



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

GERALD L. K. SMITH

PART 10 OF 18

FILE NUMBER : 62-43818

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE

SUBJECT: GERALD L.K. SMITH

FILE: 62-43818

SUB: _____

VOL: 24

PAGES REVIEWED: 105

PAGES RELEASED: 90

NOTES: _____

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
P. O. Drawer "W" Plaza Station
Saint Louis (1), Missouri
January 28, 1944

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, w. a.
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
Sedition

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] Saint Louis, Missouri, dated January 28, 1944, which reflects information regarding GERALD L. K. SMITH's visit to Saint Louis, Missouri on January 14 and 15, 1944. b7c

Particular reference is made to statements of GERALD L. K. SMITH and Reverend HARVEY SPRINGER regarding their contact with Reverend GERALD B. WINROD, who has recently been indicted for sedition. It is to be noted that Reverend SPRINGER has been surprised that he has not been interviewed inasmuch as he took a trip to Puerto Rico with WINROD and also supported him in Denver, Colorado. The Saint Louis Field Division has no information concerning the details of the WINROD case so it is thought best that this matter be specifically called to the attention of the Bureau.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/6/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mh

Very truly yours,

G. B. Norris
G. B. NORRIS,
SAC

[redacted] MS b7c
100-6013

cc - Denver

~~DEFERRED~~
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62-43818-42
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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

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

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For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
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Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

FRANK L. K. SMITH, with aliases;
THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY;
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/6/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mk

The following information recently received concerning subject Smith is being brought to your attention for your information in connection with your further consideration of the instant case.

According to a confidential source of information, Smith, at a meeting of his "America First Party" held at Detroit on the evening of January 18, 1944, announced that he and the "America First Party," using the name "Veterans Petition Committee," planned to circulate petitions calling for substantial payments to personnel mustered out of the Armed Forces.

Reportedly Smith, while speaking at the meeting, claimed that he and his organization were largely responsible for the increased rate of pay now allowed enlisted personnel inasmuch as he some time ago sent 80,000 signatures to Congress demanding a pay raise for enlisted personnel. Continuing in this vein, Smith urged his followers to circulate and cause to be signed the instant petition, a photostatic copy of which is attached. Apparently when a sufficient number of petitions have been executed, they will be forwarded to Congress en masse.

Smith, while speaking in behalf of his plan for increased mustering out pay, described in the petition, allegedly asserted that "a measly \$300" is not sufficient for our servicemen, especially in view "of the fact that America can give every person in the 22 South American republics the sum of \$50." Smith reportedly commented that every month 70,000 men are being mustered out of the service even at the present time and that due to financial difficulties and physical defects incident to their participation in the war, they are facing hardships which could be alleviated by the designation of more substantial payments for them.

The Bureau's source of information in accordance with Smith, Collier's Magazine plans to carry a story in its near future concerning Smith and the "America First Party." Smith has allegedly revealed that Mr. Russell Davenport of Collier's Magazine recently visited him for the purpose of assembling material to form the basis of an article. In this connection the Bureau's source of information has further reported that photographer for Collier's Magazine were present at the meeting held on January 18, 1944, and at Smith's request made several pictures of women who have seen in the Armed Forces. Reportedly, these women posed in groups displaying Smith's "Petition to Congress" and it is the opinion of the Bureau's source of information that the article in Collier's, if it actually appears, will deal to some degree with Smith's intention of circulating petitions calling for greater mustering out pay.

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Acers
- Carson
- Harbo
- Hendon
- Wheeler
- Stark
- Quinn Tamm
- Nease
- Gandy

Any further information coming to the attention of the Bureau concerning Smith's latest plan will, of course, be immediately made available to the Criminal Division. It is noted that although one source has indicated Smith, in connection with his plan, intends to form some sort of "organization," it does not appear that he has as yet taken any steps to form such an organization.

62-43818-423X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Handwritten signatures and initials, including "W. R. G." and "J. E. H."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/6/82 BY SP-8BJ/mh

IMPORTANT!

If the ones who have circulated this petition desire to enclose a contribution to help pay for the printing and mailing, it will be appreciated. All who enclose a donation will receive a copy of the beautiful portrait in colors, entitled "FAITH OF OUR FATHERS." This picture is 8 in. x 10 in. and is suitable for framing.

VERY, VERY, VERY IMPORTANT!

Donations are strictly optional. Under no circumstances delay the sending in of the petition on account of a donation. The main object is to get the names to Congress. In many instances the best work will be done by people unable to contribute money.

ENCLOSURE



Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice
Saint Louis, Missouri
February 5, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, alias
L. K. Smith; AMERICA FIRST PARTY
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

On January 14 and 15, 1944 GERALD L. K. SMITH was in St. Louis, Missouri and held conferences with various individuals for the purpose of organizing a meeting of sympathizers of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY to be held in the middle of February, 1944.

Happy

At that time a physical surveillance was maintained on SMITH, however, it was not too productive, inasmuch as SMITH made all of his contacts in his hotel room at the Hotel Statler. Because of extremely close relationship with the management of the Hotel Statler in St. Louis, it was possible to get a room next to the suite which had been assigned to SMITH. It was, therefore, possible through a connecting door to hear practically all of the conversations in SMITH's suite without the use of technical equipment.

It is expected that SMITH will again be in St. Louis about February 17 and 18, 1944 to address a meeting and will probably again stay at the Hotel Statler. At this time it may not be possible to arrange such a good setup as was had on his previous visit and it may be necessary in order to overhear conversations to use technical equipment. Because of this, permission is requested of the Bureau to make use of technical equipment. It is believed that the technical surveillance can be covered with a contact microphone. Specific advice is requested regarding both technical and physical surveillances in regard to the SMITH case.

|||

*let to St. Louis
cc Detroit
2/10/44
gpa*

On February 14, 1944, the day on which SMITH arrived in St. Louis, the St. Louis Field Division was contacted by the local office of the Office of Naval Intelligence and they desired to know whether or not we were covering SMITH's visit to St. Louis and if we did not they were desirous of doing so themselves, on the basis that there was indication that SMITH was making a concentrated play for servicemen.



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DATE 10/6/82 BY SP-8 BT/ah

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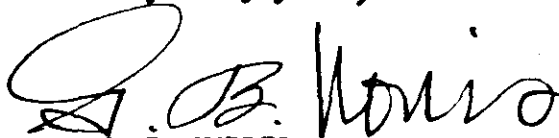
Director, FBI

2/5/44

The relationship between our office and the local office of ONI has always been the most friendly, frank, open and cordial relationship and has worked to the best advantage for both services. They were advised that they would be furnished a full copy of the report covering SMITH's activities in St. Louis and this was done, the report being by Special Agent [REDACTED] St. Louis, Missouri, dated January 28, 1944. They have shown interest in this movement since that time, especially, as one of the organizers in St. Louis is a man named [REDACTED] who is employed at the Busch Sulzer Company which company has large Navy contracts for the production of Diesel motors. It is expected that they will request copies concerning SMITH's future activity in this district. b7c

The St. Louis Field Division would like to continue its relationship with ONI on the same basis as it has in the past and if this policy as regards to the SMITH case will interfere with the investigation conducted in Detroit, Bureau advice is desired by this office. |||

Very truly yours,



G. B. NORRIS

SAC

[REDACTED] dek b7c
100-6013
cc: Detroit

RECORDED

4-810-424

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/6/80 BY SP-8 BTJ/ub

JPH:rb

February 10, 1944

SAC, St. Louis

RE: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH,
alias, L. K. Smith; AMERICA FIRST PARTY
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of February 5, 1944, seeking advice as to the procedure to be followed at St. Louis in connection with surveillances on subject Smith and as well information as to whether copies of reports submitted in the instant case at St. Louis should be disseminated to the local office of Naval Intelligence.

Concerning technical surveillances and microphone surveillances, you are advised that no blanket authorization for such coverage in this case can or will be given in so far as subject's activities at St. Louis are concerned. Should Smith return to St. Louis in the near future, as outlined in your letter, or at some other time in the future and it appears necessary in order to secure an appropriate coverage to utilize a technical surveillance or microphone surveillance, the request should be made of the Bureau in the usual manner, outlining at the time the circumstances, the safety of the proposed installation, etc. As a matter of general observation, it would appear that aside from unusual circumstances, a technical surveillance would not be authorized at St. Louis in this matter. However, if the need should arise for a microphone surveillance in a specific instance, the Bureau would probably give favorable consideration to the use of such a surveillance upon your specific request and upon your indication that the surveillance could be maintained with appropriate security. It will be necessary, however, for you to make the specific request when the occasion for such a surveillance arises.

Concerning physical surveillances, it is of course the Bureau's desire that Smith's activities and contacts while in the St. Louis district be appropriately and adequately covered in compliance with requests received from the office of origin or the Bureau. Obviously, physical surveillances will in a great many instances be of material assistance in this regard and it is, of course, perfectly proper for you to use this investigative technique. However, the Bureau is very definitely desirous of maintaining this inquiry discreetly and accordingly any surveillances which are maintained should be carried out in a very careful and discreet manner. Surveillances in this case should be loose, and Smith and his associates should not be aware of the fact that their activities are being observed. Therefore, it will be up to your discretion in individual instances, considering the factors of the value of the information to be developed and the possibility of Smith or associates making the surveillance, to determine the closeness of the surveillance, or conceivably in some instances the desirability of relinquishing the surveillance.

- lson _____
- A. Tamm _____
- W.C. Clegg _____
- Tracy _____
- Avlin _____
- Ad _____
- Chols _____
- Pen _____
- Acy _____
- Wrs _____
- Rson _____
- Rbo _____
- Ndon _____
- Nford _____
- Arke _____
- Inr. Tamm _____
- Use _____
- Ady _____

W.C. Clegg
3 FEB 20 1944

Res
E. J. Tamm
M. H. ...

SAC, St. Louis

Relative to the interest of the local office of ONI in this matter and its desire to receive copies of reports, it is the Bureau's desire that you not furnish copies of the regular investigative reports to ONI or any other outside agency. Your interest, set forth in your letter, in maintaining cordial relations with ONI are of course fully appreciated, but in view of the peculiar nature of the instant case and its myriad ramifications, the Bureau believes that copies of reports should not be furnished to ONI. As you are already aware from the investigation reported on in Special Agent [redacted] report dated at St. Louis on January 28, 1944, the instant case often involves personalities and issues of a political and frequently controversial nature. This is particularly true in regard to the investigation conducted at Detroit, Smith's headquarters, and additionally the Detroit Office has an informant who is very productive and is very close to Smith. In view of this close relationship and the confidential nature of the data secured by this particular informant and set forth in reports, the Bureau feels it is not wise, considering the factor of adequately assuring the concealment of the informant's identity, to disseminate the reports to outside agencies. As indicated previously, another factor contributing to this decision is the fact that the instant investigation, particularly at Detroit, frequently involves personalities and issues of a delicate and controversial nature, these issues being for the most part entirely unrelated to the principal objective of the investigation, namely following Smith's activities with the purpose in view of determining whether he violates the Sedition Statutes. b7c

Despite the observations set forth in the preceding paragraph, it is believed that a suitable alternative presents itself. The Detroit Office has raised the same question, that is as to whether copies of reports can be furnished to G-2 and ONI; and the Bureau is advising Detroit by a separate letter that although reports should not be furnished, summaries of pertinent information developed in the case should be periodically furnished ONI, and G-2 as well in the event that agency specifically requests information in the Smith case. It is believed that the same procedure can be followed at St. Louis. Accordingly, if Smith actually comes to St. Louis again, as he now plans, you should furnish ONI, in the event it makes a request for information, a memorandum or letter appropriately summarizing data as to Smith's pertinent activities, that is in respect to his contacts, his speaking activities, any efforts he may make toward appealing to servicemen or other subject matters of interest to ONI, or anything of such a nature as to suggest a possible violation of the Sedition Statutes. This memorandum or letter should not concern itself with political or controversial matters such as, for example, the data disclosed in Special Agent [redacted] report to the effect that Dr. Walter A. Maier of St. Louis was giving some consideration to launching into political activities subsequent to June 1944 in connection with his Lutheran Hour radio broadcast. b7c

In the way of emphasis, it is stated again that the Bureau has no objection to furnishing ONI information developed as to Smith's activities

SAC, St. Louis

which are of such a nature as to suggest a possible violation of the Sedition Statutes or matters of interest to Naval authorities. However, the Bureau does not feel that it is the best course to furnish outside agencies the other data of a political nature and pertaining to public personalities which is frequently developed during the course of this inquiry incidental to its main objective. Furthermore, developments at St. Louis are closely related to those elsewhere and probably should copies of reports be furnished to ONI at St. Louis, ONI at Detroit would feel itself therefore entitled to copies of reports submitted at Detroit. As indicated previously, the regular furnishing of reports submitted by the Detroit Office to ONI would probably endanger the status of its very valuable informant and, therefore, cannot be considered.

The Detroit Office is being instructed in a separate letter as to its proper procedure relative to furnishing summaries of information to ONI and possibly G-2 at Detroit.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc Detroit



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Detroit - Michigan
January 28, 1944

Mr. Tolson	.....
Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Egan	.....
Mr. Gurnea	.....
Mr. Harbo	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. Jones	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. Nease	.....
Mr. Gandy	.....
Mr. Mumford	.....
Mr. Starke	.....
Mr. Quinn Tamm	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

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

Dear Sir:

[redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, recently advised the Detroit Field Division to the effect that he had received information that Subject SMITH on at least two occasions has advised the long distance telephone operators that he is entitled to Priority No. 3 in making long distance telephone calls.

It is being noted further that on the two occasions known to the Detroit office, SMITH has used this priority number in attempting to communicate with United States Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS.

No further investigation is being conducted relative to this particular phase of the investigation and this information is being forwarded for the Bureau's information.

Very truly yours,

R. A. Guerin

R. A. GUERIN, SAC.

DECLASSIFIED BY *6080/LED/DA*
OF *9/11/77*

62-1126

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE *10/6/02* BY *SP100/DA*

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INDEXED

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY SLIP(S) DATE *9/11/77*

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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) DEPT OF THE ARMY , was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
518 Railway Exchange Building
Denver (2) Colorado
February 15, 1944

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases:
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SECURITY MATTER
SEDITION
Bureau File 62-43818

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] St. Louis, Missouri, dated January 28, 1944, containing a lead for this office to furnish the Detroit Field Division with all pertinent information concerning [redacted]

Inasmuch as the Detroit Field Division has received copies of pertinent reports in the case entitled [redacted] Security Matter - G, Sediton, in which this office is origin, the above-mentioned lead is being disregarded. For the information of the Detroit Field Division, the case in this office on [redacted] is presently in a closed status.

DEFERRED RECORDING

Very truly yours,

G. A. NICHOLSON
SAC

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&
INDEXED

62-43818-427
F B I
31 FEB 18 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE [redacted] 2/6/82 BY [redacted]

cc - Detroit



56 MAR 6 1944

ALL
b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

SL. FILE NO. **100-6013**

REPORT MADE AT Saint Louis, Missouri	DATE WHEN MADE 2-12-44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1-26, 28, 29; 2-3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 12-44	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c EW
TITLE GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases; AMERICA FIRST PARTY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G SECURITY MATTER SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/1/82 BY SP-8/BJC**

GERALD L. K. SMITH will speak in Saint Louis on 2-17-44; admission by card only. Arrangements made by DONALD LOHBECK as temporary chairman of Saint Louis unit. LOHBECK reclassified 1-AO and may be inducted in a few months. GEBHARDT has distributed SMITH literature at Busch-Sulzer Diesel Company since his contact with SMITH. b7c

DR. WALTER A. MAIER has kept his contact with SMITH secret, and investigation to date has failed to reveal how MAIER hopes to benefit through SMITH, or what he hopes to contribute to the Movement. MAIER'S radio program to be somewhat curtailed from now until September, 1944. Indication that editor of German language newspaper in Saint Louis, who is sympathetic to New Germany and against United States involvement in this war, thinks highly of SMITH and is interested in the America First Party.

- P -

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** Saint Louis, Missouri, dated January 28, 1944. b7c

DETAILS:

AT SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Investigation concerning the various individuals who contacted GERALD L. K. SMITH during his visit to Saint Louis on January 14 and 15, 1944, has been conducted and reported in detail in the individual files on these persons. The general information which pertains to the development

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES DESTROYED 205 OCT 15 1964	1-2-43818-428
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⑤ Bureau 2 Detroit 2 ONI, Chicago (1-Saint Louis) 3 Saint Louis 	<p style="text-align: center;">28 FEB 14 1944</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>[Handwritten initials and signatures]</i></p>
	RECORDED & INDEXED

Saint Louis File No. 100-6013

and progress of the America First Party is being set out below:

[REDACTED] of the Municipal Auditorium, advised that the America First Party was scheduled for February 17, 1944, at 8:00 P.M. in Hall #1. Reservations were made by DONALD LOHBECK. LOHBECK stated that this was to be a closed meeting and admission is by invitation only. There would be no admission charged. b7c
b7D

On February 12, 1944, it was ascertained that tickets were being distributed for the SMITH meeting, and that possession of a card would admit bearer and friends. This card shows that LOHBECK is the temporary chairman of the Saint Louis unit. Some of these cards were sent out by LOHBECK through the mails, accompanied by a letter setting forth SMITH'S Seven Point Program.

LOHBECK has recently been classified from his dependency status to 1-A0 and is likely to be inducted within the next few months.

GEORGE GEBHARDT, Lemay, Missouri, has distributed "The Cross and The Flag" to several individuals at the Busch-Sulzer Diesel Company where he is employed. Arrangements have been completed whereby the Saint Louis Office will be advised concerning GEBHARDT'S activities with relation to the America First Party.

[REDACTED]

No information has been developed from persons contacted that either of these men is openly promoting the America First Party up to the present time. b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Persons contacted have failed to have information that [REDACTED] is promoting the America First Party, although he apparently has a sympathy regarding the war as he previously had.

DR. WALTER A. MAIER, Director of the Lutheran Hour, has apparently been secretive about his contact with GERALD L. K. SMITH, and investigation to date has failed to reveal what MAIER hopes to benefit through SMITH or what he hopes to contribute to the Movement. Effective February 20, the Lutheran Hour will no longer be broadcast to the Western Stations of the Mutual Broadcasting Company, and by September 15, 1944, in accordance with the Mutual Broadcasting

Saint Louis File No. 100-6013

Company's policy, no religious programs will go on the air after 1:00 P.M. on Sunday afternoons. Therefore, MAHER'S program will have to be put on in the morning.



b7c. b7d

P E N D I N G

Saint Louis File No. 100-6013

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE SAINT LOUIS FIELD DIVISION

AT SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

b7c

*

Will ascertain whether [REDACTED] was contacted by SMITH, or whether it was MRS. DONALD ALCHBECK who made the call.

Will keep in touch with the development of this Movement in Saint Louis and the individuals connected with it.

Will conduct an investigation regarding all of the individuals mentioned in previous reports in this file and correlate the information in the individual files of the various Subjects.

JPha/pk
62-43818-428
2-22-44 Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

RECORDED J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases;
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

For your further information there is attached hereto a copy of an additional report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] dated February 12, 1944, at Saint Louis, Missouri.

b7c

Enclosure *Cur*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/6/82 BY SP8 BTJ/mh

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Tracy _____

JIN, MEE S. 3/2/44

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Mr. Coffey _____

Mr. Hendon _____

Mr. [unclear] _____

Mr. Quinn Tamm _____

Mr. [unclear] _____

Miss Gandy _____

MAILED 10
FEB 24 1944 P.M.

RECEIVED - FBI
FEB 24 3 35 PM '44
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

For [unclear]

10 MAR 6 1944



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

February 3, 1944

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

lem
Time: 5:10 to 5:14 p.m.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/1/82 BY SP285/ML

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: GERALD L. K. SMITH, WAS.
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY (G), ET AL.

J.F.

At this time [redacted] in my office took a call from the Detroit office regarding this matter and in response to his earlier request for information necessary to answer a letter from [redacted] Secretary to Mrs. Roosevelt, dated January 31, 1944.

SA [redacted] advised that the Detroit office had checked in so far as was possible through informants and ascertained that there was such a letter issued as described in the newspaper clipping enclosed with the letter of [redacted] and in this connection the Detroit office by letter dated January 31, 1944, had forwarded a copy of the circular for the attention of the Bureau. It appears that this letter, according to [redacted] was sent out at various stages during the month of January, 1944, urging the recipients thereof to forward petitions presumably directly to Congress requesting that the veterans receive mustering-out pay of a thousand dollars. [redacted] stated that there was no request for the petitions to be returned to Smith.

SA [redacted] specifically advised that there is no indication that Smith is forming any veterans party as such but is merely setting up something in the nature of a veterans committee of the America First Party, apparently solely for the purpose of having people direct petitions to Congress in behalf of increased mustering-out pay for returning veterans.

Agent [redacted] also advised that there has been no indication received that Smith is getting any information from government sources along the line of the identity of returning veterans who are being mustered out.

As a matter of general interest, [redacted] stated that Smith had a meeting Monday, February 1, 1944, which was attended by an informant of the Detroit office.

[redacted] in connection with the petitions being sent out to individuals for signing and requesting that Congress consider adequate mustering-out pay for veterans.



RECORDED & INDEXED

Respectfully,
F. L. Welch

62-43818-42

FEB 8 1944

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JPH:WML

62-4311-432
SAC, Detroit

February 21, 1944

RECORDED

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, was; AMERICA FIRST PARTY;
SECURITY MATTER; INTERNAL SECURITY - C; SEDITION.

Reference is made to your letter of February 8, 1944, wherein you indicated that you were transmitting as an enclosure a copy of [REDACTED]

b7c, b7d

The enclosure designated was not received with your letter and it is accordingly desired that you immediately furnish copies of the described material to the Bureau. You should further indicate whether, as it would appear, the enclosure was omitted through inadvertence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

9 MAR 5 1944

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

ST. P FILE NO. 100-4156

REPORT MADE AT ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA	DATE WHEN MADE 2/25/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/21,22,23/44	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c RS
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, wa AMERICA FIRST PARTY			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G SECURITY MATTER SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Speech made by SMITH at Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2/22/44, before approximately 900 persons, followed same theme as speeches previously reported by this office. Bitter attacks made against present administration, bureaucracy, Internationalism, Communism, WILLKIE Senate Resolution #666 (labor draft) and that Wall Street controls Minneapolis newspapers. SMITH stated that if General MacARTHUR had obtained 1/2 as much supplies as Russia, he would have wiped the Japs off of the map by now. Expounded on rumors that there is movement by Democrats and Republicans in Washington conspiring to call off 1944 elections and that the New Dealers are attempting to steal the soldiers' vote by use of blank ballots. SMITH stated intention of holding Tri-State Rally of America Firsters in Minneapolis latter part of April, 1944 with CHARLES A. LINDBERGH as a speaker. Letters of protest sent hotel management by CIO and A.F. of L. representatives.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF **Classified**

DATE **2-23-83**

CLASS. BY **SP-8 BT/mca**

- RUC -

DATE OF REVIEW

10/1/72

REFERENCES:

Letter from Detroit Field Division dated 2/25/44

DETAILS:

AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA:

SMITH spoke on February 22, 1944 at the Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota to a closed America First meeting, admission by invitation only. The meeting was attended by approximately 900 persons and sponsored by Mrs. ERNEST LUNDEEN, widow of the late Senator ERNEST LUNDEEN of Minnesota.

SMITH's speech followed very closely the same theme as speeches

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St. P. #100-4156

previously reported by this office. SMITH again harangued the New Deal, bureaucracy, Communism and Internationalism.

The meeting was scheduled on the invitations sent to various members of the America First Party which letters were noted by the postmark to have originated from Post Office Box 459, Detroit, Michigan. It was noted that at approximately 7:40 P.M., the main ballroom of the Leamington Hotel was filled to capacity. At approximately 7:45 P.M. after the phonograph recording of one religious song, Mrs. ERNEST LUNDEEN, formerly wife of Senator LUNDEEN from Minnesota, rose on the platform and introduced subject to the audience.

SMITH advised the enthusiastic audience that he had hoped that the America Firsters would some day see the return of ROOSEVELT from public life inasmuch as everyone was sick and tired of the whole "caboodle" and when that becomes a reality he had hoped to see WILLKIE sent to Moscow and WALLACE to China. SMITH then told the America Firsters that the real issues to the voters of the United States and to all real Americans were three: (1) plot to call off the elections; (2) plot to steal the soldiers' vote and (3) preservation of our national sovereignty.

At this point Reverend HERSTROM was introduced by SMITH and led the crowd in a short prayer. SMITH again arose to the platform and advised that his speech would consist of two parts. The first part could be considered as good news and the second part could be called emergency hour issues. SMITH stated that he doesn't want to have anything to do which smells, looks or talks like WENDELL WILLKIE who is in the same crowd which runs the United States government and he set out capitalists, Hollywood and the whiskey trust. With regard to WILLKIE's possible chances of ever attaining a place in public life, he stated that WILLKIE is a "cooked goose".

In regard to the political issues set forth in the newspapers of Minneapolis, SMITH stated that all the newspapers in Minneapolis are run by Wall Street and that JOHN COWLES, who is the head of the Minneapolis Times Tribune, was a brother-in-law of THOMAS LA MONTE, who is the chief of Collier's Magazine. He then challenged the newspaper to print what was being said at this meeting.

In regard to crusade backing, he stated to the audience that it was supported by contributions like those in the very audience before which he was speaking inasmuch as the America First movement was a people's campaign. SMITH then read from an article written by RAY TUCKER of Washington, D. C., dated November 15, 1943, regarding himself, which stated that SMITH had been completely against ROOSEVELT and his New Deal and that SMITH was responsible for the Anti-New Deal landslide in the last election. SMITH then stated that with this assertion made by TUCKER in his article that America was to come back into the hands of Americans in the future.

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St. P #100-4156

He then stated that an article was being written about him which would be published in Collier's weekly magazine during the week of February 20, 1943, which article upon distribution to the millions of subscribers would amount to many tons of the precious paper which is so hard to obtain in these war days. He stated that if the newspaper was willing to use that much paper, he, SMITH, must be worth something.

SMITH then harangued WALTER "LIPSHITZ" WINCHELL, whom he compared with WENDELL WILLKIE as being in the same category. Upon listening to the radio on February 21, 1944, he happened to hear the Governor of Vermont by the name of WILLIAM WILLS who was pro-WILLKIE and who had mentioned that the first thing the United States people should do was to rid themselves of the "black locusts" and that WILLS had mentioned Colonel ROBERT McCORMICK, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, ALFRED LANDON, SMITH and two others. SMITH stated that he felt good to be named one of the five of the best opponents of WENDELL WILLKIE.

SMITH then devoted a great part of his talk to attacking the American aid to Russia, saying that "if we could take 1/2 of what we have given to Russia and sent it to MacARTHUR, the Japs would be wiped off of the map by now and our boys would soon be home from the South Pacific war area." He then stated that "twiddle dee" WILLKIE and "twiddle dee dum" ROOSEVELT had been responsible for this matter.

A bitter statement was then made against Senator JOSEPH H. BALL of Minnesota, whom he called an internationalist and a member of the newspaper trust. SMITH then trounced upon the "boondoggling" spending which he stated had been exposed by United States Senator HUGH A. BUTLER of Nebraska; that we had obligated ourselves in the amount of six billion dollars on foolish spending in South America, which money he stated would have been of more good were it to have been spent on the battle fronts.

With regard to the bad news emergency issues, SMITH stated that one of them was the present Austin-Wadsworth bill relating to the drafting of men and women which was Senate Resolution #666. He urged all those present to write letters to their Senators and Representatives in Congress urging the downfall of this proposal.

From a Boston newspaper article, SMITH stated he had seen information to the effect that there was a movement on foot of Democrats and Republicans in Washington who were working for no election in 1944. This he stated, if it could come about, was contrary to the constitution of the United States and insisted that if there would be any move in that direction through adoption of an amendment to the constitution concerning this taking form in Congress, the America Firsters would rise up and defeat it. If such a thing could ever come to pass, it would automatically freeze everyone in office and please the old-time New Dealers to no end. He then advised that there

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St. P #100-4156

wasn't enough time before November, 1944 to bring about a constitutional amendment which would have to be ratified by the states before becoming a law.

In Washington, today, SMITH mentioned that there was a conspiracy on foot by the New Dealers to steal the soldiers' vote who were fighting on the war fronts of the world and that ROOSEVELT was attempting to send them blank ballots. It also has been known to him that the Office of War Information had refused to put BRICKER's name on the ballot. The idea of calling off the election is no more phenomenal than the idea of a ROOSEVELT fourth term. ROOSEVELT has been given publicity when Testaments are sent to our soldiers inasmuch as underneath the cover of each Bible is a letter from ROOSEVELT which they must read before they get the chance of reading what Jesus and the prophets said. This form of thievery is a conspiracy to steal the forthcoming election.

The subject spoke of the mustering out pay program which has been backed by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, himself, but had not been backed by the administration. SMITH then quoted an incident which has recently been printed in the Congressional Record regarding an armless soldier who had to have his paycheck placed in his pockets by another soldier which paycheck was then used in transporting him to his home, and when this soldier arrived home he had no money to further his subsistence.

SMITH then eulogized J. EDWARD JONES, who was author of the book entitled "And So They Indicted Me" which person had been previously persecuted by the bureaucrats and had even been approached by the secretary of ELEANOR ROOSEVELT with the proposition that everything would be dropped by the charges of the OPA officials if he paid to the secretary the sum of \$40,000.

SMITH advised that the America First Party had applied for the Minneapolis Municipal Auditorium for a late date in April of this year where would be held a Tri-State Rally with possibly CHARLES A. LINDBERGH as a speaker.

SMITH then introduced Reverend CARL O. STADSLEV of Minneapolis, who was noted to have arrived at the meeting late because of a previously scheduled engagement. SMITH then defended STADSLEV for being put off the Radio Station WDGY because of a Mr. WHITE's statement that he had to satisfy his chief advertisers who SMITH thought there should be added to this word also Bureaucrats. SMITH then named the stores which Mr. WHITE was said to have mentioned and it was suggested by SMITH that these store managements be contacted by the America First group to see whether such a request had been made of Mr. WHITE, who is manager of Radio Station WDGY in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SMITH suggested a committee be appointed to go to Washington and call on the Federal Communications Commission and also call on the Interstate Commerce Commission where BURTON K. WHEELER was Chairman, and he felt that with WHEELER

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St. P #100-4156

as chairman of the latter group, some good would be done for Reverend STADSLEV. SMITH then requested everyone to telephone.

SMITH mentioned that he has had much trouble in Minneapolis and elsewhere finding a hall in which the naked and unvarnished truth could be given to the people. He then stated that he had sent telegrams to ROBERT E. HANNEGAN, National Democratic chairman, who was speaking the same night at the Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as well as a telegram sent to U. S. Senator JOSEPH H. BALL, who was speaking at the Hotel Nicollet in the same town, as well as to Governor THYE announcing his intention to call a Tri-State Rally of the America Firsters in April at Minneapolis and stating "Do you favor my being allowed free speech and the use of public halls even though I might express opinions in disagreement with yours?" SMITH then stated that he would await replies to these telegrams.

He then ended his speech with the familiar armed raised outcry to his audience "THIS IS A CRUSADE, VICTORY IS IN THE AIR".

SMITH then introduced his wife who he mentioned as that good looking lady in the back with the pink hat on her head, but she wasn't "pink".

SMITH then turned the platform over to Mrs. JOSEPH RICHARD of Chicago who had been with her American engineer husband for four years in the heart of Russia. Mrs. RICHARD, it was noted, was dressed in what she said was the native garb of a Russian peasant. She stated that inasmuch as the garbs were so similar among the peasants was because that was the only type of materials that could be bought in Russia and so one had to wear what they could obtain. Mrs. RICHARD then made mention of the difficult life in Russia unless you were a member of the Communist Party. She advised that there was no religious tolerance in Russia; that during peacetime the Russian peasant was a sad sight, but now during wartime the Soviets were supposed to be promising the peasants a greater voice in the government by the establishment of some peasant Democratic states which would revert back to the old system at the end of the present conflict.

The views of Mrs. RICHARD were tainted with Anti-Communist thoughts which she allowed to leave vent to various points of her talk. At the end of the speech by Mrs. RICHARD, which was approximately 1/2 hour long, Mr. SMITH then arose on the platform and requested contributions to the America First Party, which contributions were taken up by the ushers in baskets which seemed to be well filled.

From observation of the Reporting Agent, it was noted that the meeting was orderly, and it was attended by a majority of persons in the older age bracket, most of whom were women.

Clippings taken from the Minneapolis Morning Tribune and the Minneapolis Times of February 23, 1944 mention the protests of the Hennepin County CIO Council

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St. P #100-4156

[REDACTED]

On February 22, 1944, [REDACTED] Internal Security Division, Minneapolis Police Department, Minneapolis, Minnesota, advised that [REDACTED] Minneapolis Municipal Auditorium had been approached by Mrs. ERNEST LUNDEEN and GERALD L. K. SMITH on that date and had requested use of the Minneapolis Municipal Auditorium on April 20, 1944. [REDACTED] stated that he would have to have the approval from the Auditorium Committee of the Minneapolis City Council before he could give Mrs. LUNDEEN or Mr. SMITH the final approval for that meeting date.

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-----REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-----

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3-8-44
62-43818-4-3

RECORDED

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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

For your further information in connection with your consideration of this case, there is attached hereto a copy of an additional report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at Saint Paul, Minnesota, on February 25, 1944.

Enclosure *et*

b7c

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DATE 10/6/82 BY SP-8 BTM/ML

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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 ★ MAR 9 - 1944 P.M.
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 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

W. L. Sullivan
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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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56 MAR 24 1944

SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

Local No. 83, United Office and Professional Workers of America, C.I.

~~322 TITLE GUARANTY BUILDING~~
The Bookshop

~~706 CHESTNUT ST.~~
306 N. Euclid

ST. LOUIS, MO.
(6)

Chestnut 95

February 25th, 1944

Mr. G. B. Norris, Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
425 United States Customs House Bldg.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Sir:

As a group of citizens and workers interested in the speedy and victorious conclusion of the war, we question the activities of Gerald L. K. Smith.

We are amazed that the question of his speaking in St. Louis is the major consideration rather than the question of his allegiance to the United States. His remarks and activities over a period of years appear to us as citizens as constituting grounds for investigation.

We urge you to take this matter under immediate consideration in order to prevent Gerald L. K. Smith from gaining further acceptance in the United States.

Yours very truly,

SOCIAL SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION

cc: J. Edgar Hoover ✓
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

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62-43818 -434
SAC, Saint Louis

March 6, 1944

RECORDED J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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

Reference is made to the letter dated February 25, 1944, addressed to you by one [redacted] of the Social Service Employees Union, Saint Louis, Missouri, relative to the above-captioned individual. A copy of this letter was designated for the Bureau and for your ready reference, additional copies of the letter are attached hereto.

The Bureau is not acknowledging this letter, but you should make an appropriate formal acknowledgment of the original communication addressed to you. In the event the letter has not already been acknowledged, it is suggested that you merely thank the writer for her interest and courtesy in communicating with you.

Enclosure *[Signature]*

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- Tracy _____
- Acers _____
- Carson _____
- Harbo _____
- Hendon _____
- Mumford _____
- Starke _____
- Quinn Tamm _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED TO

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[Handwritten initials]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

SL FILE NO. **100-6013**

REPORT MADE AT Saint Louis, Missouri	DATE WHEN MADE 3-6-44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2/14/44; 21-23/44	REPORT MADE BY [Redacted] b7c
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with alias; AMERICA FIRST PARTY			CHARACTER OF CASE SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

SMITH and wife were in Saint Louis, 2/17-19/44, to continue organizing the America First Party and to give speech on 2/17/44. Admission by card only. Attendance was between 600 and 700 people. SMITH in his speech suggests LINDBERGH for President, attacks President ROOSEVELT and his cohorts, and also attacks the British. He appeals to the Republicans to furnish a candidate other than WILKIE, and offers the support of his followers to the Republican Party if they do so. There is nothing flagrantly seditious in the speech. Audience made up of old people, and quite a few Germans. Also in attendance was editor of the German language newspaper who has in past been pro-Nazi. Veterans groups and Communist Party have protested against the use of the Municipal Auditorium, however, there were no disturbances. DONALD LOHBECK is the organizer in Saint Louis, and SMITH is thinking of having him organize in Kansas City, Missouri. SMITH confers with all persons previously contacted in Saint Louis in January, 1944, except DR. WALTER A. MAIER, who, however, had his private secretary at the speech. SMITH contacted former members of the America First Committee who appear anxious to renew their work and back SMITH. He also contacts FRANCIS D. MOOR, head of the Social Justice Club in Saint Louis which presently has low membership but quite a large mailing list. ROBERT GILMAN SMITH of Tulsa, Oklahoma, is former Methodist preacher and author of anti-administration book who gets Subject SMITH interested in this book. There is indication that McCULLOUGH, reporter for "Saint Louis Post Dispatch" and former America First Committee member, who has written articles riding SMITH, has told SMITH of investigation by ONI, and is acting as source of information on local

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 DATE 11/14/92 BY [Signature]

APPROVED FORWARDED <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau (Enc.) 2 - Detroit (Encs.) 1 - Oklahoma City (Info.) 3 - Saint Louis	<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center;">62-43818-435</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RECORDED & INDEXED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MAR 9 1944</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3/24/44</p>

Saint Louis File No. 100-6013

Synopsis of Facts (cont.):

matters for SMITH. Plans made for Midwest Conference and Rally of America First Party in Saint Louis tentatively 3/30/44.

- P -

Reference:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Saint Louis, Missouri, dated February 12, 1944. b7c

Details:

I. Preliminaries to SMITH'S Speech Scheduled February 17, 1944

On February 12, 1944, the distribution of the admission cards for the GERALD L. K. SMITH speech for February 17, 1944, had begun. Many of these letters were sent out by DONALD LOHBECK in first-class mail, and the envelopes were marked "urgent." Two tickets were usually sent to each individual, along with a handbill bearing SMITH'S picture, and a letter on the stationery of the America First Party and signed by the Saint Louis Committee—DON LOHBECK, Temporary Chairman. The place of the meeting was the Municipal Auditorium, Assembly Hall No. 1, Saint Louis, Missouri. Copies of this material are being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division.

The admission cards were necessary for attendance at this meeting, and permitted the bearer of the card and whoever accompanied him to come into the meeting. Immediately the Americanism committees of various veteran groups in Saint Louis protested the permission which was granted to SMITH to use the Municipal Auditorium, and the "Saint Louis Star Times" gave prominent display to these protests. The other two newspapers, the "Saint Louis Post Dispatch" and the "Saint Louis Globe Democrat," carried small editorials and notices, but they did not give it prominent display. The Municipal Auditorium Commission, however, permitted SMITH the use of the assembly hall.

At the Twentieth Anniversary of the "Daily Worker" at the Municipal Auditorium on February 13, 1944, BILL SENTNER, Business Agent, Electrical Workers, a member of the War Labor Board, and a member of the State Committee of the Communist Party, called SMITH a "little rodent." In his talk he said that SMITH should not be permitted to talk and explained how in 1937 to 1939, the various veterans groups and C.I.O. had forced the German-American Bund to disband (this is true). SENTNER brought out that the mailing list for SMITH was the same as that of the America First Committee, and that this was no coincidence.

II. Activities of GERALD L. K. SMITH in Saint Louis on February 17, 1944

The following information concerning SMITH'S activities while in St. Louis, Missouri, was received through various confidential sources:

Saint Louis File No. 100-6013

SMITH and his wife arrived at the Hotel Statler, Saint Louis, Missouri, at about 10:45 AM on the morning of February 17, 1944, apparently having come from Detroit.

Newspaper men were awaiting him, as was also DONALD LOHBECK, Chairman of the America First Committee in Saint Louis. LOHBECK and SMITH discussed the possibility that there will be trouble at the meeting, and are of the opinion that the protest is the work of the Jews.

Shortly after 11:00 AM, MR. EVERETT of the "Star Times", their photographer, MR. MONTAGUE, and MR. DAUGHERTY of the "Globe Democrat" interview SMITH. SMITH tells the newsmen that his itinerary will be as follows: A leadership meeting on February 20 in Chicago, and then meetings in Minneapolis on February 22, Detroit on February 26, and Cleveland on February 29, Pittsburgh on March 1, Philadelphia on March 2, and then into Washington, D. C. for conferences on March 4. He advised that this is the first leg of a nation-wide tour. In Washington, D. C., he will confer with various senators and congressmen, including HOFFMAN and REYNOLDS, and he will also appear before the Military Affairs Committee to testify against the National Service Act.

Pertinent remarks which SMITH made to the reporters are listed as follows:

"We want a real Republican for a candidate in 1944; a real Nationalist we can support."

"Nationalism is the preservation of our national sovereignty and the keeping of our government in Washington."

"ROOSEVELT is playing the bankrupt nations for world power just like he played bankrupt states and cities for national power. I wouldn't be surprised to see WILLKIE as the Vice-President with ROOSEVELT, and then ROOSEVELT resign to become President of the world with WILLKIE becoming President of the United States."

SMITH blamed the President for the United States entry into the war, declaring "we should have been building a two-ocean Navy, and then there would not have been any Pearl Harbor."

SMITH defended his patriotism against the attacks of the veterans groups in Saint Louis, saying that he did not think that those fellows represented the Legion as a whole but only represented themselves and possibly the Jewish War Veterans. He said that he would be perfectly willing for his patriotism to be judged by HERMAN LUHR, head of the Americanism Committee of the Michigan American Legion, and by HOMER CHALLEAUX, National Americanism Chairman of the American Legion.

The "Star Times" said "the only thing SMITH refused to criticize or laud during the lengthy interview was the war effort because 'I am not a military expert and that would not be patriotic and might give comfort to the enemy.'"

Saint Louis File No. 100-6013

During the interview with newsmen, SMITH criticized ROOSEVELT and WILLKIE along the same lines as he has always done.

While the "Star Times" and "Globe Democrat" reporters were interviewing SMITH, McCULLOUGH of the "Post Dispatch" came in. McCULLOUGH appeared very friendly with SMITH and took the liberty of interrupting the other newspaper men in their interviews. McCULLOUGH told SMITH that a reporter, JULIUS KLYMAN, at the "Post Dispatch," who is a Communist, thought it outrageous that SMITH would be permitted to speak.

Some of the side remarks that McCULLOUGH made indicates that he, too, is anti-Semitic.

SMITH was asked what he thought about the causes of the war, and he answered that the cause was the attack by the Japanese upon Pearl Harbor, but that if ROOSEVELT had not spent so much money boondoggling instead of spending it on armaments, we would have had a big army and navy to protect ourselves instead of a political machine. SMITH was also asked what should be done with HITLER, and he advised that he could not say. He believed that this matter was in the hands of the Commander and Chief and his military aids, and that he would leave it up to those persons. He claimed to have confidence enough in the chiefs of our army and navy, and as a side light commented that he wished that the Commander and Chief were someone other than ROOSEVELT, as he naturally did not have any confidence in him. The question was asked, "Would you ask for a trial?" SMITH put off this question by saying that he would trust the military men in whatever action they took. EVERETT of the "Star Times" who was conducting this inquiry asked what SMITH thought of HITLER'S responsibility for the war. He answered saying that there was no limit to what power-mad men like STALIN and HITLER will do. He said "this war is not an issue—no war can be an issue after it begins; from then on criticism is directed to the conduct of the war and postwar plans." EVERETT asked what postwar plans SMITH had in mind, and was referred to the first issue of "The Cross and the Flag" which contains an article entitled "Victory—A definition."

SMITH advocated a rebirth of Nationalism and claimed there is a difference between GEORGE WASHINGTON'S type of Nationalism and HITLER'S type. He claims that by Nationalism it is not meant provincial Isolationism. At this point something came up whereby McCULLOUGH, the "Post Reporter," said he had been a member of the America First Committee.

EVERETT asked SMITH about his membership in the Silver Shirts, and SMITH advised that had been sent an honorary membership card but had never been affiliated with that organization. He advised that one of the reasons he felt resentment toward the B'Nai Brith is because that organization bought PELLEY'S files from him some years ago when PELLEY needed money and then published a letter showing that SMITH held a membership card, but they have not published the letter which SMITH wrote repudiating his membership and returning his card.

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SMITH learned that the B'Nai Brith had a copy of his letter from GEORGE SOKOLSKY, a newspaper commentator. SMITH advised that the reference to himself in the book, "Undercover," relative to his marching through Saint Louis with Storm Troopers of the SilverShirt organization was a "forgery."

At this point McCULLOUGH tells SMITH that he received a letter from HARRY ROSENTHAL about HARVEY SPRINGER (SMITH'S associate in Denver). McCULLOUGH also indicates that he is anti-WILLKIE. SMITH attacks ROOSEVELT and the New Deal for having taken the people's rights away through the rationing system and thus depriving them of their "day in court."

EVERETT, who has finished his interview, was calling in his story on the telephone in another room of SMITH'S suite, and then SMITH told him to include in his "smear story" the fact that his son is in the army and stationed in India. Although his son has had six years of military training, he is not an officer but his classmates are. He feels that because his father is the "terrible GERALD L. K. SMITH" he is just a soldier and is leading a mule in India.

At this point McCULLOUGH and SMITH were in the room alone and were engaging in a rather soft conversation, and McCULLOUGH said something about an investigation and mentions "the head of the ONI." The details of this conversation could not be heard, however, inasmuch as McCULLOUGH indicated that he was serving as a source of information for SMITH, it is possible that he may have been furnishing SMITH with some inside information or some background information. SMITH asked McCULLOUGH to get him some background information on FRED EMIG, one of the veterans who was protesting his meeting, and McCULLOUGH subsequently did furnish information to SMITH which permitted SMITH to attack EMIG.

McCULLOUGH, however, did mention that he was not going to write a long article for SMITH, and in that way give him more publicity. SMITH asked McCULLOUGH if he thought that word had gotten around to his followers (meaning America Firsters), and McCULLOUGH answered "Yes, they've heard about it."

McCULLOUGH told SMITH about a reporter by the name of HEPNER of the "Post Dispatch" who was going to cover the meeting for the New Republic. LOHBECK inquired of McCULLOUGH whether MRS. RUELL (phonetic), Assistant Editor of the "Post Dispatch," had gotten a ticket.

This conference with the newspaper men lasted until about 1:00 PM, at which time EVERETT of the "Star Times" told SMITH that he had had orders to stay close to him all day, whereupon SMITH answered "I am accustomed to being watched." EVERETT remained, and SMITH started telling him how he has been smeared in the past, and how when the true facts were known, it was found that the criticism against him was unjustified. He cited an example in Cleveland, Ohio, where he had been barred from using the auditorium, and when he presented his side, the Municipal Auditorium was all for him.

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SMITH told EVERETT of the efforts of the Communists and Communist Jews to intimidate people, and also the efforts of the administration to subject its opponents to investigations. He said these things, however, have not intimidated a few people such as CLARE HOFFMAN, HAMILTON FISH, ROBERT REYNOLDS, GERALD NYE, and himself.

SMITH advised that he was not a member of the America First Committee, because at that time he was Chairman of the Committee of One Million, but as they had the same ideas about things, they would work together.

SMITH feels that he has many friends, as he is a friend of everyone who is against ROOSEVELT.

The "Star Times" reporter left at about 2:00 PM.

SMITH then engaged in a long-distance telephone conversation with his office (possibly his secretary, BERNARD A. DOMAN). Apparently MRS. LUNDEEN was leaving Detroit for Chicago, and SMITH said that she could make arrangements for her trip through [redacted] at the Statler Hotel in Detroit. MRS. LUNDEEN apparently was to bring SMITH'S personal attention mail with her to Chicago.

Donald 57c
In a conversation between LOHBECK and SMITH, SMITH states that he feels as though the "Star Times" reporter has been softened, and that the man was doing something repulsive against his inner self in covering this assignment, and that he just mouthed the words that the Jews put in his mouth, and that the Jews could never face him in the open. He also mentioned that McCULLOUGH was a paradoxical fellow and felt that McCULLOUGH in writing the articles which are more or less against SMITH is doing these things but actually knows better.

Before LOHBECK leaves, SMITH asked about his Selective Service status, and LOHBECK stated that he is 1-AO. As SMITH and LOHBECK leave the room, they run into ROBERT MUELLER (phonetic), a friend of JOSEPH B. SHANK. MUELLER is one of the individuals who helped put on a "share the wealth" meeting for SMITH in 1935.

About 2:50 PM, MR. and MRS. SMITH return to the room with REMBERT GILMAN SMITH, who was formerly a Methodist preacher, and was founder in 1937 of the Oklahoma League against Communism, Nazism, and Fascism. His permanent address is Box 2123, Tulsa, Oklahoma. He has written an anti-administration book which he is trying to sell. The book is printed by the J. W. Burke Company of Macon, Georgia. About fifteen years ago he wrote another book "Communism over Methodism." R. G. SMITH says that he sold 200 copies of his book to a man in Oklahoma City, and Subject SMITH shows interest in this publication, asking if enough paper can be obtained to keep on publishing the book.

At about 3:00 PM, ROBERT MUELLER comes in. Subject SMITH is interested in getting copies of R. G. SMITH'S book for his friends and he will

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be furnished them by R. G. SMITH at \$1.50 apiece. R. G. SMITH explains that there is enough material in the book for twenty-five speeches against the New Deal. Mention is made that a reporter is sitting out in the hall, and as MUELLER gets ready to leave, SMITH tells him that should the "Star Times" question him, he should just say that he is an old acquaintance.

At about 3:15 PM there is an incoming telephone call from GEORGE GEBHARDT who will not be able to call personally on SMITH but will see him at the meeting tonight. GEBHARDT must have asked some question about the Quakers, and SMITH said that they were Pacifists, and mentions that he, however, is a Nationalist.

Subject SMITH and R. G. SMITH decide that the best sentence that could describe his book is "A study in the betrayal of our constitution."

R. G. SMITH mentions a fellow named WEBER, possibly a Baptist preacher in Oklahoma, known as the "Radio Minister of the Southwest." R. G. SMITH claims that WEBER is a follower of his, and Subject SMITH recalls that WEBER has bought his stuff in wholesale lots of more than 200 copies.

R. G. SMITH claims that he has lived almost all his life in Georgia, is sixty-six years old, and has been fighting Communism for a long time. He and Subject SMITH discuss Communism and the evils which have beset our country, and the break-down of religion in the United States. They decide that all the trouble in this country is due to the break-down of the faith in Christ. They also mention the tie-in between the Communists and the Jews, and both claim that they are not anti-Semitic.

R. G. SMITH will try to get to Chicago Sunday to hear GERALD L. K. SMITH, who recommends EARL SOUTHARD to him and gives him his personal card.

GERALD L. K. SMITH thinks that the Northern Methodists are nearly as obnoxious as the Communists.

GERALD L. K. SMITH arranges to buy thirteen of R. G. SMITH'S books for \$25.00 and promises him a check, however, R. G. SMITH is hard up for money and gets cash on the spot. Subject SMITH wants to send these books out to a select group and wants all of his key men to have a copy of it.

R. G. SMITH is in Saint Louis apparently trying to promote the sale of his book and also is circulating a form letter among lawyers which is directed to FELIX FRANKFURTER of the Supreme Court requesting his resignation. He has also spoken to DEAN SWEET and Bishop SCARLETT of Saint Louis and considers them both Reds. He has also seen Professor GRAEBNER at Concordia Seminary. Subject SMITH recommends that R. G. SMITH go out to see DR. WALTER A. MAIER and gives him his personal card of introduction.

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R. G. SMITH has a son who is an Ensign and who is a graduate from the Coast Guard Academy.

R. G. SMITH says that he got some of the material for his book from AMOS PINCHOT, but that PINCHOT made him promise that he would not disclose the source of his information in the book (it was noticed in the newspapers of last week that AMOS PINCHOT died). R. G. SMITH was displeased that Vice-President WALLACE who was in Saint Louis a few days ago would not see him. He mentioned that he has written a large number of letters to various congressmen and has also written to President ROOSEVELT and other high-ranking officials criticizing them directly.

At 4:10 PM a soldier knocked on SMITH'S door, and said that he represents the boys from overseas, inasmuch as he has fought in the South Pacific, and that he would like to get a ticket to the meeting tonight. He seemed somewhat belligerent, and SMITH did not let him come into the room, but did give him a ticket.

Donald
A few minutes later LOHBECK and EVERETT of the "Star Times" come in, and this soldier apparently had approached LOHBECK, and EVERETT had interviewed the soldier who said his name was [REDACTED] (phonetic) of New Jersey. He had campaign ribbons from the South Pacific and several citations. The soldier claimed to EVERETT that he had started a riot at one of FRITZ KUHN'S meetings (this soldier did come to SMITH'S meeting that night, and there is a picture in one of the newspapers showing him in the front row. He caused no trouble, and SMITH was of the opinion that he became a very attentive listener.) b7c

EVERETT starts questioning SMITH about his last visit in Saint Louis on January 14 and 15, 1944, and asks whether he gave any talks at all at that time. SMITH answered "No." He also answered "No" to the question as to whether SMITH had made any contacts at Concordia Seminary (this questioning apparently deals with SMITH'S contact with DR. MAIER at Concordia Seminary and SMITH'S appearance before some of the students through DR. MAIER). SMITH explained that he had gone out to Concordia Seminary with the preacher, HARVEY SPRINGER, who was with him, and who had heard quite a bit about the Seminary and also heard MAIER over the radio. EVERETT asked "Did you talk to DR. MAIER?" Answer: "No, we didn't even try to see him."

SMITH then tells how he treats newspaper men courteously even if they work for the "Daily Worker," and told of an incident where JOHN SPIVAK, a writer for the "New Masses," had tried to interview SMITH under false credentials and how he ran away when SMITH threatened him. He also mentioned the fact that some woman tried to interview him claiming that she was a Nazi spy. He claimed that prior to this meeting with her in the Statler Hotel, he notified the FBI. In relating these incidents, SMITH explained his activities in

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Detroit, and he advised that he very seldom goes to his main office because he would be heckled and harassed by people who were against him. He said that he has gotten such good service from the Statler Hotel in protecting him from this type of people that he arranges to hold his interviews with people at the Statler Hotel, usually in the coffee shop or the lobby.

At 4:35 PM the "Star Times" reporter, SMITH, and LOHBECK leave to go to the Municipal Auditorium to make final arrangements for the meeting.

At 5:25 PM LOHBECK and SMITH return, and they talk about general arrangements. SMITH inquires of LOHBECK as to how many America Firsters he has learned of, however, no definite answer could be overheard. He did, however, mention that there is a grocery store clerk who is one of his best workers. LOHBECK said that he had received several telephone calls and requests for an article published by WHEELER in the Congressional Record. SMITH says that he will talk tonight about British propaganda.

SMITH commented that JOSEPH KOESTERS and GEORGE GEBHARDT would be at the meeting tonight, and LOHBECK says that the Social Justice fellows make good street fighters.

At 5:40 PM there was an incoming telephone call from WILLIAM B. MONTGOMERY. SMITH tells him that SHANK had tried to get him by telephone but they were disconnected. SMITH tells MONTGOMERY to scout the meeting tonight without being conspicuous to see if there are any trouble makers there and then pass on this information to MRS. SMITH who will be at the door. MONTGOMERY apparently was asking if he would be called upon to give any speeches, and SMITH told him that he could expect to be giving talks within the next ninety days. SMITH said that he had spoken to a man in Chicago who wants MONTGOMERY to come up there and give a speech. This is possibly SOUTHARD. MONTGOMERY gives SMITH the name of MARTIN FEDERER, an old America Firster, Telephone Flanders 7412. LOHBECK is also acquainted with FEDERER.

SMITH continues his conversation with LOHBECK, and SMITH shows his anti-Semitic feeling in saying that the sheenies tried to trip him up by sending up a fellow in a soldier's uniform. In this respect, it must be noted that whenever SMITH has an opportunity, he makes some anti-Semitic remark, or immediately connects any remark of a person with whom he is talking as being anti-Semitic and then elaborates on it. There were several instances where LOHBECK made a couple of remarks about Jews where he did not mean to speak of them in a derogatory sense, but SMITH commented upon it that way, and LOHBECK corrected him by saying that "these were good Jews, " etc.

SMITH told LOHBECK that he thought the "Star Times" reporter was now in their camp and mentioned the fact that this reporter had brought up the point that he had worked for VERNE MARSHALL, and thinks MARSHALL is the finest publisher he has ever known.

SMITH thinks [REDACTED] of the auditorium, is a fine fellow, and mentions that the auditorium will be policed, inasmuch as it is city property. They show some concern that there may be trouble but feel that they can cope with it.

SMITH had previously mentioned that he was thinking of organizing in Kansas City and told LOHBECK that he is thinking of sending him to Kansas City to help organize there, inasmuch as he is very much pleased with his work in Saint Louis. SMITH comments about the coming meeting, saying "wait until the audience hears me raise hell with the New Deal and the British, and if they are a normal audience, they will really like to hear it."

There is an incoming telephone call from some girl student whose name is possibly WARGH or WARGHER. She wants to come with a couple of friends and SMITH tells her that she can get her tickets at the door. SMITH describes her as some student who is scared to death.

Donald
At 7:25 PM the SMITHS and LOHBECK leave the hotel to go to the auditorium for the meeting. The meeting at the assembly hall of the Municipal Auditorium started at about 8:00 PM. There were approximately 600 to 700 people in attendance, which is its capacity.

There was no disturbance or any picketing before the meeting began. On the stage with MR. and MRS. SMITH were MR. and MRS. LOHBECK and GEORGE GEBHARDT. LOHBECK opened the meeting by saying that they had waited for a long time to find a man they could follow without being afraid, and "he came down from Detroit to continue on the policy and with the program that we had followed so sincerely up to the time the United States went into war. We had heard from National Headquarters of the America First Committee that the committee was dissolved. We lost contact with our best workers." He asked that word be passed around that they wanted these workers back and said "we have started again and will not stop this time. He said "this meeting is to present the one man who has stopped his work in the cause of Americanism and American Nationalism. He has not been intimidated by the governmental harrassment which many of us know and which has stopped some of us." He then introduced GERALD L. K. SMITH as head of the America First Party.

SMITH began his talking by saying that he was mindful of the accomplishments of Saint Louis, but one thing stays in his mind and is symbolized and personified by that phrase so often heard "Spirit of Saint Louis"—CHARLES A. LINDBERGH. Upon the mention of LINDBERGH'S name, there was a great applause. SMITH said he hoped to present LINDBERGH to the Saint Louis audiences for a speech and also he hoped to introduce to Saint Louis "that maligned and persecuted lover of Christ, Father CHARLES E. COUGHLIN." (great applause).

SMITH attacked the Communists and ROOSEVELT and gave a tirade against

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the "international bankers, international politicians, and international finaglers, who want to load us with a debt and tax load to pay the debt for the world for the next century." He then made a play on the word, "first," and said that there was only one thing above "America First" and that was faith in Christ. He tells how he promised his old mother that he would never make a speech without mentioning Christ's name.

SMITH tells how the politicians have run the show for a long time, and that the best citizens have stood on the sidelines. He claims that these political rascals are symbolized by men like HARRY HOPKINS.

At the point he has REMBERT GILMAN SMITH, the former Methodist preacher, lead the audience in prayer.

SMITH begins his speech by praising LOHBECK for making this meeting successful, and FRED EMIG in the audience gets up and announces that LOHBECK is a conscientious objector. However, SMITH immediately cuts him off, saying that LOHBECK'S status has been established by a draft board appointed by the President of the United States and asks the audience to give LOHBECK a big hand. It is noted that the audience did not show any resentment at all to the fact that LOHBECK was a conscientious objector.

LOHBECK introduced all the people on the stage, including GEBHARDT, and described him as a former head of one of the Social Justice groups.

SMITH then asked the people in the audience who had one son in the army to raise their hands, then two, and then asked those with three to stand up and give their names. One of these individuals was [REDACTED] possibly [REDACTED] who has three sons in the Marines. Another man was possibly [REDACTED]. The others did not give their names. A negro man stood up and said that he had three sons in the armed services, and SMITH took that occasion to tell the negro not to believe what the Communists are saying, and that the America Firsters are not against the negro race. b7c

SMITH tells the group that he hopes the America First Party will not be necessary, and that the Republicans will nominate a man whom they can support; that is, someone other than WILLKIE. He then appeals to the Republican politicians in the audience to note how the tide is running and points out to them that he and his followers are a powerful force with which they should concern themselves and align themselves with their group. He warns the Republicans against selling them out, saying "if you do so, we will hold our convention, maybe in Saint Louis, and nominate 'the Spirit of Saint Louis.'" He said the Republicans can have the America First votes, or even the Democrats' votes, if they turn their party back to men like WHEELER and CLARK.

SMITH then shows himself to be definitely against WILLKIE and says that Communism has its spokesman in the Vice-President of the United States.

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He points out that at the 26th Anniversary of the October Revolution in New York in November, 1942, WALLACE was the main speaker. He called for WALLACE'S impeachment. He said that the government in Washington is shot through with the disciples of WALLACE and FELIX FRANKFURTER whom he classified as a Communist.

SMITH told the story of how he was introduced to the student body of Harvard University by a MR. GRACE, and members of the John Reed Club, who are Communists, tried to break up the meeting.

SMITH also said that he was against being sucked into a world government and being brought back into the British Empire. He told of how the British were trying to interfere with American politics.

He refers to DEEM SMITH, former head of the Standard Oil Company, who has spoken on Eastern Imperialism, both on the part of the Japanese and the British.

SMITH goes into some detail on the plans for the world government, and exhibits the flag which the Internationalists have designed. He attacks WALTER WINCHELL, and tells his audience to read Senator JOHN RANKIN'S speech in congress. He says "if Jewish statesmen want to check anti-Semitism, they should choke that rat who is doing more to spread it than anyone else in the United States."

SMITH gives out a definition of victory in 1944, which he has repeatedly set out in his publication and other places. He also brings out the difficulties which his son has had in the army because his name is GERALD L. K. SMITH, and also the fact that his son is not an officer because of this.

SMITH says "I know it is a boldness that borders on danger. I know I risk my safety in the presence of bureaucratic tyrants who are playing all the tricks to silence this fearless voice....they know if the truth is let out, they will not remain in power....they can't stand this truth...the only way they can stay in power is to silence those who speak it (truth)."

SMITH then tells how the veterans cannot hope to be given any consideration through ROOSEVELT, and how the present administration would rather spend billions of dollars in foreign countries than to give the veterans what is their due. He says "we must save the nation's wealth for our veterans. I would not trade one wounded veteran for all the Mexicans in Mexico, all the Brazillians in Brazil, all the Argentinians in Argentina, or all the Chinese in China."

He asks the audience if they would like for him to bring to Saint Louis CLARE HOFFMAN or MRS. LUNDEEN, or possibly GERALD P. NYE, and they act in the affirmative. He forgets the name of the large hall in the Municipal Auditorium, and asks McCULLOUGH, the "Post Dispatch" reporter, who is sitting in

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the front row, what it is called.

SMITH then starts taking up his collection and explains how this is done. He furnishes everyone with an envelope and pencil, and they can put in the envelope as much money as they want, and also can write on the front of it how much money they would like to donate every month. He told the people about his way of organizing, explaining that he did not select people to offices, because these people would then be harrassed, and his enemies would go around and have these people fired from their jobs and persecuted. In his way of organizing, GERALD L. K. SMITH "will take the heat and keep it off the people."

SMITH said "the bureaucrats thought after Pearl Harbor they would use the war to imprison us. They thought they would call us Nazis and traitors and divisionists. They thought they would use those circumstances to strike us under the belt." He also said "they thought they would lock up all Nationalists like LINDBERGH, HENRY FORD, NYE, WHEELER, and myself, but they can't do it. There are too many of us. We are America." (applause) "If they do strike down this fearless voice and let me rot behind the filthy walls of a concentration camp, they will not gain, because the blood of the martyrs is seed of the church, and for every GERALD L. K. SMITH they put down, 1000 will rise up to haunt these bureaucratic tyrants. Freedom will not die. Give me liberty or give me death." (applause and shouts of "'atta boy, GERALD")

SMITH then continues with his collection, and all the time that the collection is going on, he keeps up a running line of chatter. He calls upon JOSEPH KOESTERS and other volunteers, including MRS. SMITH and MRS. LOWBECK, to help collect the envelopes. He advised that everyone who gives a dollar or more will receive a copy of the book, "And So They Indicted Me," by G. EDWARD JONES. He advised that for every dollar they will get one book, so that if a person gives \$5.00 he will get five books. He advises that this may be the beginning of a great movement which sweeps the country, and they may want to have something which they can save for the years to come and show that they were a founder of this Crusade. It is the "gold seal America First certificate," and everyone who pledges \$1.00 a month or more will get one. The seal has upon it a picture of GEORGE WASHINGTON. He said that anyone who didn't want to give their name should just write "money" on the envelope. He also distributes a petition calling for Congress to help the veterans. This program is "One Thousand Dollars for Each Veteran." SMITH also distributed copies of "The Cross and The Flag" and copies of RAY TUCKER'S article. He has everyone stand and face the flag in order to pledge allegiance. He explains the various ways in which the flag can be saluted--the military salute, the hand over the heart, and the outstretched hand with the palm up. He explains to the audience that they should salute with the palm up and not with the palm down, which is the Fascist salute. He points out that the "Star Times" would take a picture of them if they used the Fascist salute and would harrass them. After the pledge of allegiance, he has the audience stand as they were and recites the Lord's Prayer.

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He closes with thanking the audience for their hospitality, saying that he and MRS. SMITH have had so much persecution and harrassment, they are grateful for the cordial reception they received in Saint Louis. He ends saying "God bless you. God bless and save America. Goodnight." There is scattered handclapping.

The audience became a little restless during the collection which took a considerable time, and there was a definite let-down in the enthusiasm once the collection started. However, there was no concentrated effort to leave the hall, but it must be noticed that SMITH any number of times mentioned during his speech that the Communists, New Dealers, or anyone else who got mad could leave at any time they wanted to. The meeting closed at 10:25 PM.

Through [REDACTED] there is available a complete record of this meeting. Further details about this meeting will be set out later in the report. b7D

At 11:00 PM, MR. and MRS. SMITH, and MR. and MRS. LOHBECK return to the hotel. MRS. LOHBECK is interested in seeing how her family will react to the meeting, as they are against this sort of thing. She says that they represent the "smug" group. SMITH comments that it is not a disgrace to stir up the rabble and quotes the Bible to the effect that "Jesus Christ was condemned because he stirreth up the rabble."

donach LOHBECK comments that the dramatic critic of the "Post Dispatch" was present at the meeting.

They go out to eat, and by midnight MR. and MRS. SMITH retire.

III. Activities of GERALD L. K. SMITH in Saint Louis on February 18, 1944

SMITH is up at 9:30 AM and goes down to the hotel lobby. He then returns to the room.

At 11:05 AM, ROBERT MUELLER (phonetic), the attorney, and a friend of JOSEPH B. SHANK, comes in. MUELLER is drunk and tells SMITH that he didn't think very much of his taking up any collection at the meeting and thinks he should eliminate that. MUELLER curses quite a bit, and is quite frank with SMITH. SMITH takes no offense and "kids him along."

MUELLER apparently ran in a congressional race in Missouri and advised that he ran a close third but was sabotaged by the Catholics and the Social Justice group. He was supposed to get some money from Father COUGHLIN but did not get it. MUELLER has known MONTGOMERY for about five years and says that SHANK got MONTGOMERY his job at the City Hall. MUELLER claims that he is the one who got SHANK his job.

MUELLER is forty-one years of age, has worked as an electrician, his

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parents are American born, and he, himself graduated from Saint Louis University Law School. MUELLER said that [REDACTED] was at the meeting last night and liked it. SMITH comments that JOE SHANK was at the meeting and sitting at the left, but because of his job at the City Hall, SMITH did not expect him to become involved in the America First Party. SMITH asked MUELLER whether there was any "old Republican wheel horses" there, but MUELLER answers in the negative. b7c

SMITH gives MUELLER a big build-up, and tells him to come back when he is sober. Throughout this interview MUELLER has continually asked SMITH, "What are you aiming at?" He repeats this question so much that it apparently becomes embarrassing to SMITH, and SMITH says that he will talk to him about it when MUELLER'S mind gets cleared up. SMITH does reminisce with MUELLER about the HUEY LONG days and also mentions SHANK and the two brothers (possibly the BABER brothers) who helped put on a meeting in 1935.

MUELLER left at 11:25 AM.

MCCULLOUGH, the "Post Dispatch" reporter, calls SMITH at 11:30, from the lobby of the hotel, and SMITH asked "What did the fellow at the Jefferson have to say?" MCCULLOUGH agrees with SMITH that EMIG'S attempt to heckle him fell flat. He explained that GEBHARDT, who was on the stage, is a "good old Social Justice fellow, a COUGHLINITE." SMITH also asks, "What did the Staff Sergeant say?" Apparently the conversation led to LOHBECK, and his conscientious objection status, and SMITH says "I do not think they should persecute those people." MCCULLOUGH introduced SMITH to BENESCH, Editor of the "Star Times," and SMITH asks how BENESCH liked the meeting. SMITH also asked what JULIUS KLYMAN'S reaction was. Donald

At 11:40 AM MR. LaVALLE (phonetic) comes in. LaVALLE had previously called SMITH on the day before and is also believed to have been at the meeting and probably was the one who shouted out the fact that America First is shown on naturalization papers. LaVALLE is retired and lives with someone in Saint Louis. He pioneered in the internal combustion engine and taught at the Sweeny School in Kansas City. He is about seventy-one years of age and is a member of the Spanish American War Veterans. LaVALLE explains that he wears his America First button behind his lapel and has worn it ever since he first got it. LaVALLE is apparently is becoming senile, but is a great friend of GERALD L. K. SMITH.

LaVALLE left about noon and shortly thereafter [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], comes in. [REDACTED] greatly admires SMITH and is also against Communism. It is to be noted that GERALD L. K. SMITH always plays up to the individual to whom he is talking. If it is a Methodist, he shows his great sympathy toward the Methodists, if it is a person who has no religion, he makes no point of it, and when he speaks to a Catholic, he brings out all his sympathy b7c

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with the Catholic Church. So, with [REDACTED], SMITH emphasized what he had done for the Catholic Church, along with HUEY LONG, in Louisiana. He told [REDACTED] how he got into the field in which he is now working and said he decided that "the Jews would not keep me down." He told the story that he had seen Archbishop HAYES in New York regarding Communism and had told the Archbishop that he knew what was going on in Mexico regarding the plans to persecute the church and also knew about the Spanish situation. SMITH asked the Archbishop for an intelligent understanding of his work, and the Archbishop turned him over to [REDACTED]. He claims that he owes much of his knowledge of "Christian philosophy as it relates to politics" to [REDACTED] in New York was assigned to SMITH to assist him.

SMITH continues his story that after spending some time in New York, he deliberated as to where it would be best to expand his activities, and he decided on Detroit, Michigan. He began broadcasting in that city, pointing out the Communist threat to this country. He pointed out that at that time he had had the support of the wealthy men who were afraid the Communists would take their money. [REDACTED] said he knows a man like that in Saint Louis; namely, MARTIN FEDERER, who was at the meeting last night. [REDACTED] apparently knows FEDERER quite well and describes him as a miser. SMITH again continues his story, saying that when the war came on, these fellows (the manufacturers) got government contracts, and it was necessary for him to change the emphasis. SMITH brings out that he contacted General WOOD and others in the America First Committee about the units in Ohio, etc. SMITH said that after we got into the war, some people deserted him.

[REDACTED] advised that he is acquainted with two Catholic Churches in Detroit. [REDACTED] is pastor at one, and [REDACTED] is at the other. SMITH points out that his office manager in Detroit, MR. DOMAN, is a devout Catholic, and SMITH thinks very highly of him. SMITH also mentions that they were the guests at breakfast of someone by the name of O'BRIEN. He claims that he is a good friend of JOHN MCGILL, head of the Knights of Columbus. SMITH told of hearing a Father TERRELL, who spent some time in Spain and came back to the United States, tell of his experiences, and SMITH was so impressed with his story, he devoted an entire radio address to it, whereupon the "Jewish Gestapo of Chicago took him to task."

At 1:05 PM there was an incoming telephone call from a man named JOHN [REDACTED] of the "Times" magazine who conversed with SMITH for about twenty minutes. MRS. SMITH, who first answered the telephone, said he had a couple of questions to ask SMITH.

SMITH continued his conversation with [REDACTED] and asked him how he gets along with DR. MAIER, who is "working up our alley." SMITH said that MAIER'S personal secretary came to him last night after the meeting with some message from MAIER.

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SMITH tells of having a meeting in Buffalo, New York, where he had a Father O'BRIEN on the platform and also mentioned that he has been at Father O'BRIEN'S church. He also submitted a manuscript to Father O'BRIEN which SMITH submitted to an editor of one of the newspapers, who had called his speech seditious. He forced this editor to retract this statement. SMITH thinks highly of the "Buffalo News."

SMITH believes that WINCHELL and men like him help their movement, because the people know what type of an individual WINCHELL is. He claims that WINCHELL got his first automobile from DUTCH SCHULZ, a notorious gangster, and from this beginning of association with hoodlums, he became a personal aid to the President of the United States as a naval officer. MRS. SMITH commented that DUTCH SCHULZ had been a large contributor to the ROOSEVELT campaign.

SMITH said "Communists are wrecking the Christian Churches from within—the Jewish Fifth Column." SMITH believes that the Jew in Russia now has lots of money, because ROOSEVELT is giving so much of the money away.

SMITH believes that the people in Saint Louis want to be anti-New Deal but points out that their three newspapers are all New Deal papers. He tells [redacted] of the attack against him by the Veterans group in Saint Louis and that this is Jewish strategy. SMITH also says "Is it not diabolical how WINCHELL is trying to get us into war with Argentina?" SMITH also enters into an anti-Mason tirade, and tells of their sinister influence against him in Michigan.

SMITH said that in 1935, when he was in Saint Louis, representatives of the Friends of New Germany came to him and told him that their organization had found that LONG'S assassination had been planned in Vienna by the Jews. SMITH figured at that time that they were fanatics, and then when he went back to Louisiana, he did find out that HUEY LONG'S assassins had some Vienna contacts, and he now believes that those men of the Friends of New Germany were correct.

At 2:05 PM some men came to the door and said that they were radio men. They wanted to check SMITH'S radio as there was a short in the line. SMITH told them to come back tomorrow. SMITH then told [redacted] that there was a determined looking man at the door with pliers in his hand, and that this is a typical way that the investigators have of checking up on him. The details of this conversation are not available, but SMITH said that he had good luck at Statler Hotels, and that they protect him against that sort of thing.

At 2:20 PM [redacted] who was a voluntary worker for the America First Committee, and [redacted] came to inquiry about SMITH'S organization and also showed some doubt about LOHBECK.

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However, SMITH reassured them that he was quite all right. These women explained that they were very enthusiastic workers of the America First Committee, and one of them took care of the files and mail. SMITH explained his organization, saying that their work had been one-half above and one-half underground. His organization did not elect officers, because if they did so, these persons would be heckled, and one of the officials might even go over to the "enemy." He explained that the admission cards to the meetings have a code number on them, and these cards are tabulated in Detroit to determine which of the volunteers has been most productive. He also said that he has his volunteers fill out some questionnaire so that his operators can check on the background of the individual.

These women were very anxious to find out more about the organization, and SMITH told them there were no powers behind him; that he was the leader of the movement and that everything was above board, and that it would not be like the America First Committee which was filled with stuffed shirts.

One of the women asked SMITH whether he had seen LINDBERGH, and he told her "Yes, and he backs our idea." She claims to personally know LINDBERGH and does not feel that he would want any public office and does not want to campaign for him because of this. SMITH answered that he mentioned LINDBERGH in his speech the night before just to use his name as a sample. These women, although they were for WILLKIE in the last election, are presently very much anti-WILLKIE. The women asked SMITH who he thought would be a good candidate, and he said that he was not a BRICKER man, but that BRICKER seemed to be making some headway. He believed that McCORMICK would not want to be President and wanted his name to be used just as a "nice gesture." SMITH is not for DEWEY, because he is tired of being ruled by New York State and feels that DEWEY did HAMILTON FISH a terrible injustice. Both of these women agree with this. The women asked SMITH what he thought of NORMAN THOMAS, and he advised that he considers him an intellectual—an old man.

SMITH agreed with the women that if they had to choose between WILLKIE and ROOSEVELT, he would vote for NORMAN THOMAS. One of these women explained that she was asking all of these questions, because her husband was very much interested.

The conversation touched on an individual by the name of KLEIN, an attorney for Colonel SANCTUARY, who has been indicted for sedition. SMITH asked who is the best congressman in this district, and the women advised that PLOESER was, explaining that they are better acquainted with him than the others because he is their congressman.

These women know the DeMOOR brothers and are also acquainted with MARTIN FEDERER.

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When [REDACTED] gave SMITH her name, he commented that some people think that everyone with such a name (German name) should be liquidated. These women also furnished SMITH with a written list of names and said that an especially good worker was [REDACTED] who resides on Copelin Avenue in Saint Louis.

SMITH advised that he does not expect much from prominent people, and this is one of the reasons why the America First Committee did not make a success. He advised that he had GEORGE GEBHARDT on the platform, in order to show them that he did not want stuffed shirts but was making an appeal to the ordinary working class.

SMITH said that HENRY FORD is an admirer of his and told a story about FORD'S secretary, whose name is possibly STUART (?), asking SMITH to drop by.

SMITH continued telling these women about his organization and said he is against having volunteers doing his regular work because under the guise of volunteers the "enemy comes in and reads his mail, etc." SMITH advised that he sends out from 8,000 to 10,000 pieces of literature every day, and that each piece discloses something against the New Deal. He advised that he is always getting new names.

Donald
He explained to the women how LOHBECK had been selected, and said that a newspaper reporter, who had been a member of the America First Committee, had O.K.'d LOHBECK (this is probably McCULLOUGH).

SMITH also told the women about how he gets expenses, in that the humble people send in their dollars and cents. At this point, one of the women advise that the German Consul in Saint Louis had sent money to the America First Committee (some mention may have been made about SCHNEIDER of the German Embassy coming to America First Committee meetings). Both of these women said that it would have caused them very much trouble had it become known that the German Consul was sending the money.

These women left about three o'clock, and MARTIN FEDERER, REMBERT GIIMAN SMITH, and DONALD LOHBECK come in. FEDERER explains that [REDACTED] told him to come and also explains that he is a good friend of Senator CLARK. Mention is made that CLARK is an admirer of HUEY LONG. SMITH tells a rather long story of himself testifying before the Lend Lease hearing in Washington, D.C. He explained how he was not harrassed by the Chairman of this Lend Lease hearing, CONNALLY, because he had something on CONNALLY.

Mention is made of PAUL ANDERSON, who lost his radio station because he drank heavily. The conversation indicated that SMITH is acquainted with [REDACTED] at Shreveport, Louisiana. This person is also possibly known by FEDERER.

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FEDERER mentioned that he saw JOE FORSHAW, former head of the America First Committee, a few days ago, who has some lawsuit on his hands, and LOHBECK comments that he is definitely against FORSHAW.

SMITH says that he will run an article by CHANNING POLLACK, "We Planned It That Way," which some magazine was afraid to publish.

Donald
FEDERER and LOHBECK apparently were co-workers in the America First Committee, and they talk about old times. FEDERER was also anxious to find out what SMITH has in mind, and what his object is, inasmuch as he was greatly disappointed in the America First Committee.

SMITH says his purposes are as follows: (1) Convince the people that someone can get up and tell the truth. He believes that the people gave up, and that he can encourage these people. (2) Crusade in journalism as everyone has stopped publishing, but he has started putting out his magazine. (3) To emphasize the truths, stating that there were some people who did not want to turn the country over to the British or the Communists. (4) Lay the foundation for an insurgent party "who have the guts to put an ultimatum before the Republican Party." In this regard SMITH advised that strategists of the Republican Party have come to him and begged him not to go too far with his movement and assured him that they were going to nominate a good man. SMITH advised that he does not want to split the Republican Party. (5) To endorse the Republican candidates in other offices, hoping to place Republicans in local and national jobs.

SMITH also explained that if they are betrayed by the Republican Party (meaning if WILLKIE is nominated), they will form the America First Party and work for 1948.

REMBERT GILMAN SMITH apparently MR. RAY, the Editor of the "Globe Democrat," this morning and told GERALD L. K. SMITH that RAY was all for SMITH. However, it was brought out that RAY, himself, had not said very much, but had just agreed with some of the things that R. G. SMITH had said.

The group discusses the coming elections and mention is made that KENNEDY is a personal friend of BURTON WHEELER. SMITH says that WHEELER told him all about KENNEDY. FEDERER mentions a man by the name of SEYFRIED, who is an American Legion man, and says that he was at the meeting last night. LOHBECK comments that SEYFRIED is anti-British and anti-ROOSEVELT. FEDERER mentions that EARHARDT was a trouble maker. This fellow is also possibly a Legionnaire. LOHBECK says that O. K. ARMSTRONG was an organizer for VERN MARSHALL. LOHBECK also mentions BILL SCULLY, the oil man of Oklahoma, and PHILLIPS, the oil man from Bartlesville, Oklahoma, and the name ARTUNO is also mentioned. LOHBECK and FEDERER believe that it would be well for them to get together to think up all the names of the individuals who were formerly sympathetic with their movement.

LOHBECK brings up the point of possibly have an intermediery meeting

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someplace in South Saint Louis, possibly for about 1,500 people, and they may possibly use Triangle Park.

SMITH comments about JOSEPH SHANK, and LOHBECK says that he is a good man. SMITH explains that SHANK, because of his job at the City Hall, cannot actively support the America First Party, and suggests that there be formed the Independent Republicans.

FEDERER claims close friendship with WALTER PLOESER, and says that PLOESER has changed somewhat and he does not want to do anything that will prejudice his political future.

SMITH states that DEWEY spoke in favor of him (SMITH) before Pearl Harbor. He believes that he has the balance of power in two states which are needed for success in a national election. He also mentions the names, NORMAN BEAL, FRANK GANNETT, and SAM _____. He mentioned these individuals as liking them.

SMITH says "the government is not worth a damn. We'll have to build an entire new government on men like LOHBECK. We'll make it that LOHBECK will be better known than PLOESER. If we had a thousand preachers like Preacher SMITH here and a thousand priests like Father GRIFFIN, we would be able to accomplish our purposes. The best man in the United States Senate is GERALD NYE. I love NYE. We have exchanged many long, personal letters."

SMITH tells of a meeting which he had arranged for NYE under the name, "Independent Republicans," in Ohio. However, the head of the National Republican Committee in North Dakota is a Jew by the name of STERN, and pressure was brought to bear upon NYE, so that he had to call off this meeting.

Regarding the building up of the government on men like LOHBECK, SMITH has at various times elaborated on this as to how new speakers and new leaders must be built up from the ordinary men in their movement. SMITH also said that they would have to form Veterans Committees, in order to "catch them as they come out of the service." He said "we must build the leaders out of the soil". SMITH explained that RAY DANIELS of the "New York Times," London Department, had told him when he was interviewed that the men who are in the army in England are very discouraged, and that all of them would join the America First Committee.

SMITH explained how EARL SOUTHARD is trying to get RUSH HOLT to make speeches for him, but HOLT has not agreed to this to date. SMITH believes that the most courageous men are HOFFMAN, _____, REYNOLDS, and NYE.

FEDERER recommends that SMITH see DeMOOR of the Social Justice movement, and calls him on the telephone and arranges for DeMOOR to come down to the hotel in the evening.

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At about 4:45 PM, SMITH and LOHBECK leave, and FEDERER and R. G. SMITH continue their talking. Both of the men are greatly impressed with SMITH and both men feel that the United States had to get into the war when it was attacked, but they feel that if a different policy had been followed before the war, it would have kept the United States out, and the Japanese would not have attacked us. FEDERER explained that he had worked for ROOSEVELT'S election in 1932 and 1936, but now gets sick of hearing his name. FEDERER, by his remarks, showed an absorbing hatred for ROOSEVELT.

At 5:00 PM, MARTIN FEDERER leaves, and JOSEPH W. KOESTERS comes in. There is general anti-ROOSEVELT talk and anti-Administration and anti-Jewish talk, and KOESTERS is of the opinion that ROOSEVELT has a devil's influence on this country.

Shortly thereafter LOHBECK and SMITH return, and KOESTERS says that everyone said the meeting was "wonderful." KOESTERS and LOHBECK start talking about the draft, and KOESTERS tells LOHBECK "you are within the law; everything has been done legally." He explains that he, himself, was rejected because of high blood pressure [REDACTED]. *Donald* b7c

KOESTERS tells SMITH that it was a district zone air raid warden who took SMITH from the meeting to his hotel, and that newspaper men took a picture of the automobile. He said this man had talked about the meeting all the way home (this man is [REDACTED]). b7c

They all seem quite satisfied with the meeting, and SMITH explains that meetings are more difficult now than in the America First Committee days, because of (1) coercion and intimidation (2) transportation (3) night shifts and occupations.

During general conversation about their "enemies," KOESTERS makes the remark, "all those war mongers." KOESTERS heard from a friend of his that Mayor KAUFFMAN was at the meeting. A friend of KOESTERS by the name of POLLITO, who is believed to have a job at the City Hall, told the mayor about the meeting. POLLITO seemed to be enthusiastic about it. LOHBECK said that two men came to him and said "don't let SMITH get away from the Republican Party."

The conversation among this group continues, and SMITH'S comment is "Sell the bonds to all the sheenies and then repudiate the debt." It is SMITH'S idea that we should reach out and take all the British Islands in the Caribbean on the theory of "islands for debts."

SMITH has been very interested during his stay in Saint Louis to ascertain the percentage of Jews and percentage of Germans living here. He asked if all the Germans are anti-Jewish. He gets no definite answer from any of the people to whom he talks, but LOHBECK comments that the Jews around here have

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been the obnoxious type, and that we also have a lot of refugees. KOESTERS tells the story of a fellow by the name of [REDACTED] (?), who worked for the "Post Dispatch" and was a Bund member. KOESTERS went out with him a number of times and believes that he was a Jewish refugee. In their further comments about the Jews, SMITH says that CLIFTON FADAMAN of "Information Please" has advocated the liquidation of the German race, and LOHBECK in a choked voice also quotes FADAMAN as saying "we must learn to hate the German race."

SMITH comments "they are a bunch of criminals, but I think there are some good Jews." KOESTERS says "very few," and SMITH replies, "Yes, that's right. They all stick up for each other. Even the good Jews will stick up for the other Jews." He also says "If I call one Jew a Jew bastard, they call me anti-Semitic."

KOESTERS tells the story of a friend of his who is a bricklayer from the Old Country. (This is possibly one of the air raid wardens who works with KOESTERS). KOESTERS speaks in a slurring manner of fellows who are enthusiastically trying to get into the army and navy and tells the story of one young fellow he knows who was all enthused in getting into the navy, and now that he has been in it, does not like it very much. He also tells of [REDACTED] who had to go into the army, although he was very much opposed to it and opposed to the United States entering the war. KOESTERS and this fellow [REDACTED] both knew SCHNEIDER of the German Consulate ([REDACTED])

Joseph W.
They mention the fact that SCHNEIDER of the German Consulate came to America First meetings and enjoyed hearing what was going on. This conversation has been on the topic of German people, and SMITH asks at this point "when we were at peace, was it any worse to be a friend of the German Consul than the British Consul?"

Donald LOHBECK explains that the former sympathizers of the America First Committee were completely cut off from other parts of the country until SMITH came along, and the publicity has worked out fine, inasmuch as it has consolidated the people, and they now can again work for the cause. SMITH says "the word Fascist is innocuous—it means nothing." SMITH then tells of a boy who was a senior in high school, but says that he does not want to mention his name as there might be some apparatus about, who sent the president some hot letter calling it a Jew Deal, etc., and also commenting about going into the war. He sent SMITH a copy of his letter. SMITH reprimanded the boy for having written this letter. He said that the boy had written to the president that he was going to war, but when he came back he was going to jam a red hot poker down his throat. Within ten days the federal authorities had indicted this boy, and the community, which is apparently close to Detroit, congratulated the young fellow and made a hero of him. The United States Commissioner told the young fellow to go into the army. SMITH has now gotten letters from the boy saying

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that he is working for a screwball, a major in the army, who was formerly a newspaper man, and is always wanting to make a deadline. He says that this major is "hep on charts" and is always diagnosing things. The young fellow says it is like working in a bug house as they have a deadline every day and are not getting any place.

SMITH turns to KOESTERS [redacted] and says "I look upon you, JOE, as one of our pillars. There is no one behind the scenes in this movement. There are no stuffed shirts." KOESTERS says that a brother, who is a bachelor, and the sister, who is an old maid, of JOSEPH T. SCHROEDER, who once ran for Congress and is now dead, were at the meeting last night. They live at 44-- Clamerack (phonetic) Drive. He knew that they hated the administration, so he sent them an invitation card. After the meeting, MR. SCHROEDER came to KOESTERS and shook his hand, saying, "we cannot thank you enough for sending that card." KOESTERS also explained that [redacted] wants one of the Jones books. He explains that [redacted] organized all of the air raid wardens in the whole district, and both he and SMITH agree that he must have some organizational ability and it would be well to work him into their organization. b7c

They get on the subject of the draft, and KOESTERS again tells that he was turned down because of high blood pressure. At this point, MRS. LOHBECK asks, "don't you want to fight for FRANKIE?" KOESTERS answered that he never was for this mess and feels that it could have been avoided, but it was those in Washington who got us into it.

They all sit around and admire GERALD L. K. SMITH, including SMITH, himself, and he tells them how he handles hecklers and has never been out-smarted. He tells again of up and coming orators such as HARVEY SPRINGER, who was a former Communist, but who was converted to Christianity. He also mentions a man by the name of MATT, or MATH, who was a Commander of an American Legion Post at Pittsburgh, and who has been in Chicago and Detroit to speak. He considers DEEM SMITH as another good speaker who talks on the science of empire building.

KOESTERS advises that the Social Justice group in Saint Louis is made up of only about eighteen to twenty members who are religious fanatics. KOESTERS tells of the FBI investigating the DeMOORS, and says that they are now scared to do anything.

They all leave at eight o'clock. SMITH returns at 9:20 PM, and FRANCIS DeMOOR is waiting for him. DeMOOR apparently is acquainted with EARL SOUTHARD whom DeMOOR has heard of through some Franciscan Monk. DeMOOR asks SMITH if he has checked the suite for any hearing devices behind curtains, etc., as some detective in Chicago whom he knows told him all about those things. SMITH says "I don't care. Last night I spoke for two hours on what I think, and in my two years of using the Statler Hotels, I have never had a leak from

any conference." He explained that if it got out that the Statler permitted this, it would ruin their business. DeMOOR tells SMITH about his experience with the FBI and advised that he was grilled one day from nine o'clock in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon (this is correct).

At this point SMITH asked with much interest whether the FBI had asked DeMOOR about his attitude toward the Jews, and DeMOOR said, "No, they didn't mention Jews."

Francis DeMOOR asks SMITH what he knows about LOHBECK, and SMITH replied that he had inquired concerning him and everything seemed to be all right. He explained that since Pearl Harbor, he judges people who approach him regarding his movement in the following categories: (1) whether they represent some newspaper (2) whether they represent the sheenies, Communists, or the New Deal (3) which is divided into two categories; one, screwballs, and two, sincere individuals.

Commenting about LOHBECK'S conscientious objection status, SMITH says "it takes guts to be a conscientious objector."

Some mention is made of JOSEPH B. JOHNSON, who writes directly to the President. This is possibly a priest.

DeMOOR advised that the Social Justice Club has about 100 members and explains that they collected money for the Christian Fronters (these men were indicted in New York for treason).

DeMOOR asked SMITH what he knows about the British--Israel--World--Federation, and SMITH goes into the story about Jewish control. SMITH inquires of DeMOOR as to who gave him the world federation idea, and he explains that about 40 women went to Washington, D. C. to fight against Lend Lease and a MRS. BALDWIN gave them lots of material on the world government idea. DeMOOR asked SMITH whether he knew MRS. BALDWIN, and he quickly answered "Oh, yes." SMITH commented that he thought she was anti-Catholic. She belittles the pope, and says that the pope is half Jewish.

SMITH plays up the sympathies which he has with the Catholic Church and how they have such a mutual feeling in being anti-Communist. He explains that the Southern Baptists and the Lutherans are doing a good job in fighting the Communists and makes mention of "fellows like MAYER." DeMOOR says that he is a very good friend of [REDACTED] whom he thinks to be very intellectual.

DeMOOR remarks that he understands that the Japanese atrocities story is not true, and that the Japanese are not as barbaric as it is said they are. SMITH says that the Jews are in bad, because not only are they not Christian

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but they are anti-Christian.

SMITH asked DeMOOR "have you had any contact with MRS. LOWELL?" DeMOOR advised that he had not, inasmuch as he had not gone to Washington, D. C. at the time the mothers went there to protest against Lend Lease.

SMITH explains to DeMOOR, after DeMOOR had told him that the Social Justice Club had 20,000 members in the 12th Congressional District, that the old way of organizing no longer works. He explained his way whereby no committees are publicized which can be investigated by the Communists, any Bureaus, or the FBI. SMITH claims that it works because he, SMITH, is the only one still going. All others are out.

At 10:30 PM, [REDACTED] who are friends of MRS. SMITH, come into the room, and SMITH takes DeMOOR into the back room. The confidential information could not furnish information concerning the end of this conversation.

[REDACTED] is a Methodist preacher and lives in Webster Groves. MR. and MRS. SMITH had been uncertain as to what the political beliefs of the [REDACTED] were prior to their meeting, and it proves that [REDACTED] is very friendly with Governor DONNELL of Missouri, who is also from Webster Groves.

When SMITH starts telling [REDACTED] about the Republican leaders in Saint Louis who have come and asked him not to start an insurgent party, [REDACTED] asks "who are these Republican individuals who have contacted you?" SMITH answered "I know MR. QUEENY." (QUEENY is head of the Monsanto Chemical Company). However, SMITH did not enumerate any others. (This appears to be a bold faced lie, because there has been no indication that any Republican leaders have contacted him).

SMITH tells the [REDACTED] about his being catapulted to international prominence through the assassination of LONG, and how he has been persecuted by various investigations which were ordered by President ROOSEVELT.

The [REDACTED] are acquainted with [REDACTED] a Southern Methodist in Shreveport, and the SMITHS say that he is a good friend of theirs also.

SMITH tells the [REDACTED] the story of his association with HUEY LONG and the details of LONG'S assassination, pointing out how the assassination was plotted by the ROOSEVELT clique. [REDACTED] seemed to be interested in SMITH'S talk and made one comment as to SMITH'S energy and courage in carrying on, and SMITH said "when you run into a propagandist, he never quits."

At 12:20 AM, February 18, 1944, [REDACTED] leave, and SMITH

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warns them that should newspaper men stop to question them, they should tell them that they are old friends of MRS. SMITH.

After the [redacted] leave, SMITH comments to MRS. SMITH that he thinks that they are on his side, and MRS. SMITH says "he was on our side to start with, but she is different. She never was...." The end of this conversation was not available. b7c

Shortly thereafter the SMITHS retire for the night.

IV. Activities of GERALD L. K. SMITH in Saint Louis
on February 19, 1944

At 8:30 AM, MR. and MRS. SMITH were up, and at about 10:00 AM, DONALD LOHBECK came to the hotel room. SMITH accompanied LOHBECK downstairs where they spent their time talking and having breakfast.

REMBERT GILMAN SMITH came to the room, however, Subject SMITH was gone. The old preacher commented "we are in a desperate fight," and MRS. SMITH agrees with him.

At about 11:00 AM, SMITH and LOHBECK came back and were talking about renting the opera house in the Municipal Auditorium for March 30, 1944. SMITH commented to MRS. SMITH that they had been playing "fox and geese" with Governor SALTONSTALL of Massachusetts who happened to be visiting in Saint Louis. He said "we had DON calling him out." (There was no meeting between SALTONSTALL and SMITH).

SMITH said that they might make this coming meeting their Midwest Conference and Rally, and LOHBECK advised that they have lots of contacts in the neighborhood of fifty to seventy-five miles. It is possible that SMITH at this point of the conversation made some mention of wanting to contact DR. MATER. However, this is not certain. SMITH continued giving LOHBECK a pep talk and glorifying their place and position in relation to the upbuilding of the United States, and SMITH compared himself and LOHBECK with the "stalwart men of the past."

SMITH outlines the advertising for the coming meeting as follows: Midwest Conference and Rally—America First Party—National Leaders to be present including Captain EARL SOUTHARD of Chicago, MRS. ERNST LUNDEEN, GERALD L. K. SMITH—In Kiel Auditorium Opera House; Director, DON LOHBECK; Chairman of Committee on Arrangements, JOE ROESTERS—A local committee of 500 has been formed. SMITH told LOHBECK to get that to the United Press which snaps up everything on him, and also to the I.N.S.

Shortly after 11:00 AM, the SMITHS leave, along with LOHBECK, to catch the train for Chicago.

V. Further Details Concerning SMITH'S Speech
on February 17, 1944

This meeting was covered by Special Agents [REDACTED]

Information was received that the audience was generally made up of older people, and there were a number of people there who spoke with a German accent and were of German extraction. Agent [REDACTED] advised that he heard one woman say that SMITH "sounded just like der Fuehrer." He further advised that one of the women who got up and announced she had a son and two nephews in the army was a MRS. MACKKEY (phonetic).

Agent [REDACTED] advised that he sat next to [REDACTED] who told him that [REDACTED] GEORGE GEBHARDT, who was sitting on the stage. [REDACTED] was accompanied by two women, one of whom was elderly, and these companions of [REDACTED] spoke with a definite German accent. It also came to Agent [REDACTED] attention that there was present a [REDACTED] who has a son, [REDACTED] who is possibly in the army. b7c

[REDACTED] b7c

Special Agent [REDACTED] advised that he observed an individual whom he later identified to be [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was taking notes on the speech and also made it a point to get all of SMITH'S literature. [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Saint Louis File No. 100-6013

VI. Miscellaneous

Inasmuch as SMITH had announced that he intended to ask for the opera house for March 30, 1944, ISAAC HEDGES, Chairman of the Municipal Auditorium Commission, held a hearing on the application of GERALD L. K. SMITH'S America First Party for the use of the auditorium and invited the Veterans organizations to attend. Protests against renting the auditorium to SMITH and his Party were presented by PETER MIRAVALLE, Chairman of the Post Commanders Conference, American Legion; NEAL CAPALDO, Chairman of the Americanism Committee, American Legion; FRED EMIG, Americanism Chairman, Veterans of Foreign Wars; MORRIS STONE, Jewish War Veterans, and HUBERT BENJAMIN, State Secretary of the Communist Party. The commission, however, permitted SMITH the use of the auditorium, pointing out that the local sponsors are citizens of Saint Louis and therefore entitled to the use of the public facilities of the city.

There is some indication that the opera house will not be available for March 30, however, the convention hall is available on that date.

It has been determined that the man named [REDACTED] mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Saint Louis, dated January 28, 1944, as a man interested in radio broadcasting stations, is the owner of a radio station in Grand Rapids, Michigan. b7c

ENCLOSURES:

- To the Bureau.....(1) Log of surveillance maintained on GERALD L. K. SMITH, February 17, 18, 19, 1944, in St. Louis
- To Detroit.....(1) Mimeographed letter dated February 19, 1944, on stationery of America First Party and signed by DONALD LOHBECK, Temporary Chairman, Saint Louis Committee.
- (2) Handbill advertising SMITH'S speech in St. Louis on February 17, 1944.
- (3) Petition to Congress in behalf of war veterans.
- (4) Collection envelope used by SMITH at his meetings.
- (5) Copy of log of surveillance maintained on GERALD L. K. SMITH, February 17, 18, 19, 1944, in St. Louis.

P E N D I N G

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE DETROIT FIELD DIVISION

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Will furnish the Saint Louis Field Office with a list of the individuals in the Saint Louis district and vicinity who subscribe to SMITH'S "The Cross and the Flag," or individuals in this area to whom he sends his material, if such a list is available.

Will check the file of the Detroit Office to determine the identity of [REDACTED] from whom McCULLOUGH, the "Post Dispatch" reporter, received a letter about HARVEY SPRINGER of Detroit. It may be possible that [REDACTED] was furnishing McCULLOUGH what he thought was confidential information about SPRINGER, and McCULLOUGH, in turn, has passed it on to SMITH. b7c

THE SAINT LOUIS FIELD DIVISION

AT SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

* Will ascertain whether [REDACTED] was contacted by SMITH, or whether it was MRS. DONALD LOHBECK who made the call. b7c

Will keep in touch with the developments of this movement in Saint Louis and the individuals connected with it.

Will conduct an investigation regarding all of the individuals mentioned in the Saint Louis reports in this file and correlate the information in the individual files of the various subjects.

Will determine from ONI just what investigation they are conducting in this case, especially as to any contact they may have had with the "Post Dispatch" reporter, McCULLOUGH, and whether they are using him as an informant.

One copy of this report is being sent to the Oklahoma City Field Division for information, inasmuch as REMBERT GILMAN SMITH, who has contacted Subject SMITH, claims his permanent residence is Tulsa, Oklahoma, and also the fact that GERALD L. K. SMITH is sending large quantities of his material to a Preacher WEBER, who broadcasts from radio stations in Oklahoma and is known as the "Radio Minister of the Southwest."

Saint Louis File No. 100-6013

[REDACTED] is a recording of the entire meeting on
February 17, 1944, which was made through the amplifying system of the
Municipal Auditorium by Special Agent [REDACTED].

b7c b7d

TITLE: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH,
WITH ALIAS; AMERICA FIRST PARTY

CASE: SEDITION

S7A. : [REDACTED] b7c

DATE: 3/6/44

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JPHa:MFR

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

62-3818 -42

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

SAC, St. Louis

DATE 10/6/82 BY SP8BJH

March 28, 1944

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with alias;
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
SEDITION

Reference is made to the report submitted in the above entitled case by Special Agent [redacted] dated March 6, 1944, at St. Louis, Missouri. b7c

From a review of the portions of this report setting forth descriptions of the coverage of Smith's activities at the Statler Hotel, it is noted that the language utilized is not very well designed to conceal the nature of the coverage. In recounting what took place in Smith's room the present tense is often used, and such detailed information is set forth as to what transpired in Smith's room that it is rather clear the information recorded came, not from confidential informants as indicated, but rather from some type of coverage as was actually utilized.

In this regard your attention is invited to the sentences appearing on page 14 as follows: "They go out to eat, and by midnight Mr. and Mrs. Smith retire." "Smith is up at 9:30 AM and goes down to the hotel lobby. He then returns to the room."

On page 15 it is stated that "Mueller left at 11:25 AM," and on page 16 a notation appears to the effect that "at 1:05 PM there was an incoming telephone call from a man named John [redacted] of the 'Times' magazine who conversed with Smith for about twenty minutes."

The sentences just quoted are representative of a number of similar statements appearing throughout the report and as indicated it is rather clear from an over-all reading of the report that general informants were not used but as a matter of fact a very close coverage was available which made possible such a detailed knowledge of what took place in the room. [redacted]

Inasmuch as the Bureau is desirous of disseminating a copy of this report to the Department of Justice three of the copies designated for the Bureau are being returned herewith and should be rewritten by Special Agent [redacted] along the lines requested. At the same time your file copies should be changed and copies of the classified version of the report should be furnished to the Detroit and Oklahoma City Division Divisions to take the place of the copies of the report now retained in the [redacted] of those offices. b7c

- Tolson _____
- E. A. Tamm _____
- Clegg _____
- Glavin _____
- Ladd _____
- Nichols _____
- Rosen _____
- Tracy _____
- Acers _____
- Carson _____
- Hendon _____
- Mohr _____
- Winterrowd _____
- Tele. Rm. _____
- Nease _____
- Gandy _____

MAILED 12
APR 1 1944
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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

As pointed out above the Bureau is sorely desirous of having the report rephrased (with particular reference to those portions described as what took place in Smith's hotel room) in such a way as to eliminate the now rather apparent suggestion that Smith's every move was under constant observation or coverage. [redacted]

b7c

SAC, St. Louis

[REDACTED] b7E

Please see to it that the report is rewritten and that the Bureau is furnished with three copies of the revised version of the report at the earliest possible date.

CC - Detroit
Oklahoma City

Enclosure *[initials]*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

FILE NO. 100-7463

REPORT MADE AT CLEVELAND, OHIO	DATE WHEN MADE 2/25/44	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 1/31/44 2/15/44	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] <i>b7c</i> ED.
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with alias Gerald L. K. Schmidt The Committee of 1,000,000 <i>Org. military</i>		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G SECURITY MATTER SEDITION	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/6/82 BY SA [REDACTED]**

On 1/31/44 at the Franklin Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio SMITH addressed 500 persons. SMITH attacked the present administration and President ROOSEVELT for the attempt to gain control of U.S. and all its citizens. Attacked the Labor Draft Bill, Good Neighbor Policy, and Immigration policies. SMITH introduced a plan to pay the soldiers one thousand dollars mastering-out pay. Speaker, Mrs. JOSEPH RICHARD, talked on Russia and Communism and drew a comparison between Russia and the United States at the present time.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

(Bureau File #62-43818)
Letter from Detroit dated January 26, 1944.

DETAILS:

At 8:00 p.m. on January 31, 1944 GERALD L.K. SCHMIDT, National Director of the American First Party addressed an audience of approximately 500 persons at the Franklin Auditorium at 2515 Franklin Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. To gain admission to the hall it was necessary to present a card of admission. On the platform in addition to SMITH was Mrs. JOSEPH RICHARD of Chicago, Illinois.

SMITH opened the meeting by leading the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *H. [Signature]*

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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- 4 Detroit (1 USA)
- 2 Cleveland

62-43818-1436

22 MAR 1 1944

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203 OCT 13 1964**

Assemblage in the singing of the National Anthem and in the recitation of the Lord's Prayer. SMITH took the rostrum first and began his remarks with an attack on ROOSEVELT, stating that it was his, SMITH's, greatest desire to see a president in the White House that would place "America First" in his thoughts, aims, and efforts in the same manner that CHURCHILL puts England first. He stated that it was high time that the old "Roosevelt Dynasty" be retired from public life as they have reached the point where they thought that anyone who criticized the ROOSEVELTS, FRANKFURTERS, and ROSENBERGS were of a subversive group. He further stated that the United States is not ready for the Gestapo yet.

SMITH continued his attack by saying that CAESAR, NAPOLEON and others of their ilk had been pikers compared to the present administration and if we do not clean house soon, that future investigations "will make the teapot dome scandal a cold teapot". SMITH continually referred to various articles in his publication, "The Cross and the Flag" and read an article from the January issue ridiculing Mrs. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

He stated that the America First had reached a position where it was not necessary to convert any more people as they had sufficient followers and now it was necessary to crystalize, organize, mobilize those followers they have. At this point he read the Seven-point program of Party Aims as set out in the January issue of the Cross and the Flag. SMITH stated that every individual in the United States should fight all European Influence in our domestic affairs and that they should only obey the laws as made by the Congress of the United States.

SMITH attacked the Administration by stating that the Bureaucrats were attempting to tear down the Immigration and Naturalization Laws. He stated that he had heard a talk by Rabbi WISE advocating the entrance of 17 million Jewish refugees into the United States. SMITH bitterly condemned this, asserting that these Jews would absorb all the employment in the United States and that the returning veterans from the battle front would go jobless.

SMITH next denounced the Labor Draft Bill #S-666 as a useless, needless bill since this country was over-producing rather than facing a shortage. He stated that the intent of this bill is to subject all United States citizens to the present administration. He stated that the Labor Draft Bill will separate husbands from wives and mothers from children, and that it was merely a political scheme so that the administration could control the balloting of each state. He stated that this would be done by transferring groups into and out of states so that the administration would control the

CV F.O.#100-7463

majority.

SMITH raised the question, "Why do we have to be drafted? Does not the Administration trust us? The Government never requests volunteers but always forces us by drafts." He stated that Canada had no conscription and if the Administration trusted the United States Citizens we would not need to be conscripted in this country.

SMITH attacked ROOSEVELT's plan of sending a blank ballot to the soldiers, saying that it was a deliberate attempt to get the entire vote of the service men by not allowing them to know who the presidential candidates were. He accused ROOSEVELT of being the greatest demagog in history who was not satisfied with three terms but desired to destroy our democracy by gaining a fourth term.

SMITH attacked the Pan-American policy, stating that the administration was squandering six million dollars in South America in building up goodwill. He further stated that in reality this was a program in which Rockefeller who directs the Good-Neighbor Policy, is building up a Rockefeller business in South America at the expense of the government.

SMITH stated that we were sending England money at the rate of two million dollars an hour and they desire to keep "Santa Claus"; that is they consider the defeat of ROOSEVELT in the next election a calamity.

SMITH stated that he did not oppose the spending of money for military affairs but that all other spending outside of the United States should cease and the money be used toward the rehabilitation of the returning soldiers.

SMITH introduced the plan that all soldiers be given one thousand dollars mustering-out pay. He passed out petitions to be completed by his followers urging Congress to grant the returning soldiers this amount. SMITH requested contributions from his followers to aid in the circulating of these petitions. SMITH related the following experience he allegedly had with a returning soldier:

SMITH stated that he had picked up a young soldier who was hitch-hiking on the road and that this soldier had told him that he had sold all of his clothes and belongings when inducted into the Army and that when he was released from the army he had no clothes and was penniless and therefore had to borrow one hundred dollars from a bank with interest to finance himself. The soldier further stated that he had been requested by the Red Cross to send

CV F.O.#100-7463

his uniform back as soon as possible on his return to his home. SMITH stated that he cited this to show how our returning soldiers were in want while we were sending money to South America.

SMITH next spoke on the book entitled, "And so They Indicted Me" by J. EDWARD JONES and urged that all read this book. He defied the President or anyone else to contradict the contents of this book.

SMITH, during his remarks, bitterly attacked WALTER WINCHEL, whom he continually referred to as "Walter Lipschitz". He also attacked Secretary FRANK KNOX and Secretary HENRY STIMSON, referring to them as "Political Prostitutes" because of their joining the present administration. SMITH advised the assemblage that between now and November we are fighting to preserve our Democracy against the dictatorship we will have if ROOSEVELT goes in for a fourth term.

SMITH further claimed that the America First Party holds the balance of power in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, and no man can win the presidency without the votes of these states. SMITH stated that America First would form a new insurgent party before it would again accept a "Wilkie-Roosevelt Double-cross".

SMITH then introduced Mrs. JOSEPH RICHARD, whose discourse was entitled "Russia as I Saw It".

Mrs. RICHARD advised that she had spent four years in Russia in the company of her husband, who was hired by the Russian government as a consulting engineer. Mrs. RICHARD painted a picture of great suffering and want among the peoples of Russia. She stated that the Russian people hate STALIN and all he stands for, but fear keeps them in control.

She advised that the Russian Government has complete control of each citizen and keeps in close contact with their every move. She stated that each person must have a passport to travel from city to city and that in each block an individual is designated to keep account of the actions of the persons residing in that block.

Mrs. RICHARD related incidents to show that whole villages would be exiled to Siberia if they opposed the government's wishes. She stressed the complete control the Russian Government has over its people and the suffering forced upon the people by the government.

Mrs. RICHARD then attempted to draw a comparison between the United States and Russia at the present time. She noted that it was the aim of this

CV F.O. #100-7463

administration was to control our citizens in the same manner as Russia. She attempted to substantiate this comparison by citing the Bill #1161, pertaining to Socialized Medicine, and the numerous war-time restrictions. Mrs. RICHARD warned her listeners that Communism was a monster that was on our doorstep ready to devour us. She stated that Russia was not fighting for the allies but for "Mother Russia" and as an ally Russia should not be trusted.

Mrs. RICHARD related a story concerning a soldier who had advised her that tons of government food were wasted daily and thrown away and that to see this sickened some of the soldiers to such a degree that they could not eat.

Mrs. RICHARD read an article from a newspaper which he attributed to FRANK KNOX, Secretary of the Navy, in which he stated that "The principles of the Russian Government were repugnant to him". The speaker stated that this was written before KNOX had changed and become a Communist himself.

GERALD L. K. SMITH returned to the rostrum and spoke briefly concerning the attack on Mrs. STANLEY, President of the United Mothers, Cleveland, Ohio by Rabbi BRICKNER. SMITH urged the audience to contribute to this organization upon leaving the hall so that this group might continue its outstanding work. The meeting was closed with the Pledge of Allegiance read by SMITH. During the meeting the usual collection was taken up, and various pieces of America First literature was distributed and sold at the meeting.

-REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

JPH:TMJ
62-43818
3-6-44

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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

62-43818-436

RECORDED For your further information in connection with your consideration of this case, there is attached hereto a copy of an additional report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at Cleveland, Ohio, on February 25, 1944.

Enclosure *[handwritten signature]*

b7c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/6/92 BY SP-8BTS/mc

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

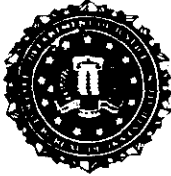
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F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
MAR 6 2 54 PM '44

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 10
MAR 14 1944 P.M.

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

53 MAR 15 1944



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Detroit, Michigan
February 4, 1944**

DIRECTOR, FBI

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY *8/11/77*
ON *8/11/77*

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases
THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SECURITY MATTER - SEDITION
(62-43818)

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/6/82 BY 885/mc**

Dear Sir:

This office has recently been contacted by the local office of Naval Intelligence at Detroit, Michigan at which time the office of Naval Intelligence advised that they were very interested in any investigation being conducted by the Detroit office relative to the above captioned Subjects. The office of Naval Intelligence has more or less indicated that they would appreciate receiving copies of reports in this particular matter. *Handwritten: Hampton*

This is to advise that to date no definite commitment has been made by this office relative to the submission of copies of reports to the office of Naval Intelligence. In this respect it is being pointed out at this time that since this office has secured the services of [redacted] whose identity is known to you, copies of the reports have not been sent to any outside agencies including the local United States Attorney's office. Copies of reports have been marked confidential for the reason that it was felt that if copies of the reports were furnished to any source other than Bureau headquarters or Bureau offices there was the possibility of [redacted] identity being disclosed. *b7D*

In view of the fact that [redacted] has been such an extremely valuable informant this office would appreciate advice from the Bureau relative to the Bureau policy to be followed in connection with furnishing copies of investigative reports to the offices of Naval Intelligence and Military Intelligence. It would also be greatly appreciated that in the event the Bureau does not see fit to furnish copies of reports to these agencies what policy the Bureau wishes to set down relative to the furnishing of information secured by the Detroit office relative to the above named Subject. *a11*

It would be appreciated if the Bureau could advise the Detroit office as soon as possible relative to the above, &

Very truly yours, *INDEXED 62-43818-437*

R. A. Guerin
R. A. GUERIN, SAC
MAR 2 1944



62-1120

let Det 2/24/44 JJA
b7c

(5) - 0742

JPHa/pk

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

62-43818 - 437

SAC, Detroit

DATE 10/6/82 BY SP-167/juc February 24, 1944

J. Edgar Hoover, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases
THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SECURITY MATTER - SEDITION

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S)
DATE 2/11/77 [Signature]

Reference is made to your letter of February 4, 1944, wherein you mentioned the interest displayed in this investigation by the Office of Naval Intelligence and requested advice as to the policy and procedure in referring pertinent information relative to Smith to the local Office of Naval Intelligence and perhaps to the local office of the Military Intelligence Service.

In your letter you specifically mentioned that [redacted] has furnished very valuable information [redacted]

In addition to this factor I think you are well aware of the fact that in connection with this investigation information is frequently developed, usually in a collateral way, relative to numerous personalities and issues often of a political or controversial nature. A typical example of the development of data of this type was presented in connection with the information recently received at St. Louis to the effect that a Dr. Walter A. Maier who conducts the Lutheran Radio Hour was giving some consideration to launching into political activities in connection with his radio broadcast. Another example is presented in connection with the information recently received by your office to the effect that [redacted]

This bit of information involves personalities and issues of both a national and international character, and although it is pertinent to the Bureau's coverage of Smith's activities, certainly it does not appear at the present time to be directly related to the primary objective of the investigation, that of ascertaining whether Smith has violated the Sedition Statutes. Furthermore, it is believed that data of this type is not of legitimate or logical interest to Military or Naval officials.

In view of these factors [redacted] and the fact that the instant reports often reflect information of a compromising or controversial nature relative to political personages and issues) the Bureau feels that copies of investigative reports should not be disseminated to ONI, G-2, or other agencies in the field. However, it is believed that a suitable alternative presents itself in that summaries of pertinent information could be furnished periodically to ONI and G-2. These summaries should be confined to summarizing data as to Smith's pertinent activities from time to time, these in respect to his contacts, speaking activities, any efforts he may make toward appealing to servicemen or other subject matters of interest to the armed forces, or anything of such nature as to suggest a possible violation of the Sedition Statutes. However, these summaries should not concern themselves with political or controversial matters of the type described above.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signatures]

DECLASSIFIED BY [Handwritten]

b7

b7

b7D

For your assistance a memorandum has been prepared at the Bureau which it is believed appropriately summarizes Smith's background and antecedents and his activities to date in so far as such activities would be of legitimate interest to military or naval officials. Copies of this memorandum are attached in order that you may make them available to G-2 and ONI in the event they actually request information concerning this case or in the event you feel that even in the absence of a specific request this should be done in order to preserve amicable relations. According to the plan outlined above you should thereafter at periodical intervals relay to ONI and G-2 further information concerning Smith's general activities and contacts, this data, of course, being devoid of controversial and political matters which come to your attention from time to time during the course of the inquiry.

The Bureau has further noted that auxiliary offices in covering leads in this matter set out by the Detroit Office occasionally refer copies of reports submitted to the local offices of ONI and G-2 in their respective districts. For the reasons set forth above the Bureau desires that this practice be discontinued and that preferably all information developed in the Smith case, irrespective of where the investigation is conducted, be referred to ONI and G-2 at Detroit in the manner outlined above. However, should some local office of ONI or G-2 request some other Field Office to make available information concerning Smith, it will be satisfactory in answer to a specific request for the office to supply a general summary of the type described. Under no circumstances however should copies of reports be furnished to ONI or G-2 by auxiliary offices and in order that there will be no misunderstanding relative to this, auxiliary offices should be informed of the desired procedure at the time leads are set out for them to undertake investigation in the Smith case.

For your further assistance in understanding the Bureau's desires in connection with this matter it is suggested that you examine the letter addressed in this case by the Bureau to the St. Louis Field Division on February 10, 1944, a copy of this letter being designated for the Detroit Field Division. However, should any positive objections to this procedure occur to you or should you desire further clarification concerning specific matters, you should, of course, communicate with the Bureau.

Enclosure 

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February 24, 1944

DATE 10/6/82 BY SP-8BJ/mh

Summary
GERALD L. K. SMITH

Set forth in the following paragraphs under appropriate subcaptions is a summary of pertinent information which has been received from various sources relative to the activities of Gerald L. K. Smith of Detroit, Michigan:

Personal History and Background

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

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

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

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

More detailed comments are set forth subsequently as to Smith's alleged connection with Huey Long and his activities as the organizer of "The Committee of One Million", but it is of significance to observe that it is reported that the turning point of Smith's life dates from his association with Huey Long. Prior to that time he was described as the usual type of minister concerned with problems incidental to his calling. However, it is reported that his participating in the "Share the Wealth" movement fired his ambition to the extent of self visualization of himself as a dominant political figure. Being unsuccessful in associating himself with Long's successors he has reportedly continued his dream of political prominence through his efforts in connection with his so-called "Committee of One Million" and later his "America First

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Party". It is noted that Smith sought nomination as Republican candidate for United States Senator for the State of Michigan during the summer of 1942. This campaign was unsuccessful.

Smith's personal life is reported to be normal. He is married, lives with his wife and has one son who is reportedly a member of the armed forces. From time to time stories have been circulated attributing improprieties to Smith in connection with his associations with women other than his wife. However, nothing factual is known to substantiate these allegations.

Activities Prior to 1938

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

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

Although during Huey Long's lifetime Smith was an outstanding personage in the Long machine, he rapidly lost his standing after the death of Long. It appears that his services were continued for a short period of time by Long's successors, but that he eventually was displaced due, allegedly, to his untoward efforts to attain personal power. By 1937, any influence which he previously had was reportedly dissipated and it was during that year that he left Louisiana for New York.

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

Toward the end of his stay in Louisiana, Smith's personal reputation apparently suffered to some extent. On November 3, 1936, he was arrested by the New Orleans Police Department on a charge of having disturbed the peace in the using of obscene language in a public place. Reportedly, this arrest resulted in his receiving a suspended sentence of \$10 and ten days.

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

Current Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

In connection with his work in regard to "The Committee of One Million" Smith at one time gave radio addresses over station WJR at Detroit. He also distributed considerable literature, his best known publication being a monthly magazine known as "The Cross and the Flag." Although Smith claimed that "The Committee of One Million" had a following of three million persons, it has been reported that the group was really not an organization as such and was merely used as a name by Smith. It has further been reported however that Smith has a rather large mailing list of individuals to whom he sends his publications.

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

During the summer of 1942, Smith sought the Republican nomination for the position of United States Senator from the State of Michigan. He made a number of speeches and conducted quite an active campaign and in the primary election received approximately 120,000 votes. Although this was not sufficient for nomination, reportedly political observers were of the opinion that Smith had made an unusually good showing. Even after this defeat, Smith continued his candidacy in the general election in November, 1942, when he projected himself as a write-in candidate. He was badly defeated in the general election, his following being less than that in the primary campaign.

Late in 1942 Smith publicly announced the intention of forming a third political party on a national scale. The proposed platform for this party, as announced, was said to be somewhat similar to that advanced by Smith in connection with "The Committee of One Million" and it has further been reported that Smith was hoping to gain support for his new party from members of the former group, the "America First Committee".

In recent months Smith has been touring the country making public addresses on behalf of this party which he calls the "America First Party." In connection with his public appearances Smith always reportedly professes loyalty in connection with the war effort but frequently condemns the methods being employed by the government in prosecuting the war and asserts that the government is not representing "true American interests" in that it is allegedly seeking to set up some sort of world state dominated by Great Britain. Smith also continues to publish his magazine "The Cross and the Flag" which is reported to be devoted primarily to promoting the "America First Party."

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

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

Smith's Activities in connection with the "Veterans Petition Committee"

According to a confidential source of information Smith, at a meeting of his "America First Party" held at Detroit on the evening of January 18, 1944, announced that he and the "America First Party", using the name of "Veterans Petition Committee" planned to circulate petitions calling for substantial payments to personnel mustered out of the armed forces.

Reportedly Smith, while speaking at the meeting, claimed that he and his organization were largely responsible for the increased rate of pay now allowed enlisted personnel inasmuch as he some time ago sent 80,000 signatures to Congress demanding a pay increase for enlisted personnel. Continuing in this vein, Smith urged his followers to circulate and cause to be signed the instant petitions, and apparently when a sufficient number of petitions have been executed, they will be forwarded to Congress en masse.

Smith, while speaking in behalf of his plan for increased mustering out pay, described in the petition, allegedly asserted that "a measly \$300" is not sufficient for our servicemen, especially in view "of the fact that America can give every person

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in the 22 South American republics the sum of \$50." Smith reportedly commented that every month 70,000 men are being mustered out of the services even at the present time and that due to financial difficulties and physical defects incident to their participation in the war, they are facing hardships which could be alleviated by the designation of more substantial payments for them.

Subsequently Smith announced that his petitions would call for payment of \$1000 to each veteran mustered out of the services with an honorable discharge and he further asserted that he has distributed some 150,000 copies of this petition. Despite several allegations which have been made to the contrary, no definite information has been received indicating that Smith has actually attempted to set up a veterans organization.

It further appears that Smith plans to cause these various petitions to be signed and then forward them on to Congress.

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

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Detroit, Michigan
February 16, 1944

DATE 10/6/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

DECLASSIFIED BY 6034KED/ll
ON 8/14/77 Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases
AMERICA FIRST PARTY
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SECURITY MATTER; SEDITION

Dear Sir:

There is being set forth below the gist of information obtained from [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, during the period January 24, through February 11, 1944. b7D

Informant advised that he had noticed on several occasions that when placing a long-distance call especially to Senator REYNOLDS, SMITH had more or less made it a point to claim Priority No. 3 in making the long-distance calls.

Informant advised that under date of January 28, 1944, SMITH had been in contact with Senator REYNOLDS' secretary in Washington, D. C. at which time he inquired of the secretary as to SMITH'S possibilities of testifying before a committee apparently to be headed by Senator REYNOLDS. SMITH advised that he wished to appear personally before the committee and explain his opposition to the Austin-Wadsworth Bill, and in the event it was impossible for him to testify in person he would forward a written statement setting forth his views relative to this particular bill.

Informant advised that under date of February 1, 1944, he had received information to the effect that [redacted] was in Detroit and staying at the Tuller Hotel. Informant stated that he was under the impression that SMITH had conducted an interview with [redacted] while [redacted] was in town. [redacted] left Detroit apparently February 2, 1944. b7C

Under date of February 5, 1944, SMITH contacted Mrs. DONALD LOHBECK at which time he advised her he was sending between 1,500 and 2,000 stamped envelopes with all enclosures sealed for them to address. These envelopes were to be sent to Mrs. LOHBECK, 42C Fairmont Street, Saint Louis, Missouri. This material was sent by SMITH apparently in preparation for his meeting at Saint Louis at a later date.



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

Letter to the Director
February 16, 1944

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

Informant advised under date of February 6, 1944,
to the effect that an individual by the name of BAERMAN was in
Detroit, Michigan and apparently wished to confer with SMITH relative
to important matters.

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7D

Details relative
to this incident were set forth in a separate letter to the Bureau.

On February 7, 1944, SMITH was telephonically contacted
by an individual calling himself JOE, at which time JOE gave as his
address 3 East Fifty-Fourth Street, New York City. JOE at that time
advised SMITH that he wanted a standard book about 400 pages and he
wanted 10,000 to start with. JOE asked SMITH at that time if he had
"gotten ahold of POWERS." SMITH stated that he had made arrangements
to have a conference with the individual referred to as "POWERS" that
afternoon. SMITH inquired of JOE as to how much money was to be paid
and JOE advised, "as much as he needs." JOE then stated that he could
start giving him copies in about a week and that payments for the job
would be arranged at SMITH'S so that the job will be paid for before
he, JOE, got it.

Under date of February 7, 1944, SMITH'S office sent a
telegram to Mrs. LUNDEEN at 820 Essex, S. E., Minneapolis, Minnesota,
which telegram is quoted as follows: "Have arranged for you to speak
in Chicago, Sunday night, February 20. Please locate meeting place
in Minneapolis for night of February 22 or 23. Contact SPADSKEV if
necessary."

On February 8, 1944, Informant advised that he had
received information to the effect that SMITH had a telephone conversa-
tion with Senator NYE inquiring of Senator NYE if Senator NYE remembered
a fellow who was associated with a sort of "Arabian Knights" story and
who NYE had told SMITH about. SMITH at that time advised Senator NYE
that this individual's name began with the letter "B" and SMITH also
stated that NYE had introduced this individual to Senator TAFT by letter.
SMITH stated that he thought he was "O.K." It is believed that SMITH
might have referred to RALPH B. BAERMAN, described in a prior section
of this letter. B advised SMITH under date of February 8 that he had
apparently not been able to get anywhere at the Ford Motor Company

See memo to Mr. [unclear] 3/2/44 [unclear]
Cilmore
Per [unclear] copy [unclear]

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Letter to the Director
February 16, 1944

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

with his particular proposition, and in answer to this SMITH stated that sometimes the people at Ford voice criticism of him just to test the loyalty of the interviewer. SMITH and BAERMAN then planned a conference for later that particular afternoon relative to BAERMAN'S contact at the Ford Motor Company. Information has been received from another source verifying the fact that BAERMAN had actually called at the Ford Motor Company relative to his proposition.

Information was received on February 9, 1944, to the effect that Mrs. BROWN in Philadelphia had contacted SMITH and advised SMITH that she made arrangements for a meeting to be held in Philadelphia on March 2, this meeting to be conducted under the auspices of the National Blue Star Mothers of America. SMITH warned Mrs. BROWN not to let anyone talk her out of using that particular name.

Under date of February 9, 1944, SMITH was advised by Mrs. ERNEST LUNDEEN, Minneapolis that Mrs. LUNDEEN had made arrangements for a meeting to be held in that particular city on February 22, 1944.

Under date of February 11, 1944, SMITH was telephonically contacted by J. EDWARD JONES, author of the book "And So They Indicted Me," at which time JONES inquired of SMITH'S secretary whether or not SMITH was familiar with the "Kent case." JONES at that time stated that he had had a recent conference with Mrs. KENT and wanted to discuss this particular case.

[REDACTED]

b7c
b7d

Under date of February 11, 1944, Mrs. SMITH telephonically contacted Mr. LIEBOLD at the Ford Motor Company at which time Mrs. SMITH advised LIEBOLD that the veterans of World War 2 were going to hold a meeting at the Art Institute in Detroit and LIEBOLD'S name had been given as a reference by SMITH. Mrs. SMITH merely wanted to tell LIEBOLD that when he was contacted by members of the institute he should keep SMITH'S name quiet as there were certain elements who would furnish opposition to the meeting if they knew SMITH was concerned. LIEBOLD agreed to do as he was requested. This meeting is apparently a meeting being planned by the SMITH group under the name of Veterans of World War 2 and might be in line with SMITH'S contemplated plan to link himself with the veterans' claim for bonus as a result of service in the present world war.

Very truly yours,

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

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Commons Airs Churchill Cables To Roosevelt

Messages Exchanged Behind Chamberlain's Back, M.P. Charges

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING

Questions in the British House of Commons yesterday regarding Winston Churchill's cablegrams to President Roosevelt behind the back of Prime Minister Chamberlain brought into the open a subject of much whispering in official circles here.

The question put to the government in the House of Commons was whether a British subject who sent telegrams to Mr. Roosevelt and thereby evaded the censorship had been prosecuted. Thus the reference was confined to communications sent to the President by Mr. Churchill, who at the time was First Lord of the Admiralty in the Chamberlain cabinet.

No Information on Subject

The understanding here is that not only cablegrams from Mr. Churchill to Mr. Roosevelt behind Chamberlain's back but from Mr. Roosevelt to Mr. Churchill are involved. The White House in response to an inquiry yesterday professed to have no information on the subject.

The correspondence is supposed to have related to British and American policy regarding the European war. Among the questions touched upon are said to have been a more vigorous prosecution of the war than had been achieved by Mr. Chamberlain and the possibilities of the United States taking an active part in support of Great Britain.

According to one version, the device of the lend-lease legislation for circumventing the United States neutrality law and the Johnson Act forbidding extension of credit to Britain as a war debt defaulter was discussed in this secret correspondence between the American President and the British navy head.

Passed Through Embassy

Disclosure of the text of the cablegrams would establish

whether Mr. Churchill invited or Mr. Roosevelt made any commitments of the United States Government to a policy of aiding Britain that was not contemplated by existing United States law.

From the outbreak of the war the President had been under fire for permitting, if not encouraging, William C. Bullitt, American Ambassador to France, and other American diplomats to encourage France and Poland to get into the war with promises of American support.

The correspondence between Mr. Churchill and the President passed through the American Embassy in London. Tyler Kent, a young American employed as a clerk in the embassy, made copies of the Churchill and Roosevelt cablegrams and showed them to Capt. Archibald Ramsay, a member of the House of Commons.

Leak Traced to Kent

The leak of the correspondence soon became known and the responsibility therefor was traced to young Kent. The vengeance of the British and American governments for this breach of trust was swift and certain.

Joseph P. Kennedy, then American Ambassador to Great Britain, discharged Kent, and the British government immediately arrested him on charges of espionage. After Kent had been held in jail for some time he was given a trial. The espionage charges fell flat, but he finally was convicted of larceny of government documents and sentenced to seven years in prison, where he now is.

Captain Ramsay, who had been shown or given copies of the correspondence, was placed under detention under the Defense of the Realm Act.

Morrison's Answer

The question was brought up in Commons yesterday by Richard R. Stokes, a Laborite who is a bitter opponent of Prime Minister Churchill. Answering the question, Home Secretary Herbert Morrison said:

"No information can properly be given out about confidential documents which were extracted from the American Embassy, but whatever may have been the nature of the documents in question they do not provide the slightest foundation for the suggestion that someone has been guilty of evading the censorship or contravening the defense regulations."

John McGovern, independent Laborite, then said:

"Cannot the home secretary say whether any of these cablegrams or messages were sent by the prime minister behind the back of the then prime minister (Chamberlain)?"

Morrison said he had nothing to add to his answer.

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Letter to the Director
March 6, 1944

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases, et al.
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SECURITY MATTER - SEDITION

magazine entitled, "The Mysterious Gerald Smith". Informant stated that SMITH had purchased numerous copies of this particular article and intended to use it for publicity purposes. This article was written by WALTER DAVENPORT and was based on personal interviews and investigations conducted by DAVENPORT.

Informant advised that SMITH had ordered the following list of supplies to be sent to the various cities named.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh -

1200 Cross and Flag envelopes
1500 AMERICA FIRST envelopes
500 petitions
100 February magazines
50 January magazines (Cross and Flag)
50 Jones books

Philadelphia -

1000 America First envelopes
600 Cross and Flag envelopes
500 petitions
100 February magazines
50 January magazines
50 Jones books

SMITH was in communication with the office of Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS in Washington, D. C., at which time he advised the Senator that he intended to be in Washington on March 4, 5, and 6 and desired to make an appointment with the Senator on one of these days. SMITH inquired as to the possibility of having the Senator address one of his meetings in St. Louis on March 25.

On February 27, Mrs. SMITH sent a telegram to GERALD B. MINROD at Wichita, Kansas, stating as follows:

"All books have been sent as ordered."

On February 29, the following telegram was sent by SMITH to H. McALLISTER GRIFFITH, 340 West 55th Street, New York City:

"Will meet you Bellevue-Stratfort Hotel
Philadelphia, Thursday, March 2."

Letter to the Director

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases, et al.
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
SECURITY MATTER - SEDITION

On February 29, it was ascertained through Informant that SMITH was advised by the person in charge at the Maccabees Auditorium in Detroit to the effect that the Rental Committee at the Maccabees Building had decided that they did not want to rent their HALL to SMITH in the future.

On March 1, 1944, Informant stated that a female giving the name of [REDACTED] had telephonically contacted SMITH's office and inquired relative to the "Veterans' Committee". [REDACTED] was advised at this time by MARY JANE HEALY, niece of SMITH, that the Veterans' Committee did not intend to have any social functions "but that it was purely a crusade organization trying to help the demobilized soldiers get a start in civilian life and receive \$1,000 on their discharge and cut down on all the red tape it now takes to get any help from the government by a soldier." b7c

Miss HEALY also advised that the organization was presently sending out petitions for people to sign and requesting the people to forward them to their congressmen and senators in an attempt to have a bill passed by Congress with reference to the above.

Miss HEALY stated it was through the efforts of SMITH the soldiers had received a raise in pay from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a month.

Very truly yours,

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

[REDACTED] mam
62-1126 b7c