



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**GERALD L. K. SMITH**

**PART 15 OF 18**

**FILE NUMBER : 62-43818**

SUBJECT

GERALD L. K. Smith

PART 8

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS  
REQUEST

SUBJECT GERALD L. K. Smith

PAGES REVIEWED: 3994

PAGES RELEASED: 2979

NOTES: SECTIONS 31-36  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS  
RELEASE

SUBJECT: GERALD L.K. SMITH

FILE: 62-43818

SUB: \_\_\_\_\_

VOL: 31

PAGES REVIEWED: 67

PAGES RELEASED: 40

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Detroit, Michigan  
July 10, 1944

Mr. E. A. Tamm	.....
Mr. Clegg	.....
Mr. Coffey	.....
Mr. Glavin	.....
Mr. Ladd	.....
Mr. Nichols	.....
Mr. Rosen	.....
Mr. Tracy	.....
Mr. Mohr	.....
Mr. Carson	.....
Mr. Hendon	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....
Mr. [unclear]	.....

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/8/02 BY SP-805/ma

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases  
① AMERICA FIRST PARTY  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
SECURITY MATTER  
SEDITION  
(Bureau file 62-43818)

*Belmont (last para)*  
*H. M. T. [unclear]*  
*FA [unclear]*

Dear Sir:

There is being set forth the substance of information obtained from [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, for the period June 23 to July 6, 1944, inclusive.

Informant advised Subject SMITH is sending \$100.00 to Internal Revenue to apply on a tax lien filed by the Internal Revenue Department against him and on July 6, 1944, Subject's wife planned to send a check for \$300.00 to pay additional taxes. (Probably the balance due on the lien filed by Internal Revenue.)

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~ b7D

[redacted] stated Subject has had difficulty over a meeting place in Chicago, Illinois, for his meeting on Sunday, June 25, and that it was necessary to change the meeting place to the Hamilton Hotel as the original meeting place, the Stevens Hotel, had refused the SMITH party. SMITH remarked that the meeting held in Chicago was a sensation as he made the front page in the newspapers there. He also arranged for [redacted] to be in Chicago prior to the meeting and for [redacted] also to attend.

Informant related a [redacted] of the Ford Motor Company was attempting to have SMITH buy the back page of his publication as a tribute HANDLED to FORD and that he would reserve the back page for SMITH as it would be a more prominent position.

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-43818-519

[redacted] stated Subject has rented the [redacted] Room of the Detroit Leland Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, Friday, July 14, at which time the Subject



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205 OCT 18 1964

EX-33

*5* *MLK*

100 81 REC 9 AUG 26 1944

Letter to the Director  
July 8, 1944

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

will hold a Detroit meeting for approximately 350 people.

Informant advised Subject has been contacted by letter or telephone by BOB REYNOLDS, the Farmers' Guild, Mrs. BROWN, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Chicago, Illinois. b7c

SMITH has decided to fight DEWEY, and is planning to call a convention for the AMERICA FIRST PARTY at St. Louis, Missouri, some time in August to consider the wisdom of nominating a president and vice-president, and he is considering a possible change of his headquarters to Chicago, Illinois.

Informant related SMITH had a COD package with \$201.00 due which is probably the Winchell books, and also stated Subject had spent considerable time at Delavan, Wisconsin, which is the home of his mother.

Very truly yours,

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

[REDACTED] ham  
62-1126 b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Detroit, Michigan  
August 10, 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, was  
AMERICA FIRST PARTY  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
SECURITY MATTER  
SEDITION  
(Bureau file 62-43818)

Dear Sir:

Through [redacted], whose identity is known to the Bureau, it has been ascertained that the America First Party is holding a national convention in Detroit on August 29 and 30, 1944.

Through [redacted] whose identity is also known to the Bureau, it has been ascertained that the Subject [redacted]

*8/2/44  
Mr. Clegg advised  
contents.*

[Large redacted area covering the main body of the letter]

*letter to Detroit  
cc Chicago  
8/25/44  
JH*



*to advise if*

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

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62-43818-520			
F	B	I	
7	AUG 12 1944		

*AW  
67D*

*FW*

REC-111-100-61-715-220

Letter to the Director  
August 10, 1944

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, was  
AMERICA FIRST PARTY  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
SECURITY MATTER  
SEDITION  
(Bureau file 62-43818)

[REDACTED]

b7c

The foregoing is being submitted for your information only.

For the benefit of the St. Louis Field Division, reference is made to the lead set out for your division in report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated July 28, 1944, at Detroit, Michigan [REDACTED]

b7c

In view of the above information, you should disregard the lead set out.

Very truly yours,

*R. A. Gelin*  
R. A. GELIN, SAC

[REDACTED]

cc - St. Louis

b7c



JPHa:

RECORDED

61-7055  
62-43818 - 520  
SAC, Detroit

August 25, 1944

EX-12

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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

You will recall that according to information received, subject Smith plans to hold a "national convention" of his America First Party at Detroit on August 29 and 30, 1944.

[REDACTED]

b7D

In the event [REDACTED] actually attends the convention or makes any sort of address or speech, the Bureau would, of course, like to have the benefit of any information concerning her activities or efforts which you may be able to secure through your informants and sources of information in this matter. However, with reference to your general coverage of this scheduled convention, the Bureau desires that you exercise the utmost caution and discretion, especially inasmuch as this particular meeting of the so-called America First Party is assertedly for political purposes. In securing information relative to what takes place, it is suggested that you merely rely on your confidential sources and informants who have in the past apparently been able to give you a complete and thorough coverage of Smith's activities.

b7C

cc - Chicago

SPECIAL DELIVERY

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 1  
AUG 29 1944  
3:44 P.M.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

52 SEP 20 1944 358

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 62-43818-273

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: August 12, 1944

FROM : SAC, Detroit

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases;  
 AMERICA FIRST PARTY;  
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C;  
 SECURITY MATTER;  
 SEDITION  
 (Bureau file 62-43616)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
 AND FIELD OFFICES  
 ADVISED BY ROUTING  
 SLIP(S) OF  
 DATE 8/12/44

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

All the Detroit newspapers carried articles to the effect that at a meeting of the Detroit School Board on August 8, 1944, Subject was granted permission to hold political rallies at the Northern High School Auditorium on August 29 and 30. The Bureau has previously been advised of the fact that the National Convention of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY is to be held in Detroit on these dates.

Classified by SP-6/TJM/MS  
 Declassify on: OADR

EX - 58  
 RECORDED  
 INDEXED

78 SEP 11 1944

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162-47  
 [Handwritten signatures and initials]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Letter to the Director  
dated August 12, 1944

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

Through [redacted] whose identity is known  
to the Bureau, it has been ascertained that the convention headquarters  
will be the Detroit Leland Hotel, according to present plans. [redacted]

b7D

b1

The foregoing is being submitted for information only.

[redacted]  
62-1126

b7c

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Detroit, Michigan  
July 8 - 1944

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/3/82 BY SP8BTJ/mk

Director, FBI

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

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated June 27, 1944, re-  
questing the Detroit Field Office to furnish the Washington Field Office with  
information in the Detroit files pertaining to [REDACTED]

In the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated March 27,  
1944, at Detroit, it appears [REDACTED] contacted Subject SMITH, having  
been recommended to SMITH by C. G. STADSKLEV of Minneapolis, Minnesota. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] allegedly was the ghost writer for Miss RANKIN of Montana in her speech  
in the Congressional Record on "Some Questions About Pearl Harbor" [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which book is supposed to have been purchased in quantities by several  
isolationist Congressmen.

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

In a letter from the St. Louis Field Division to the  
Bureau dated March 31, 1944, information obtained through a surveillance  
indicates [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] made some very pointed comments about the FBI  
and both individuals had some part in a SMITH convention and urged SMITH to  
accept the nomination for president of the AMERICA FIRST Party and to hold  
a convention nominating the candidates before serving an ultimatum on the  
Republican Party. *ms*

EX-10 RECORDED 62-43818-522

In Bureau letter dated April 8, 1944, the Detroit Office  
was requested to furnish information concerning [REDACTED] who has been  
identified as [REDACTED]

The information furnished by former [REDACTED]  
relative to [REDACTED] interview with him has previously been furnished to the



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205 OCT 13 1964

53 AUG 30 1944 292

AKC  
b7c

(5) - JPK

HANDLED BY  
STOP DEPT

Letter to the Bureau  
July 8, 1944

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

Bureau.

In a letter dated April 20, 1944, from the Detroit Field Division to the Bureau, it was pointed out that [REDACTED] is undoubtedly identical with [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] b7d

In a letter dated May 9, 1944, the Detroit Field Office advised the Bureau that [REDACTED], whose identity is known to the Bureau, related the fact that [REDACTED] is an acquaintance of SMITH. b7d

[REDACTED] b7c

Informant stated that [REDACTED] had been in contact with SMITH on several occasions and had advised SMITH as to the [REDACTED]

In a report by Special Agent [REDACTED], dated June 9, 1944, at Detroit, Michigan, it is mentioned therein the fact that [REDACTED] is an acquaintance of SMITH and [REDACTED] b7c

By letter dated June 23, 1944, the Detroit Field Office advised the Bureau that [REDACTED] had received information to the effect that [REDACTED] wired [REDACTED] requesting [REDACTED] to furnish information to him for the benefit of Mrs. DILLING for use in her sedition trial. The information requested concerned a meeting in New York in October of 1938 arranged by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] stated Dr. EDWARD LODGE CURRAN, International Catholic Truth Society, Reverend NORMAN VINCENT PEALE (who delivered the invocation) and Major General BYRNES were on the platform at this meeting. b7d b7c

In "A long statement by G. L. K. Smith - McWilliams - Euroker - Dilling and others" dated March 16, 1944, which the Detroit Field Division received as an inclosure with the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated June 3, 1944, at New York City, there appears information to the effect that [REDACTED] is a most intelligent anti-Semitic American and that [REDACTED] is friendly with [REDACTED], the two being astute students of the farm problem in America. [REDACTED] appeared to be over [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] b7c

Letter to the Director  
July 8, 1944

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

age, bespectacled, clean and studious looking. [REDACTED]

From the statement [REDACTED] recently gone to Detroit, Michigan, spending two weeks there attempting to get through to Henry Ford information concerning something which would happen to Ford and on this occasion got through only to [REDACTED] and on each occasion [REDACTED] assured him that Ford would not be interested.

In connection with this, [REDACTED] remarked "SMITH's rooms were wired for sound by the FBI and that 'those boys never overlook a bet.'" b7c

The statement continues that [REDACTED]

The above is a summary of all information found in the files of the Detroit Field Division concerning [REDACTED] b7c

Letter to the Director  
July 8, 1944

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

It is being specifically pointed out that the information attributed above to [REDACTED] is highly confidential information and extreme caution should be used not to permit the source of this information to be disclosed outside the Bureau as it undoubtedly would reveal the identity of the Informant and terminate a valuable source of information in instant case.

Very truly yours,

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

[REDACTED] mam  
62-1126

cc - Washington Field

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

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

WB  
X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/9/82 BY SA 887JMC

Director, FBI

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

Dear Sir:

There is being set out below the pertinent information obtained from [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, for the period July 26 through August 10, 1944. b7D

Informant says that Subject claims to have taken a very active part in the fight against WALLACE at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago for his nomination of the Vice President of the United States and in this connection put out a circular at the convention allegedly showing Vice President WALLACE'S connections with STALIN and SIDNEY HILLMAN. Also he (SMITH) put out a circular relative to WALLACE'S philosophy on inter-marriage of negroes and whites. J.A. [signature]

Informant advised that DON LOHBECK is probably going to take the place presently occupied by BERNARD DOKAN as SMITH'S secretary, and that LOHBECK is now in Detroit working with SMITH making a study of all the election laws of the various states, and further, that LOHBECK is to be set up in the Detroit headquarters of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY getting out credentials and doing other work.

Subject has been in contact with [redacted] in Washington, D. C., during the above period of time, according to informant. Informant says that [redacted] has been making a survey of the changes in the election laws of several states with reference to the Soldiers' Vote. Informant advised further that [redacted] claims to have gotten inside the War Department where he ascertained that casualties are now averaging five thousand a day. According to informant, Subject SMITH and [redacted] have a mutual friend in [redacted], believed to be in Washington, D. C., telephone number [redacted]. Informant also says that [redacted] is claimed to have heard from some source that "they" are very disgruntled with the way everything was being handled, in reference to the pending sedition trial. b7c



RECORDED & INDEXED 188

162-43918-523  
F B I  
27 AUG 17 1944  
[signature]

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62 AUG 14 1944  
312



Letter to the Director  
August 15, 1944

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

Informant advised that during the above period of time SMITH had been in contact with Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS and that the Senator claimed to have told a reporter from the Chicago Sun that he had no qualms about being one hundred per cent for everything that SMITH is for; further, about August 2, 1944, that the Senator had expressed himself to the effect that he was about to support the Republican ticket because he did not want to support the New Deal, but that he had decided that he would rather have ROOSEVELT than DEWEY, and that in his opinion DEWEY is a "dead pigeon".

On July 28, 1944, according to Informant, Subject reported to the Associated Press that he had sent a telegram to Governor THOMAS E. DEWEY at Albany, New York, in substance as follows:

"In the light of your condemnation of Congressman HAMILTON FISH, would you be interested in replying to the following questions:

1. Do you agree with Governor BRICKER in his bid for the support of my followers and myself?
2. Do you oppose the re-election of such America First republicans as Congressman CLAIRE HOFFMAN, Senator GERALD P. NYE, Senator ROBERT A. TAFT, and Congressman ROY WOODRUFF, and other such America First nationalists who have spoken and voted through the years the same as HAMILTON FISH?
3. Do you realize that you have broken tradition in interfering with a Congressional primary?
4. Do you propose to interfere in Congressional districts with the people's right to nominate their own candidates for Congress?
5. If you practice the purge system such as practiced by Mr. ROOSEVELT before election, what could we expect of you if elected?"

Informant further advised that M. MATSON, editor of the State Journal, Madison, Wisconsin, told SMITH on about July 28, 1944, that he had editorially given an ultimatum to DEWEY in substance to the effect that DEWEY should repudiate unequivocally BRICKER'S welcome to SMITH so that it would conform to DEWEY'S previous refusal of SMITH so that good republican voters of his section would know that DEWEY will not tolerate any traffic with any of SMITH'S following or that his (MATSON'S) public would withdraw their support of DEWEY.

Letter to the Director  
August 15, 1944

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

In further reference to DEWEY'S attack on HAMILTON FISH, Informant says that SMITH is of the opinion that DEWEY will give "STEVE" DAY "the same dose", this comment having been made to Captain EARL SOUTHARD of Chicago, Illinois, according to Informant. Informant also said that Captain SOUTHARD advised to the effect that he had talked with one of the participants in the sedition trial who told him that he thinks it will "blow up" soon, and further that Captain SOUTHARD has advised SMITH that a new page is being added to "Forty Years of ROOSEVELT" which he believes SMITH will like very much.

Informant advised that on or about July 31, 1944, Subject made the following press release to the wire service representatives in Detroit:

"For the first time in history a party officially and legally qualified as the AMERICA FIRST PARTY meets today in a state convention in Detroit.

"The call was issued by BERNARD A. DOMAN as secretary at the instigation of GERALD L. K. SMITH, national director of the newly-formed AMERICA FIRST PARTY. DOMAN said, 'Delegates have qualified from sixty-two Michigan counties. We shall nominate many candidates for office including all state officers, presidential electors and candidates for the state legislature.'

"GERALD L. K. SMITH, interviewed at the convention headquarters in Detroit at the Detroit-Leland Hotel, said, 'Our people cannot swallow the New Deal or anything that looks or sounds like ROOSEVELT.'

"Governor DEWEY has told the world that he will not accept our support, in fact, in his April fourth speech he virtually called for the liquidation of our three million constituents. DEWEY'S attack on Congressman HAMILTON FISH, one of the nation's leading America Firsters, makes it imperative that we lay the foundation for a dynamic Nationalist Party in America.

"It is possible that we may not nominate for Vice President,' said SMITH, 'because of the popularity of Governor JOHN BRICKER among our people.'

Letter to the Director  
August 15, 1944

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

"Today we will choose someone to be the America First candidate for President in Michigan, with the understanding that whomsoever we name today for President will defer if necessary to the candidate nominated by our national convention when it meets the fourth week in August."

Informant said that SMITH purposely had Governor BRICKER nominated for Vice President by the AMERICA FIRST PARTY at its Michigan State Convention on August 1, 1944, with the thought that he would necessarily not accept the nomination. On the same day Governor BRICKER, according to the United Press dispatch, did refuse the nomination in words as, "I will not accept such a ridiculous offer. I shall not permit my name to be used in any such connection." Further, Informant said that according to the United Press in reference to Governor BRICKER'S nomination, Governor DEWEY had stated, "The report that America First has nominated SMITH and BRICKER is a smear. GERALD SMITH is one of those rebel-rousers who, like ADOLPH HITLER, makes racial prejudice his stock and trade. This contemptible attempt to associate himself with Governor BRICKER is a sinister attempt to smear the Republican candidate for Vice President."

Informant said that in response to the statements made by Governors BRICKER and DEWEY, SMITH had issued a statement to the United Press in substance as follows:

"The comment of Governor DEWEY and Governor BRICKER concerning the action of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY proves to my complete satisfaction the need for the AMERICA FIRST PARTY as the true voice of nationalism in America. I observe that Mr. DEWEY, who seems so touchy concerning America First matters, has endorsed for Congress against HAMILTON FISH the same candidate which is being supported by EARL BROWDER. The truth is out at last. DEWEY'S attack on HAM FISH assures beyond doubt the fact that ROOSEVELT, WILLKIE, DEWEY, and BROWDER are in the same bed together. They all opposed FISH and supported BENNETT. The same gang fights GERALD L. K. SMITH. I am not afraid to take them all at once. I'll have plenty of help when the boys come home."

Further in reference to Governor BRICKER it was stated that SMITH released the statement, "In repudiating our cordial support, he has displayed the same weakness as when he capitulated to DEWEY at Chicago. If DEWEY can control him now he can control him if, by accident, he is elected."

Letter to the Director  
August 15, 1944

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

Informant also said that the executive committee of the Nationalist Party in the State of Michigan caucused on the night of August 1, 1944, and that the committee was under the charge of BERNARD A. DOMAN, and that a leading Coughlinite (according to SMITH), ~~HARRY A. ROMER~~, of St. Henry, Ohio, was chosen as Vice President. Informant further said that according to SMITH, ROMER has been leader of the National Union for Social Justice and is also a member of the Farmers Guild; that ROMER is a prominent merchant and farmer and presided over a meeting, which SMITH described as dramatic, in Greenville, Ohio, where SMITH addressed some seven thousand farmers. Informant said that on notification, ROMER had accepted the nomination.

Informant says that several days after Governor BRICKER had declined to accept the nomination of himself as the candidate for Vice President by the AMERICA FIRST PARTY in Michigan, SMITH had explained that BRICKER had been nominated to hold his people together; that they had felt that they could entrust their welfare to BRICKER and by forcing him into a repudiation, it kept the AMERICA FIRST group in a solid body.

Informant said that SMITH had advised Captain ~~EARL SOUTHARD~~ to the effect that he had received a telegram signed WILLIAM GRAY, secretary of the Republican National Revival Committee severely criticizing his (SMITH'S) publicized "Red Hearing" regarding the DEWEY-FISH controversy. In this connection Informant stated that SMITH referred to GRAY as being Captain EARL SOUTHARD'S "buddy".

According to Informant, on August 2, 1944, SMITH made the following release to the United Press in Detroit, "I accuse Governor T. E. DEWEY of being the first Presidential candidate in history in making a political issue out of the Jewish question. By introducing the Jewish question into national politics he does the Jewish race a grave injustice. He becomes the super-demagogue in using this technique to hold the support of the large Jewish vote in New York. The Jewish issue was not mentioned or discussed at the convention of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY."

[REDACTED] advised that the national convention of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY will be held August 29 and 30, 1944, and that the headquarters will be in the Detroit-Leland Hotel, and that two big sessions will be held in the auditorium of the Northern High School in Detroit, and that Subject b7D

Letter to the Director  
August 15, 1944

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

contemplates bringing in about two thousand delegates from forty-eight states to attend the convention. Informant further said in connection with the convention that SMITH will be one of the speakers and a good part of his address at the convention will be devoted to the statement of THOMAS E. DEWEY at Springfield, Ohio, and that SMITH, in this speech, intends to challenge DEWEY to face the real issue of nationalism and internationalism, that eventually DEWEY will have to decide between the philosophy of WENDELL WILLKIE and GERALD NYE which he cannot evade by attacking SMITH and introducing the race question. Informant also said that other speakers at the national convention will be Captain EARL SOUTHARD of Chicago and Vice Presidential Nominee HARRY ROMER.

Informant said that Subject had been in contact on several occasions with [redacted] during the above period of time and that on about July 29, 1944, [redacted] had advised SMITH that [redacted] (phonetic) was going to be indicted in New York the following week on a charge which he thought to be extortion; further, that [redacted] had said that [redacted] did not like SMITH at all. According to Informant, [redacted] contemplated going to New York where he intended to see [redacted]. Informant further advised that [redacted] was one of the nineteen electors to go to the national convention of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY in the State of Michigan to vote for the Presidential candidates.

Informant also stated that SMITH had discussed [redacted] with [redacted] that in response to his inquiry concerning knowledge of [redacted] had indicated that he did not know [redacted] and had seen him only on two occasions with a [redacted]. Informant in this connection further said that according to SMITH, [redacted] used to be a Communist but had turned against the Communists and had done some investigative work for the Ford Motor Company. Informant also said that a man whose name he believed to be [redacted] (however, the name may have been [redacted]) had advised Subject concerning a man by the last name of [redacted] in New York, that there is a warrant out for [redacted] on a charge of extortion in regard to the girl who was attached to [redacted]. Informant further said that according to [redacted] the girl had argued that it was all a frameup, and further that [redacted] and the girl were both working for the anti-Nazi League and that the Government had some of his correspondence. Both SMITH and [redacted] are in agreement that [redacted] is no good and is probably guilty of the extortion charge.

Must be  
[redacted]

ALC  
b7c

Letter to the Director  
August 15, 1944

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

Informant stated that the Board of Education of the City of Detroit had ruled that SMITH could not use the school's auditorium until he appeared in person before the school board, and that in accordance with this, Subject SMITH appeared before the Board of Education on August 8, 1944, at which meeting the Board voted to permit Subject and his organization to use the auditorium of the Northern High School for the national convention on August 29 and 30, 1944. The Informant further advised that SMITH claimed that the Board of Education had been used as a sounding board to attack the patriotism and American integrity of himself and his compatriots and that the "Commies" were active in trying to keep him from getting the school. Informant further said that a member of the board by the last name of [REDACTED] had particularly attacked Subject and that afterwards Subject had referred to [REDACTED] as being a "little tyke". b7c

By a release given to the United Press, it was announced that the buffalo had been chosen as the symbol of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY and that Washington is the vignette of the Party and will appear on America First ballots, according to information supplied by [REDACTED]. b7D

Informant said that a release was made to the United Press in regard to Subject's views as follows: "Concerning U. S. Senate race in New York State, SMITH endorses IVES. 'If Governor DEWEY and the Republican State Committee of New York endorse WENDELL WILLKIE for U. S. Senate, we America Firsters will support IVES. I am informed that Mr. IVES was active in the New York chapter of the America First Committee.'" b7D

Informant further advised that an individual, allegedly being Mr. HAYES, a writer for the McClure Syndicate, had contacted RAYMOND A. MARTINEZ; a negro attorney in Detroit, concerning an article appearing in the Detroit News about MARTINEZ's association with the Negro Nationalist Society of America. MARTINEZ referred to a proposal made by SMITH to the effect that Britain and France released millions of square miles of land in Africa to be made available free for negro colonization. Informant said that MARTINEZ claimed that the article concerning himself in the Detroit News (wherein MARTINEZ attacked SMITH'S position and disclaimed SMITH'S connection with his group) was substantially correct; MARTINEZ claimed that he had been working on this idea himself since 1930 and that in 1938 he had prepared a bill which BILBOA had introduced in Congress and that when the negro press found out about BILBOA'S connection, it immediately attacked both him and

Letter to the Director  
August 15, 1944

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

the bill. MARTINEZ claimed that other negroes had "jumped" on him concern-  
ing SMITH'S position and told him that they would run into plenty of trouble  
SMITH endorsed "this proposition".

*Samuel  
Henderson Still* { Informant said that Subject is an admirer of a Mr. STILLE  
in Chicago and that STILLE was going to give some lectures for SMITH.

Informant said that he had information to the effect that  
either Mr. or Mrs. SMITH may be using A gasoline ration coupons supplied  
by BERNARD DOMAN.

Informant also advised that there is a contemplated meeting  
for Sunday, August 27, 1944, of a large group of farmers to be addressed  
by both SMITH and HARRY ROMER, although Informant was unable to furnish the  
hour or place of the proposed meeting.

It is to be noted that Captain EARL SOUTHARD in Chicago, ac-  
cording to Informant, has expressed some concern over receipt of his mail  
because he is a little suspicious of one of the men handling some of his  
mail.

Very truly yours,

*R. A. Guerin*

R. A. GUERIN, SAC

  
62-1126

*b7c*

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

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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

FILE NO. 100-6111

REPORT MADE AT <b>CINCINNATI, OHIO</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/12/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/1, 5, 6, 9; 7/5/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] <span style="float: right;">b7c</span> <b>MEH</b>
TITLE <b>GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases; THE AMERICA FIRST PARTY</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - S SECURITY MATTER SEDITION</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS**

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-2012/uc**

Rally held at Greenville, Ohio **6/1/44** attended by approximately 1500 to 2000. Rally sponsored by Farmers Guild. SMITH spoke for about 1 hour demanding recognition of the America First ideals by the Republicans, stating otherwise they would enter the Presidential campaign as a third party; declared LINDBERGH and WHEELER might be their candidates; criticized entire ROOSEVELT family; claimed ROOSEVELT wished to be President of the world and his son President of the United States; stated the United States spent more money on this war than all other nations combined. Mrs. ERNEST LUNDEEN and CHARLES BINDERUP also spoke at meeting.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE**

Letter from Detroit dated May 25, 1944;  
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated 6/9/44 at Detroit, Michigan. b7c

**DETAILS**

**AT GREENVILLE, OHIO**

[REDACTED] b7c reported that a rally of the America First Party was held at the Darke County Fairgrounds at about 2:30 P.M., on June 4, 1944. He informed that the capacity of the Fairgrounds is approxi-

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>J. E. Dougherty</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 3 Detroit (enclosure) 2 Cincinnati cc Clark 7/24/44 EPB COPY IN FILE		62-43418-526 <b>F B I</b> 30 JUL 17 1944 [Signature]	RECORDED & INDEXED EX - 42

mately 2600, and he estimated that it was about one-half full. In his estimation there was a maximum of 1500 people present. He informed that the meeting was conducted by HARRY A. ROMER. He stated that ROMER opened the meeting and commented bitterly on the newspaper articles published prior to the meeting, and the efforts of the American Legion to deny the use of the Fairgrounds to the America First Party for this meeting. He referred to the American Legion as "Two-bit politicians".

[REDACTED] said that SMITH spoke and that he stated since we are in the war we must win; that we must bring our boys back to this country after the war and not leave them to police Europe. SMITH quoted several figures regarding the cost of the war and said America was paying more for this war than all the other nations combined. He further stated that if the Republican Party continued its trend toward Internationalism the America First Party would have to run a candidate of their own in the coming Presidential election. He said the America First Party are Nationalists and that the first Nationalist was GEORGE WASHINGTON. He criticized the Administration and the entire ROOSEVELT family. Informant stated it appeared to him that SMITH criticized everybody but HITLER. b7D

SMITH also spoke vigorously for the right of free speech in this country, and then assailed WALTER WINCHELL and DREW PEARSON, stating that these columnists should be put off the air and should not be allowed to write propaganda such as is published in the newspapers.

[REDACTED] reported that the rally at the Darke County Fairgrounds was conducted by the Farmers Guild for the America First Party, and that it started about 2:30 P.M., June 4, 1944; that he estimated between 1500 and 2000 people were present. He said that HARRY ROMER conducted the meeting and opened it by speaking about the trouble they had obtaining the Fairgrounds. He spoke for a short time regarding the newspaper opposition to the America First Party and referred to several of the newspapers in this vicinity as "Nazi" newspapers. He then introduced O. L. HART, head of the Farmers organization in this vicinity, who spoke for a few minutes and made a plea for all farmers to get behind the America First Party. b7D

JAMES MARNIX, also a member of the Farmers Guild, was the next speaker. His talk was mainly on the subject of free speech and stated he could not understand the American Legion's attitude in opposing the meeting, as he understood this organization always advocated free speech in the United States.

Mrs. ERNEST LUNDEEN, widow of the former Minnesota Senator, was the next speaker, and she spoke for about thirty minutes, mainly defending her husband's stand as an isolationist, and generally in favor of the America First Party and its principles.

ROMER then filled in with a few impromptu remarks and introduced the main speaker, GERALD L. K. SMITH, who spoke for about an hour. He opened his address by telling the people not to applaud; that he would indicate to them when they should applaud. He then criticized the local power company for failure to furnish power for the loud speaking system. He stated that they had to run a line for 1/4 of a mile to a nearby farmhouse to obtain power. He informed that if the Republicans failed to heed the warning of the America First Party and continued their trend toward Internationalism, the America First Party would have to place candidates of their own in the field for the next Presidential election. He stated that LINDBERGH and WHEELER would probably be candidates for their party.

SMITH stated that this country was in the war; that we wanted to win it and bring our boys back after the war; that we must not leave them over in Europe to police the world. He vigorously criticized the entire ROOSEVELT family and stated that President ROOSEVELT wished to be President of the world, and wanted his son to be President of the United States. SMITH made several general remarks criticizing the Administration, and his remarks indicated he believed everything being done now was being done wrong, and he stated if the Republicans did not intend to take any action to remedy this situation the America First Party would have to step into the breach.

SMITH said the expenses of the meeting would be about \$1500, and he made a plea for contributions of at least \$1 or \$2 in the collection taken up. Envelopes were passed out and he told the gathering to put their money in the envelope so that they could save America. He said "Your dollars will be worth good money in ten years instead of nothing". He also said the United States was spending more money in this war than all the rest of the nations combined. Informant stated that a number of people left the Fairgrounds when the collection started.

SMITH also stated that the so-called heads of the American Legion had no authority to criticize him or denounce him, as there was nothing in their National Convention in the form of a resolution against him.

He said he would be back in Greenville again and would speak "if they kill me". SMITH concluded his remarks, and the next and final speaker was CHARLES BINDERUP. BINDERUP confined most of his remarks to the money system in this country and advocated the control of the money by the Americans and not by International bankers.

Informant stated that the majority of the audience consisted of farmers and that he observed only two servicemen in the crowd.

100-6111

Clippings of newspaper articles appearing in the Greenville Daily Advocate and the Dayton, Ohio Journal are being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division.

A review of the file in the Cincinnati Field Office shows that [redacted] stated he had attended a meeting of the Farmers Guild on December 6, 1943. This meeting was held at the Public Library. He stated that the meeting had been widely circularized and the general public invited to attend. Therefore he and a fairly representative group of the citizenry of Greenville had attended this meeting out of curiosity.

[redacted] stated that to his knowledge the group still holds periodical meetings but he believes they have been refused the use of several halls and the meetings are usually held in different locations. He said that ordinarily meetings are attended by approximately 50 regular members.

[redacted] stated that the program of the meetings referred to impressed him as strongly anti-Semitic, anti-Administration, and anti-Communist, and strongly opposed to the purchase of United States War Savings Bonds. He advised that the meeting was opened with a statement to the effect that the purpose of the organization is to organize the people for action when the appropriate time comes. [redacted] went on to say that the speakers of the meeting were in accord with the above mentioned sentiments expressed, and also discussed the financial policy of the United States Government, deploring the system of International banking, of which they portrayed the United States to be a victim. JOHN E. WATERS was the principal speaker along the above lines.

[redacted] informed that he attended this same meeting of the Farmers Guild. He stated that he was late for this meeting and therefore missed the opening statement concerning the purpose of the Farmers Guild. He stated the original organizer of the Farmers Guild in Greenville was [redacted] Farmer [redacted]

[redacted] advised that the apparent aim of the Farmers Guild is to remove the New Deal Agricultural Program, and said that one of the speakers who was violently anti-Russian compared present Agricultural Program with the Russian Five-Year Plan, and made the statement: "We Americans are all becoming Communists."

[redacted] stated that JOHN E. WATERS, who spoke as a financial expert, came from Dayton, Ohio, to the best of his knowledge, and was sponsored by the Constitutional Educational League of Hartford, Connecticut.

100-6111

[REDACTED] further stated that he had no information in his possession at that time indicating any connection between the Farmers Guild and GERALD L. K. SMITH. He described Darke County, Ohio as reactionary Republican, strongly susceptible to the influence of such groups as the Farmers Guild and America First Party. b7c  
b7d

It is noted that this Farmers Guild was very active in the rally held by the America First Party at Greenville, Ohio, June 4, 1944.

ENCLOSURES TO THE DETROIT FIELD DIVISION: 4 sheets containing newspaper clippings regarding instant meeting of America First Party

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

100-6111

INFORMANTS

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7d

EPB:WMLJ

7-24-44

RECORD NO 62-43818-513

62-43818-526

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD L. K. SMITH, was; The AMERICA FIRST PARTY;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C; SECURITY MATTER; SEDITION.

Enclosed for your further information in the captioned matter is a copy of the investigative report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 12, 1944. This report, you will note, sets forth information relative to the Smith rally held at Greenville, Ohio, on June 4, 1944. b7c

*Enclosure*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/8/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mh

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. Hendon	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED JUL 25 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JUL 28 1944

RECEIVED HEADQUARTERS  
JUL 24 1944

*Handwritten initials and marks*



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COM-4a

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP(S) OF DATE 4/13/51

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

# F.B.I. TELETYPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

CLASS BY SP-RTJ/mc

DATE OF REVIEW 10/1/51

1-232  
FBI DETROIT [REDACTED] b1  
DIRECTOR AND SAC WASHINGTON 12:20 PM EWT CC  
URGENT

NAP. GERALD L.K. SMITH, WAS, AMERICA FIRST PARTY, IS - GERMAN SECURITY MATTERS, SEDITION. RETEL DETROIT TO YOU [REDACTED] b1  
LAST. SUBJECT STAYING AT WILLARD HOTEL IN WASHINGTON, D.C. [REDACTED] c 20  
SUBMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. GUERIN [REDACTED]  
12-20 PM OK FBI WASH MS WA 0711  
WA 0722 FBI WA VKM

RECORDED  
62-43818-528  
STOP DEAR  
E B 1 cc - Mr. Ladd  
b1 - mkn

RECEIVED [REDACTED] b1 12:42 PM EWT [REDACTED] c b1

[REDACTED] b1  
[REDACTED] c  
[REDACTED] b1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

288

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

Origin **DETROIT** DETROIT File No. 62-1126

Made at <b>DETROIT, MICHIGAN</b>	Date made <b>7/25/44</b>	Period <b>5/29, 6/5, 12, 19, 26, 7/3, 10, 17, 25/44</b>	Made by <b>[REDACTED]</b>
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------	--	------------------------------

Title <b>GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases AMERICA FIRST PARTY</b>	Character <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - SECURITY MATTER - SEVENTION</b>
--	---

Synopsis of Facts:

**[REDACTED]**

SMITH spent a great part of past six weeks engaged in extensive tour of northeastern and middle western states. Lien against SMITH for \$405 filed in Federal Court for tax due from 1941 income. Immediate restitution made. SMITH'S use of Detroit public schools meeting facilities restricted because of action of Detroit Branch of the Civil Rights Federation. Damage suit for \$100,000 filed in New York Federal Court against SMITH for usurping title "AMERICA FIRST." Meeting of America First Committee on June 1, 1944 addressed by ex-Congressman BINDERUP who discussed national monetary matters. SMITH at this time denounced DEWEY and disclosed plans to form a Nationalist Congressional Committee with Senator REYNOLDS as titular head. At closed session in Detroit on July 14, 1944 SMITH revealed plans to actively oppose DEWEY and Republican Party ticket and to organize a third party movement. Party will hold a state convention in Detroit, July 31, 1944. Plan to hold a national convention during August, 1944, possibly at St. Louis, Missouri. RALPH BAERMAN conferred with SMITH in Detroit four days in July.

*7-25-44*  
*6/28/1948*  
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*3 & 5 as indicated*  
*in serial on*  
*original*  
*27 JUL 21 1944*  
*FILE UNIT*

*63488*  
*[Handwritten notes and signatures]*

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~  
- P -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** dated June 9, 1944 at Detroit, Michigan.

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- 2 - Chicago
- 2 - St. Louis
- 1 - Washington Field (information)
- 4 - Detroit

INDEXED IN  
PUBLICATION  
FILES

*[Handwritten file number]*  
62-43818-529

22 AUG 1944  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/82 BY [signature]

63489 1

De 62-1126

DETAILS: At Detroit, Michigan:

This is a joint report of Special Agent [redacted] and the reporting Agent. The information set out in the subsequent paragraphs unless otherwise designated, has been received from [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau.

b7c  
b7c

During the period May 22, 1944 to June 8, 1944 Informant advised that SMITH had spent a very great portion of this period outside the city of Detroit conducting a number of speaking engagements in the east and middle west. SMITH owes on his income tax for the year 1941 \$405 and the Internal Revenue Department made a demand upon him to submit a check for this amount immediately or further action would be taken by the Government to collect. (Detroit newspapers disclosed that the Internal Revenue filed a lien in Federal Court, probably in Detroit, against SMITH for tax due on his 1941 income.) On June 4, 1944 a meeting of AMERICA FIRST followers was planned for the fairgrounds at Greenville, Ohio and in addition to this, SMITH was attempting to rent a hall in Chicago for the night prior to the Republican Convention.

The auditorium of the Northern High School in Detroit was rented by SMITH in the name of the Federation of Americanization and tickets were issued in the name of AMERICA FIRST. This provoked a controversy prompted by the CIO who contested SMITH'S right to have the use of a public auditorium. A meeting was held by the Board of Education, Detroit on June 6, 1944 at which time the CIO and other objecting parties stated their contention in the meeting. SMITH was scheduled to have his say at a meeting on June 13, 1944. Six different groups at that time were protesting to the Board of Education on the use of a city auditorium by the SMITH group. SMITH ordered 1,000 to 2,000 booklets of JOE CAMP, New York City and intends to distribute them to his key people as a premium for donations to his group. The circular accompanying these booklets reads somewhat as follows:

"With lotions of love....what most Americans can do without is giving aid and comfort to the enemy....helping Hitler's divide and conquer strategy....and create disunity on the home front. What self-styled patriot is a pitiful dupe of Axis Agents? What gossipers' propaganda has been branded as detrimental to the armed forces by Military Intelligence? What ex-Isolationist tried to claim credit for starting World War II? What loud-mouthed anti-Communist has helped the Communist cause? What well-known know-it-all does not know when he was married? What malicious scandal monger has a scandal of his own to worry about?"

63490

De 62-1126

During the period mentioned above, May 22 to June 8, 1944, SMITH contacted [redacted] of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; [redacted] of Greenville, Ohio; HARRY ROSS of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Mrs. LUNDEEN. Informant stated that during this time SMITH'S mail had been better than usual and that SMITH is "OK" financially; that SMITH is being sued for \$100,000 in New York City for using the name "America First."

During the period above the Informant stated that to his knowledge the controversy with the Board of Education of the city of Detroit over the use of the public schools by SMITH had been postponed from from June 6, to June 13 to permit SMITH to appear and state his contentions. SMITH failed to appear on June 13, 1944, advising the Board of Education he was speaking in Minneapolis, Minnesota on that date. Thereupon the Board of Education postponed the date of his appearance once more, this time to June 20 at which time SMITH again failed to appear by reason of being out of town. The Board of Education proposed the resolution requiring SMITH to apply directly to the Board before he would be issued a permit for the use of any public auditorium; and considered that SMITH had violated their rule with respect to commercializing school buildings.

[redacted] and an attorney by the name of [redacted] as well as Communist and labor organizations, were active in objecting to the use of school auditoriums by the Subject.

Reverend L. L. MARION of the Regular Republicans, had ordered pamphlets on the Lincoln Profit Sharing Plan from Cleveland, Ohio. MARION had been requested by SMITH to be present in Chicago on June 25 to preside at the rally for the Independent Republicans to be held at the Grand Ballroom in the Stevens Hotel in Chicago on that date.

The Informant stated that [redacted] had received a telegram from [redacted] requesting [redacted] to furnish information to him for [redacted]

[redacted] said that Dr. EDWARD LODGE KURRAN, International Catholic Truth Society; Reverend NORMAN VINCENT PEALE; and Major General BYRNES were on the platform at this meeting.

During the period mentioned above, SMITH had two "wonderful" meetings at St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota. They were forced to change buildings in St. Paul when the crowd threatened to blow up the first one, but SMITH had a good crowd at the second building. SMITH had made extensive plans for the pre-convention rally at the Grand Ballroom in the Stevens Hotel in

ALL  
DTC

63491

De 62-1126

Chicago on June 25, 1944. Some 2,500 invitations were mailed out. The Hotel however, cancelled SMITH'S contract for the use of the ballroom since their agreement with the Republican National Committee required the Committee's approval before renting public space to a private group during the period of the convention. However, SMITH indicated his intentions to hold the meeting regardless, stating "We will fight; anything that happens will do us good."

Informant stated that the Farmers Guild of Indiana requested SMITH to plan a meeting for them in the near future and that [redacted] of Buffalo, New York had requested SMITH to conduct a meeting in Buffalo some time during August with either Senator REYNOLDS or ex-Congressman BINDERUP to speak.

b7c

A Mr. HANSBALL of a Detroit newspaper requested SMITH to give him a running general story on the racial issue. Also [redacted] of the Ford Motor Company requested SMITH to place a congratulatory message in his Legion Post publication in honor of HENRY FORD'S 81st birthday. The Informant indicated that SMITH intends to offer as a premium to his followers, a publication known as "40 Years of Roosevelt."

For the period June 23, through July 6, 1944 Informant advised that SMITH had sent the Internal Revenue Department \$100 to apply on the tax lien filed against him and that another \$300 was to be submitted by July 6th. During this time SMITH had some difficulty in obtaining a meeting place in Chicago for June 25. Arrangements were completed for the rally to be held in the Hamilton Hotel rather than the original meeting place, the Stevens Hotel. SMITH remarked that the meeting held in Chicago was a sensation and he had made the front page in all the newspapers there.

During this time SMITH was contacted by BOB REYNOLDS of the Farmers Guild; by Mrs. BROWN, [redacted] and [redacted]. SMITH has decided to fight DEWEY and planned to call a convention of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY in St. Louis, Missouri some time in August and consider the wisdom of nominating a presidential and vice-presidential candidate. He is considering the possibility of changing his headquarters from Detroit to Chicago, Illinois.

b7c

During the period July 7 through July 24, 1944 [redacted] advised that the post office was holding up the distribution of SMITH'S magazine because of some question over SMITH'S combining two months in one. During this time SMITH was contacted by [redacted] who attempted to influence SMITH to reach a compromise with the leaders of the Republican Party which SMITH firmly refused to do, and in doing so, soundly denounced DEWEY,

b7c

b7c

saying that he was controlled by the Jews and by CHURCHILL. SMITH indicated at this time that he might run for Congress on the AMERICA FIRST ticket. He also indicated that he had been approached by the controlling interests of the Republican Party in Chicago with a proposition to bring his group into the Republican Party which proposition he refused.

The Informant indicated that several of SMITH'S close followers are very much worried about the attitude he has taken regarding the Republican Party and several of them have indicated that they thought he should reverse his attitude and support the Republican ticket. At each request for this action, SMITH firmly refuses to have anything to do with the Republican Party and expresses his desire for organizing a third party on a nationalistic basis.

During this period mentioned above, the Informant indicated that SMITH had his office manager make inquiry from various and sundry sources concerning the formulation and registration of a third party and the candidates thereof. Also during this period SMITH had his office manager contact the Detroit Temperance Union and the Prohibition Party to inquire from them for information concerning their candidates for Michigan state offices and the dates when their respective conventions will be held. The informant stated that Captain SOUTHARD of Chicago had indicated to SMITH that he was having trouble with his organization in Chicago because some of the members of his organization were receiving SMITH'S literature. SOUTHARD was accused by his members of giving his membership list to SMITH and they resented such action on the part of SOUTHARD. SMITH told SOUTHARD at this time that the fellow from Washington who wrote a book that had never been published was in Detroit and had given him very interesting data.

SMITH in conversation with HARRY ROMER, indicated that he desired to have Senator WHEELER as a presidential candidate in his third party movement. This Informant indicated that RALPH BAERMAN was in Detroit to see SMITH on July 13 and July 14, 1944.

On July 14, 1944 SMITH contacted Mrs. BILLINGS, Secretary of "The Mothers," Chicago. They discussed the problem of combining with other similar organizations. SMITH stated that he favored a program that could give each organization freedom of expression. He didn't think that the organization should be federated. SMITH advised the Informant that on July 31, 1944 the AMERICA FIRST PARTY would hold a state convention in the Jade Room of the Detroit-Leland Hotel. SMITH informed that he had been contacted by HARRY ROMER who advised SMITH to tell SMITH that a meeting in Hamilton, Ohio was being arranged for him on either August 27th or September 10th, 1944 in that city, that he, ROMER, was lining up organizations in Lebanon, Ohio and Okeana, Ohio

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

\* \* \*

[REDACTED] advised that during the month of June, 1944 the Civil Rights Federation, an alleged Communist "front" in Detroit was very active in organizing opposition to SMITH. They used the Federation to influence the Detroit Board of Education to forbid the use of public school auditoriums to SMITH. In this action the Civil Rights Federation claimed backing by the Detroit Council of Churches, the Catholic Church, the American National League of Women Voters, the National Negro Congress, and the Detroit Jewish Council.

b7d

De 62-1126

This informant stated that this opposition which was led by JACK RASKIN, Executive Secretary of the Civil Rights Federation who contacted many people to support the Federation in its actions, was not too successful. Many of these persons contacted by RASKIN indicated that they would not give their support in this movement because as long as no action had been taken against SMITH by the FBI or the Department of Justice he, SMITH, should be granted the same rights as any other individual.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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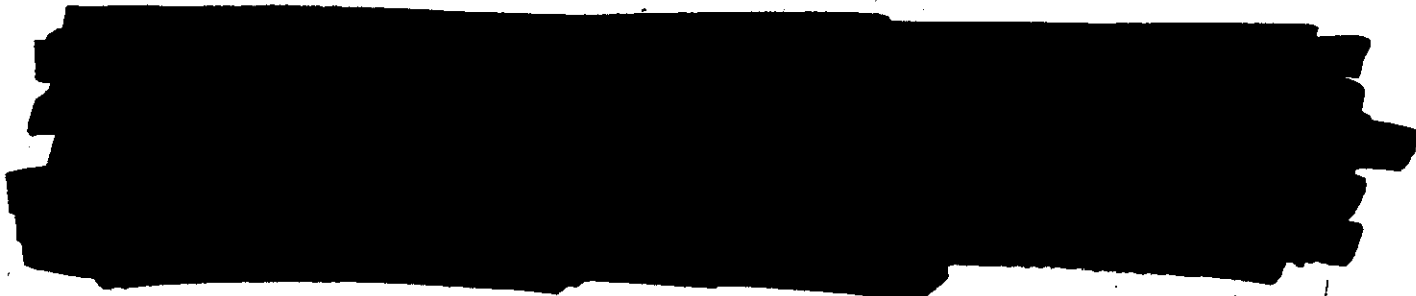
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De 62-1126



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ENCLOSURES

To the Bureau:

There are being forwarded to the Bureau as enclosures with this report copies of May and June-July issues of The Cross and the Flag, personal monthly messages of SMITH, and various pamphlets and other material distributed by SMITH to his followers at his meetings in Detroit, Michigan and Chicago, Illinois.

- PENDING -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

IN ACCORDANCE WITH BUREAU INSTRUCTION, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS SUBMITTED IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

---

THE CHICAGO FIELD DIVISION

At Chicago, Illinois, will conduct appropriate investigation of the AMERICA FIRST rally held in the Stevens Hotel on June 25, 1944 and submit the results of this investigation in report form.

Will conduct similar investigation of the AMERICA FIRST rally held in Chicago on July 17, 1944.

THE ST. LOUIS FIELD DIVISION

At St. Louis, Missouri, will follow and report on activities of the Subject while in St. Louis. It is to be noted that the AMERICA FIRST PARTY plans to hold a national convention to organize a third party movement sometime during August in the city of St. Louis.

THE DETROIT FIELD DIVISION

At Detroit, Michigan, will cover and report the state convention of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY to be held in the Jade Room of the Detroit-Leland Hotel on July 31, 1944. Will maintain contact with confidential informants mentioned in this report concerning the activities of the Subject.

\* \* \*

A copy of this report has been designated for the information of the WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION in accordance with instructions set out in Bureau letter dated June 27, 1944.

- PENDING -

63515

De 62-1126

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

[REDACTED]

b7D

\* \* \*

INDEX GUIDE

TITLE: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases AMERICAN FIRST PARTY

SA [REDACTED]

CASE: INTERNAL- G  
SECURITY MATTER-SEDITION

DATE: 7/28/44

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WPHa:WMJ  
8-19-44  
32-43818-529

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. [redacted]

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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

63487

For your further information in your consideration of the activities of subject Smith there are attached copies of the following two reports which have been submitted in the investigation of this matter:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Chicago, Illinois, on July 27, 1944.

Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Detroit, Michigan, on July 28, 1944.

Also attached are photostatic copies of the following items of literature which were received along with Special Agent [redacted] report:

1. The May, 1944, issue of "The Cross and the Flag."
2. A leaflet headed, "40 Years of Roosevelt."
3. A leaflet captioned, "A Personal Message About ... Chicago - Dewey - America First."
4. The June - July, 1944, issue of "The Cross and the Flag."

Enclosure

AUG 27 1944

RECEIVED IN [redacted]

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DATE 10/2/92 BY [redacted]

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
AUG 21 1944  
P. M.  
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

50 SEP 4 1944

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS  
RELEASE

SUBJECT: GERALD L.K. SMITH

FILE: 62-43818

SUB: \_\_\_\_\_

VOL: 32

PAGES REVIEWED: 96

PAGES RELEASED: 66

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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# F.B.I. TELETYPE

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

DETROIT

10:31 PM GMN

DIRECTOR AND SAC WASHINGTON

URGENT

NAP

GERALD K. SMITH, WAS. AMERICA FIRST PARTY, INTERNAL SECURITY G, SECURITY MATTER - SEDITION. SUBJECT DEPARTED DETROIT TO ARRIVE WASHINGTON EIGHT THIRTY AM, PENNSYLVANIA OR B AND O RR. HE WILL CONTACT [REDACTED] AND BOTH PLAN TO GO TO SECRETARY OF STATE HULL AND DEMAND PERMISSION TO SIT IN ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CONFERENCE. THIS IS SUBMITTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY.

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full list  
found  
info re Smith  
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JPH:WMJ

62-43818  
SAC, Detroit

August 21, 1944

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

GERALD L. E. SMITH, was  
AMERICA FIRST PARTY  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C  
SECURITY MATTER  
SEDITION

Reference is made to the report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on July 28, 1944, and to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at Washington, D. C., on July 20, 1944. b7c

In this connection your attention is invited particularly to page 25 of Special Agent [redacted] report wherein it is set forth that [redacted] b7c b7D

The Bureau is interested in this particular information and through your available sources at Detroit you should continue to follow closely any activities on the part of [redacted] which would indicate that he has actually had printed and published such a book. In the event the book is forthcoming, it would be helpful if you could secure a copy for transmittal to the Bureau. b7c

cc - Washington

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

62-43818-531
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

53 AUG 28 1944

M/K

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

Detroit, Michigan

FILE NO. 100-7744

REPORT MADE AT <b>CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7/27/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/26/44 7/13, 26/44</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;">b7c VLS</span>
TITLE <b>GERALD L. K. SMITH, was AMERICA FIRST PARTY</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G SEDITION</b>

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** SMITH held a meeting in Chicago 4/30/44, approximately 500 persons attended. SMITH in speech condemned Governor DEWEY of New York as an Internationalist and President ROOSEVELT's foreign policy. KENNETH GOFF, National Chairman of the Christian Youth Movement, spoke condemning Communism. SMITH and 2,000 persons forcibly took over the Grand Ballroom of the Stevens Hotel, Chicago, 6/25/44 for a meeting after the management refused to rent the ballroom. SMITH condemned the Republican Party for preventing the hotel from renting him the ballroom and criticized Governor DEWEY of New York and WENDELL WILLKIE. SMITH held a meeting at the LaSalle Hotel, Chicago, 7/17/44 and 2,000 persons attended. SMITH condemned the Jews, Communists, Internationalists, bankers and stated that a prominent man advised him that the Internationalist Party is to be the only party in the U. S.

-RUC-  
~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

**REFERENCE:** Bureau file 62-43818.  
Detroit letter to Chicago dated June 2, 1944.  
Detroit teletype to Chicago dated June 24, 1944.  
Chicago teletype to Bureau dated June 26, 1944.  
Bureau teletype to Chicago dated July 13, 1944.

**DETAILS:** AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:

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-I-

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	HANDLED BY <b>STOP DESK</b> <span style="float: right;">92</span>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		62-43818-532
⑤ - Bureau 3 - Detroit 2 - Chicago <i>cc Clark 8/19/44</i>	AUG 26 1944 FBI 181 EX-66	⑤ <i>[Signature]</i>

[REDACTED] b20  
The identity of this informant will be furnished in event of prosecution.

This witness can testify that GERALD L. K. SMITH held a meeting at the Fine Arts Building, 410 South Michigan Avenue, starting at 8 P.M. April 30, 1944. This witness can testify that approximately 500 persons were present at the meeting and the following occurred at the meeting.

SMITH devoted half of his speech to telling the audience the trouble he was having in obtaining halls for his meetings in various cities. SMITH criticized Governor DEWEY's speech which was given a short time before his meeting, endorsing and embracing the administration's international policy. SMITH at this meeting withdrew his support and that of his followers from Governor DEWEY as a Presidential nominee. SMITH stated that Governor DEWEY was following WILLKIE towards Internationalism; that if DEWEY or any other Internationalistic candidate was nominated at the Republican National Convention he would start a third party.

SMITH during this meeting predicted that DEWEY would be defeated as a Republican nominee for President at the Republican National Convention in Chicago. SMITH stated that he would switch his support and that of his followers to the Democratic Party behind such men as Senator BURTON WHEELER or Senator ROBERT REYNOLDS. SMITH requested those attending the meeting to write to the Illinois delegates to draft Colonel ROBERT MC CORMICK as presidential nominee for the Republican Party.

SMITH stated that seizure of the Montgomery Ward and Company by the government was a good example of Fascism in the United States. SMITH in his speech condemned the foreign policy of President ROOSEVELT and Secretary of State, HULL, and stated that he was against any super-government of any international police force using American soldiers. SMITH quoted from a speech given by Senator BUTLER that the United States Government was going to throw away six billion dollars in Latin America.

SMITH stated that before ROOSEVELT became President the United States had 65 employees in the Mexican Embassy and that there are now 3500 employees in the Mexican Embassy. SMITH stated that the poor people were not getting any benefit from the money which was being spent in Mexico or Latin America; that the money was being used by the Mexican and American officials in Mexico City.

SMITH informed the audience that his son, GERALD SMITH, JR., was fighting as a Private in Burma; that WALTER WINCHELL prevented his son from becoming an officer by broadcasting information concerning his son just as his son's papers were being reviewed by the United States Army so that he could enter Officers Candidate School.


100-7744

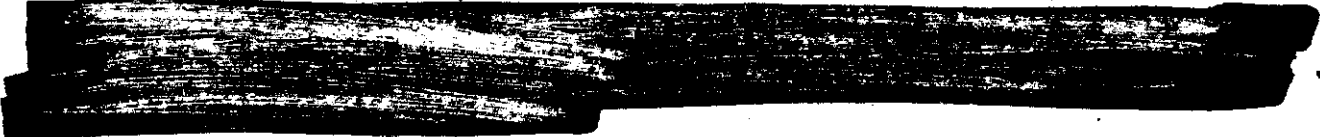
SMITH stated in his speech that the United States was a free country and that every man had a right to worship as he pleased in a cathedral, church, synagogue or to be an atheist. SMITH stated that he was the one who should be credited for the Republican victories during the elections in 1942 and 1943; that he was the one who defeated WENDELL WILLKIE in the primary election in Wisconsin when the people voted to determine their choice of the Republican nominee for President.

SMITH stated that he had a following of three million people in the United States and that his following was growing very rapidly.

KENNETH GOFF, an ex-Communist, member of the America First Party and national chairman of the Christian Youth Movement, spoke at this meeting. GOFF stated that the Christian Youth Movement was organized for the expressed purpose of combating the work and ideas of the American Youth for Democracy which was actually the Young Communist League. GOFF stated that it was necessary for the people to organize and work together to defeat the Communists and New Dealers in the November elections; that if the people did not the fight would be harder, longer and might eventually end up in bloodshed in order to defeat the Communists and New Dealers.

SMITH took up a collection at this meeting.

 b7D  
whose identity is known to the Bureau.  
The identity of this informant will be  
furnished in event of prosecution.

 b2D

This informant can testify that approximately 2,000 of SMITH's followers went into the Grand Ballroom; that a short time later SMITH went to the platform of the Grand Ballroom and told those present that he had won a beachhead for free speech and that he was taking over the ballroom. This witness can testify that as soon as SMITH took the platform the orchestra left and that so far as she knows no one attempted to evict SMITH and his followers from the ballroom. This witness can testify that SMITH and his followers kept control of the ballroom for approximately two hours during which time SMITH devoted his time to criticizing the management of the hotel for refusing to rent the ballroom to him. SMITH stated that he had a contract with the hotel for the rental of the ballroom and that the contract was withdrawn after the Republican Party forced the hotel to cancel the contract.



100-7744

This witness can testify that SMITH in his talk criticized WENDELL WILLKIE and Governor DEWEY of New York and accused them of being Internationalists. This informant can testify that SMITH stated that his definition of a victory has three branches: First, to retire all the ROOSEVELTS to private life; Second, send WILLKIE to Moscow and Third, make WALLACE a milkman in China.

This witness can testify that no collection was taken up at this meeting and that SMITH stated that he did not give the speech he had intended inasmuch as the hotel would not voluntarily allow him to occupy the ballroom.

This witness can testify that SMITH held a meeting at the Hotel LaSalle ballroom, Chicago, Monday night July 17, 1944. This meeting was a closed meeting and admission could be gained only by invitation. This witness can testify that approximately 2,000 persons attended this meeting.

This witness can testify that assistants to SMITH sold the following literature at this meeting:

"And So They Indicted Me" by J. EDWARD JONES  
"With Lotions of Love to Walter Winchell", by JOSEPH KAMP  
"Forty Years of Roosevelt", by T. W. HUGHES  
"America Preferred", by CARL H. MOTE  
"They Would Change Our Way of Life", by KENNETH GOFF  
"The Cross And The Flag"

This witness can testify that SMITH introduced to the audience the guests seated on the stage which guests were Rev. Dr. L. L. MARON of Pontiac, Michigan, who pronounced the invocation; Mrs. GRACE MILLINGS, Secretary of We, the Mother's Mobilize For America, Inc.; Mrs. GERALD L. K. SMITH; CHARLES J. ANDERSON, JR., Republican nominee for Congressman for the Sixth District of Illinois and two men who were members of the Farmer's Guild.

This witness can testify that CHARLES J. ANDERSON, JR. made a talk at this meeting at which time he read statements concerning helping the soldiers of the American Army when they return to the United States from the battle front.

This witness can testify that SMITH gave a speech at this meeting the contents of which was as follows:

SMITH stated that on June 3, 1944 the America First Rally at Greenville, Ohio, was advised by the Fair Board of Greenville, that he would not be permitted to hold a meeting at the Fair grounds in Greenville, Ohio; that a few Jewish leaders in that city had brought pressure to bear to prevent him from speaking at the Fair grounds. SMITH stated that a group of citizens got into the Fair grounds on the night of June 3, 1944, opened the gates and strung an electric cable

100-7744

so that a meeting could be held; that those present then stood guard over the fair grounds until 7,000 people arrived for the meeting; that most of the people were farmers. SMITH stated that Chairman SPRAENGLER of the Republican National Convention was instrumental in getting the Stevens Hotel in Chicago to deny him the use of the Grand Ballroom of that hotel on June 25, 1944 but that he and 2,000 of his followers marched into the ballroom and took it over.

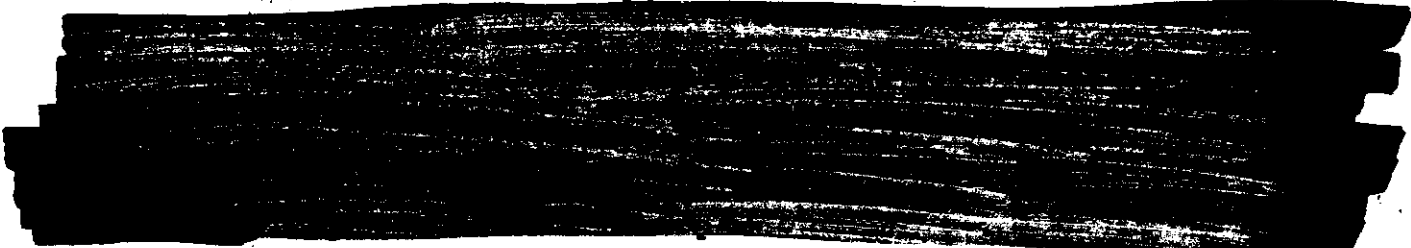
SMITH stated that after this meeting at the Stevens Hotel, he was contacted at his room in the Blackstone Hotel by a very prominent man in the United States who advised him that he should forget about Constitutionalism and American Nationalism; that there was going to be only one party in the United States and that was the Internationalists Party. SMITH stated that this man stated that he was backing THOMAS DEWEY for President.

SMITH stated that EARL BROWDER was released from prison by President ROOSEVELT in order that President ROOSEVELT could gain votes from the Communist Party.

SMITH during his speech denounced the dictatorial powers of a small minority, whether they be New Deal, Communistic, British-minded, Internationalists, Jews or bankers. SMITH denounced the Federal Reserve Banking System and stated that it was set up for the sole benefit of the Jewish International Bankers. SMITH in his speech denounced the protection given to WALTER WINCHELL's column in the newspapers and condemned WALTER WINCHELL for being against such great Americans as Senator NYE, Senator, HOFFMAN, Senator TAFT, Senator WHEELER, DIES, FATHER COUGHLIN, CHARLES LINDBERGH and many others. SMITH demanded that the "Bureaucrats" in Washington stop throwing away billions of dollars in South America and elsewhere and start giving at least \$100 to every United States soldier returning to the United States along with one acre of land.

SMITH demanded that a system of profit sharing and private enterprise be restored.

At this meeting SMITH read a telegram from Senator ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, National Chairman of the American Nationalists Committee of Independent Voters which telegram said that Senator REYNOLDS would be unable to leave Washington to attend the meeting held July 17, 1944 as there was too much important work to be done in Washington in order to win the battle for Americanism on the home front.



b7c, b7d

-II-

[REDACTED], advised that a letter was received by the Stevens Hotel setting forth that the Young Republican Club desired to rent the Grand ballroom of the Stevens Hotel on Sunday, June 25, 1944, in which to hold a Republican Rally. [REDACTED] stated that the letter was mailed from Washington, D. C. [REDACTED] stated that the hotel agreed to rent the Grand Ballroom to the Young Republican Club but that a short time later it was learned by the hotel that the Young Republican Club was actually GERALD L. K. SMITH; that on June 22, 1944 the Stevens Hotel advised SMITH that they did not desire to rent the Grand Ballroom to him. [REDACTED] stated that the hotel was advised by SMITH that he had rented the ballroom of the Hamilton Hotel for his rally and the Stevens Hotel place signs in the lobby stating that the Rally of SMITH was being held at the Hamilton Hotel.

[REDACTED] stated that at about 2:30 P.M. June 25, 1944 he heard a commotion in the lobby of the Stevens Hotel and that when he went into the lobby he saw approximately 2,000 people attempting to enter the Grand Ballroom of the hotel.

[REDACTED] stated that a national Broadcasting Company orchestra was rehearsing in the ballroom at the time. [REDACTED] stated that almost all of the persons he saw entering the ballroom were women and had buttons pinned on their dresses sponsoring BRICKER for the Republican Presidential nominee.

[REDACTED] stated that he immediately went to the Grand Ballroom and as he entered the ballroom SMITH entered the platform of the ballroom and stated that he was establishing a beachhead in the Stevens Hotel for free speech and that he was taking over the ballroom.

[REDACTED] stated that he remained in the ballroom for approximately two hours during which time SMITH gave a lecture in which he criticized the hotel for refusing to rent him the ballroom and criticized the Republican Party for bringing pressure to bear on the hotel so that they would refuse to rent the ballroom to him.

[REDACTED] stated that so far as he can remember SMITH did not talk about anything else.

[REDACTED] stated that no attempt was made on the part of the hotel to evict SMITH from the ballroom inasmuch as thought it would possibly cause a riot in the hotel and might therefore destroy some of the hotel property.

ALL  
b7c, b7d

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

100-7744

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT



620

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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

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

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

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

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
62-43818 -533

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

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Attention: Mr. Sizoo

August 24, 1944  
CJR:GER:ee

G. John Rogge, Special Assistant to the Attorney General

United States v. Joseph E. McWilliams et al.

I attach a copy of a letter addressed (on the envelope) to Hon. Joseph W. Burns, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, Department of Justice, which I received today. The envelope is postmarked at Washington, August 23, 1944, and on the back contains the return address: [REDACTED]

b7c

Enclosure

*Gerald R. Smith*

H  
HANDLED BY  
TOP DESK

RECORDED  
190

62-43818-534
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 31 1944
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1085  
217

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 62-43818-11

C  
O  
P  
Y

August 20, 1944

Dear Mr. B.

While in Laughlin's office today, turning over papers in ~~Burton~~ appeal and ~~Carrier~~ case, a stooge of Gerald K. Smith, came in and told Laughlin that Smith was in town and wanted to see him this afternoon.

I know that Smith and Winrod are close; now ~~Laughlin~~ seems to be tied very close in the picture. Smith, of course, is fighting both Republican and Democratic Candidates for President, being a candidate himself.

Simply pass this on for what it is worth.

Sincerely,

/s/ [REDACTED]

b7c

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: August 14, 1944

FROM : SAC, DETROIT

DATE 10/14/62 BY SP-8007/ak

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

~~PERSONAL AND  
CONFIDENTIAL~~

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease

There is being set out below the pertinent information obtained from [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau for the period August 11 through August 27, 1944. 67D

Informant says that Subject SMITH has confirmed to Captain EARL SCOTTHARD the fact that the America First Party is entering into various campaigns in connection with the Fall election, principally for educational and propaganda purposes, and that so far as the Presidential campaign is concerned he, SMITH, is attempting to compel debate on the issue of whether to bring the boys home or not. Informant also said that the immigration and refugee plank of the America First Party would be based around a speech of Senator ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, recently inserted into the Congressional Record.

Concerning the national convention of the America First Party being held in Detroit, Michigan, on August 29 and 30, 1944, informant advised that all activities in connection with the convention would be held at the Detroit Leland Hotel. Informant was unable to state the reason for abandoning the original plan to use a Detroit public school for the larger meetings. In further reference to the planned convention, informant said that Senator ROBERT R. REYNOLDS contemplates sending a speech to SMITH to be read at the convention as coming from REYNOLDS, inasmuch as REYNOLDS has found it impossible to be personally present.

Informant stated that during the above period of time SMITH made a press release involving the real reason for his break with Governor THOMAS E. DENEY and that it was caused because of disagreements on international policy. Governor DENEY allegedly sent a man to contact SMITH prior to the Chicago meeting and the agent introduced the question of foreign policy, suggesting that they must plan to go on from here and carry on the war after HITLER's defeat and would probably have to join with Britain against war against Russia, the agent then explaining to SMITH that this was DENEY's idea.

EX-57 10 INDEXED 62-43818-535

According to informant SMITH, in the press release, intended to accuse DENEY of wanting to take this country into an alliance with Britain in order to "whip" Russia and further that in the coming campaign he, SMITH, is going to discuss issues that he claims neither of the major political candidates have the nerve to discuss, namely: (1) The MILLER KENT case involving his mysterious interment in London, after asserting that CHURCHILL, before he arose to the Prime Ministership, was using the diplomatic pouch to correspond with ROOSEVELT about coming events; (2) The KIDWELL-SHORT scandals directly and completely.

COPIES DESTROYED  
200 OCT 13 1964

memo to Clark  
8/15/44  
gp

INDEXED BY  
DESK

[Handwritten signature]



Letter to the Director  
August 30, 1944

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

Informant said that SMITH was apprised of information concerning the sedition trial in Washington, D. C., by [redacted] to the effect that "they" have something personal on the Judge that will hold the trial up for a while, and further that several months before the trial started, WILLIAM DUDLEY PHELLEY's home was raided and some material picked up which indicated the author's desire to impeach President ROOSEVELT and that when the defense attorney asked the FBI Agent, who was testifying, what was seditious about wanting to impeach a public official, the Agent responded that he thought it might be if the nationalist did it.

Informant advised that Subject SMITH and also HARRY A. HOMER were addressing a large meeting of farmers near Hamilton, Ohio, on August 27, 1944.

Informant stated that Subject SMITH had requested the use of a buffalo from the Department of the Interior to be used as a mascot for the America First Party and that SMITH claimed he had merely asked that a buffalo be named "America First." Informant also said that Secretary of the Interior HAROLD L. ICKES had refused to grant this request on the basis that he did not want to play politics with the national parks.

According to informant, Subject SMITH left Detroit Sunday, August 20, 1944, and arrived in Washington, D. C., August 21 and that his claimed purpose for going to Washington was to insist that the "nationalists" be represented at the Dumbarton Woods Conference. In this connection, according to informant, SMITH expressed himself to the effect that he thought the matter of JOHN FOREST DULLIS' taking part in the conference was a "terrible hoax" and that this expression on the part of SMITH brought forth the comment by [redacted] to the effect that he, [redacted], does not trust DULLIS at all and that he had read "a couple" of articles to the effect that DULLIS does law business for the British Empire.

Informant further says that while in Washington Subject claimed to DON LOBECK that on the afternoon of August 23, 1944, he had given them "our" ultimatum, accusing them of committing treason in holding the conference behind the people's backs and threatening to impeach them, and further claiming that his, SMITH's, business at the State Department was being handled personally by CORDELL HULL. Informant further advised that Subject went directly from Washington, D. C., to Cincinnati, Ohio, in order to be there in time for the meeting at Hamilton, Ohio, on August 27, 1944. Informant said that during the time that Subject was in Washington, a [redacted] of the New York newspaper, "P. M." attempted to contact SMITH for the purpose of interviewing him on background information.

ALL  
b7c

Letter to the Director  
August 30, 1944

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

Informant said that Subject discussed with [redacted] an article appearing in the New York Post of August 15, 1944, under the name of VICTOR REISEL, in reference to the activities of the "American nationalists" and their discovery of a most intelligent anti-semitic who, in the article, is referred to as the - mystery man behind the new country-wide anti-Jewish, anti-refugee, anti-CIO political machine which the nationalists, under GERALD L. K. SMITH, plan to launch in the next weeks.

The article further continued to the effect that when the America First Party partners needed money to finance their "Jew-baiting campaign," it was the mystery man who approached the Ford Motor Company for the "slush fund." The article also narrated the fact that the midwest headquarters for the America First Party are in SMITH's private Detroit office where ALLEN ZOLL is operating under an assumed name and that ZOLL is the one who organized the Christian front picket line around the radio station when Father COUGHLIN was cut off the air.

Pertaining to this article, informant said that SMITH had indicated to [redacted] that he felt that perhaps some of this information had come to the author through him, [redacted] inasmuch as [redacted] had recently been in Washington and New York. [redacted] according to informant, at first disclaimed having discussed with anyone any information which possibly went into the article and then on recollection, he said that he perhaps had discussed some things while in New York in conversation there with [redacted]. Informant said that [redacted] also suggested to SMITH that from the contents of the article he thought that part, at least, of the information had come from one or two feminine employees in SMITH's office and that he would soon have the answer as to just which one. However, informant was unable to furnish any subsequent information which would indicate [redacted] had confirmed his suspicions relative to any of SMITH's employees.

Informant advised that [redacted] suspicion of SMITH's employees apparently was confined to those who were working in SMITH's downtown office in Detroit. Informant also stated that in his explanation as to the source of the material appearing in the New York Post article, [redacted] also indicated to SMITH that he thought it may have come from a report of some agency, but he did not make it clear as to the name of the agency and whether it was a governmental or private agency to which he referred.

Informant also said that [redacted] was the "mystery man" referred to in the New York Post article. Informant said that [redacted] of Littleton, California, had sent in thirty dollars to Subject, requesting that certain books be forwarded to her.

Letter to the Director  
August 30, 1944

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

In addition to those names appearing above, informant advised that during the period of time covered by this letter Subject also was in contact with [REDACTED] (phonetic) of Port Jefferson, New York, also with CHARLES A. MADDEN of 301 South Negley Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and with JOSEPH STOFFEL of Buffalo, New York.

b7c

[REDACTED]  
62-1126

b7c

62-4361

RECORDED

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark  
Attention: Mr. O. John Rogge  
John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

UNITED STATES vs. JOSEPH E. McWILLIAMS, ET AL; SEDITION.

A confidential informant in connection with the investigation of Gerald L. K. Smith at Detroit, Michigan, has advised the Bureau that recently one [redacted] of Detroit made a statement to the effect that "they have something personal on the Judge which will hold the trial up for a while." It was the confidential informant's definite opinion that this statement had reference to the trial of the above-captioned matter at Washington, D. C.

Although no further clarifying data is available, I thought that this report should be brought to your attention for informative purposes.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/8/82 BY SP9 BTJ/mh

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 61-7850-833

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
SEP 16 5 34 PM '44  
F B I  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 10/13/44  
SEP 16 10 13 AM '44  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

56 OCT 6 - 1944

*[Handwritten initials]*

4CD A 211

Detroit Mich. 407 P Aug. 20, 1944.

The Hon. Cordell Hull

Washington, D. C.

I observe that you have invited the Internationalist Lawyer John Foster ~~Dulles~~ to confer with the representatives of certain foreign governments concerning our postwar policy as it relates to foreign nations. I observe that Mr. Dulles, the internationalist, was recommended by Thomas E. Dewey, a candidate for President. This means that the conference will have in it no representatives of true nationalism. In fact, we nationalists believe that the conference is a scheme to make secret decisions and to remove foreign policy, as a campaign issue, from the forum of public debate.

I therefore, as a candidate for President, respectfully request that you invite to this conference a spokesman for the true nationalists of America, in order that we may be represented at this vital and history making conference. T

I suggest two names -- United States Senator Robert H. Reynolds and Col. Robert R. McCornack

Should you fail to do this, ~~impersonally~~ <sup>personally</sup> I shall be in Washington when the conference opens to demand a hearing on behalf of the millions of inarticulate nationalists who are determined that there shall be no super state and no world police force after this war. And are determined that the declaration

162-43818-536

31 SEP 1944

STOP DESK

declaration of independence shall continue to chart the course of America in the determination of its foreign policy.

GERALD L. K. SMITH

545P

Date 8-21-44

Division of Foreign Activity *Relation*

*b7c*

TO: **FBI** - [Redacted]

- For your information
- Note and Return
- DCR - Index and File
- DCR - Index and Return with Previous
- For FC Files
- Return to FC for Mailing
- See me about this
- Let me have your comments
- Take this up with
- Per our telephone conversation
- Prepare Reply
- Obtain Previous
- Paraphrase
- Transmit to

(P)

Remarks:

(5) *mm*  
*b7c*

Signature [Redacted]

JPH:VAD,  
8-28-44

*P*

RECORDED

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark  
-62-43818-536  
John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

EX-15

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

For your information there is attached a copy of a communication dated August 20, 1944, at Detroit, Michigan, allegedly sent by subject Smith to the Secretary of State at Washington, D. C. You will observe that in this communication Smith requested that his party, the America First Party, be permitted to have a representative attend the Desbarten Oaks conference.

Enclosure *P*

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

AUG 29 1 13 PM '44  
RECEIVED DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

- 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. Hendon
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
AUG 20 1944  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SEP 1 11 51 AM '44  
SEP 5 2 15 PM '44  
SEP 5 5 15 PM '44  
SEP 5 10 15 AM '44

78 SEP 27 1944

*Mh*



RECORDED [redacted]:MR  
62-43818-537

September 7, 1944

3- [redacted] b7c

Dear [redacted]

This will acknowledge your letter of August 31, 1944, with enclosure.

The content of your communication and enclosure has been carefully noted and your interest in writing as you did is appreciated.

In the event you obtain any information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge of our Buffalo Field Division which is located at 400 United States Court House Building, Buffalo 2, New York.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/8/82 BY SP-8/STW

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
9/8/44

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Pennington	
Mr. Mumford	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 15  
SEP 7 1944 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEP 7 1944 211

August 31, 1944

b7c

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Department of Justice,  
Washington, D.C.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/82 BY SP8 BTJ/mhc

Dear Sir:

The shocking events which are transpiring at the "America First" Party convention in Detroit prompts me to write this letter.

It is almost unbelievable that any group of people, be they a majority or a minority, are allowed to assemble in a convention and spew hate, intolerance, injustice and racial prejudice as they are now doing. While it is true that the Constitution gives us the right to express our views in whatever manner we see fit, subject to the laws of our respective communities, it does not allow us to undermine the very foundation upon which our country was built, and which it is defending with the lives of many hundreds of thousands of fighting men and women.

One reading the accompanying article from the St. Louis STAR-TIMES dated August 30th, would think that it bears a date line of Berlin or Tokyo instead of Detroit. If similar utterances were made in either of the two enemy capitols, the result would be wholesale murder. In Detroit it doesn't even touch the surface.

We are all guilty of complacency to some extent, but so was Germany when Hitler inaugurated his campaign of hate.

I state emphatically that this is not the time to be complacent and to allow this group of people to continue their activities. Therefore, as an American citizen who turns to the properly constituted authorities for action, I demand that some explanation be made for the justification of the further existence of the America First Party.

Very sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

b7c  
HANDLED BY  
STOP DESK

Ack Rec  
9/6/44  
EPB

Rec'd 9/5/44

286 2 11 12 UNRECORDED 162-43818

cc: Hon. John J. Cochran  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

INDEXED 27 SEP 2 1944

EX-10 118 EPB

Handwritten marks: "0", "H", "1" and other scribbles.

Handwritten note: "10/2/44 (27)"

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Aug. 10 (AP)—

# America for Barley, Beer and Coughs

Walter Anderson, president of the National Association of Manufacturers, today of his New Orleans, La., office, announced that he had received the delegates' vote for the adoption of Smith's platform and program for the coming campaign.

Anderson was given Coughlin, Republican, and the one-time radio speaker, as Smith proposed that the American First platform include a plank regarding: "We must constitutionalize our money system, take it out of the hands of the federal reserve machine which serves the purpose of the international bankers." Coughlin was not present.

Delegate Joe Stottel, Republican, of the bank's adoption, said the money problem wouldn't be in the present state if money hadn't gotten away from God. "Why one man told us that and he is the prophet of the present century, known as Father Coughlin."

Anderson said that the money problem was the result of the government's failure to control the money supply. He said that the government had allowed the money supply to grow without limit, and that this had led to the present state of affairs. He said that the government should take control of the money supply and limit it to the needs of the economy.

Anderson said that the government should also take control of the banks and limit the number of banks to a few large ones. He said that this would help to stabilize the money supply and prevent the kind of speculation that has led to the present state of affairs.

Anderson said that the government should also take control of the stock market and limit the number of stocks to a few large ones. He said that this would help to stabilize the economy and prevent the kind of speculation that has led to the present state of affairs.

Anderson said that the government should also take control of the press and limit the number of newspapers to a few large ones. He said that this would help to stabilize the public mind and prevent the kind of propaganda that has led to the present state of affairs.

# Under Cover Clare M. Parley

BY EDWARD EVERETT  
A Staff Correspondent of  
The Star-Times

DETROIT, Aug. 28.—Attended by  
over 500 men, the National Protes-  
tants and similar characters  
gathered in the adjacent Grand  
Hotel today for the American First  
Party's national convention today  
to nominate Gerald L. K.  
Smith, former Silver Shirts and  
New York aid, as its candidate for  
U. S. President.

Although the list of delegates re-  
mained secret as the convention  
went into its second day, observers  
picked at least five persons present  
linked to John Roy Carlson  
in mention in his best-selling  
book. Four were taking leading  
parts in the anti-Roosevelt, anti-  
Jewish, anti-British, anti-Russian,  
anti-Semitic oratory.

The activities of Smith, who  
led the convention and controls  
him up nearly a chapter of  
Smith's book. Wealthy Carl H.  
Smith of Indianapolis, who spoke for  
the house yesterday and is per-  
manent chairman of the conven-  
tion, rates several pages.

Others named by Carlson and  
who are taking an active part in  
the convention are Bernard A.  
Smith, Smith's secretary, and Mrs.  
M. J. Shanley of Cleveland, presi-  
dent of the United Mothers of Amer-  
ica, whom Carlson says has car-  
ried on a vicious rumor-mongering  
campaign in Cleveland.

Also identified as present was  
Loyd Charles Lyng, leader  
of the Chicago organization, "The  
Mothers Against for America."  
Lyng, publisher, according to  
Carlson, "carries his points between  
St. Paul and New York."

Don Lobbeck of St. Louis, re-  
ported to be one of Smith's body-  
guards and the probable choice for  
his secretary, said the meet-  
ing had approximately 15,000  
members were present. He qualified  
himself as a "strong supporter of  
the party."

The convention was held in the Grand Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, on August 28, 1934. The main purpose of the convention was to nominate Gerald L. K. Smith as the candidate for the U. S. Presidency. The convention was attended by over 500 men, many of whom were members of the American First Party. The convention was held in a secret location, and the names of the delegates were kept confidential. The convention was a significant event in the history of the American First Party, and it marked the beginning of a new era in American politics. The convention was held in the Grand Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, on August 28, 1934. The main purpose of the convention was to nominate Gerald L. K. Smith as the candidate for the U. S. Presidency. The convention was attended by over 500 men, many of whom were members of the American First Party. The convention was held in a secret location, and the names of the delegates were kept confidential. The convention was a significant event in the history of the American First Party, and it marked the beginning of a new era in American politics.

A

b7c

RECORDED 62-13518 -538

September 6, 1944

EX-11

63266

[Redacted]

b7c

Dear [Redacted]

I want to thank you for your recent letter with enclosure. Your interest in communicating with me as you have is indeed appreciated and you may be assured the contents of your letter and enclosure have been carefully reviewed.

In the event you obtain any information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge of our Saint Louis Field Division which is located at 423 United States Court House and Custom House Building, Saint Louis 1, Missouri.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1-12-82 BY SP8BJ/mb

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

Wm

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 9  
★ SEP 11 1944 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Wm

L. Wm

Wm

EPB

14  
57 SEP 9 1944

# Race Hate Grips Smith Parley

## America First Name Candidates

Continued from Page 1.

accuse Jewry as Communists  
dominate controlling the  
the movies and the news-  
papers. Maertz's amendment was  
referred to the "research com-  
mittee."

### Maertz Takes Floor.

After the delegates had vented  
their spleen, Smith took the  
floor and in pious tones said he  
could not agree with Maertz's plan  
of deportation or sterilization.  
The convention adopted other

### Maertz Anti-Semitic

OMER MAERTZ, long a no-  
torious anti-Semite in Chi-  
cago, founded the German-  
American National Alliance, a  
group similar to the German-

American  
and was  
a major leader  
of the Fascist  
American Shirt  
League, an  
extremist pro-  
fascist organiza-  
tion. He  
was sentenced  
to 10  
years in pris-  
on in 1940 for  
leading the



Omer Maertz,  
Fascist leader.



*b2c*

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

*[Handwritten signature]*

The author of vicious anti-Semitism accompanied the discussion of the plank on the Jewish question. The plank itself did not attempt to state a solution, but the mere assertion of it was sufficient to arouse the anti-Semitic hatred of most of the less than 200 "Germans" who attended the sessions. Sustained applause and hoots of derision rose from the crowd of

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*I am a veteran war I  
 Respectful yours*

b7c

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Aug 30, 1944.

Mr. Edgar Hoover

F. B. I.

Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing an item that I clipped from the Los Angeles Times today, that you probably have seen, or are aware of.

I am mailing it to you to make sure that you will see it.

It's about trucks that this so called America First organization

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DATE 10/2/82 BY SP-8005/mc

RECORDED 7-43818-540 b2

INDEXED

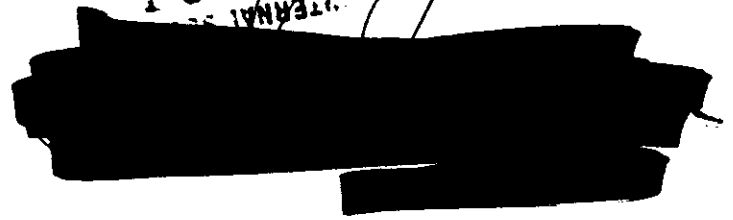
EX-26

Vertical handwritten notes on the left margin, including "back" and "26".



~~was~~ disorganized, and their leaders  
put behind bars where they belong.  
This organization advocates Nazi  
ideology, and is a menace to the  
democracy of this country, and in  
violation of the constitution.  
Steps should be taken immediately  
to check the expansion of this  
dangerous organization, as it is too  
serious a situation to continue.  
I trust that you will give this  
matter your immediate attention.

I am, Sincerely Yours



...this country has been reduced...

**America Firsters  
File Jewish Plank**

DETROIT, Aug. 30. (U.P.)—The America First party convention adopted a platform plank urging "honest and courageous solution of the Jewish problem" today, and ordered filed in party archives for future reference a delegate's proposal that Jews be sterilized or deported.

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DATE 10/8/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/mlw

ENCLOSURE 62-43818-540

ml

September 8, 1944

RECORDED 62-43818-540

EX-2A

[Redacted]  
Los Angeles 5, California

b7c

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of August 30, 1944, with enclosure, is before me for acknowledgment.

I have carefully noted the content of your communication and enclosure and wish to thank you for bringing the information contained therein to my attention.

Should you obtain any information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge of our Los Angeles Field Division which is located at 900 Security Building, Los Angeles 13, California.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10/8/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/mh

py

WAG

SP

SP

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Mumford
- Mr. Jones
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAILED 10  
 ★ SEP 8 1944 P.M.  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SEP 12 1944

Los Angeles, Calif.  
Aug 30, 1944

F. J. J.

Gentlemen:-

This enclosed article appeared in the Los Angeles Times of Thurs. Aug 31-1944 in the Pictorial Edition.

As a citizen born & raised in Chicago Ill. U.S.A. and a Jewish daughter, I would like to know if an organization of this type is permitted in these United States. I have a son in the Armed Forces somewhere in the South Pacific. Do this what my son & thousands of other Mother Sons are fighting for. And we, on the home front, giving our blood & buying as many bonds as our circumstances permit.

Thanking you for an early favorable reply, I am

American First Party

RECORDED  
EX-26 INDEXED  
62-43818-544

ENCL  
2

ack  
9-8-44

b7c

Washington, D.C.

## America Firsters File Jewish Plank

DETROIT, Aug. 30. (U.P.)—The America First party convention adopted a platform plank urging "honest and courageous solution of the Jewish problem" today, and ordered filed in party archives for future reference a delegate's proposal that Jews be sterilized or deported.

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DATE 10/8/02 BY SP8BSC/jwb

CLOSURE

62-43818-541

me

RECORDED

62-43818-541

September 8, 1944

EX-2A [redacted] b7c  
Los Angeles 33, California

Dear [redacted]

I have for acknowledgment your letter of August 30, 1944, with enclosure.

You may be assured that I have carefully reviewed the content of your communication and enclosure and wish to thank you for bringing this information to my attention.

In the event you obtain any information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge of our Los Angeles Field Division which is located at 900 Security Building, Los Angeles 13, California.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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DATE 10/8/82 BY SP8 BTJ/shk

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*  
Eag  
L. J. [unclear]  
jffe  
pry

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 10  
★ SEP - 8 1944 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

358

copy; mwl

*Handwritten:* m  
S.S. - 1  
Sep 19

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

John Edgar Hoover - Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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

For your information there is attached a photostatic copy of a mimeographed letter which, you will note, is dated August 23, 1944, is addressed to the Secretary of State, and is reportedly signed by subject Smith.

You will further observe that the letter (copies of which were assertedly sent to every member of Congress) is self-explanatory and sets forth subject Smith's views as to the Dumbarton Oaks conference held at Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

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Communications Section  
Mailed  
September 1, 1944

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62-43818-542  
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SEP 6 1944  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

EX - 24

211  
57 OCT 5 1944