge Fred M. Winner have been warned by the ATF of the possible plot, allegedly hatched by one or more persons associated with the tax-strike movement.

Winner has been given a picture of a Wheat Ridge man agents have told him may be an assassin. Schroeder's staff asked for special instructions from the Secret Service on protecting the congresswoman. At meetings, they try to stand between her and strangers.

Three Coloradans associated with the right wing and the national tax-strike movement were

called before a federal grand jury in Florida, which investigated the Gardner shooting. Authorities say an informant, who has attended Colorado tax-strike meetings, has alleged that those persons subpoenaed were involved in the plot, although none has been indicted.

One of those persons located by the News said he "bumped into" Gardner and his alleged accomplice at Denver tax-strike meetings. He said he told the grand jury he had no further association with Gardner. He said he wasn't part of any murder plot.

Federal Judge Sarah Hughes of Dallas, who administered Lyndon Johnson's presidential oath of office in 1963, was threatened a few weeks ago, allegedly by right-wing tax protesters.

Although several judges have received threatening letters, Hughes is a particular villain of the tax-strike movement. Jerry Manka, a Colorado Springs man who is a key aide to Colorado right-wing leader John Grandboucher, told the News he thinks she "should be shot."

Manka says he hasn't done any shooting. But a number of violent incidents associated with tax strikers have been reported in Colorado and elsewhere.

Near La Veta Pass, IRS agents think they were fired upon this year by a tax protester as they drove away from his home, although they refuse to discuss the incident publicly.

In Oregon, armed right-wing vigilantes tried to take over a private farm owned by a man with whom they were involved in a legal dispute. In California, members of the right-wing Posse Comitatus fired upon law enforcement authorities in a tomato field where labor organizers intended to distribute leaflets to workers.

Robert DePugh, a Missouri man who heads the militant Minutemen and who is successfully linking some major right-wing groups through an umbrella organization called the Committee of 10 Million, is behind a publication called "On Target," which contains names, addresses and telephone numbers of government officials.

On the cover of "On Target," the letter "O" is printed as a rifle with cross-hairs meeting in the center.

Advertisements for "On Target" say, "Know your enemy by name, address and phone number," and they promise that the publication will be mailed in a plain envelope.

Authorities don't know if the alleged plot against the three Colorado officials actually involved the persons listed in Gardner's book. They say Gardner may have either made up the plot or intended to carry it out alone.

Officials won't disclose the exact contents of the notebook. But they say it contains the outline of the murder plot, including names of supposed victims and accomplices.

Officials in Jefferson, Clear Creek and Denver counties in Colorado and others in Jacksonville, Fla., say they believe Gardner may have been fully capable of carrying out such a scheme.

Gardner has been implicated in two murders in Clear Creek County and one in Denver, for which extradition from Florida is being sought.

A .41-caliber Magnum Ruger Black Hawk handgun found in the house where Gardner was staying in Florida has been identified by the ATF as the gun used in the 1971 shooting deaths of Raymond S. Hanna, 54, and Marilyn Brown, 41, both from Utah, according to sources close to the investigation.

Their bodies were found in the back seat of their car in Virginia Canyon near Idaho Springs. A police memo says Gardner bragged to an associate that he shot the couple in order to see what a high-caliber gun "does to the human body."

Intelligence sources say that Gardner began attending tax-strike meetings in the Denver area after he purchased a home at 16050 Center Ave., in Lakewood in 1977. He reportedly boasted that he was glad he could own a home near the Federal Center in Lakewood, because he intended to "track down" and kill Federal Center employees.

Gardner also reportedly intended to fire a cannon into the Federal Center, and some official sources said the cannon actually was built by one of the Colorado men subpoenaed to the Florida grand jury.

Gardner sold the home this year for \$61,000 and went to Florida with what authorities say was a large cache of guns and explosives.

Known in Florida as Harry Goodman, Gardner allegedly told Floridan Wayne Land that he had "plans to go around the country and kill Internal Revenue Service agents and their families." Land is the brother-in-law of Lee Applegarth — a tax protester who has turned state's evidence in the case.

Applegarth implicated Gardner in the Colorado murders and implicated the other Colorado protesters in the alleged plot against the public officials, according to official sources.

Although the alleged murder plots have not been made public by federal agents, the shootout involving Gardner received wide publicity in Florida.

Three ATF agents were wounded. Gardner, wearing a bullet-proof vest, was hit in the shoulder. Gardner's Florida trial on assault and gunrunning charges is to begin Monday.

Leaders of the tax-strike and radical-right movements say Gardner and any groups of protesters he may have been associated with acted independently of the national right-wing movement.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Radical right 'lawyers' hold mystic view of law

When Walt P. Mann III was reached by telephone in St. George, Utah, a few days ago, he was typing Lesson Six of the \$100 law course he offers by mail.

Mann isn't a lawyer, but he says, "I probably know more than most lawyers do about many aspects of the law."

Mann and about 20 other persons scattered throughout the United States are self-taught legal "experts" who — for fees — will share their knowledge with fellow "patriots," as members of the extreme right call themselves.

Growing numbers of "patriots" are attacking what they view as Public Enemy No. 1 — oppressive government — through the government's own legal system. The now-famous liens recorded against the homes of prominent persons are the latest tactic.

Few of the ultraright courtroom crusaders seek the help of practicing lawyers because of the cost and because they believe lawyers are part of the problem. Mann calls lawyers "sucklings of the court."

"What I do is the same thing that lawyers do," Mann said, "but I do it for the patriots who oppose oppressive government. I provide the forms and everything else that people need."

The radical right's legal activists circulate sample forms of legal documents among themselves and share tactics. They are easily recognized by their similar language and format, which differ markedly from those of professional lawyers.

When they talk about law, "patriots" describe something that sounds utterly foreign to professional lawyers. In fact, some attorneys have been so puzzled by the Latinisms and odd expressions in "patriot" lawsuits that they couldn't understand what the suits were about.

The key to the "patriot" legal theory is their view of the "common law," which they say is the highest, ultimate law, understandable to any ordinary person who knows in his heart what is right, but largely disobeyed in the modern United States. Some "patriots" say the common law was handed down by God. Others merely say it exists in some immutable, eternal form and that changing it or repealing it is like trying to repeal gravity.

According to professional lawyers, common law simply is an amalgamation of laws de-

developed by custom and judicial precedent, beginning in England centuries ago, as distinguished from statutory laws enacted by legislative bodies or rulers. The common law has changed as customs and social attitudes have changed.

Many provisions that originated in the common law are incorporated into today's legal codes. But common law as such comes into play today only when there's no written law on the books.

Mann sells memberships in his "Ancient and Honorable Inns of Temple - Common Law Guild of Assistance of Counsel" - an apparent reference to the 700-year-old Inns of Court in London - for \$100 a year or \$1,000 for life. He said he has "a bunch" of members but wouldn't reveal the number.

Mann also writes and sells packages of information about legal issues for fees ranging from \$26 to \$100. For \$1,000 plus round-trip air fare and expenses, he will present a two-day seminar on "Forming a Common Law Government" to any group of 14 people or more. In St. George, he puts on seminars featuring himself and other speakers on various subjects, charging \$20 to \$30 a person.

Mann also advises "patriots" about their court cases and will travel anywhere in the United States to help out - all for fees.

"There are about 20 of us, guys like myself, in the United States," Mann said. "A third of them are in jail as a result of lack of knowledge of the law. About a third of us know what we're doing. The other third, I think, are frauds - maybe government agents or just dupes."

"John Grandbouche is one of the fellows I think is on the right track."

Grandbouche lives in Lakewood and is active in such right-wing organizations as the Committee of 10 Million, the tax strike, the Posse Comitatus and the Tea Party. He calls himself an expert on constitutional law, although his formal education beyond high school consisted of 12 hours of accounting courses at the University of Missouri.

Grandbouche offers eight seminars on constitutional taxation and law, legal briefs and motions and courtroom procedures for \$45 to \$65. For \$30 each, he sells three loose-leaf notebooks filled with sample legal forms and advice on how a "patriot" can handle his own court case.

A new chapter tells how to file a lien against the home of a public official - a tactic recently used by ultraconservatives in Colorado, Washington, Nebraska and Wisconsin. The detailed

Instructions — which include how to use government "sunshine" records of public officials' personal assets — were provided to Grandbouche by Gerald Hanson, who is wanted in Washington state on criminal charges for filing liens against public officials' homes.

An Arizona "patriot," known to the News only as "Keith," said many "patriots" use the radical right's homemade legal tactics mostly to harass government officials and others who have angered them. He said "anything is fair" against government.

Keith said such a barrage of lawsuits and liens "disrupt the system very much."

Some people in "the system" agree that such tactics are highly disruptive. Others say they are only nuisances.

"It ties the judicial system up in knots," said Deanna E. Hickman, an assistant Colorado attorney general who is working on the case of Wallace Dunlap.

Dunlap, an Eads farmer, apparently became angry with government officials over traffic tickets and the handling of his divorce. He sued Gov. Richard D. Lamm; Colorado Attorney General J.D. MacFarlane, one of his assistants and a former member of his staff; a district attorney and one of his deputies; eight judges; a court clerk; a state motor vehicle hearing officer; a company that bonds public officials; four state patrolmen and two sheriff's deputies — and all their spouses.

Dunlap also recorded liens against the homes of most of the public officials he sued, clouding their property titles and making sales difficult.

He has sued each judge handling a case in which he is involved, forcing them to disqualify themselves and forcing the 15th Judicial District to bring judges from elsewhere to hear cases involving Dunlap.

"The 15th Judicial District is really having a tough time handling its case load as it is," Hickman said. "And then this thing comes in and all the judges have to disqualify themselves. A new judge has to be appointed, which means additional costs for salary and travel."

"It costs the taxpayers just too much money, I think, on these people's whims."

In Nebraska, where a rash of lawsuits and liens started eight months ago, Deputy Attorney General Judy Hoffman sighed, "They sue the judges, they sue everybody whose name is even remotely associated with the case — jury members, arresting officers, the person who booked them, the lawyers."

"We were driving all over the darn state to attend hearings and everything."

In Washington state, "patriots" who began filing liens about 18 months ago sued public officials in courts far from their homes, forcing them or their government lawyers to travel long distances to hearings before lawyers in each jurisdiction agreed to handle each other's cases. Washington officials finally filed criminal charges against some lien-filers, and the rash of liens has subsided.

Officials in Wisconsin, where liens began turning up about four months ago, are hoping the problem will just go away.

"We had a meeting recently and the conclusion was not to dignify this by filing any action against them and giving them some public sympathy," said Assistant Attorney General Theodore Priebe. "We're leaving it alone in the hope that it dies down."

In Colorado, a legislative committee is drafting a proposed law to stop the nuisance liens, and public officials and business leaders hit with liens by Breckenridge businessman Kenneth H. Winchell have retaliated by suing Winchell. On Nov. 26, a Denver judge declared most of Winchell's liens void. Actions involving other Winchell liens are pending in other counties.

However, those lawsuits have burdened Winchell's targets — or the government agencies that provided lawyers for them — with an unknown total of legal fees and court costs. For that reason, the radical right in Colorado managed through the liens to capture the attention of "the system" in a new way. They delighted in that attention and vowed that more liens would be filed throughout the nation.

The "patriots" claim that their lawsuits and liens, by tying up the courts, have been effective weapons in their battle against government. But judges say most of the lawsuits are quickly dismissed because they are so frivolous.

"They don't impact us," said Chief U.S. District Judge Fred M. Winner. "They would like to take up much more time than they do. If they were really smart, they could take some time, but fortunately they aren't."

"I can handle the majority of them usually in five minutes and most always in 10. They just don't know how to handle it."

Concurred Chief Denver District Judge Joseph Lilly: "Other than the filing and the paperwork, these lawsuits don't cause any inconvenience to us. They're really nothing to be too concerned about."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Radical right targets: IRS agents, judges

While clashes between the Ku Klux Klan and blacks and Jews have received more attention, the primary thrust of militant activity in America's ultraright wing is directed against the federal government.

Armed with a philosophy that declares most of the federal bureaucracy illegal and more federal agents criminals, the new thrust aims at overturning the hated federal establishment. The ballot box will be tried, but leaders declare that the ballot box isn't their only weapon.

Key targets are Internal Revenue Service agents and federal judges, who are branded the worst criminals in the land. Movement insiders say there have been numerous threats against judges. Jerry Manka, a Colorado protest leader, told a meeting in Boulder this year that a Texas judge should be killed "in public ... brutally."

One key thrust of the movement is the national tax strike. Francis Gillings, head of a California branch of the Posse Comitatus, summed up much of the feeling at a strike meeting. He said, "There is no greater law firm than Smith & Wesson, especially if it is backed up by a 12-gauge injunction."

National radical-right leader Robert DePugh, who heads the Committee of 10 Million from an office in Missouri, said he hadn't heard of one of the most bizarre right-wing encounters in recent years: a Florida shoot-out with a Colorado man that left three federal agents wounded.

But like most of the extreme rightist leaders and followers interviewed by the News, DePugh would not condemn violence in the movement.

Head of the Minutemen, who gained notoriety in the 1960s, DePugh said a "lack of personal restraint is spreading through certain segments of the population."

He said the frustration that individuals feel in government has led some to violence.

And, like most leaders of the extreme right, DePugh cites the violent stand taken during the American Revolution as evidence that arms sometimes are necessary.

DePugh said "every peaceful alternative" will be explored by the movement in its effort to change the government. But, he warned, "We will not lose the fight."

He said the Committee of 10 Million won't move to take over the government by peaceful or other means until it reaches its 10 million-membership goal. In the meantime the leaders will have to accept occasional violent outbursts by their frustrated followers, he said.

"It is the function of leadership to make these things work in our behalf if possible," he said.

Radical rightists preach that "common law" is the supreme law of the land. They say the federal government has ignored the common law and that it's the duty of the citizenry to re-establish it.

The IRS is singled out as particularly abusive because, according to the tax protest movement, it enforces an illegal federal income tax.

But the greatest wrath is saved for federal judges. The attitude is reiterated in editorials and letters in the Justice Times, a California publication that serves as an official voice of the tax strike movement.

Federal judges are branded the "real criminals" because they are sworn to uphold the Constitution and, it's charged, they fail to do so. The protesters consider the first 10 amendments to the Constitution as common law.

Federal Judge Fred M. Winner of Denver has been pinpointed by some as a particularly "illegal" judge, apparently because he handles most of the tax strike cases in this region.

John Grandbouche, a leader of the Committee of 10 Million, was one signer of a letter to President Carter demanding Winner's removal from the bench. Winner allegedly has been singled out as a possible assassination target by a small group of strikers.

Winner's handling of some recent cases has tempered the strikers' wrath. Colorado Springs protester Manka said Winner is "finally starting to realize that there is a need for justice out there."

But remarks made by Manka, a close associate of Grandbouche, show where "frustration" can lead if a judge is viewed as inflexible. Judge Sarah Hughes of Texas is probably the federal judge most hated by tax protesters for being hard on them.

Said Manka: "I was down in Dallas assisting a man and it is my general opinion — I hope I don't get arrested for this — I believe that anybody acting like that Judge Sarah Hughes should be removed from office any way that it takes."

Manka said "it's possible" that he is a suspect in a recent threat against Hughes.

"I'm not going to run down there and shoot her," he said. "But I'm not going to cry if anyone did."

Later, Manka said people like Hughes "should be shot. There seems to be no other alternative." During one recent protest meeting, when he was asked if he planned to shoot Hughes, Manka responded: "Somebody has to."

Yvonne Cavanaugh, a Lakewood protester, said she has heard "numerous" local death threats against judges.

U.S. District Judge John Wood of San Antonio was killed by rifle fire in May in what is generally assumed to be retribution for stiff sentences he handed down in drug cases. But U.S. Attorney Jamie Boyd, who is handling a grand jury investigation of the Wood slaying, said that a "tax protest angle" was being investigated.

He called it a long shot and repeated the belief that drug dealers were behind the shooting.

Wood handed down sentences in five tax protest cases in 1979 just before his death.

Privately, several tax strikers have applauded the Wood slaying. Tax strike participants have sent numerous letters to strike publications complaining of the Texas judge, who was

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Disgust with big government links radical right

The thousands of ultraconservative organizations in the United States are linked, according to Arizona member Bill Teske, by a common disgust with "big government — government that is totally beyond everybody's control." "It's a huge monster that is just going and going and going," Teske said.

Many people would agree with that complaint about government, but they don't refuse to pay their income taxes, organize paramilitary groups stashing weapons, talk enthusiastically about killing prominent persons, pepper officials with shotgun-style lawsuits over such issues as parking tickets or stock-pile food and precious metals in preparation for the collapse of civilization.

Radical right leader John Grandbouche of Lakewood says most citizens simply are too discouraged about government to do anything — even vote.

Grandbouche, Robert DePugh of Norborne, Mo., and some others are considered so extreme in their philosophies and tactics that the John Birch Society — once viewed as the far edge of extreme conservatism in the United States — has revoked their memberships.

"We have let them (extremists) know over and over that we are simply not interested in their approach to solving the problem of big government," said one John Birch Society official. "Essentially, they tend to look for shortcut answers to a problem that requires a great deal more."

He said the Birch Society prefers to work within "the system," educating people about its views but taking no direct action — not even endorsing political candidates — to take control of the government.

Law enforcement sources agree that the John Birch Society today is "a

group which has totally gone into fighting the system from within, by lawful means," as one Colorado intelligence officer put it.

Grandbouche and DePugh say the John Birch Society is a "do-nothing" group that talks a lot but takes no "constructive" action.

What makes a person a right-wing extremist? Why are some on the conservative side of the political spectrum content to stuff envelopes for mainstream political parties, others happy handing out John Birch Society literature, others willing to face prison terms for refusing to pay income taxes and still others willing to shoot public officials?

There are several theories.

"Usually on both the left and the right, the extremists are the people who are unsuccessful in mainstream organizations or unsuccessful in mainstream careers," said John Rees, a former London newspaperman, who publishes a Washington newsletter on extremist groups at both ends of the spectrum. "Generally, they're social misfits."

He said left-wing and right-wing extremists have more things in common than differences. "Both are totalitarian. Both are fanatical. Both are poorly organized — largely both on the left and the right, they're Mickey Mouse people."

Rees said right-wing extremists have become more vocal in recent years because the "mainstream" conservative movement in the United States has been growing. He said extremists feel more "left out" than they did in the 1960s, when the nation's political pendulum was on a more liberal swing.

"As the mainstream conservative movement expands, so the extreme right becomes more shrill in attacking everybody," Rees said. "They have no place in the mainstream conservative movement, in the respectable organizations."

Rees painted this picture of a conservative's journey to the extremist

fringes of right-wing thought: "Someone has a grievance against the government, and he decides to become active. So he joins the Republican Party, where he finds he's expected to address envelopes and man a phone bank.

"This doesn't appeal to his sense of grievance, so he goes on to see what else he can find. He may go through a series of increasingly radical organizations and wind up with the Posse Comitatus or the Ku Klux Klan."

A similar process occurs on the left wing, Rees said.

A Colorado police officer who spent several years in intelligence work on both right-wing and left-wing extremist groups said those at the far ends are frustrated by their inability to succeed in normal ways and are looking for a way to feel important.

"These people just totally believe in their cause," he said. "That's all they eat, drink and sleep."

"Most of them are mouth only. They love to demonstrate and write their literature and set up Post Office boxes and get people to write in . . ."

"Five percent believe it has to go another step — that's violence."

Extreme right-wing organizations, he said, usually start out as peaceful, law-abiding groups. They begin to recruit more members — lately from the working class and persons who are unhappy about their taxes — and then "get heavily into the right to keep and bear arms."

"Then the Posse Comitatus, for instance, went to the next step after that," he said. "They grew so dissatisfied that they decided to take action themselves — and they have in several instances, abducting police officers and judges."

One difference between the extreme left and the extreme right, he said, is that left-wing radicals "will accept their actions as being outside the law. The right wing is the opposite — they say, 'Our way is the only legal way.'"

"I think the left wing has decreased and the right wing is becoming more

violent. They're getting frustrated. They have tried to do it within the system, but they're not succeeding in the way they thought they should.

"The next step is where they become a terrorist group and start committing public executions.

"I don't think there are going to be wholesale killings. But maybe 10 percent of their membership might go violent."

No one knows exactly how large that membership is. Many radical right organizations won't divulge membership figures, saying law enforcement authorities could use that information to suppress them. Police say the membership figures that are provided usually are highly inflated.

Academicians who study social change predicted that the radical right's membership will grow larger — or at least more vociferous — in the next few years if the United States plunges deeper into economic difficulties.

"I think two things in the 1980s will increase the tendency of people to go to the radical right — the economic problems that face the country will get worse, and there will be a shortage of oil and other raw materials," said Dennis Judd, chairman of the University of Denver Political Science Department.

"As life styles become affected, people will often blame other countries . . . that's going to increase some of the bitterness that fuels the feeling of people on the right that we ought not to coddle foreign countries.

"And when people feel more and more economic pressure, resentment will grow about efforts to create equal opportunity on the job, for example. It will be directed not only at blacks, but in some cases at women, especially by marginal male jobholders who find themselves threatened all the time by the new wave of employable people.

"The previous period we could look at for any comparison, in terms of

people's reactions to economic problems, is the 1930s. There was then a proliferation of people both on the extreme right and on the extreme left.

Carl A. Raschke, a DU professor, who specializes in religious studies and social change, agreed that the energy crisis and worsening economic problems will breed extremism.

"There is more of a sense of a free-for-all developing, where people think they have to resort to extreme measures, or go beyond established institutions, to achieve their own pride of place in society," Raschke said. "There's that feeling of desperation, that our institutions aren't working for us any more."

Raschke sees the recent growth of the radical right as part of a nationwide social quest for "some ultimate meaning of life, some kind of final answers."

"You find this historically always in the times when the old traditions seem to be breaking down," he said.

Liberals engaged in the same search for the meaning of life have developed the so-called me-culture, seeking life's meaning within themselves, Raschke said.

"But for those who aren't steeped in that kind of liberal culture, there's more of a tendency to identify with certain kinds of old-fashioned ideas, like Americanism or back-to-the-Bible."

Raschke doesn't think the radical right poses "a significant political threat" capable of overturning the American system of government — partly because it's too disorganized.

"The radical right will harass, cause disruption and make life uncomfortable for certain groups of people," he said. "But there has been a kind of general liberalization of society in the last 20 years."

"We've gone too far to revert to a large scale radical right movement."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Radical rightist makes freedom his career

John Grandbouche says he has made freedom his career.

"There isn't a career that's going to be worth anything if you don't have the freedom," he said.

His voice grew vehement as he explained why, after spending most of his life in the restaurant business, he now earns his living in the fight against government oppression — making speeches, advising people on how to sue the government and doing other political work for the ultra right "patriot" community.

Small and lean, with short, sandy hair and a flat Midwestern accent, the 57-year-old Grandbouche said he has been politically active since 1949, when "I first began to question things and got more educated and wrote letters to congressmen and joined organizations."

He started out in establishment circles. A Republican at first, he spent four years on the city commission of Atchison, Kan., and was a Barry Goldwater campaign chairman for two Kansas counties during the 1964 presidential race.

Today, Grandbouche is a man the John Birch Society considers so radical that it revoked his membership in the mid-1970s.

Grandbouche, who lives in Lakewood, recently opened an office in a new steel-and-glass high-rise in Arapahoe County. It's the nerve center for Grandbouche's several organizational ties within the radical right.

Those organizations include:

—The National Commodity and Barter Association, the name on the door. For a \$30 initiation fee and \$10 each month, the association offers several services.

One is help in bartering goods, which avoids taxes and teaches members a skill they will need when the U.S. monetary system collapses, as they expect it will.

Other lets members send Grandbouche part or all of their paychecks, which he converts to gold Krugerrands and stores for them in a vault at a secret location. Members then send Grandbouche their monthly bills, which he pays after converting some of their Krugerrands to paper money. Grandbouche said the fee for this service is \$1 per transaction.

Members also are offered seminars, textbooks and monthly "updates" on legal issues — and especially advice on how to handle their own court actions against government.

Still another service is described in a letter to prospective members as "Attorney/Paralegal counsel ... An alternative to those who do not wish to prepare their own court actions." Grandbouche isn't a lawyer. He said about 30 lawyers throughout the nation are affiliated with the National Commodities and Barter Association and are willing to provide legal advice.

— The Committee of 10 Million, a national group led by Minutemen chief Robert DePugh of Norborne, Mo. Grandbouche is on the committee's leadership council. The committee is an effort to pool the fragmented efforts of the radical right, some of whose leaders have agreed to bury their differences until what DePugh calls the "primary problem" of government oppression is solved.

— The 200,000 to Save the State of Colorado, which Grandbouche leads and which is a sort of sub-chapter of the Committee of 10 Million. The goal of the group is to forge a voting bloc of dissatisfied citizens who oppose school busing, government welfare and taxes on income, sales, property and inheritances.

— The National Tax Strike Movement, of which Grandbouche has been a leader since 1975. That year, Internal Revenue Service agents seized \$36 from the cash drawer of Grandbouche's Little Hobo Drive-In Restaurant in Sheridan, after he refused to pay Social Security taxes. Grandbouche sued the IRS, but later lost ownership of the restaurant over his refusal to pay taxes.

In 1978, Grandbouche ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor on the tax strike's "Tea Party" ticket.

— The Posse Comitatus, an ultraconservative organization which maintains that the sheriff of each county is the highest legal authority and that citizens have a duty to protect themselves and others — by arms if necessary — from illegal acts by anyone, including government.

In scattered incidents throughout the United States, armed Posse Comitatus members have confronted law enforcement authorities.

Posse Comitatus members sometimes wear tiny gold hangman's nooses — sold for \$3 each through right-wing periodicals — in their lapels. In the official posse manual written by founder Mike Beach of Portland, Ore., members are told:

"In some instances of record the law provides for the following prosecution of officials of government who commit criminal acts or who violate their oath of office . . . He shall be removed by the posse to the most populated intersection of streets in the township and, at high noon, be hung by the neck, the body remaining until sundown as an example to those who would subvert the law."

Grandbouche helped organize a national Posse Comitatus convention in Denver in 1975.

The oldest of four brothers, Grandbouche was born in ~~Monroeville, Pa.~~

and attended schools "all over the state of Iowa" while his father, a construction contractor, traveled from job to job. He graduated from high school in Rock Island, Ill.

In an interview, Grandbouche said he had an accounting degree from the University of Missouri. The next day, he acknowledged that he actually took only 12 hours of accounting.

Although most of his working life has been spent in the restaurant business, Grandbouche said he has held other jobs in Kansas and Colorado: Seven years of planning production line work for an air filter manufacturing company, eight years of running a "business management firm" specializing in "trouble-shooting — taking businesses out of bankruptcy"; three years as comptroller of a holding company which he said bought other businesses which had suffered losses due to such things as floods, and several years as a partner and heavy equipment operator for a fertilizer company, a job he left to run for lieutenant governor.

For 18 years Grandbouche lived with his wife and two children in Atchison, a town of about 12,000 northwest of Kansas City on the Kansas-Missouri border. He operated several Dairy Queen outlets there and in Kansas City, and some other small Kansas City restaurants.

Grandbouche moved to the Denver area about 10 years ago to make "a clean start" after a divorce. He has remarried and has two stepchildren and one grandchild.

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Grandbouche no longer is a republican. He believes the Republican and Democratic parties have been "identical" for the last eight years. He now is registered as an unaffiliated voter.

Despite his affiliation with several radical right organizations whose philosophies have violent overtones, Grandbouche insists he's not advocating violence at this state in the right wing's efforts to overturn what it views as an oppressive government.

"I don't need it," he said, but he added, "yet."

For now, Grandbouche said, he's advocating "peaceful rebellion" — court fights against income taxes and other government actions, the 200,000 group's election hopes.

"I can't see how anybody's going to profit when blood flows," he said.

If the peaceful efforts fail and an armed right-wing revolution does occur, Grandbouche said, "I don't know what I'll do. I've never let this idea of being defeated ever enter my consciousness."



NEWS PHOTO BY GAIL PERRY

John Grandbouche, once a candidate for lieutenant governor, now guides a multifaceted campaign against government oppression. John Birch Society considered him so radical it revoked his membership.

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APPENDIX

CRUSADE FOR JUSTICE

(b)(7)(c)

The Crusade for Justice (CFJ) was formed in 1966 at Denver, Colorado, by [REDACTED] as a civil rights organization and incorporated under Colorado law on 11/14/66. Its stated objectives are to organize and educate citizens of the Mexican-American community to participate in political, educational and social actions; to bring equality to the Mexican-American people of the Southwest.

All CFJ members are not considered to be violence prone, however, in March, 1973, an encounter between the Denver Police Department (DPD) officers and CFJ associates escalated into a confrontation and shoot-out which resulted in the injury by gunfire of four police officers, the death of one CFJ associate, injury of several other CFJ members, numerous arrests and confiscation of several weapons by the police.

(b)(7)(c)

A CFJ member was arrested by Denver Police in May, 1974, and charged with attempted bombing of the Boone Paint Store, Denver, Colorado. [REDACTED]

The CFJ is led by [REDACTED]

The 2/14/75 issue of "The Denver Post", quoted GONZALES as making the statement that if the DPD is authorized by city and state authorities to use hollow-point bullets, "we will have to declare war." This statement was also published in the January-February, 1975, issue of "El Gallo", official organ of the CFJ.

! (See appendix regarding SWP and YSA

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

MINUTEMEN

The Minutemen organization was organized in 1960, reportedly to resist the spread of communism in the United States by use of guerrilla tactics. Robert B. DePugh, national coordinator of the Minutemen, was sentenced in October, 1970, for violations of the Federal Firearms Act. At the time of his arrest DePugh was in possession of documents concerned with guerrilla warfare and other paraphernalia, including hand grenades, gun silencers, and a machine gun. DePugh was released on parole during April, 1973, and in June, 1973, indicated he planned to revitalize the Minutemen into a "two-armed organization." Arm number one was to be utilized as a political front organization to sway elections and control local and state political structures. Arm number two was to be an underground guerrilla organization made of "strike teams." These "strike teams" are to be under direct control of DePugh and their existence is to be unknown to everyone, including Minutemen State Coordinators.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS (SPC), aka

The SPC, also known as the Citizens' Law Enforcement Research Committee (CLERC), is a loose-knit nationwide organization established in Portland, Oregon, in 1973 by Portland resident Henry Lamont (Mike) Beach. The SPC is a non-affiliated off-shoot of the Identity Group (IG), a California based tax rebellion organization. The SPC claims that the Federal Reserve System and the graduated income tax are "ultra vires and not lawful," and that the Federal judiciary has attempted to establish "a dictatorship of the courts over the citizens of the Republic."

The SPC calls for the establishment of a posse in each county to assist the only legitimate law enforcement authority, the county sheriff, in combating the unlawful acts of others, particularly those of Federal and state officials.

Some members and leadership of the SPC have voiced hatred for Jews and Negroes, advocated the assassination of Federal law enforcement agents, and have engaged in acts of provocation and assault against Federal and other law enforcement officials.

APPENDIX

SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) is a revolutionary, Trotskyist-communist organization, which is headquartered in New York City. Its purpose, as stated in its Declaration of Principles, is the overthrow of the U. S. Government and the institution of a dictatorship of the working class and the eventual achievement of a communist society. It was founded in 1938 and maintains close association with international Trotskyist organizations as a "sympathizing" group, but it denies formal membership in any foreign group to escape application of the Voorhis Act, which regulates certain types of organizations subject to foreign control. While the SWP does not openly advocate the use of violence at the present time to overthrow the U. S. Government, it believes that eventual violent revolution in the U. S. is inevitable. Its objection to the current use of violence is based on the ground that it believes violence is premature at this time. The SWP seeks to precipitate a revolution when conditions are ripe and to seize control of the revolution and to direct it when it occurs.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UKA)

The United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (UKA) was chartered in 1961 at Atlanta, Georgia. It was formed as a result of splits in and consolidation of other Klan groups. In July, 1961, the United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Incorporated, merged with the Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization was headed by Robert Shelton. In October, 1961, a majority of the Ku Klux Klan, were merged with the UKA and Robert Shelton continued as ~~the~~ leader.

The UKA is the dominant Klan group in the United States with headquarters located at Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and Klaverns in various states. Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, continues to be the Imperial Wizard of the organization. The stated aims and purposes of the UKA are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races. Like other Klan organizations, it is anti-Negro, anti-Semitic, and anti-foreign born.

Klan members and leaders have been involved in atrocities including beatings, bombings, and murders, and have engaged in activities seeking to deny others their constitutional rights.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

YOUNG SOCIALIST ALLIANCE

The Young Socialist Alliance (YSA) is the youth group of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). It was formed in October, 1957, and is currently headquartered in New York City. It propagandizes the beliefs of the SWP among the youth and is the main source of recruitment into the SWP. The SWP is a revolutionary, Trotskyist-communist organization which has as its purpose the overthrow of the United States Government and the institution of a dictatorship of the working class and the eventual achievement of a communist society.

APPENDIX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

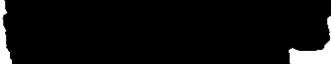
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Exec AD Inv.	_____
Exec AD Adm.	_____
Exec AD LES	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	_____
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Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

TO : Mr. F. M. Mullen, Jr.  (b)(7)(c)

FROM :  (b)(7)(c)

SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS
DOMESTIC SECURITY

1 - Mr. L. Colwell
 1 - Mr. F. M. Mullen, Jr. DATE: 3/25/80
 1 - Mr. C. P. Monroe
 1 - Mr. 
 1 - Mr. 
 1 - Mr. 
 1 - Mr. 

PURPOSE: To respond to the Director's inquiry concerning the captioned organization (see attached memorandum wherein the Director asked, "What are the facts?").

RECOMMENDATION: None; for information.

APPROVED: 	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Director _____	Crim. Inv. 	Plan. & Insp. _____
Exec. AD-Inv. 	Ident. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____
Exec. AD-Adm. _____	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____	Laboratory _____	Training _____
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/21/82 BY SP8BJT/mw

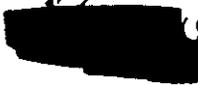
DETAILS: On March 4, 1980, Wisconsin Congressman Daniel R. Obey read into the Congressional Record a statement of concern regarding the Sheriff's Posse Comitatus (SPC) and stated he did not believe the Department of Justice was taking a close enough look at such organizations as the SPC.

The following provides a brief history of the SPC, as well as the current status of our interest in the activities of the organization.

The Sheriff's Posse Comitatus was previously investigated by the FBI as a Domestic Security case. The investigation was closed in 1977, when it was determined the activities of the SPC no longer met the Attorney General's Guidelines governing Domestic Security cases.

During the investigation, the SPC was determined to be a loose-knit, nationwide organization which originated in Portland, Oregon. The stated tenets of the SPC held that the duly elected county sheriff was the only legitimate law enforcement

ENCLOSURE DETACHED
Enclosure

 8 1980

(b)(7)(c)  (b)(7)(c) 

Memorandum to Mr. F. M. Mullen, Jr.
Re: SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS

authority and the SPC was formed to assist the sheriff in combatting unlawful acts of others, particularly that of Federal and state officials. The SPC further held that it could act independently of the sheriff if he was either unable or unwilling to perform his duty as interpreted by the SPC.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Refer IRS

Based on the information provided by Buffalo and WFO, on February 28, 1980, FBIHQ authorized a limited Domestic Security investigation of the SPC, with instructions that the investigation be confined to interviews of those individuals identified by Wells as having firsthand information concerning SPC activities.

In light of the serious nature of the allegations, a Buded of March 24, 1980, was set for the investigative results to be forwarded to FBIHQ for analysis. Once the interviews have been reviewed, a determination will be made as to whether additional investigation is warranted.

- Assoc. Dir.
- Dep. AD Adm.
- Dep. AD Inv.
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs.
- Crim. Inv.
- Ident.
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Legal Coun.
- Plan. & Insp.
- Rec. Mgnt.
- Tech. Servs.
- Training
- Public Affs. Off.
- Telephone Rm.
- Director's Sec'y

Memorandum

DATE: 3/13/80

TO : Assistant Director
Criminal Investigative Division

FROM : Legal Counsel *JRM*
 (b)(7)(c)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - 3/4/80
COMMENTS OF CONGRESSMAN
DANIEL R. OBEY (WISCONSIN)

D.C.

DAVID R. OBEY

PURPOSE: To advise of Director's inquiry and request Criminal Investigative Division preparation of response.

DETAILS: Attached memo reported comments of Congressman Daniel R. Obey regarding an organization known as the Posse Comitatus. The Director noted the question "What are the facts?"

RECOMMENDATION:

That Criminal Investigative Division prepare a memorandum for the Director responding to his question.

 (b)(7)(c)

CSH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/21/89 BY SP8BJT/lmw

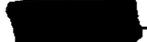
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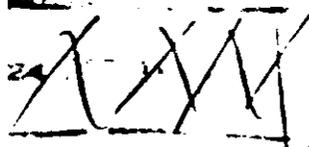
NOT RECORDED
136 APR 24 1980

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr.  Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Colwell Enclosure
- 1 - Mr. Mullen Enclosure
- 2 - Mr.  Enclosure

 (6)

(b)(7)(c)

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(b)(7)(c)


ORIGINAL FILED IN 66-1731-

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- UNCLAS E F T O
- UNCLAS

Date 4/3/80

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-6873)

SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS (SPC)
DOMESTIC SECURITY

ReBureau airtel dated 3/12/80.

In view of the fact that there are no outstanding leads in this investigation at WFO, this case is being placed in a closed status.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/21/80 BY SP8BJJ/mw

100-487031-10

APR 7 1980

2 - Bureau
1 - WFO 1-4054
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Approved: *[Signature]* Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

MR

(b)(7)(c)

- 1 - Mr. L. Colwell
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. F. M. Mullen, Jr.
- 1 - Mr. C. P. Monroe
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]
- 1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

MAY 20, 1980

TO: SACs, Buffalo
 Dallas
 Denver
 Jacksonville
 New Orleans
 Omaha
 San Antonio
 WFO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 4/21/82 BY SP8BJT/mw

FROM: Director, FBI
 SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS;
 DOMESTIC SECURITY

Reference FBIHQ airtel to Dallas dated 3/12/80, no copy furnished New Orleans or San Antonio.

Investigation was initiated in the captioned matter to determine if allegations, that the Sheriff's Posse Comitatus (SPC) had planned to commit violence against Federal law enforcement officers, were true. Based on this investigation, it appears that the allegations were unfounded.

Recipients are to close any investigation which remains open on the SPC or any of its members, based solely on their affiliation with this group.

If, in the future, it comes to the attention of a Field Office that a local SPC chapter or individual SPC member has become involved in activities which meet the criteria for investigation under the Attorney General's Domestic Security Guidelines, an appropriate recommendation for investigation should be submitted to FBIHQ for consideration.

MAILED 2
 MAY 21 1980
 FBI

100-487031-11

See NOTE Page Two

10 MAY 21 1980

- Exec AD Inv. _____
- Exec AD Adm. _____
- Exec AD LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
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- Legal Coun. _____
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- Tech. Servs. _____
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- Director's Sec'y _____

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MAIL ROOM

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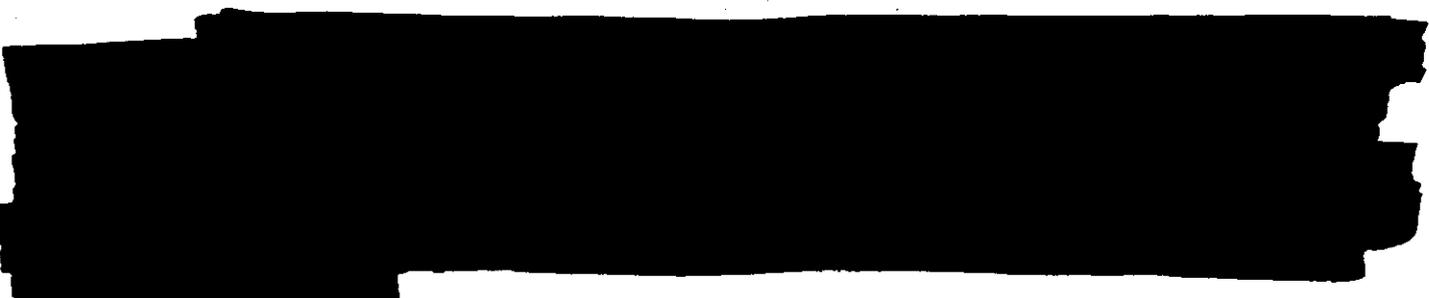
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NOTE: The Sheriff's Posse Comitatus (SPC) was previously investigated by the FBI as a Domestic Security case. The investigation was closed in 1977, when it was determined the activities of the SPC no longer met the Attorney General's Guidelines governing Domestic Security cases.

Refer to [unclear]



By FBIHQ airtel dated March 12, 1980, a limited investigation was authorized on the SPC. The investigative results were received and reviewed, and it has been determined that the allegations are untrue. Receiving offices are being instructed to close this matter by this communication.

Memorandum

- Exec AD Inv. _____
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- Exec AD LES _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. _____
- Crim. Inv.
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- Tech. Servs. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. C. B. Revell

- 1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
- Attn: [Redacted]
- DATE: 6/25/80
- 1 - Mr. O. B. Revell
- 1 - Mr. C. P. Monroe
- 1 - Mr. [Redacted]
- 1 - Mr. [Redacted]

FROM : [Redacted]

SUBJECT: SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS;
DOMESTIC SECURITY

PURPOSE: To advise of the briefing afforded ~~United States Representative~~ David R. Obey, Wisconsin, on 6/23/80, regarding the Sheriff's Posse Comitatus (SPC).

RECOMMENDATION: None; for information.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6/20/80 BY SP6 BTJ/mw

APPROVE: *[Signature]*

Director _____	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Exec. AD-Inv. _____	Crim. Inv. <u>6645</u>	Plan. & Insp. <i>[Signature]</i>
Exec. AD-LES _____	Ident. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____
	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
	Laboratory _____	Training _____
		Public Affs. Off. _____

efm. capat

DETAILS: By letter dated 3/4/80, Congressman Obey advised FBIHQ that, in his opinion, the SPC was potentially violent and potentially dangerous. Congressman Obey also opined that the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the FBI had not been aggressive enough in their investigative handling of this organization.

By letter dated 4/17/80, the Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division, advised Congressman Obey that groups such as the SPC, meeting the Attorney General's Guidelines for conduct of Domestic Security investigations, were promptly and vigorously investigated.

On 6/23/80, Special Agents (SA) [Redacted] and [Redacted] briefed Congressman Obey on the Bureau's handling of the SPC. At this briefing, [Redacted] was informed that the FBI had instituted several investigations into the activities of the SPC. He was further advised that on each of these occasions, the allegations which prompted FBI investigation were determined to be unfounded. Congressman Obey was advised that, should new information come to light indicating that the SPC met the Attorney General's Guidelines for the conduct of Domestic Security investigations, a new investigation would be initiated. He was informed that, at the time of the briefing, there was no justification for further investigation of the SPC.

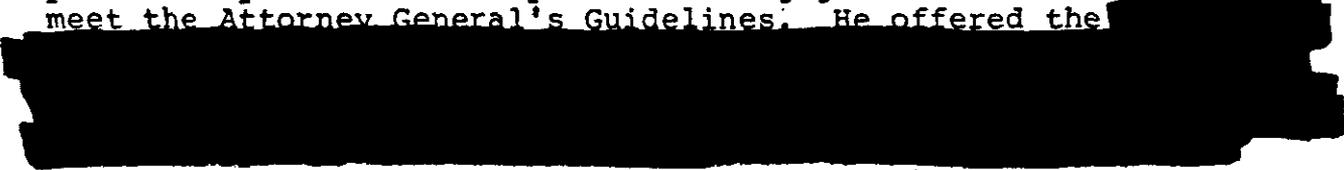
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Memorandum to Mr. O. B. Revell
Re: SHERIFF'S POSSE COMITATUS

Congressman Obey opined that there was still a possibility that the SPC planned to engage in activities that would meet the Attorney General's Guidelines. He offered the



Congressman Obey was informed that the FBI would attempt to interview



and a recommendation from our Milwaukee Office, a determination will be made by FBIHQ concerning the reinstatement of a Domestic Security case on the SPC.

By separate communication, the Milwaukee Office has been instructed to conduct the interview and make a recommendation on the reinstatement of a Domestic Security investigation regarding the SPC.

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100-487413-1

274
JUN 21 1964



100-487031 - NR1

Memorandum



To : DIRECTOR, FBI

Date 3/11/83

From : SAC, KANSAS CITY (100A-16712)(SQ 4 - GRA) P

Subject : SHERIFFS' POSSE COMITATUS (SPC), aka
Posse Comitatus
DOMESTIC SECURITY
OO KC

On 3/11/83, a preliminary inquiry was initiated concerning captioned organization by Kansas City Division.

For the past several months extensive media play has featured the SPC and apparent militant activity. Reports include documentation of paramilitary training in Western Kansas, as well as written and oral threats on civilian and federal officials. The assassination of two U. S. Marshals in North Dakota, 2/13/83, by known members of the SPC further substantiates terrorist propensities.

Certain members and leadership of the SPC reportedly have voiced hatred for Jews and Negroes, advocated the assassination of Federal law enforcement agents, and have engaged in acts of provocation and assault against Federal and other law enforcement officials.

This preliminary inquiry is being opened per authority set forth in MIOG 100-1.1(4) and the inquiry will be limited to preliminary inquiry techniques as set forth in MIOG, Section 100.

The overall intent of the preliminary inquiry will be to identify SPC members in Kansas and determine the viability of an actual terrorist threat.

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2 Kansas City

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

3 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.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

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For your information: _____

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JUN 21 1984 289



100-487413-NR2

Transmit attached by Facsimile - UNCLAS

JUN ²⁰⁰ 8 1983 Precedence Routine

To: FBI, Minneapolis [Redacted]

Date: June 8, 1983
Time: Transmitted - 350

From: Domestic Terrorism Unit, FBIHQ

Subject: Sheriff's posse Comitatus
DS

Initials - [Redacted]

- Fingerprint Photo
- Fingerprint Record
- Map
- Newspaper clipping
- Photograph
- Artists Conception
- Other

100-487031-19

Special handling instructions:

JUN 10 1983

54JU 11/6 [Redacted]
Approved: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

FBI/DOJ

5 JUN 29 1983

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100-487031-NR3

FBI Probing Chapter Of Anti-Tax 'Posse'

By Mary Thornton

Washington Post Staff Writer

The FBI has begun a full investigation of a chapter of the Posse Comitatus, the right-wing group to which tax protester Gordon W. Kahl belonged before his death in a fiery shootout last Friday, officials said yesterday.

"One chapter of the group is under full domestic security investigation, and we are alert to the possibility of violence by various individual members who may be in that or other chapters," Assistant FBI Director Roger Young said.

Young, who would not say which chapter is under investigation, denied published reports that a nationwide probe of the group is under way.

"We are interested in those members who have evidenced a willingness to involve themselves in violent activities, but we have no interest in those who are advocating tax reform because that activity is protected by the First Amendment," he said.

While the FBI can more easily investigate individual members, it is under strict constraints in investigating domestic groups because of guidelines enacted after disclosure in the mid 1970s of abuses in pursuing domestic political groups.

The Posse Comitatus investigation is being conducted under a section of the guidelines aimed largely at domestic terrorist groups, which provides that an investigation can proceed only after a finding that a group is "engaged in an enterprise for the purpose of furthering political or social goals wholly or in part through activities that involve force or violence and a violation of [federal] criminal laws."

Posse Comitatus, which means "Power of the County," is a militant group of survivalists who challenge all forms of state and federal authority, including all laws and the power to levy taxes. In theory, the group recognizes only local county-level authorities, but in fact, members of the group have also resisted local laws, including traffic and land-zoning regulations.

Federal law enforcement sources said yesterday that many members of the group are heavily armed, that they are involved in paramilitary training, and that the group, which is virulently anti-black and anti-Semitic, has drawn membership from the Minutemen, a right-wing extremist group that went underground in the mid-1960s.

Posse Comitatus was a relatively obscure organization until last Feb-

ruary when Kahl and others shot and killed two federal marshals who were attempting to arrest him in North Dakota. Kahl, who was a fugitive at the time because of a parole violation in a tax case, had eluded police since then.

Federal sources said yesterday that many Posse members have joined the "Life Science Church," turning over their property and possessions, declaring themselves ministers, and collecting church salaries, to avoid taxes.

One federal agent said members tend to be obsessed with the possibility of a Soviet takeover. "Everywhere they go, they have guns and ammunition, and enough food and water to last them 30 days, in the trunk of their car if necessary, because the Comies could take over any minute," he said.

Membership figures are not known, but leaders claim to have chapters in every state except Hawaii, with as many as 2 million members nationwide. Federal law enforcement officials place the membership at between 3,000 and 10,000 nationwide.

All over the country, members of Posse Comitatus have had confrontations with law enforcement officials, some minor and some more serious. Two years ago three undercover agents from the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were shot by a member who planned to sell them machine guns and homemade bombs.

One BATF official said that investigations of individual members have been conducted in 26 states, generally involving firearms and explosives violations. He said the heaviest concentration of members appears to be in the north central and the northwest parts of the country.

Agents from the Internal Revenue Service have also been the targets of Posse Comitatus assaults. In 1980, The Washington Post obtained an internal IRS document warning key IRS personnel in New England about possible danger from Posse Comitatus, warning that the agency had "learned that the Posse Comitatus is allegedly planning to lure revenue employees to isolated places and murder them.

"They have prepared a pamphlet which describes a procedure whereby a phony address is used to lure the individual to a particular area and, while he/she is searching for the nonexistent address, the individual is 'eliminated' from a distance," it said.

WASHINGTON POST

JUNE 8, 1983

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