

Letter to the Director  
February 8, 1943

Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH  
with aliases et al  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
CUSTODIAL DETENTION; SEDITION

head of the arbitration board to straighten things out. SMITH suggested that he could furnish a lawyer that would be suitable for the purpose, a lawyer who has taken unpopular causes and can be trusted perfectly. (Informant believed SMITH was referring to Attorney [REDACTED] SMITH inquired of [REDACTED] how WINROD felt about his case and [REDACTED] indicated WINROD was optimistic because the Government was afraid to go ahead on the indictment and had asked for a postponement but that the defendant's attorney was aggressive and would not consent too readily to a postponement. [REDACTED] stated that WINROD was going to bring "the real issue" to the front and that they know it.

[REDACTED] was in Detroit, Michigan and SMITH advised him to see the editor of the "Dearborn Independent" before he left the city. Informant expressed his belief that the "Dearborn Independent" was controlled by the Ford Motor Company.

[REDACTED] and his manager, in discussing the magazine "The Cross and the Flag," stated that seven thousand issues of each magazine are distributed in practically every one of the forty-eight states and about one thousand magazines are distributed in the vicinity of Detroit, Michigan.

Informant stated that SMITH'S principal contacts in Milwaukee, Wisconsin were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has assumed the responsibility of making the arrangements for SMITH'S next rally in Milwaukee in the name of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY. She complained that her organization had been treated very badly by the press and the Communists had made so much trouble for them that many of the members were reluctant to attend. She told SMITH that she did not have the mailing list of the old AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE. She regretted that the peace groups in which she was active had become very unpopular and were commonly termed copperheads.

She said that [REDACTED] was a teacher at the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and had to watch his step very carefully; in fact he was smeared in a local newspaper on January 29, 1943 and was accused as being unfit to teach high school children. [REDACTED] also said that she had to watch her step as her husband was employed by the Government. She said that she had been accused by the "Milwaukee Journal" as having been responsible for bringing [REDACTED] to Milwaukee. SMITH asked her to contact [REDACTED] and arrange the rally under the name of the "Forum or the AMERICA FIRST PARTY" whichever she prefers.

SMITH informed her that [REDACTED] of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was taking care of arrangements for the State of Illinois for the AMERICA FIRST PARTY. SMITH said that people don't dare question [REDACTED] patriotism since he has the recommendation of the Governor of Illinois and the Senators. [REDACTED] promised to contact [REDACTED] and notify SMITH of what

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plans she had made.

SMITH then contacted [REDACTED] in Chicago, Illinois and asked him who were the leaders of the old AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Milwaukee and [REDACTED] said that the principal leaders were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] also commented on the troubles that the old AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE had in Milwaukee with the Communists who picketed their meetings and persecuted them. SMITH suggested that he and [REDACTED] go up and speak in Milwaukee and that "if they throw a good riot it would be good publicity." SMITH agreed to divide the collection with [REDACTED] fifty-fifty.

Informant advised that SMITH was having stationery printed for the AMERICA FIRST PARTY with the following inscription: "America First Party, GERALD L. K. SMITH, Director and Organizer; BERNARD A. DOMAN, Secretary-Treasurer" and at the bottom "For God and Country."

SMITH is now using the following slogans, according to informant: "America must remain independent. America first must feed, clothe, defend America first and four freedoms for America first. America first in war and peace. Run the Internationalists out of Washington. Americans must have a choice in 1944. No fourth term. Meat and butter for Americans first. Billions for victory - not one penny for internationalist propaganda. Bring the boys home when the war is won. Order of loyalty - armed forces first, civilians second, Allies third and the rest of the world last."

Informant stated that internal revenue agents are continuing to investigate SMITH'S income tax returns for 1936 to 1941 inclusive. The principal controversies over SMITH'S income have arisen out of the difficulty in determining how much income was received at his various meetings inasmuch as SMITH kept no record of the total amount. The agents have been using a method of counting the number of contribution envelopes received at the meetings and computing an average contribution. In the course of the investigation [REDACTED] has often been questioned from time to time concerning SMITH'S income but [REDACTED] has always pleaded ignorance concerning specific receipts. b7c

SMITH is arranging to hold a rally in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and is being aided in the planning by [REDACTED] Pennsylvania. The meeting is to be held on Washington's Birthday, according to the present plans.

SMITH finally located the speech of HUEY LONG in the Congressional Record under date of August 9, 1935, but SMITH commented to a friend, [REDACTED] whose last name informant thought was [REDACTED] that there was a lot of stuff in HUEY LONG'S speech that SMITH would not dare print at the present time.

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SMITH appraised HUEY LONG as the "greatest thing in the world" and he said that there is hardly a day goes away that he does not weep about his passing. SMITH also commented to [redacted] that the fundamental reason for the rationing of food and other essential commodities was to enable the administration to whip the people into line or else starve them to death.

[redacted] an internal revenue agent, advised SMITH that his deposits in 1941 exceeded his day book balance by about thirteen thousand dollars. SMITH insisted that his only source of revenue in 1941 was through the mail and by contributions collected at meetings. He insisted there was no special subsidy of any kind. [redacted] asked SMITH for the gross receipts on SMITH'S Olympia meeting in 1939 and SMITH gave him the total of \$2621.68. SMITH explained that he did not keep public records because he was afraid of the opposition and the newspapers since he indulged in so many controversial issues. [redacted] indicated that the excesses which were found for 1941 would be charged to SMITH and that there was also a slight excess in 1940. SMITH explained that the excess in 1941 could be covered by his traveling expenses and this excess was entirely consumed by the salary of a secretary and a bodyguard at all meetings.

SMITH had an extended conversation with [redacted] and was advised by [redacted] of the result of [redacted] interview by internal revenue agents. [redacted] said that he advised the internal revenue agents that the only thing he knew was that SMITH was always in want of money. There were no contributions that were in any way secret but [redacted] said he was not going to put himself in a position of guessing at names in order to follow some political prosecution of good people. [redacted] said he told the agents that if someone were to go to a radio station and pay for a month's radio time for SMITH he might know who did it but he was not going to embarrass anybody by making any inquiry. [redacted] said he was asked if he had ever met [redacted] and [redacted] admitted that he had and that as far as he knew those men had arranged to furnish radio time. Other people usually paid for radio time given to SMITH in other cities.

The internal revenue agents then asked about [redacted] and [redacted] said he replied that [redacted] but he did not know what his commissions had been. [redacted] said that these questions made it clear to him that [redacted] had been giving information to the internal revenue agents against SMITH so [redacted] advised the internal revenue agents to investigate the career of blackmail and bribery that was [redacted] before they should take too seriously any information given by [redacted]. [redacted] said he told the agents that [redacted] takes money from both sides and would do anything for money.

[redacted] said that the agents then asked him about income to SMITH from [redacted] of Ford Motor Company, and [redacted]

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answered that [redacted] did not confide in him although he expected that [redacted] had been active in organizing certain groups. SMITH commented at this point that [redacted] thought he had a good secret because he was once in SMITH'S room when SMITH talked by telephone to [redacted]. [redacted] said that the revenue agents then asked him about SMITH'S income in New York and [redacted] replied that he did not know anything about it. They also asked him about Toledo and [redacted] made a similar reply.

[redacted] commented that he suspected that the revenue agents had obtained statements from several people in New York from the way they talked. [redacted] said that [redacted] had made a statement. SMITH said he told the revenue agents that [redacted] had been associated in New York with him and apparently [redacted] had given them the names of all those fellows who had worked for SMITH. [redacted] next related that the revenue agents asked him if he knew about the corporation in New York or Delaware and [redacted] answered that he did not know anything about them and did not have the minutes but that he had called the attorney for the corporation who had gone into the army and the attorney's stenographer said that the records were not there. [redacted] said that he thought the records were sold in New York City by [redacted].

SMITH commented that they should ask [redacted] about the records. SMITH said that he was asked by the revenue agents how [redacted] and [redacted] got along and SMITH told [redacted] he said [redacted] is a man of good character and does not go around with grudges on his sleeve. [redacted] stated that [redacted] had the opinion that SMITH had received a vast amount of money and [redacted] said that he had never seen it. SMITH agreed that [redacted] had seen more than anyone had and [redacted] agreed with this. [redacted] said that he told revenue agents that he did not think SMITH had much money because he was always being sued by his printers and was always in financial straits.

SMITH advised confidential informant that Congressman CLARE HOFFMAN of Michigan was attempting to have WALTER WINCHELL court-martialed and dishonorably discharged from the United States for saying that he did not blame certain members of Congress but he did blame "the damn fools who elected them." HOFFMAN had been previously named by WINCHELL in this radio broadcast of Sunday, January 31, 1943. SMITH asked [redacted] former leader of AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE in Detroit, Michigan, if she wanted to be openly identified with the AMERICA FIRST PARTY and she said that she would rather not be until her second boy gets his problem solved. Informant believed [redacted] was referring to [redacted] second oldest son getting his draft status fixed satisfactorily.

The internal revenue agents have been examining BERNARD DOMAN, SMITH'S manager, asking him specific questions about income and deductions, about Social Security, but DOMAN has been following SMITH'S orders by refusing

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to answer any questions unless SMITH was present.

SMITH explained to [REDACTED] that he had been operating on a hand-to-mouth basis except for a few months when isolationist feeling was running high. SMITH said he was anxious to have the revenue agents' report indicate that SMITH'S income was from the rank and file of American people rather than from any mysterious source such as his enemies allege. SMITH also explained to the revenue agents that he never wanted his deposits to run above a certain amount for fear that if the balance got too large his various creditors would attach his bank accounts. DOMAN revealed to SMITH that the internal revenue agents had said that they had received many accusations against SMITH. SMITH commented that there were many people who might accuse him such as [REDACTED] Jews, anyone that read he was making five thousand dollars a week, or anyone else that hated him. b7c

SMITH is planning to hold a meeting in Detroit, Michigan on February 7, 1943 and he plans to publicly endorse the conduct and public statements of Colonel EDDIE RICKENBACKER. The signs that will be displayed at this meeting will read: "RICKENBACKER okay with AMERICA FIRST PARTY. God bless RICKENBACKER. America needs more RICKENBACKERS." SMITH has announced that the meeting will be dedicated to the spirit of EDDIE RICKENBACKER although RICKENBACKER himself has nothing to do with the meeting. In commenting on a release in P.M. Magazine that SMITH was going to boost RICKENBACKER for President in 1944, SMITH denied the truth of this press release but explained that he resented the criticism that had been brought against RICKENBACKER and he thought that RICKENBACKER was a high type of American who would make a good President if he would run. SMITH has repeatedly answered inquiries by saying that the rally is not intended to be a rally for RICKENBACKER for President but SMITH has admitted in each instance that his private opinion is that RICKENBACKER would make a good President.

Informant revealed that Time Magazine will be covering SMITH'S meeting of February 7, 1943 as the basis of an article concerning the AMERICA FIRST PARTY.

On February 5, 1943 GERALD SMITH was contacted by an individual from Wichita, Kansas, whom informant thought he recognized as GERALD WINROD. WINROD acknowledged a report that SMITH had sent to him and SMITH was interested in getting WINROD to encourage their mutual friends to spread the AMERICA FIRST PARTY in Kansas. WINROD then advised SMITH that he had heard that the attorney (probably referring to JOHN POWER MALONEY) had proposed to drop the case (no doubt referring to the indictment of WINROD and thirty-two others as conspirators in violating the Sedition Act). WINROD commented that since the people in Washington had gotten cold feet this would seem to be the opportune moment for aggressive action. SMITH answered that he had

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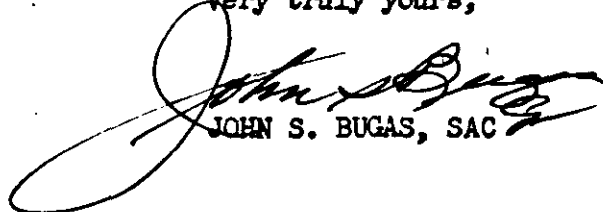
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been working on an unspecified project for the last ten days. WINROD said that the Congressman from this district had promised to support SMITH if SMITH would go to Washington and supply information to BURTON K. WHEELER and Senator TAFT for the investigation of JOHN POWER MALONEY and the indictment of thirty-three persons. WINROD said that the congressman insisted that SMITH and no one else should come to Washington immediately.

SMITH answered that nothing more effective could be done than was already being done and that it was moving just as rapidly as possible. WINROD said that he feels very good about the case at the present time and only this one last operation was necessary to break their necks. WINROD requested SMITH to write to him in care of General Delivery. WINROD and SMITH then discussed their friends in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota and SMITH said that they were giving him fine cooperation. SMITH informed WINROD that the AMERICA FIRST PARTY was making rapid progress and that he was scheduled to speak in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Toledo, Fort Wayne and Milwaukee. He indicated that he would like WINROD'S support in setting up a meeting in Kansas City.

SMITH made it clear that if anyone wanted to help, SMITH would bear the entire cost. SMITH added that he had good news which he would not communicate to WINROD except at some other time and place.

Very truly yours,

  
JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC

  
62-1126

b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU  
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS  
RELEASE

SUBJECT: GERALD L. K. SMITH

FILE: 62-43818

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

VOL: 12

PAGES REVIEWED: 97

PAGES RELEASED: 82

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

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

FILE NO. **100-7744**

|  |                                  |   |  |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.</b>  | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>2/12/43</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>1/29/43</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br>[REDACTED] <b>MAH</b>  |
| TITLE<br><b>GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases<br/>Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. K. Schmidt;<br/>THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION</b>  |                                  |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G<br/>CUSTODIAL DETENTION<br/>SEDITION</b> |
| <p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> Subject SMITH addressed meeting of Citizens U.S.A. Committee at 205 Wacker Drive, Chicago, on January 15, 1943. Substance of speech and description of audience set out.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">R.U.C.</p> <p><b>REFERENCE:</b> Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Detroit, Michigan, dated December 11, 1942. Teletype from Detroit dated January 20, 1943.</p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> <u>AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:</u></p> <p>The following investigation is predicated upon reference teletype from Detroit Field Division advising that subject made a speech at Chicago, Illinois, on January 15, 1943. This investigation is further predicated upon the reports of [REDACTED] who attended instant meeting, and reported same to the Chicago Office.</p> <p>[REDACTED] advised that instant meeting was held at 8:00 P.M. on the evening of January 15, 1943, at the Engineers Auditorium, 205 Wacker Drive, and that approximately five hundred people were in attendance. [REDACTED] stated that women and elderly couples predominated in the audience, and that the wearing apparel of the guests ranged from rags to mink coats. [REDACTED] stated that on the platform with subject there were also Captain WILLIAM GRACE and EARLY SOUTHERN of the Citizens U.S.A. Committee, who sponsored instant meeting, and Reverend BRODT, who delivered the invocation and benediction, subject's wife, MRS. SMITH.</p> |                                  |   |  |
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><i>[Signature]</i>  | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE          |   |  |
| DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES   |                                  |   |  |
| <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT</p> <p>5 - Bureau ✓</p> <p>3 - Detroit (1-U.S.A., Detroit) (Enc.)</p> <p>2 - Chicago</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>COPIES DESTROYED</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>83 OCT 21 1964</b></p>  |                                  |   |  |
| <p>FEB 1943 - 199</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED<br/>HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED</p> <p>DATE <u>10/1/82</u> BY <u>[Signature]</u></p>  |                                  |   |  |



Chicago File No. 100-7744

For the information of the Detroit Field Division, the files of the Chicago Field Office reflect that the Citizens U.S.A. Committee was a pre-war isolationist organization, advocating that the United States stay out of the war, that the United States have nothing to do with the British Empire, and since the war has represented itself to be a purely political organization, campaigning for the election of Republican isolationist Senators and Congressmen from Illinois. The files of the Chicago Field Office further reflect that Captain WILLIAM GRACE and EARL SOUTHERN are strong anti-British and were both called before the Federal Grand Jury investigating subversive activities in the Chicago area. The files of the Chicago Field Office also reflect that Reverend BRODT is the head of the North Side, or Lincoln Park Chapter of the America First Committee, an independent organization, which broke off from the America First Committee at the time the United States declared war on Japan and Germany, and which has continued its meetings, advocating a negotiated peace, the election of isolationist Senators and Congressmen, and strongly opposes any cooperation between the United States and the British Government, or any Jewish activities in the United States.

[REDACTED] stated that instant meeting of the Citizens U.S.A. Committee was called to order at 8:30 P.M. by Captain GRACE. Reverend BRODT opened with a prayer, after which the audience sang the Star Spangled Banner without musical accompaniment. According to [REDACTED] Captain GRACE stated that there were many strange faces in the audience and that "there are men and women here tonight who are not in sympathy with our movement. Anything that I say or the speakers say will be misconstrued by them. That will explain to you ladies and gentlemen why I went up and down the aisles scanning the faces that are here. We are all Americans here and there is no room here tonight or any other time for anyone whose sympathies lie other than in America. Anyone present tonight who professes those sympathies -- get out now!"

According to [REDACTED] EARL SOUTHERN then introduced subject as, "the most damaging and damned speaker alive today." Subject then introduced himself and traced his early life and career, his marriage, and introduced his wife, who was on the platform. He further advised that he had become a crusader when he saw the gross injustice being done to many of the people in the United States. He stated that people have accused him of being a crackpot and a lunatic. He stated that we are living in a decadent bureaucratic democratic world, and that if President ROOSEVELT would have allowed us to send missionaries to Japan instead of boat-loads of scrap which are now being shot into the bowels of our beloved boys in the Pacific, there would not have been any war today. According to this informant subject stated, "I, for one, am just as anxious to see a successful conclusion of this war, but I hereby accuse, not my Commander in Chief FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, but MR. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT the politician, of playing politics before Pearl Harbor and after Pearl Harbor, and at this very moment is still playing politics."

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~~88 OCT 13 1964~~

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Subject further stated that "journalism has sunk to a new low of prostitution when we have to get our news from Washington through two men, one DREW PEARSON, who in the middle of an important announcement is interrupted by a commercial extolling the virtues of Ex-Lax. The other one, Lieutenant Commander WALTER WINCHELL, who is a skunk, a loudmouth, degenerate, louse, character assassin, and a disgrace to his uniform, and who incidently gets paid \$5,000 a week for this five minute broadcast."

[REDACTED] stated that subject requested the audience not to applaud him after each sentence, but only to applaud when directed, and that subject further stated that he has no fear of any heckling as he can handle that himself. Subject stated that at a meeting held in the Press Club in Washington, D. C., presided over by Vice-President WALLACE, WALLACE stated, "If Russia keeps up the gains that she has made in the past twenty years for the next twenty years she will surpass the United States." [REDACTED] stated that following this statement subject said, "I move that we impeach Vice-President WALLACE." Subject further stated that if it is feasible his organization will make it possible for a great American like CHARLES A. LINDBERG or BURTON K. WHEELER to run for President of the United States in the next election.

According to [REDACTED] mention was made of the Constitution, the Preamble to the Constitution, and to the Judicial and Legislative departments of the Government; and that subject quoted the British Lend-Lease Administrator in Washington, D.C. who allegedly said, "No records are being kept of the number of pounds that we owe the United States." Subject stated that President ROOSEVELT is now making plans for a fourth term and that even if he, subject, is put in a concentration camp and tortured, he will still shout out to the world what he knows about the Communists.

Subject said that as far as the Republican Party is concerned men of the caliber of LAMONT, MORGAN, and WILLKIE are not wanted. Subject said "they committed political treason once in Philadelphia, and we are not going to give them another chance." Subject said he once promised to tell the audience the real reason for HUEY LONG'S assassination but that he didn't have the time that night but would continue to write a series of articles about it in his magazine. Subject said that he is continuing his travels, lecturing as he goes, trying to formulate a new third party consisting of thorough Americans, among whom will be no "yellow belly Republican", no WILLKIES, or no New Deal Democrats, and that if the audience there that night saw fit to choose him as the head of the party, he would consider it an honor.

Subject further stated that the resources and supplies of the United States should be distributed as follows:

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1. The fighting forces.
2. The American people.
3. Our allies.
4. The rest of the world.

Following subject's speech the audience sang a song entitled "Win the War and Save the Constitution" to the tune of "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition" and Captain GRACE concluded the meeting at approximately 11:10 P.M. with a discussion of the Chicago Mayoralty campaign, advocating the election of the Republican candidate FAHERTY, and suggesting that the audience might start a "write-in campaign" with GRACE as a "dark horse" candidate.

[REDACTED] advised that the audience was spellbound by subject's talk and that subject appears to be a reincarnation of HUEY LONG, having the unprecedented ability of speaking to a mass of people, yet making each one feel he is speaking to him individually. According to [REDACTED] subject even instructs the audience when and how long to applaud.

[REDACTED] advised that the audience was made up mostly of women, that there were approximately two women to one man there. [REDACTED] said that the officers and most of the members of "We the Mothers Mobilize for America, . Inc." attended the meeting and that at least a dozen or so of the members of this organization were present. For the information of the Detroit Office [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED], formerly associated with RALPH TOWNSEND, convicted of being a Japanese Agent, was present at the meeting, as was the Reverend H. L. BRODT, who has spoken frequently before various "defeatist" organizations in Chicago. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] obtained copies of literature distributed at instant meeting which consisted of the following:

1. A pamphlet entitled "What's Cookin'. What is the Truth About Rationing Sugar, Rubber and Gas."
2. A pamphlet entitled "The Fifth Column in Washington: Un-Americans on the Government Payroll."

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3. A pamphlet advertising subscription to "The Cross and the Flag."
4. A three page mimeographed document which purports to be a press release written by subject SMITH covering instant meeting.

These four documents are being forwarded to the Detroit Field Division for appropriate attention.

ENCLOSURE: To Detroit - Four pamphlets listed in the above report which were distributed at the instant meeting, reported herein.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

Chicago File No. 100-7744

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

[REDACTED]

b7c, b7D

JPHa:rb  
2/26/43  
62-43818-199

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MR. JAMES ROWE, JR.

Attention: Mr. C. E. Rhett

RE: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

As a matter of information, I wish to advise you that a copy of a further report received in connection with the investigation of this case and submitted by Special Agent [REDACTED] dated February 12, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois, was transmitted to the Division of Records under date of February 26, 1943. b7c

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_ cc Mr. Wendell Berge  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant Attorney General  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-8BT/mg

RECEIVED AND INDEXED  
FEB 29 9 16 AM 1943  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

3

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- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
1308 Masonic Temple Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
February 18, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, was.,  
Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. K.  
Schmidt; THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G, CUSTODIAL  
DETENTION, SEDITION.

Dear Sir:

Attention: Technical Laboratory

There is being forwarded under separate cover one roll of exposed film in the above-entitled case, consisting of photographs taken of a report of one [REDACTED], which report consists of forty-seven typewritten pages. b7c

It is requested that said film be developed and that two positive prints of said report, together with the developed negatives, be forwarded to the Detroit Field Division.

Very truly yours,

*R. A. Guerin*

R. A. GUERIN  
Special Agent in Charge

CC - Detroit  
CC - Package

[REDACTED] b7c  
62-1194

*ack 3/1-43*  
*10/1/82*

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*ack [REDACTED], 1943*  
*[REDACTED] b7c*



U. I. E.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-9BTJ/mc

202

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| FEB 22 1943                     |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |

*[Handwritten initials]*



[Redacted]

*baw*

*202*

RECORDED

Date: March 1, 1943  
To: SAC, New Orleans

From: J. Edgar Hoover-Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, was.  
Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. K. Schmidt; THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION; INTERNAL SECURITY-C, CUSTODIAL DETENTION, REPTITION.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-987J

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

Reference is made to your letter to the bureau dated February 18, 1943, transmitting one roll of film containing exposures of the above-named case.

In accordance with your request, two enlarged photographic prints of each exposure and the negatives are being returned to your office under separate registered cover.

COPIES DESTROYED  
 ★ MAR 1 1943 P.M.  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAR 15 1943

*[Handwritten signature]*

JPHa:elc:wmj  
2/16/43  
100-24409

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES ROBE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attention: Mr. C. E. Shette

RE: GERALD L. SMITH;  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;  
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

In connection with your further consideration of the activities of this subject, I wish to invite your attention to the report of Special Agent [redacted] submitted at Denver, Colorado, on January 19, 1943, captioned, [redacted] Internal Security - C; Custodial Detention, a copy of which was transmitted to the Division of Records under date of February 16, 1943, with appropriate reference to the case entitled, [redacted] Internal Security - C; Sedition.

You will note that throughout Special Agent [redacted] report various references are made to subject Smith and his contacts with Harvey Springer and Gerald Mired of Wichita, Kansas.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols cc - Assistant Attorney General Wendell Barge
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/AC**

ALL  
b7c

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
FEB 17 1943

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28  
WEP

FEB 27 1943

JPha:MMJ

62-43818

Date: February 18, 1943

To: SAC, Detroit

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-805/MLG

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases;  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G; CUSTODIAL DETENTION;  
SEDITION

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to the report submitted in connection with the above-entitled matter by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on January 25, 1943. b7c

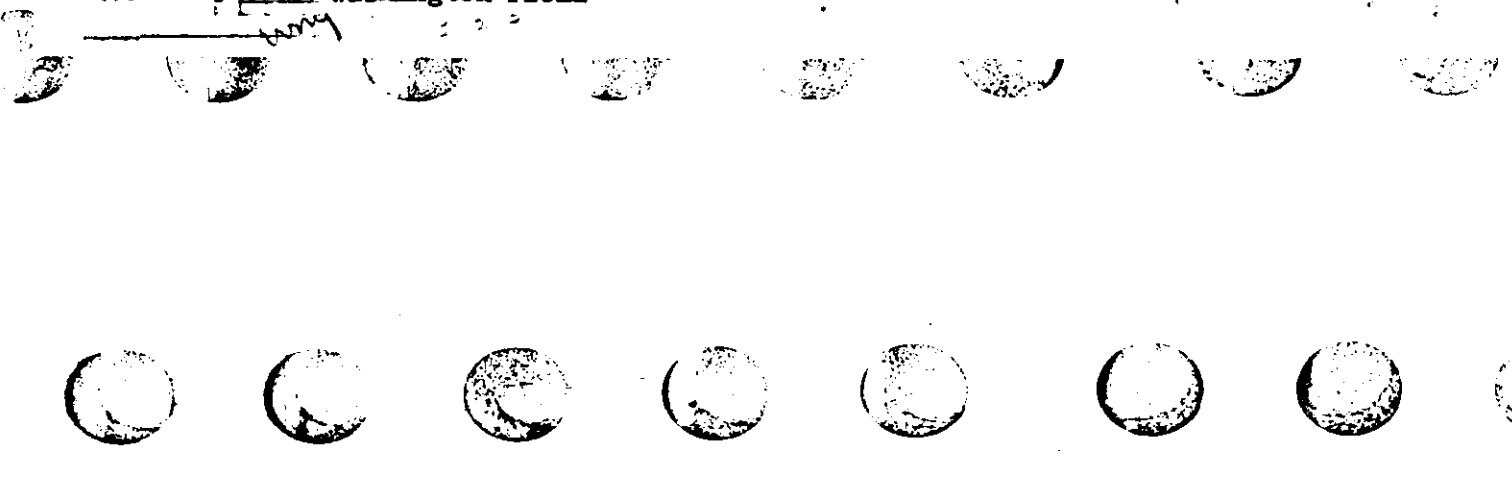
The Bureau is particularly interested in the investigation of this case and, accordingly, the leads set forth in Special Agent [redacted] report for the various auxiliary offices should be handled as expeditiously as possible.

FEB 20 1943 P.M.

- ce - Charlotte
- Indianapolis
- New Orleans
- New York
- Washington Field

62-43818-204

RECORDED



JPHA:NMJ

62-43818-196  
February 18, 1943

Date:

To: SAC, Detroit

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of January 18, 1943, wherein you were requested to contact appropriate officials of the Ford Motor Company at Detroit for the purpose of securing information as to the details surrounding the [redacted] trip to Indianapolis where he apparently, [redacted] was conducting some type of investigation in behalf of the Ford Motor Company. You were further requested to make general inquiry of [redacted] and among his friends and associates in order to determine whether [redacted]

b7c  
b7D

[redacted] You will recall that the Department has specifically requested that an inquiry be made as to the circumstances surrounding [redacted]

If these inquiries have not already received attention, they should be made at once in order that the results thereof may be made known to the Bureau as soon as possible.

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

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
★ FEB 19 1943 ★  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

10 FEB 26 1943

62-43818-205  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FEB 20 1943  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10/4/92 BY SP8BTJ/mh

JPHa:MMJ  
2-17-43  
62-43818

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES RONE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attention: Mr. C. E. Rhett

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY

For your information and consideration in connection with this case, I wish to advise that under date of February 17, 1943, copies of the following additional reports pertaining to the investigation of Smith were transmitted to the Division of Records:

Report of Special Agent [redacted] submitted at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on December 30, 1942, in the case entitled, "Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith, a/k/a Gerald L. K. Smith, alias Gerald L. K. Schmidt; The Committee of One Million; Internal Security; Sedition".

Report of Special Agent [redacted] submitted at Detroit, Michigan, on January 25, 1943, in the case entitled, "Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith, with aliases Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. K. Schmidt; The Committee of One Million; Internal Security - G; Custodial Detention; Sedition". (A copy of the December, 1942, issue of "The Cross and the Flag", mentioned as an enclosure on page nine

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

of Special Agent [redacted] report, was attached to the copy of his report forwarded to the Division of Records.)

Report of Special Agent [redacted] submitted at Saint Paul, Minnesota, on February 1, 1943, in the case entitled, "Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith, was; The Committee of One Million; Internal Security - G; Custodial Detention; Sedition".

I further wish to call your attention to portions of a radio speech made by Smith at Detroit on October 24, 1942, in which Smith stated that he had violated the national thirty-five miles per hour speed regulation. In this connection Smith observed that several days before he had driven from Detroit to Kalamazoo, Michigan, and during portions of the trip had attained speeds of from forty to sixty miles per hour. He stated that he did

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED 62-43818-206

19 FEB 20 1943

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The Assistant to the Attorney General

this in order to dramatize to his friends and other people of America the unsoundness of "many of our bureaucratic rules". A description of Smith's remarks in this regard is set forth on page twenty-eight of the report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on December 11, 1942, a copy of which was made available to the Division of Records under date of December 14, 1942. b7c

I shall appreciate your advising me whether Smith's admitted violation of the national speed regulation pertaining to vehicular travel and his public comments in connection therewith, particularly during his radio address of October 24, 1942, may be considered as violative of any Federal statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc - Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1 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):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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- 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) DEPT OF THE Army, 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):  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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JPHa/sb

~~100-95444-15~~

43818-208

RECORDED

Date: February 9, 1943

To: SAC, Detroit

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

CITIZENS' U.S.A. COMMITTEE  
CITIZENS' COMMITTEE TO KEEP  
AMERICA OUT OF WAR  
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION

For the information of your office and the Chicago Office, there are enclosed copies of a report pertaining to the above named subject which was received under date of January 19, 1943, from the Military Intelligence Service at Washington, D. C.

Enclosure

cc Chicago

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-80TJ/mc

- 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. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

293  
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MAILED

2/9/43

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

FILE NO. 100-4754

|  |                                  |  |  |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>Indianapolis, Indiana</b>   | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>2/18/43</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>2/1,2/43</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br>[REDACTED] :EJC,   |
| TITLE<br><b>GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases:<br/>Gerald L. K. Smith; Gerald L. K. Schmidt;<br/>THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION</b> |                                  |  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G<br/>CUSTODIAL DETENTION<br/>SEDITION</b> |

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject not known to have held meeting in Fort Wayne, Indiana, about 1/18/42 and not believed to now be active in rallying support for an independent party in this vicinity. Review of Silver Shirt files in Indianapolis Office does not indicate present whereabouts of H. E. MARTIN, who, some years ago, was executive director of that Organization. Teletype message sent Charlotte FD to contact Confidential Informant.

- RUC -

**Reference:**

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated December 25, 1943, at Detroit, Michigan.

**Details:**

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] at Fort Wayne, Indiana:

At Fort Wayne, Indiana

A review of the daily newspapers in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the pertinent period reflected that the subject held no public meeting around January 18, 1943.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/1/88 BY SP-2/BJK**

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|--|-------------------------|--|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED<br><i>J.M. [Signature]</i>  | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES<br><b>209</b><br><b>FEB 20 1943</b> |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>5 Bureau<br>3 Detroit (1 USA, Detroit)<br>2 Charlotte<br>2 Indianapolis |                         | RECORDED & INDEXED<br><i>[Handwritten marks]</i>                 |

Through [REDACTED]

contact was had with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that the subject has not recently been in Fort Wayne, and [REDACTED] was certain that he had made no attempt to solicit support from any group in Fort Wayne.

At Indianapolis, Indiana

A cursory examination of the voluminous file in the Indianapolis Field Division of the Silver Shirt Legion of America, Inc. by the writer failed to disclose the present whereabouts of Mr. H. E. MARTIN, who, several years ago, was executive director and otherwise connected with that Organization.

The reporting agent believes that, at one time, he was informed by [REDACTED] or some other individual, that MARTIN's deceased. Reporting agent is not absolutely certain of this. The Informant is presently believed residing in the Charlotte Field Division; accordingly, a teletype message was forwarded to the Charlotte Field Division to contact the Informant in this matter.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE CHARLOTTE FIELD DIVISION

At Charlotte, North Carolina

Will contact [REDACTED] to  
determine whether H. E. MARTIN is living or deceased, and, if living,  
will determine his present whereabouts. b7D

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

INDEX TO INFORMANTS

The following is the index to Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated February 18, 1943, at Indianapolis, Indiana, Indianapolis file 100-4754, in the matter entitled, "GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. K. Schmidt; THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION INTERNAL SECURITY - G, CUSTODIAL DETENTION, SEDITION":

b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c  
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REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

JPH:mr  
62-43818-209  
3/9/43

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES ROYE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ATTENTION: MR. C. E. RHETTS

RE: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH;  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

For your information and further consideration in connection with this case, I wish to advise that a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated February 18, 1943, at Indianapolis, submitted in this case, was transmitted to the Division of Records under date of March 9, 1943. b7c

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

CC: Mr. Wendell Berge  
Assistant Attorney General

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

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8 BT/mh

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 9 33 AM '43  
★ MAR 9 1943 ★  
P. M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED READING ROOM  
F. B. I.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
MAR 9 6

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

b7c



Dear Sir:  
I am a defense worker in  
war industry.

In our plant they constantly  
drill us to be on the alert for sabotage  
not to talk of what we do, etc. which is  
absolutely correct. All because of the  
these things have on the security of the  
the war effort, etc.

You Mr. Attorney General  
we war workers to think, as well as  
country as a whole, when a saboteur  
pro-fascist comes in our midst that  
every bit as dangerous to our moral  
national unity, national security and

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DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-1/BJE/MLK

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INTERNAL SECURITY  
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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED  
MAR 15 3 34 PM '43  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
F B I  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

210

was effort, as these saboteurs are warned  
against? and yet there is no action taken  
against this wreck.

I am speaking of Gerald A. K. Smith  
This man is dangerous and something  
must be done -

yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

b7c

P. S. See enclosed article from Ep. News  
2/23/43.



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## America First Party Branch Organized Here

Gerald L. K. Smith Argues  
For 'Unadulterated  
Isolationism'

Gerald L. K. Smith, exponent of what he terms "unadulterated isolationism," formed a branch of his new America First party here last night during a meeting at Carnegie Hall, North Side.

He spoke for an hour and a half, took up a collection and then shouted:

"I'll be glad to come back here and speak again."

He asked all those wanting him to return for another meeting to raise their hands and say "Aye." Most of the 350 present shouted "Aye," but there was a lone dissenter.

### Dissenter Shut Up

He spoke up and said "No" and then tried to speak but was quickly shut off by Mr. Smith who said he had paid the rental on the hall, adding "if you want to make a speech you'll have to rent the hall yourself."

A disciple of the late Huey Long, Mr. Smith has been a stormy figure on the American political scene and last night declared:

"I am against a fourth term for anybody."

He spoke here under the auspices of an organization known as the Defender of George Washington's Principles."

### Sees Hungry America

Among his chief points were claims that America would go hungry next summer; that Vice President Wallace should be impeached, and that the American people are about to lose their liberty.

He said that Congressman Martin Dies is a "great man," and lauded Father Charles Coughlin, Charles A. Lindberg and Senators Wheeler and Nye.

He described himself as being "tough enough to take it," adding: "Somebody has to be tough or we are downed."

50435

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/4/82 BY SP2BJ/AV

ENCLOSURE

62-43818-210

RECORDED 62-43818-210

March 10, 1943

[Redacted]

b7c

Dear [Redacted]

Your letter of February 24, 1943, with enclosure, directed to the Attorney General, has been referred to this Bureau.

*Quinn*

You may be assured that the content of your communication and enclosure has been carefully noted and is being afforded appropriate consideration by this Bureau.

In the event you secure any additional information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, I trust you will feel free to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge of our Pittsburgh Field Division which is located at 620 New Federal Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- 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. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED  
MAR 10 1943  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

52 MAR 16 1943

*E*

*J. Edgar Hoover*

*8/8/82*

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

FILE NO. 100-4156

|  |                                  |  |   |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>ST. PAUL</b>  | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>2-23-43</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>2/18 &amp; 19/43</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br>[REDACTED] <span style="float: right;"><i>b7c</i></span><br><span style="float: right;">LE</span> |
| TITLE<br><b>GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH,<br/>THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION</b> |                                  |  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G<br/>CUSTODIAL DETENTION<br/>SEDITION</b>                              |

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Speeches made by SMITH in St. Paul, Minnesota, February 18, 1943, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 19, 1943, covered much the same general matter as his speeches in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 7, 1943, previously reported. He attacked SAM SCHRINER and RUBIN LATZ of Minneapolis, for trying to stop his speech in that city and accused SCHRINER of being an imposter in his claim to represent the Jews of Minnesota. The Minneapolis, Minnesota meeting was picketed and SMITH claims by Communists. At the St. Paul meeting, SMITH appointed REVEREND C. O. STADSKLEV, his sponsor, as Minnesota Director of the America First Party. SMITH again emphasized the necessity of winning the war and following out our military alliances to the letter but opposed any present or after-war acceptance of any foreign beliefs or doctrines. No subversive statements noted.

-RUC-

**REFERENCES:** Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] St. Paul, Minnesota, dated February 1, 1943. Letter from Detroit Office, February 8, 1943, requesting that this case be covered.

**DETAILS:** AT ST. PAUL and MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

The speeches of GERALD L. K. SMITH at St. Paul, February 18, 1943, and Minneapolis, February 19, 1943, were well publicized both by hand bills and in the various local newspapers. Considerable publicity was gained because the speeches were announced in communications mailed in envelopes bearing the name of the State of Minnesota Sanitary Board, which had been lined out and the return address of the local sponsors placed thereon, however, the

|  |   |                              |                      |
|--|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>   | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE                                     | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES |                      |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>5 Bureau<br>3 Detroit<br>3 St. Paul<br><br>COPIES DESTROYED | [REDACTED]  | [REDACTED]                   | RECORDED             |
|  | <b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED<br/>HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED</b> |                              | INDEXED              |
|  |   | DATE <u>10/4/82</u>          | BY <u>SP-9BTJ/MA</u> |

83 OCT 13 1964

State office was still very plainly set out on the envelopes. It developed that these envelopes were published by S. O. SANDERSON of Rochester, Minnesota, one of SMITH'S promoters. This had been an overrun of some envelopes printed for the State of Minnesota several years back.

The speech by SMITH on February 18th was made in the Junior Pioneer Hall, 182 West 9th Street, St. Paul, Minnesota, and the speech in Minneapolis was made at the Ark Masonic Lodge Hall, 3044 1st Avenue South.

In the St. Paul speech SMITH spoke about the organization of the America First Party. He appointed REVEREND C. O. STADSKLEV, his sponsor, as the first officer and Director of this Party in Minnesota and he delivered a sealed and endorsed paper to STADSKLEV to this effect in view of all those present. His remarks were much the same as in reference report about this Party in its aims and purposes. He criticized those who questioned his patriotism and, in addition to the persons that he previously mentioned who might be contacted in regard to his loyalty, he added the name of the State Legion Commander for the State of Michigan, as well as one of the local Commanders of the particular group with which he was associated in Detroit, Michigan.

It is noted that on some of the cards put out, advertising this meeting, there were the following notations made from prominent persons.

LOWELL THOMAS is quoted as making this remark:

"GERALD L. K. SMITH is America's most fearless and dynamic orator."

The New York Daily Tribune is quoted as saying:

"He combines the best qualities of Billy Sunday, William Jennings Bryan and LaFollette, the Senior."

LENN SULLIVAN is quoted as saying:

"All the spellbinders in America put together will not make one GERALD L. K. SMITH."

SMITH referred to efforts being made to try to stop his Minneapolis meeting and said that he had learned from reports of the Masonic Lodge that RUBIN LATZ OF Minneapolis had approached the Committee in an endeavor to have this speech stopped. He stated that he therefore made some check on LATZ and found that LATZ was born in Russia and was a delegate from the State of Minnesota to the National Convention of the Communist Party in Boston, Massachusetts in 1935.

He also referred to SAM SCHRINER, who is known in this office as being head of the Jewish anti-Defamation League. SMITH stated that SCHRINER claimed to represent the Jews in Minnesota and that he, SMITH, claimed that SCHRINER was an imposter if he objected to SMITH'S speech because he stated, "If any race of people should

uphold free speech and be opposed to any prosecution of any individual for his statements, it should be the Jews who have been persecuted all over the world". For this reason, he stated emphatically that he did not believe SCHRINER represented the responsible Jewish people but was a self-appointed delegate.

The following night in Minneapolis he indicated that he had learned that SCHRINER was the real one behind efforts to prevent his speech and he challenged SCHRINER to prove that he really did represent the Jews. He made the remark at both places that no Party group, Nazi, Fascist or otherwise, nor any white-whiskered Communist could ever stop him from preaching Christ first in America and America first in the world.

On the rubber situation SMITH repeated much of what he had said in his speech January 17, 1945 and he referred to and read articles appearing in the Cedric Adams column in the Minneapolis Star Journal, January 17, 1945, about the manner in which we might get rubber under lend lease where Russia would trade its iron to Japan for rubber and that we would get our rubber eventually from Russia. He stated that CHARLES SCHMIDTSON, Production Manager for Henry Ford, and Henry Ford, had both assured him that they were only waiting for the go ahead signal when they could make all the synthetic tires that were necessary and they stated they were waiting for a note from LEON HENDERSON. SMITH asked them, so he says, if they really expected a call and they said they did and he told them that he didn't think they would receive a call, and he stated, they didn't. It was Ford's plant, he stated, which the Government seized and sent to Russia or are now sending to Russia with the guarantee of safe passage by the Japanese.

SMITH said that all real Americans were hoping for the day they could fight the war with both hands and full effort and not have to fight with one hand and use the other one to push back the (British representative of the Lend Lease program in Washington), the HENDERSONS and the New Dealers. SMITH received great applause at this statement. He re-emphasized the necessity to win the war at all costs in his speech February 19th.

In referring to the Communist Party and affiliated groups, SMITH stated that according to the Dies report there are some 800 such organizations in the United States and that they have wormed their way into labor unions claiming to call themselves responsible labor leaders; that they have gotten themselves into various other places and into the Democratic Party and are now New Dealers, that they had gotten themselves into the Republican Party and were Wendell Willkie, and that they had gotten into the State of Minnesota and were Harold Stassen. It appeared during his speeches that SMITH'S references to STASSEN were very critical only because of STASSEN'S opposed international program.

SMITH repeated his opposition to Vice President WALLACE in much the same manner as previously reported. On February 19th at Minneapolis he repeated his demand for impeachment of Vice President WALLACE. He read from WALLACE'S speech made in the Madison Square Garden at the celebration of the Russian revolution, which SMITH called the Celebration of 20 Million Christians in which WALLACE made the statement that "Some of us believe we have over-emphasized the bill of Rights". He criticized

this very vigorously, stating that the Bill of Rights was part of the Constitution and that the Vice President of the United States was battling the Constitution which he swore to uphold. He read further from WALLACE'S remarks at this Celebration which was in November, 1942 in which he said "The Russians have advanced so rapidly in the past 20 years that if they continue to advance at a similar rate for another 20 years they will surpass the United States". SMITH stated that this was an indication to him that the Vice President of the United States thought the Russians system was superior to our own because if continued it would surpass us.

SMITH repeated several times that we have a military alliance with Russia and that we must live up to it, and even more so but he said he would oppose to his last breath, Communist rule, or being taken back into the British empire. He mentioned the fact that in the first World War we were allied with Italy and Japan, that was no reason why we ever had to conform to any of their political ideals.

In referring to President Roosevelt, SMITH stated that he was not referring to the Commander and Chief of the Army and Navy but to Roosevelt the politician, and stated that he, as well as others critical of Mr. Roosevelt, had to walk a tight wire of distinction. He stated that newspaper men upon his arrival in Minneapolis, had tried to get him to comment on whether or not he thought President Roosevelt had made mistakes in his military direction. SMITH stated that he replied to them that he had no right to criticize as he did not have any possession of military information and had no basis for criticism; that all military information is secret and that if he had it probably others would. He gave the indication that this military information being secret met with his whole hearted approval and he stated that he therefore had no grounds or right on which to criticize military activity. He confirmed this again on February 19th in much the same manner. SMITH definitely opposes any fourth term and made the remark on February 18th that the best thing the President could do for the moral of our soldiers and of the country in general would be for him to come outright and state that he would not run for a fourth term. He claimed that the framers of the Constitution wanted to avoid long terms for the President and he gave his interpretation of the reason for this as being apparent in the present time whereby if President Roosevelt was to go in for another term due to the fact that appointees to the Supreme Court are usually quite old and do not live many years, that we would have a situation where the entire Supreme Court would be Roosevelt appointees. It would do away with the check and balance system originally planned by the Constitution. He mentioned that the Roosevelts, including the entire family, are playing politics at every opportunity and he said "even including Eleanor"; saying that if its not one thing its another and practical every day in the newspapers there is a new Roosevelt born to contend with.

On February 19th the meeting held in Minneapolis was picketed by groups carrying banners stating that they were for the four freedoms. At the opening of his speech SMITH stated that these men outside, under the American Constitution had the right to be there as pickets and that he would not object to them being there, even though he termed them Communists. He said he had received information that there were to be men planted in the hall to break up the meeting and he asked how many red blooded men there were who would take care of any situation and at least 100 stood up. He therefore served warning on all present that if any of them were there for

the purpose of disturbing the meeting or anyone there that they would be ejected horizontally, that they were not dealing with an amateur as he was an old warrior who had had much trouble with persons of similar calibre. It is noted that there were no disturbances of any kind at either meeting, there being approximately five to six hundred attending both places and in Minneapolis at least half of the persons were standing the entire two hours of his speech.

For the first time in four speeches Agent has heard made by SMITH, he mentioned the name of FRANCES FERRIS but made no particular disparaging reference to her. He did mention Representative GALE of Minnesota and being reminded by a woman in the crowd of DR. WALTER JUDD, recently elected representative, he stated that both of them had made their first vote in Washington, against the continuance of the Dies Committee. He made one reference, the only one in four speeches, to REVEREND CHARLES E. COUGHLIN, "That eminent statesman, patriot and orator".

Some of the same people, it was noted, were in attendance at both of the meetings in Minneapolis and St. Paul and it also appeared that a lot of persons were present out of curiosity. It was definitely and strongly stated by SMITH at the outset of both of his speeches that the sponsor thereof was not an association, church or group but was REVEREND C. O. STADSKLEV and a few other patriotic minded citizens. He lamented the fact that a crusading preacher like STADSKLEV was the only one who had courage enough to promote such a meeting and go through with it regardless of the intimidation he was subjected to.

During this meeting SMITH mentioned the fact that his 19 year old son had entered the Army under the selective service on February 16 or 17, 1943. He stated that he would have no complaint, should his son come back with an arm or leg missing, in a wheel chair, blinded or should he be buried on a desert, if he died for Old Glory.

No statements were made by SMITH which could be determined subversive.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

JPHa:WMJ  
3-10-43  
62-43818-211

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES ROWE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

50207

Attention: Mr. C. E. Rhetts

RE: GERALD L. E. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

For your information, I wish to advise that a copy of a further report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Saint Paul, Minnesota, on February 23, 1943, was transmitted to the Division of Records under date of March 11, 1943.

b7c

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
Wendell Berge

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

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DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-807/ab

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MAR 12 12 55 07 PM '43  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Wendell Berge





Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.  
Detroit, Michigan  
March 5, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, was, etal;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G  
CUSTODIAL DETENTION  
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

It is regretted that the letters and the reports in this case have not been transmitted according to schedule as established by you.

Special Agent [redacted], to whom this case has been assigned, has been presently occupied for approximately one month in the trial of a criminal case of some importance and also in the absence of Assistant Special Agent in Charge ROBERT T. ROSS from the headquarter city Agent [redacted] has been taking care of Mr. ROSS' administrative and supervisory duties.

This case has been reassigned to Special Agent [redacted] and it is hoped that it will receive, in the future, such continuous attention as you have suggested.

Very truly yours,

*John S. Bugas*

JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC

[redacted]  
62-1126

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FOR DEFENSE



*Handwritten signatures and initials*  
ALL b7c

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
1308 Masonic Temple Building  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
March 6, 1943

Director, FBI

RE: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, was.,  
Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. K.  
Schmidt; THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G, CUSTODIAL  
DETENTION, SEDITION.  
(Bureau File #62-43818).

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to my letter dated February 18, 1943, with which there was transmitted under separate cover one roll of film containing exposures pertinent to the above-captioned case. This letter requested that this film be developed and that two positive prints, together with the developed negatives, be forwarded to the Detroit Field Division.

By letter dated March 1, 1943, the Bureau advised that two enlarged photographic prints of each exposure were being returned to the New Orleans Office under separate cover.

These photographic prints and the negatives have been received by this office, and are being forwarded under separate registered cover to the Detroit Field Division.

Very truly yours,

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DATE 10/4/92 BY SP-8 BJS/mh

R. A. GUERIN  
SAC

*R. A. Guerin*

62-1194

CC - Detroit  
CC - Package



O. J. F.  
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83 OCT 13 1964

MAR 9 1943

213  
SEARCHED  
LAB.

Pittsburg, Pennsylvania  
February 27, 1943

Director, FBI

Attention Mechanical Division

Re:

[REDACTED]

GERALD L. A. SMITH  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G, Custodial Detention;  
SEDITION

COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE USA  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PITTSBURGH FIELD DIVISION  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Dear Sir:

There is being forwarded under separate cover one roll of mini-  
pun film exposed in connection with the investigation of the above-  
mentioned cases.

It is requested that two copies of the prints taken on the  
first three cases be made and retained at the Bureau in the respective  
files according to present policy. It is noted that these three cases  
use approximately the first 100 frames of the film.

It is requested that three copies of the prints on the GERALD  
L. A. SMITH case be made and returned to the Pittsburgh Field Office.  
These pictures use approximately Frames 100 to 140.

It is requested that one copy of the prints on the last case  
be made and returned to the Pittsburgh Field Division. These pictures  
use the last frames from about 140 on, and can be identified by the fact  
that they are pictures of envelopes with addresses on them.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

J. L. THORNTON  
SAC

100-5778

cc: 25-4392  
25-4393  
25-4467  
100-577

|                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| 62-43815-214                    |
| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION |
| U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE     |
| PITTSBURGH FIELD OFFICE         |
| SEARCHED                        |
| SERIALIZED                      |
| INDEXED                         |
| FILED                           |

AKU  
b7c

RECORDED

Date: March 10, 1943

To: SAC, Pittsburgh

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: [REDACTED]

b7c

GERALD L. K. SMITH  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C, Custodial Detention  
SECTION

COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE U. S. A.  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PITTSBURGH FIELD DIVISION  
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to your letter dated February 27, 1943, with which you transmitted one roll of film containing exposures pertaining to the above listed subjects.

You are advised that the film was developed and prints made in accordance with your request.

Two enlarged photographic prints of each exposure pertaining to the SELECTIVE SERVICE cases were made and are being retained in the Bureau.

Three copies of all exposures pertaining to the GERALD L. K. SMITH case were made and are being forwarded to your office under separate cover.

One print of all exposures pertaining to the subject entitled COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE U. S. A. were also made and are being forwarded to your office under separate registered cover together with all of the developed negatives.

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

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DATE 10/4/82 BY SP8BTJ/mc

*Handwritten signature*

11

ORIGINAL FILE IN

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **100-4766**

|   |                                 |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN</b>                                     | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>3-9-43</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>1-22, 23, 27-43</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;">b7c</span>             |
| TITLE<br><b>GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, was,<br/>THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION</b> |                                 |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G<br/>CUSTODIAL DETENTION<br/>SEDITION</b> |

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Investigation at Milwaukee reflected negative information concerning meetings held in city by subject or related organizations.

- R U C -

**Reference:**

Teletype dated January 20, 1943 received by the Milwaukee Field Division from the Detroit Field Division.

**Details:**

AT MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN.

The following investigation was conducted for the purpose of ascertaining whether the subject had held meetings in Milwaukee on or about January 18, 1943, and to obtain any pertinent information concerning the subject and the organizations with which he is connected. During the course of the investigation the following individuals were contacted with negative results:

**[REDACTED]**, Milwaukee Police Department, Safety Building, (through **[REDACTED]** direct contact was had with all of the captains on the Milwaukee Police Department);

**[REDACTED]** of the Milwaukee Auditorium, Sixth Kilbourn;

**[REDACTED]**, office of the Mayor of Milwaukee County, City Hall;

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

62-42818-215

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 2-Milwaukee  
 100-600-100 3/1/43

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 DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-10E/104

100-4766

[REDACTED] of the Milwaukee Hall, 800 - 812 West State Street;

[REDACTED] Eagles Club, 2401 West Wisconsin Avenue;

[REDACTED] South side Armory, 1620 South Sixth Street;

[REDACTED] of Milwaukee Turners, 1034 North 4th Street;  
[REDACTED] of the Women's Club of Wisconsin, 813 East

Kilbourn Avenue;

[REDACTED] of Jefferson Hall, 2167 North Fond du Lac Avenue.

[REDACTED] reporter, the Milwaukee Journal, Fourth and State Streets, who has done exclusive newspaper work in connection with Bund activities and other subversive groups in the City, advised the writer that nothing had come to his attention in the past several months concerning the subject or organization with which the subject is connected.

[REDACTED] at the Milwaukee Journal, Fourth and State Streets, after reviewing her files at the request of the writer furnished the following Associated Press Release dated Minneapolis, Minnesota, January 16, 1943:

"The Labor Coordinating Committee of the Minneapolis Defense Council, Friday protested strongly to Mayor Marvin Klein against the scheduled appearance here Sunday of GERALD L. K. SMITH, one time aid to the late Senator Huey Long of Louisiana. Mayor Klein requested police to investigate."

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION  
TO THE  
OFFICE OF ORIGIN

RECORDED

JPha:rb  
62-43818 - 215  
3/19/43

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MR. JAMES ROWE, JR.

Attention: Mr. C. E. Rhett

RE: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

As a matter of information, I wish to advise that a copy of a further report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted], dated March 9, 1943, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was transmitted to the Division of Records under the date of March 20, 1943. *b2c*

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/19/82 BY SP8BJS/mc

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

cc Assistant Attorney  
General Wendell Berge

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 9  
MAR 22 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

27 1943

EX-105  
MAR 22 1943  
MAR 22 1943

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **100-5778**

|   |                                  |  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|--|---|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>PITTSBURGH, PA.</b>  | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>3-20-43</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>2-18, 20, 22; 3-1, 2, 3, 5, 6-43</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>b7c</b></span>   |
| TITLE<br><b>GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases<br/>THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION</b> |                                  |  | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G<br/>CUSTODIAL DETENTION; SEDITION</b> |

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

GERALD L. K. SMITH appeared in Pittsburgh on 2-22-43 on invitation of Defenders of George Washington's Principles organization, making addresses strongly advocating isolationism and nationalism and denouncing internationalism and interventionism. 250 people attended his appearance at the Hungary Club where his arguments were opposed by E. C. TABOR, local attorney. 500 people attended Carnegie Hall speech in evening. SMITH initiated organization of America First Party in Pittsburgh, issuing honorary charter memberships to Mrs. E. H. LOHLE and Mr. CHARLES A. WADDEN, Officers of the Defenders of George Washington's Principles; expressed intention of holding mass political rally at Pittsburgh in near future. No seditious statements made.

- RUC -

**REFERENCE:**

Letter from Detroit Field Division dated February 8, 1943.

**DETAILS:**

The reference letter from Detroit stated that GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH was scheduled to hold an America First Party rally on Washington's birthday, February 22, 1943, and requested that agents of the Pittsburgh Office cover the meeting. The referenced letter also stated that a Mrs. MARIE LOHLE was giving considerable assistance to SMITH in arranging for this meeting.

An article appearing in the Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph newspaper for February 14, 1943 stated that SMITH, National Director of the newly formed "America First Party" and advocate of isolationism was to speak twice in Pittsburgh on February 22, 1943, the first speech to be at 12:30 p.m. at the Hungary Club weekly luncheon in the Hotel Henry. The topic was to be "An Isolationist's Definition of Victory." This article further stated that he was scheduled to speak at the

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|---|--|
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><i>J. E. Thornton</i><br>SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE   | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES   |
| COPIES DESTROYED<br>COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br><del>53 OCT 19 1964</del><br>5 - Bureau (Encl.)<br>2 - Detroit (encl.)<br>2 - Pittsburgh | 2/6 RECORDED<br>1 ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED<br>HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED<br>DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8/BJL/ML |

*b7c*



North Side Carnegie Library where he was to discuss "Red Hot Issues in the Light of George Washington's Principles." The article added that SMITH's appearance at Pittsburgh was sponsored by the Defenders of George Washington's Principles, headed locally by CHARLES A. MADDEN, East End plumbing contractor, president, and Mrs. MARIE L. LOHLE, Secretary.

It is noted that the Hungary Club is a lunch club composed of local business men who meet every Monday to hear lectures on various questions in open forum manner.

Following the above announcement relative to SMITH's appearance in Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Press newspaper published a "Letter to the Editor" written by ARTHUR H. SCHWERIN in which SCHWERIN denounced SMITH as being a Fascist-minded rabble-rouser and a former henchman of PELLEY and COUGHLIN. SCHWERIN criticizes Mayor SCULLY for permitting SMITH to appear in Pittsburgh and further criticizes the club for inviting him there to speak.

In the issue of February 12, 1943 of the Jewish Criterion, published in Pittsburgh by DAVID WALTER, publisher, appeared an article entitled "An Open Letter to the Hungary Club" written by the above mentioned Mr. SCHWERIN, who again went to considerable length to deride SMITH, relating SMITH's past activities and reputation and strongly criticizing the Hungary Club for permitting SMITH to appear before the members to speak.

In answer to SCHWERIN, Mr. EDWARD O'NEAL, member of the Hungary Club Committee who approved SMITH's appearance before the club, and JOHN C. WEAVER, Secretary of the Club, defended their position in the letters they wrote which were published in the February 19, 1943 issue of the Jewish Criterion which letters stated that the Hungary Club is an impartial group, and inasmuch as proponents of internationalism had been heard several times, they thought it only fair to hear the other side. In his letter, WEAVER stated that O'NEAL, a local attorney would debate the question with SMITH at the coming Hungary Club meeting.

Contact was made with [REDACTED] of the Carnegie Free Library on Federal and Ohio Streets, North Side, Pittsburgh. He advised that arrangements for the use of the auditorium in that building on the evening of February 22, 1943 had been made on behalf of Mr. GERALD L. K. SMITH the speaker by Mrs. MARIE LOHLE, who lives at 6332 Morrowfield Street, Pittsburgh telephone JA 0601. Mrs. LOHLE represented the Defenders of George Washington's Principles who were sponsoring Mr. SMITH's appearance in Pittsburgh. [REDACTED] advised that a Mr. ARTHUR SCHWERIN had called to him by telephone and opposed SMITH's being permitted to speak in the Carnegie Library auditorium. In addition, according to [REDACTED] SCHWERIN wrote some articles in a recent issue of the Jewish Criterion and also wrote some letters or articles which appeared in local newspapers attacking SMITH and criticizing officials in Pittsburgh for permitting him to appear and give speeches here.

SMITH's appearance at the Hungary Club at noon, February 22, 1943 was covered by Special Agents [REDACTED] and the writer. SMITH delivered at that time a 30 minute speech to an audience of about 250 persons in which he gave arguments in favor of isolationism and against interventionism. He was answered by the aforementioned attorney, EDWARD O. TABOR, after which questions were answered by both speakers. SMITH had given TABOR a copy of his prepared talk. This was obtained from TABOR by the writer. It was photographed and enlarged copies are being sent to the Bureau and to the Detroit Field Division; one copy is being retained in the Pittsburgh file.

That evening, February 22, 1943 SMITH gave his scheduled talk at the Carnegie Free Library Hall, North Side, Pittsburgh to a crowd of about 500 persons. This meeting was covered by Special Agent [REDACTED] and the writer. Mrs. MARIE LOHLE, member of the Defenders of George Washington's Principles presided at the meeting. CHARLES A. MADDEN, President of the above mentioned organization introduced the speaker.

SMITH gave substantially the same arguments for isolationism that he gave previously at the club. He predicted a food shortage in the United States due to the Government's past food production-controlled program and "Because there are people in Washington who think it is more important to feed foreigners than Americans." He criticized Vice President WALLACE's recent appearance at a celebration given at New York City in honor of the anniversary of the Russian Revolution saying that WALLACE was embracing the Communist principles publicly. He declared that WALLACE should be impeached.

SMITH denounced any form of world Government. He displayed a flag which he claimed was the emblem of the "Union Now," World Government group. The flag had 13 red and white stripes just as the American flag, but in place of a field of stars a British flag had been substituted in the center of which was an 8 pointed star. SMITH claimed that this flag represented a British-American coalition for World Government. After holding up the flag he threw it on the platform floor and stamped on it with his feet, cheered by the crowd.

SMITH stated that he is the National Director of the newly formed America First Party and that the new Party was a "spare tire" Party in case neither the Republicans nor Democrats nominated somebody like LINDBERGH, NYE, WHEELER, etc. for President in 1944. He claimed that he was making plans to start a branch of his Party at Pittsburgh and expected to return in the near future to a big rally. He presented Mrs. LOHLE and CHARLES A. MADDEN with honorary gold seal membership certificates in the Party. He passed out envelopes on which members of the audience were requested to note and enclose the amount of the contribution they expected to give per month toward the founding of the Party. In return, they were to receive a gold seal membership certificate, tickets for the future rally and a pamphlet describing the Union Now flag mentioned above.

SMITH's publication "The Cross and the Flag" was on sale both before and after the speech. SMITH urged the audience to subscribe to it.

At no time in either of the above speeches was a statement of a seditious character made. The members of the audience in the evening were largely sympathizers of the isolationists program and they frequently applauded the speaker. A number of persons formerly active in the America First Committee at Pittsburgh were present, one of whom was KENNETH B. MAGRUDER.

In addition to the publication "The Cross and the Flag" SMITH was passing out calendars upon which both his and his wife's photographs appeared, and was also distributing copies of a speech made by CHARLES A. MADDEN before the Hungary Club in Pittsburgh during December, 1942. The latter mentioned speech has been photographed and enlarged copies of it are being sent to Detroit and to the Bureau in case it may contain information of value.

The said copy which was obtained at the meeting is being retained in the Pittsburgh files. Likewise, a copy of the calendar and copies of the December, 1942 and January, 1943 issues of the "Cross and the Flag" are being retained in the Pittsburgh files.

Through [REDACTED] it was learned that GERALD L. SMITH and wife, 1753 Seyburn Avenue, Detroit, Michigan had registered at the William Penn Hotel at 8 a.m. February 22, 1943 and were staying in Room 257 of that hotel. [REDACTED] that during the time he stayed at that hotel, SMITH made the following telephone calls:

9:35 a.m. Court 7200, the Pittsburgh Press.  
10:20 a.m. Jackson, 0601, Mrs. LOHLE  
11:25 a.m. Bell Captain, to page Mr. MADDEN (Mr. MADDEN answered the page)  
4:15 p.m. Called porter  
4:41 p.m. Called news stand  
5: 30 p.m. Called [REDACTED] William Penn Hotel. b7c

He received the following calls: It is noted that both the calls made and the calls received were all on February 22, 1943.

10 a.m. Mrs. LOHLE regarding challenging Mr. TABOR to a debate.  
2: 30 p.m. No answer  
2:45 p.m. No answer  
4:45 p.m. Porter regarding baggage on hand  
8: a.m. from [REDACTED] no answer b7c

It is noted that Room 1053 at William Penn Hotel was occupied by Senator JAMES J. DAVIS at the time [REDACTED] called from there. The above mentioned source of information reported parts of the conversation as follows:

[redacted] of National Casket Company." b7c

"Dies Committee -- Walter Winchell"

"Meeting tonight (Monday) North Side Carnegie Hall."

"They call themselves Isolationists."

It is further noted that Senator JAMES J. DAVIS signed out of the Hotel 7:30 p.m. on February 22, 1943.

[redacted] Mr. SMITH and his wife checked out of the hotel at 11:30 a.m. February 23, 1943, the time of his departure to be effective at 12 noon. He had called a porter who purchased tickets on train 117, parlor car 60 on the Pennsylvania Railroad, which train was scheduled to leave Pittsburgh at 12:15 for Detroit, and it was later determined that it would probably arrive in Detroit at about 8 o'clock. [redacted] that SMITH had expressed a package to 2006 Industrial Bank Building, Detroit, Michigan. b7c

The above information relative to SMITH's departure for Detroit was made available by teletype to Detroit dated February 23, 1943. This information furnished in case it would be of any value to the Detroit Office.

Prior to SMITH's arrival at Pittsburgh, the writer contacted Mr. ARTHUR H. SCHMERIN at his home 6533 Dalzell Place, Pittsburgh. SCHMERIN informed that he has always been opposed to the America First Committee. He has a bitter hatred of SMITH and his former associates, such as P. LILLY and COUGHLIN, not only because he feels that they are un-American but that they have definitely shown they are anti-Semitic. Since SCHMERIN himself is of Jewish origin, his dislike for him is increased.

He is, at the present time, gathering material to write a book on the subject of SMITH and his associates. He gave the writer copies of his articles and letters referred to previously in this report, and the answer written by TABOR and WEAVER, also referred to previously in this report. These are being retained in the files of the Pittsburgh Office, copies of which are not being sent to other offices, inasmuch as it is not believed they contain additional information of value.

It is noted that the Pittsburgh Office received several letters and some telephone calls protesting the appearance of SMITH in Pittsburgh, and requesting that representatives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation be present at his talks. Such requests came from [redacted] of the American Legion, GEORGE E. A. FARLEY, Director of the Department of Public Safety, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; [redacted] Pittsburgh, [redacted] of Carnegie Free Library, North Side, Pittsburgh. b7c

In addition, the Communist Party sponsored a lecture at their regular Saturday evening forum at Carnegie Free Library, February 20, 1943. The lecture was given by JEROME REYNOLDS, labor organizer, the topic of the speech being "The Fifth Column Exposed--GERALD L. K. SMITH, Traitor."

ERBERT PATRICK CUSH, Chairman of the Communist Party of North Side issued a handbill relative to this meeting in which he described SMITH as an "admirer of Hitler and the Nazi System. He is a notorious Jew-baiter and a Red-bait. He is a Negro-hater and a supporter of the Ku Klux Klan terrorism against Negro and Catholic citizens. He is a tool of some of the worst union-hating employers. In short, he is an American fascist tool of Hitler." ..... "The exposure of such fascist agents as Gerald L. K. Smith is the patriotic duty of all Americans and anti-fascists. It is our common obligation to drive such rats out of public life as deadly enemies to all that America embodies. Protests against the Gerald L. K. Smith meeting should be sent to Mayor Scully, City Hall, Pittsburgh, as the Library building is under city control."

Copies of a card advertising the above mentioned speech to be given by JEROME BENTON and of the handbill mentioned above written by CUSH, together with an unidentified handbill advertising the lecture by BENTON are being retained in the Pittsburgh file.

Under pretext the writer was present at the above mentioned meeting. The meeting was definitely a Communist meeting, although no direct reference was made to that effect. BENTON, however, was introduced as "Comrade Benton." Also on display were many Communist and Union publications, and known Communist leaders of Pittsburgh were present. BENTON stated that SMITH is pro-German and a fascist. He referred to SMITH's association with HUEY LONG, WILLIAM DUDLEY KELLEY, Father COUGHLIN and the America First Committee. BENTON stated that SMITH is anti-Russian, anti-Union and anti-Communist and is prejudice against the Negroes and the Jews. He urged the union members and Communists not to attend SMITH's speeches and to have nothing to do with him. BENTON asserted that this country ought to give all possible aid to the allies to defeat Germany and German allies. He was opposed to isolationism.

In response to an inquiry as to what should be done to combat SMITH, BENTON urged all members to be good union members, to be good church-goers, to work hard if they are working, and to be good soldiers if they go into the Army. According to BENTON, the best way to combat SMITH and his isolationists is to be everything that a good American would be.

[REDACTED] known in this office as a reliable source of information, telephonically called the attention of the Pittsburgh Office to the fact that SMITH was to speak in Pittsburgh. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. He advised he has been active in movements to aid the allies and to work for defeating isolationists. He is interested in the international aspect of world cooperation after the war, and does all he can toward the education of the people toward this end. He is one of the leaders in the Free World Association, which he claims is a non-political organization. He advised that through being active in the above movements he has come in contact with isolationists of this community. He knows CHARLES A. MADDEN, who is the head of the Defenders of George Washington's Principles. That organization appears to be connected with a group of people whom he termed as "Coughlin Mothers," a radical group of isolationists, who he stated were connected with the America First Committee when it was active in Pittsburgh. He said that MADDEN was a radical isolationist who appeared to be strongly anti-British.

According to him, LADDEN gave a speech at the Hungary Club, attacking the Rhodes Scholarship students, claiming that RHODES, the Englishman, had established his fund for the purpose of bringing the most intelligent youth of America to England in order that they could be taught the British ideas and return to America and work for British domination of the world.

[REDACTED] advised that [REDACTED] of the Hungary Club at the present time. [REDACTED] is employed in settlement work at the Kingsley Settlement House, East End, Pittsburgh. He has always been a Pacifist in the past. He alleges that his feelings are based on religious principles. According to [REDACTED] prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, [REDACTED] was mixed up with schools for Conscientious Objectors; This was after the Selective Service law was passed, but prior to Pearl Harbor. Since then, he has given no indication that he was against the war effort in that respect.

b7c  
b7D

The referenced letter requested the Pittsburgh Office to submit information regarding [REDACTED] to the Detroit Office. In this connection, the following inquiries were made:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Relative to SMITH, he had in his possession a 28 page report, dealing with the history and background of GERALD L. K. SMITH and his activities and associates.

[REDACTED]

This report was obtained from [REDACTED] and photocopied copies of it were made. One copy is being sent to the Bureau and one to Detroit; one copy is being retained in the Pittsburgh file.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c  
b7d



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

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

[REDACTED]

Inasmuch as the logical leads of this case have been covered, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

ENCLOSURES

FOR THE BUREAU

One photostatic copy of a report on the life and background of GERALD L. K. SMITH obtained from [REDACTED] of Pittsburgh. b7c

One photographic copy of the speech given by GERALD L. K. SMITH at the Hungary Club in Hotel Henry, Pittsburgh on February 22, 1943.

One photographic copy of a speech given by CHARLES A. MADDEN before the Hungary Club in Hotel Henry, Pittsburgh December 14, 1942.

FOR THE DETROIT OFFICE

One copy of each of the above listed items is being sent to the Detroit Office.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE  
OFFICE OF ORIGIN

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

[REDACTED]

b7c, b7D

JPha:VMJ  
4-12-43  
62-43818-216

RECORDED

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAN S ROWE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attention: Mr. C. E. Rhett

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

There is enclosed a copy of an additional report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on March 20, 1943, together with a photostatic copy of subject Smith's speech of February 22, 1943, mentioned on page twelve of Special Agent [redacted] report as an enclosure. b7c

Copies of the other enclosures mentioned were not made available inasmuch as they only set forth information which has appeared in other reports previously submitted in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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

Enclosure

cc - Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
 MAILED 11  
 APR 13 1943 P.M.  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Ed*  
**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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 DATE 10/4/62 BY SP8BJ/ML

JPha:VMJ  
3-23-43  
62-43818

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/4/82 BY SP8BTJ/mh

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES ROWE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attention: Mr. C. E. Rhetts

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Under date of February 19, 1943, I addressed a memorandum to you in connection with this case pointing out the fact that in a radio address made by Smith at Detroit, Michigan, on October 24, 1942, the latter stated that he had violated the national thirty-five miles per hour speed regulation. In this regard I further mentioned the fact that Smith had commented that he had done this in order to dramatize to his friends and other people of America the unsoundness of "many of our bureaucratic rules." You will recall that I requested your advice as to whether Smith's admitted violation of the national speed regulation and his public comments in connection therewith may be considered as violative of any Federal statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

I shall appreciate the benefit of your opinion in this regard as soon as convenient.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tracy \_\_\_\_\_
- Carsen \_\_\_\_\_
- Harbo \_\_\_\_\_
- Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Piper \_\_\_\_\_
- Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAILED 11  
★ MAR 24 1943 P.M.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

62-43818-217

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
MAR 26 1943

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MAR 24 1 33 PM '43

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JPha

MAR 21 1943

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|   |           |                       |  |
|---|-----------|-----------------------|--|
| This Case Originated at DETROIT, MICHIGAN                                 |           |                       | File No. 100-3636 ehs                                    |
| Report Made at  | Date Made | Period for Which Made | Report Made by   |
| CHARLOTTE, N. C.  | 3-13-43   | 2-12, 15, 19-43       | [REDACTED] <i>b7c</i>                                    |
| Title   |           |                       | Character of Case  |
| GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases;<br>THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION |           |                       | INTERNAL SECURITY - G<br>CUSTODIAL DETENTION<br>SEDITION |

SYNOPSIS: [REDACTED] advised that *b7D*  
 H. E. MARTIN died in 1937 or 1938 at Ninety Six,  
 S. C. Search of materials seized by Sheriff's  
 Office, Asheville, N. C., for state's case against  
 WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY fails to disclose any  
 correspondence between SMITH and PELLEY. Evidence  
 impounded by Court in this case contains no such  
 correspondence. Material not used in evidence  
 in state's case and which had been in possession  
 of R. R. WILLIAMS, prosecuting attorney for the  
 state, has been destroyed.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated *b7c*  
 September 2, 1942, at Detroit, Michigan; teletype  
 from Indianapolis dated February 1, 1943.

DETAILS: AT ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA ~~DEFERRED REPORT~~  
 On February 12, 1943, [REDACTED] *b7D*  
 [REDACTED] advised the reporting agent that H. E. MARTIN died in 1937 or  
 1938 at Ninety Six, South Carolina. The informant could recall no  
 instance where GERALD L. K. SMITH corresponded with PELLEY using

Approved and Forwarded: *Edward Scheidt*  
 SAC  
 INDEXED  
 &  
 RECORDED

Copies  
 5 - Bureau  
 3 - Detroit (1 USA)  
 2 - Indianapolis  
 1 - New York (Info.)  
 1 - Washington Field(Info.)  
 4 - Charlotte

16 MAR 15 1943

COPIES DESTROYED  
 83 OCT 13 1964

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 DATE 12/1/82 BY SP-9/BJ/ML

*3/23/43 gpa*

*cc [unclear] 3/12/43*

Silver Shirts of America letterheads. The informant could give no information concerning any correspondence between these two men.

On February 15, 1943, [REDACTED], of Buncombe County, Asheville, North Carolina, made available to the writer the material which had been seized by his Department from the PELLEY organization for the state's case against PELLEY. A search of this material failed to reveal any correspondence between SMITH and PELLEY. b7c

[REDACTED] advised that some of the material seized had been retained by Mr. R. R. WILLIAMS, the prosecuting attorney for the state. He further advised that Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had gone through all the material and they had selected and photostated the material which they desired. He stated that the material which was not retained by the Sheriff's Office or Mr. WILLIAMS or impounded by the Court had been returned to the PELLEY organization.

Mr. R. R. WILLIAMS, Jackson Building, Asheville, North Carolina, advised reporting Agent on February 19, 1943, that the material which he had retained for use as evidence in the PELLEY case in Asheville has been destroyed, with the exception of that evidence actually used in the case and impounded by the Superior Court of Buncombe County. Mr. WILLIAMS stated that he kept the material for sometime, but that after PELLEY was tried by the Federal Government he presumed that the material was no longer of any importance, and inasmuch as it was cluttering up his office he had it destroyed.

[REDACTED], Clerk of the Superior Court of Buncombe County, made available to the writer the evidence that had been impounded by the Court in the state's case against PELLEY. A search of this evidence has been made by the writer with negative results. b7c

The Charlotte Office previously reported in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated September 17, 1943, that a review of the files of the Charlotte Office in regard to WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY failed to disclose any information concerning correspondence between PELLEY and SMITH. b7c

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

JPHa:WMJ  
3-23-43  
RECORDED 62-43818 - 218

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-8BTJ/mlw

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES ROBE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attention: Mr. C. E. Rhett

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

For your information, I wish to advise that a copy  
of a further report submitted in this case by Special Agent  
[redacted] at Charlotte, North Carolina, on March 13,  
1943, was transmitted to the Division of Records under date  
of March 23, 1943. b7c

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

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

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
Wendell Berge

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAY 11 1943  
10 34 AM '43

MAY 11 1943  
10 34 AM '43

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

341

MAY 11 1943



~~Mr. Tamm~~  
W. J. [unclear]  
[unclear]

Mar. 12, 1943.

Mr. E.A. Tamm,  
3353 Runnymede Place, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Tamm:

The attached are copies that I have typed up  
of the originals.

After handling same in this manner, the thought  
comes to me that possibly you would prefer to photostat mater-  
ial such as this instead of copies being typed. If so, would  
be glad to have you advise.

Very truly yours,

W. J. [unclear]  
3/22/43  
[unclear]

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[unclear]

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

42-11-219

JPha:WMMJ

March 22, 1943

EE-8

SAC, Detroit

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

[REDACTED]

I want to again call your attention to the importance of this investigation and to impress on you the absolute necessity of thoroughly and adequately following this subject's activities and public speeches. The status of this investigation has again become delinquent in your office and a further report will be expected within the next two weeks.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

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

Enclosure

CLASS. BY SP-8BTJ

DATE OF REVIEW 12/1/82

MAR 23 11 40 AM '43  
RECORDS SECTION

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
MAR 23 1943

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY SLIP (S) OF  
DATE 12/2/82

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Handwritten initials and signatures

5 MAR 10 1943

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **62-1194**

|  |                                  |   |  |
|--|----------------------------------|---|--|
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>NEW ORLEANS, LA.</b>  | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>3/16/43</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>1-28, 29, 30;<br/>2-1, 3, 20-43</b> | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>[REDACTED] (VM)</b>   |
| TITLE<br><b>GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases,<br/>Gerald L. K. Smith, Gerald L. K. Schmidt;<br/>THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION.</b>  |                                  |   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G<br/>CUSTODIAL DETENTION<br/>SEDITION</b> |
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg); border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <b>ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED<br/>HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED<br/>DATE 10/1/82 BY SP2/BJM</b> </div> <div> <p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Investigation at Shreveport, La., reflects subject resigned as pastor of the Kings Highway Christian Church about Feb. 15, 1934, because of political activities and dereliction of duties. Washington, D. C., law firm conducted investigation at Shreveport on subject's activities prior to 1934. All persons interviewed could furnish only general information on subject and could not furnish anything specific in his connection with the Silver Shirt Legion.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>For SMITH during the 1940 presidential campaign, was unable to furnish any information of value concerning SMITH'S associates, contributors, supporters, and contacts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXEMPTED RECORDING<br/>- RUC -</b></p> <p>Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] New Orleans, La., dated August 28, 1942.<br/>Report of [REDACTED], Washington, D. C., dated January 18, 1943.</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>AT SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA</u></p> <p>[REDACTED], on January 26, 1943, stated his first contact with SMITH was in 1930 or 1931 when he, [REDACTED] of the Community Chest Fund. One of the members of his committee suggested that SMITH speak before a luncheon composed of the various clubs and groups in</p> </div> </div> |                                  |   |  |
| APPROVED AND FORWARDED:<br><i>R. C. [Signature]</i>  | SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE          | DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES                                    |  |
| COPIES OF THIS REPORT<br>5 - Bureau<br>2 - Detroit<br>2 - Indianapolis<br>2 - Washington Field<br>2 - New Orleans  |                                  | <b>62-1194-220</b><br><b>19 MAR 19 1943</b>                     |  |

**COPIES DESTROYED**

**88 OCT 13 1964**

Shreveport. SMITH spoke before about five hundred people and gave a marvelous performance. [REDACTED] said he was so enthusiastic about SMITH'S ability he had him speak at a smaller group the following day, at which time SMITH gave the very same speech, gestures and all. [REDACTED] said he then realized SMITH was a fake and would have nothing more to do with the man. Later on, so said [REDACTED], he learned SMITH was allegedly connected with the Silver Shirt Legion for the purpose of prosecuting the Jews and, being Jewish, refused to speak to SMITH from that time on. SMITH came to [REDACTED] office one day to ascertain the reason for [REDACTED] attitude and when [REDACTED] told him what he thought of him and the Silver Shirts, SMITH said he had received an offer to organize a local chapter but that after a week of thought he refused the offer. [REDACTED] said he did not believe the man because he later confirmed to his satisfaction the fact of SMITH'S connection with the organization, although SMITH did not allow his name to be used and his activities were carried on secretly. [REDACTED] was not able, however, to furnish any specific or definite information concerning the fact of SMITH'S connection with this group.

After obtaining and losing his pastorate of the Kings Highway Christian Church and gaining a bad reputation because of his immoral deeds and practices, SMITH joined up with HUEY LONG'S "Snare the Wealth" society as an organizer, so said [REDACTED] said he warned HUEY about SMITH, but HUEY said he realized the man was no good and could not be trusted but that he would serve a useful purpose. It was during SMITH'S affiliation with LONG that he sued the Hearst interests for libel but withdrew his suit after an investigation into his background, which proved to be somewhat detrimental. [REDACTED] said the results of this investigation could be obtained from the Shreveport law firm of TUCKER and BRONSON.

[REDACTED] attorney at law located in the Slattery Building, on January 28, 1943, said he first ran into SMITH when SMITH was called as a witness in a case in which a police officer was being prosecuted for using third-degree methods on a Negro. SMITH testified that the Negro was not harmed, when, as [REDACTED] stated, it was very evident that the Negro had been badly beaten. After this instance, SMITH attempted to build a name for himself in the community and associate with prominent people. But he then began mixing into politics, neglecting his pastorate, and [REDACTED]. It was for these reasons, according to [REDACTED] that SMITH was relieved of his pastorate of the Christian Church, although these reasons were not made public and are hearsay so far as [REDACTED] is concerned.

It was during this time that SMITH became secretly associated with the Silver Shirt movement, which movement made no headway in Shreveport.

After this he was hired by HUEY LONG as an organizer for the "Share the Wealth" movement, which SMITH unsuccessfully tried to take over after LONG'S death. It was then that some manufacturers from Detroit, Michigan, hired SMITH to go to Detroit for the purpose of breaking up the labor unions.

[REDACTED] of the Detroit law firm of BUTZEL, EAMAN, LONG, GUST, and BILLS was a member of the committee instrumental in getting SMITH to Detroit. [REDACTED] said he saw [REDACTED] a short time ago and from what he gathered [REDACTED] has regretted his action in the matter ever since. [REDACTED] stated he could furnish nothing specific concerning SMITH'S activities but referred Agent to [REDACTED] for further particulars.

[REDACTED] on January 29, 1943, said he could give no specific information concerning SMITH'S activities while in Shreveport, and gave substantially the same general information furnished by Messrs. [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] did state, however, that SMITH was actively connected with the Ku Klux Klan and information concerning this phase of his life could be obtained from [REDACTED] attorney and advisor for [REDACTED], located in Indianapolis, Indiana. [REDACTED] stated further that he was not and is not a member of the Kings Highway Christian Church and does not know the reason for SMITH'S forced resignation. He referred the writer to [REDACTED], for specific information concerning SMITH while he was in Shreveport.

On January 29, 1943, [REDACTED] Commercial Bank Building, stated his office was retaining a file on GERALD L. K. SMITH for one [REDACTED], who was retained as attorney in the matter. [REDACTED] suggested that writer contact [REDACTED] for permission to see said file.

[REDACTED] was thereafter contacted and furnished Agent with a copy of the report submitted by one [REDACTED]. As background for this report, which was an investigation of SMITH'S activities in Shreveport, [REDACTED] said SMITH at one time was pastor of the Kings Highway Christian Church and was respected and admired by the local citizenry until he began mixing into politics, siding with the Huey Long group, and began to become conspicuous because of his absences at Sunday services in his church. He was warned and then asked to resign because of his dereliction of duties. Through the efforts of one [REDACTED], a member of the board of deacons of said church, SMITH was given another chance and reinstated. However, soon after, he gave a speech in front of the courthouse, lauding LONG and then left for Washington, D. C., to confer with HUEY. It was

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during this time that as SMITH and LONG were leaving LONG'S hotel at Washington, D. C., with their arms around each other's shoulders a reporter for the Washington Times-Herald took a picture of them, which the editor of the paper ran with the caption: "Long and his bodyguard Gerald." About this time, or shortly thereafter, the board of deacons of the Kings Highway Christian Church demanded SMITH'S resignation. SMITH sued the Times-Herald for libel, claiming as damage the fact that he had lost his pastorate. [REDACTED] then went on to say that WILTON J. LAMBERT, Attorney at Law, Munsey Building, Washington, D.C., representing the Washington Times-Herald, sent [REDACTED] to Shreveport to investigate SMITH'S claim. [REDACTED] stated he was retained to take the depositions of persons interviewed by [REDACTED]. The aim in taking these depositions was to prove the following facts:

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(1) That SMITH prior to February 1, 1934, had actively taken part or participated in political campaigns;

(2) That SMITH was a political follower of HUEY P. LONG, both before and after February 1, 1934;

(3) That the publication in the Washington Times-Herald on February 1, 1934, of SMITH with LONG was not the cause of the resignation of SMITH of the pastorate of his church, but on the other hand he was compelled to resign because of his activities out of the church and because the members of the board of deacons of the church considered SMITH no longer desirable as pastor; and,

(4) That on a prior occasion SMITH'S resignation had been demanded by the board of deacons and this action was only rescinded because of the intervention of [REDACTED]

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In view of the fact that [REDACTED] requested the return of the report submitted by [REDACTED], consisting of forty-seven typewritten pages, the same has been photographed and the exposed film has been forwarded to the Technical Laboratory under separate cover with the request that the Detroit Field Division be furnished with two copies of the positive prints and the developed negatives.

On January 30, 1943, [REDACTED] was interviewed by Special Agent [REDACTED] and the writer. [REDACTED] said he knew SMITH very well and that back in the early 1930's SMITH came to him and asked what he knew about the organization headed by WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY. [REDACTED] said he knew nothing, [REDACTED] for the purpose of conferring with PELLEY. [REDACTED] states that both became members at that time and he saw SMITH'S membership card on the way back to Shreveport. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

stated his only reason for joining the organization was to find out whether or not it was subversive in character, and when he found out what he wanted to know he quit. [REDACTED] did not reveal, however, what he did find.

As [REDACTED] report reflects that SMITH had signed a contract with the Silver Shirt Legion, [REDACTED] was questioned as to the existence of said contract but he said he had no knowledge of the same. In connection with the Silver Shirt movement in Shreveport, [REDACTED] said there were very few members and the organization soon died out. He also stated he did not solicit members for the organization. In conclusion, [REDACTED] informed Agents he has had no personal contact with SMITH for a good number of years, but has written three or four times during the past years but has received no reply.

[REDACTED] was interviewed on January 30, 1943. [REDACTED] stated SMITH is an intelligent man, smart as a whip, but no good because of his unreliability and his untruthfulness. In [REDACTED] opinion, SMITH was a good man to have on your side if handled properly and SMITH fitted in well with the HUEY LONG regime because of his oratorical ability. While minister of the Kings Highway Christian Church, SMITH indirectly conveyed to his parishioners the fact that he favored HUEY LONG. The people of Caddo Parish were almost one hundred per cent anti-LONG at that time and told him to go easy. About a week after this, a notice appeared in the local paper that SMITH would make some surprising statements in the courthouse. [REDACTED] stated the place was jammed and SMITH gave a speech eulogizing LONG which was received with such success and ovation he immediately borrowed money and went to Washington, D. C., to associate himself with LONG. This was when the picture was taken and he sued the Washington Times-Herald. [REDACTED] stated he was a LONG man and believed in HUEY and therefore knew about SMITH and his money spending. SMITH always demanded money for the payment of his bills and the demands were made at such times that it was impossible to refuse his request without causing the LONG party some embarrassment through adverse publicity.

[REDACTED] further stated he does not believe SMITH was immoral in his conduct or that his son was illegitimate, but that the people of Louisiana, especially those in Shreveport, would do most anything to destroy a faction or member of the LONG regime. [REDACTED] stated also that he does not believe SMITH is engaged in anything subversive, nor that he had any connection with the Silver Shirt organization in Shreveport. However, [REDACTED] stated SMITH bears watching as he loves power and money and publicity. [REDACTED] was of the opinion that if the United States

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began to lose the war and it started to look like the beginning of the end SMITH would do his utmost to get on a foreign-inspired band wagon to further his own interests.

[REDACTED], on February 1, 1943, stated SMITH is a man obsessed with the idea that his power of speech and oratory can move heaven and earth, that he is a hero-worshipper and will hitch his wagon to the brightest star and ride until the star fades. When SMITH was pastor of the Kings Highway Christian Church, he began to mingle into politics, siding with HUEY LONG, who was pretty much despised in Shreveport. SMITH recognized the fact that LONG was an up-and-coming figure in the political world and could not contain his thoughts and views from his parishioners, who resented the fact they had a pastor who dabbled in politics. Along with this, SMITH was an organizer. He loved to organize people into factions, especially when there was money involved. He told [REDACTED] at one time that he had met with the leaders of the Khaki and Silver Shirts and was working for them. For all of these and other insignificant but aggravating reasons, the board of elders of the Kings Highway Christian Church, [REDACTED] fired and demanded SMITH'S resignation. [REDACTED] said he was out of town at the time the elders met, so SMITH sought his aid in attempting to regain his pastorate. [REDACTED] advised SMITH to request a meeting of the board, at which time SMITH could refute any reason the elders had for firing him. [REDACTED] and when the board refused to bring forth any specific charges, SMITH stepped to the front giving a very eloquent and soul-stirring plea, wrapping the elders around his finger, and thereby gained his job back.

[REDACTED] stated that he later ascertained that the reasons for this first firing of SMITH were because SMITH was mixing into politics, went on mysterious trips which kept him away from the church for long periods of time, and because of stories that got back to Shreveport of his immoral conduct on these trips, which conduct was unbecoming a minister.

After this, SMITH came out in the open in his support of HUEY LONG, continued to absent himself from the church and became very derelict as far as ministerial duties were concerned. In addition to this, he began to incur large debts with various merchants and persons in town, and was fired again on or about February 15, 1934, this time with a lasting effect. This last termination of employment was not the result of the publicity SMITH obtained through the Washington Times-Herald, [REDACTED] said.

With reference to the letter from [REDACTED] of the Silver Shirts, which letter is mentioned in [REDACTED] report, [REDACTED] said he received such a letter when [REDACTED]

in which [redacted] solicited his membership, stating that GERALD SMITH and his wife, together with other prominent citizens were members. [redacted] has attempted to find this letter amongst his files on numerous occasions, but has been unsuccessful to date. He stated he would continue to search for the letter and if the same was located, it would be immediately brought to the attention of the New Orleans Field Division.

[redacted] of Centenary College, on February 3, 1943, said he was well acquainted with SMITH when he was in Shreveport and believed SMITH could be a public enemy. [redacted] stated SMITH is a man absolutely devoid of character with speaking ability. He has no conscience and his only love is himself. [redacted] in general, related episodes that reflected against SMITH'S character and reputation in Shreveport, which have been reported heretofore, but could give no specific information that would show SMITH had subversive tendencies at that time. When he was in Shreveport, SMITH'S only tendency was toward politics and then would sell his side short if he thought the other side could do him any good. [redacted] had an idea SMITH was connected with PELLEY'S Silver Shirts, as he received the literature of that organization and understood SMITH was the sender. In [redacted] estimation, SMITH bears close watching as he will do anything that will gain him power and money.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted], at New Orleans, Louisiana:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted], at Algiers, Louisiana:

On February 20, 1943, Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] interviewed [redacted] at his residence at [redacted] [redacted] stated that he is presently employed as a water inspector for the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. He said that he first met the subject, GERALD L. K. SMITH, some time during the year 1936 when the subject and JIMMIE NOE, former governor of Louisiana, were touring the state of Louisiana in a campaign against a sales tax proposed by the then Governor of Louisiana, DICK LECHE. [redacted]

the details of which are set out in the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] at New Orleans, Louisiana, dated August 28, 1942 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated SMITH left the state of Louisiana shortly after this, and to his knowledge did not return until the latter part of December, 1939, or the first part of January, 1940, when he made a three-weeks' campaign in behalf of EARL LONG, brother of HUEY P. LONG, who was running for governor of Louisiana. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He said that SMITH left Louisiana when this campaign was over and later wrote him, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He said that he accepted and went to Detroit about April, 1940, and worked for SMITH [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] said that SMITH has never confided in him and told him anything about his personal affairs, beliefs, contacts, financial supporters, or associates. He said that most of SMITH'S meetings with his supporters and contacts were held in his hotel room and that he, [REDACTED] was never present at any of these meetings. He said he did not recall the addresses of any individuals with whom SMITH associated or the names of any of the individuals who arranged SMITH'S speeches in the various towns they visited. He said that SMITH'S secretary, BERNIE DOMAN, handled all of SMITH'S business and arranged all of his speaking engagements. He further informed that he does not know the source of the subject's financial support, and recalls that SMITH was always complaining about being "broke." He said that HUBERT LUCKER (phonetic) of Detroit, Michigan, went with SMITH on his campaign tours during the presidential campaign of 1940, and that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was employed by SMITH as a chauffeur and bodyguard. He could not furnish any other information concerning these individuals. He also said that SMITH had five or six girls employed in his office, but advised he does not know any of their names.

[REDACTED] He further stated he thinks SMITH'S father is a retired Baptist minister. He was unable to give the names of these relatives.

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N.O. 62-1194

[REDACTED] said that to his knowledge the subject has never contacted WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY, and he further informed that he has never heard SMITH mention anything concerning the Silver Shirts movement. He stated he paid very little attention to SMITH'S speeches but does remember that SMITH frequently accused the present administration of being "warmongers" and made the statement that this country has had "too much Roosevelt."

[REDACTED] was questioned closely but did not furnish any additional information. He said that he left SMITH'S employ in September of 1941, because he was tired of the North and wished to return home. He said he had a friend of his in New Orleans send him a telegram advising that his mother was ill so that he would have an excuse to leave SMITH. He said that SMITH paid his expenses home and that he has not heard from SMITH since that time.

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- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

DETROIT FIELD DIVISION:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

Will interview [REDACTED] of the law firm of Butzel, Eaman, Long, Gust, and Bills, a member of the committee instrumental in getting SMITH to Detroit, for any information in his possession concerning subject and his activities.

INDIANAPOLIS FIELD DIVISION:

AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA:

Will locate and interview [REDACTED] attorney and advisor for [REDACTED] for any information in his possession concerning subject and his activities.

WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.:

Will contact WILTON J. LAMBERT, Attorney, or other members of the firm of Yeatman, Horton, and Lambert, Munsey Building, and obtain information in this firm's file concerning the background and activities of SMITH.

Will contact [REDACTED] at the New Colonial Hotel, 15th and M Streets, N.W., to ascertain from him what he knows concerning the activities and background of the subject. [REDACTED] during the day can be located by contacting Congressman JIMMY MORRISON, representative from Louisiana.

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DTC

JPHa:WMJ  
3-27-43  
62-43818

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JAMES ROBE, JR.  
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attention: Mr. C. E. Rhetts

50435

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

For your information, I wish to advise that a copy of a report submitted in connection with the above-entitled matter by Special Agent [redacted] at New Orleans, Louisiana, on March 16, 1943, was transmitted to the Division of Records under date of March 27, 1943.

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Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_
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- Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. McGuire \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Piper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. [redacted] \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. [redacted] \_\_\_\_\_

cc - Assistant Attorney General  
Mendell Berge

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

RECEIVED  
MAR 29 6 13 PM '43  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) b1 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):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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For your information: THERE IS NO SERIAL 222

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:  
62-43818-221

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Department of Justice  
Office of the Assistant to the Attorney General  
Washington

March 29, 1943

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

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Re: Gerald L. P. Smith  
The Committee of One Million  
Internal Security

*H. J. ...*

In your memorandum of February 19 and again in your memorandum of March 24 you requested advice as to whether Smith's admitted violation of the so-called national speed regulation and his public comments in connection therewith could be considered as violative of any Federal statute within the investigative jurisdiction of the FBI.

I have asked Mr. Berge to give you an opinion on this subject and I believe you may expect to hear from him in the very near future.

*C. E. Rhettts*

C. E. Rhettts  
Special Assistant to the  
Attorney General

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/1/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/MLC

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62 4/35/62 -223

RECORDED

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*314*



Mar. 21, 1943.

Mr. E.A. Tamm,  
3353 Runnymede Place, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The attached are copies of the original mimeographed articles put out by GLK Smith. sent them in with request that the originals be returned.

As per your letter of Mar. 16th, have arranged with to secure all information possible regarding this matter.

Very truly yours,

*Handwritten notes:*  
7/15  
~~Handwritten scribbles~~

*Handwritten notes:*  
(sent to ...)  
W. ...  
(received ...)

62-43818-224

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 27 1943

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

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*This is an invitation to hear*

# DEBATE

**GERALD L. K. SMITH**  
AMERICA FIRST PARTY ORGANIZER

*vs.* **PROF. PRESTON SLOSSON**  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**Professor Slosson**  
advocates a World Government after the war.  
**Mr. Smith** believes that nothing should be done to compromise our national sovereignty.

*Bring this invitation with you to the right of the debate.*

**Monday, March 22**  
8:00 P. M.  
**CASS TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL**

**Mr. Smith** opposes vigorously any World Government that would be given an authority above the government of the United States.

**THIS WILL BE A VERY SENSATIONAL DEBATE.**  
**The admission is free but by ticket only.**

Present this invitation at the door and you will be given as many tickets as you need in order to admit yourself and any friends. You might bring with you.  
**COME AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE FOR CHOICE SEATS.**

Gerald L.K. Smith  
vs  
Prof. Preston Slosson

Jess Tech  
High School  
Auditorium

MONDAY - MARCH - 1922 - 8:00 P.M.

Dear patriotic friend:

On this coming Monday night, March 22, I am debating with Professor Preston Slosson of the University of Michigan. The subject of the debate is:

RESOLVED: THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD JOIN AN INTERNATIONAL UNION WHICH WOULD HAVE AS ONE OF ITS OBJECTS THE ENFORCEMENT OF WORLD PEACE.

As you, of course, might know, I shall take the negative side of the debate. I am opposed to world government. I do not believe there should be any government above that of the United States. I do not believe there should be any flag above the Stars and Stripes.

Professor Slosson favors a world government. In fact, he is one of the most active advocates of world government.

We of the AMERICA FIRST PARTY feel very severely against all forms of internationalism or any form of a world parliament which might make it possible for foreign citizens to make rules for us to obey.

Vice President Wallace and men of a similar type are advocating a World Government. They are making rapid headway and unless we old-fashioned AMERICA FIRST Americans get busy, this world government crowd is likely to put something over on us. I am participating in this debate in order to help my friends realize just how serious this proposition is and just how brazen are the advocates of World Government.

I am enclosing herewith some invitations. These invitations are not tickets but when presented at the Jess Technical High School on the night of the debate, March 22, they will entitle the bearer to as many tickets as he needs for himself and any friends that he might bring with him.

I WILL BE ON A TOUGH SPOCK. MY ENTHUSIAST AND MOST VIOLENT ENEMIES WILL BE PRESENT PREPARED TO GO A D BLESS 'EM. I COUNT ON YOU TO COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS IN ORDER THAT OUR CAUSE MIGHT HAVE THE MOST VIGOROUS AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT POSSIBLE.

Please stick with me. If ever you were my friend I bet of you to stand with me this time because I am meeting one of the strongest advocates of world government in the United States. If you fail me

on next Monday night. It will be difficult for me to attend the party without your help. Use the telephone. Call my wife at home or as late as possible and let's talk about it. I'll be home with hundreds of old-fashioned readers for the night.

Remember the place: Case Technical Institute.

Date: Monday, March 22.

Hour: 8:00 p.m. (as early as possible).

Sincerely,

---

CHARLES L. R. SIMS

GLRS/U

P.S. Read the enclosed memo **very** carefully.

NOW AVAILABLE.

Dear friend:

Read every line of this page. It may be the most important thing you ever read.

The most sensational book I have ever seen has just come to my hands. It discusses the Communist conspiracy in detail. It contains 423 pages. It is bound in cloth.

## BOOK STORES WON'T SELL IT

This book is so sensational in what it exposes that many book stores have been forbidden by their controlled managers to handle it.

## 2,000 SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

In its 423 pages 2,000 subjects are discussed. The book contains 52 dynamic chapters.

The name of the book is "The Red Decade", written by Eugene Lyons, who returned a short time ago from Russia. I want everyone of my friends to have this book. Following are the chapter titles in this book:

1. THE FIVE APES OF THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL 2. A PARTY IS BORN 3. BURNING AND WITHIN 4. THE MOSCOW SOLAR SYSTEM
5. THE AMERICAN PARTY IS PURGED 6. A MIQUETOAST TAKES COMMAND
7. THE RED DECADE DAWNS 8. FASCISM HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY
9. THE GUILT OF RUSSIA-WORSHIP 10. THE LIBERALS INVENT A UTOPIA
11. APOLONISTS DO THEIR STUFF 12. THE RED CULTURAL RENAISSANCE
13. COLE PLANETS ARE LAUNCHED 14. MOSCOW ADOPTS THE TROJAN HORSE
15. COMMUNIST BECOMES A STRIKE LIST 16. THE INCREDIBLE REVOLUTION SPREADS 17. AMERICAN LEADS FOR SOVIET WAR TO GERMAN
18. STALIN'S CHILDREN'S HOUR IN THE U.S.A. 19. STALIN MUSCLES IN ON AMERICAN LEADER
20. RUSSIAN PAGES AND AMERICAN LIBERALS
21. MURDER FOR RUSSIA 22. "FRIENDS OF THE C.P.U." 23. COCK TAILS FOR SPANISH DELOCAPACY
24. REVOLUTION GOES TO HOLLYWOOD AND THROADWAY 25. AMERICA'S OWN POPULAR PROLETARIAN GOVERNMENT
26. THE TERRORIST FRONT 27. TELEVISION AND TERROR 28. THE LAST LUCKY SKEW 29. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE LIBERALS
30. NEW FRONT FOR OLD 31. AND THEY CALLED IT "PRICE" 32. THE MENACE TODAY.

Send no money. Just fill out the attached coupon.

George H. F. Smith  
Committee of 1,000,000  
Box 457, Detroit, Mich.

Yes, I want a copy of the big 423-page book exposing the alien conspiracy entitled "The Red Decade" by Eugene Lyons.

Send me this book and I will pay \$3.00 plus mailing cost to the mailman when he delivers it.

DATE

NO. 233

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1.1.11.5

April 2, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 10/1/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/mh

Special Agent in Charge  
Detroit, Michigan

RE: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
INTERNAL SECURITY  
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

I am writing you again with reference to this case in order to reiterate my great interest in the investigation of this subject.

In my letter of February 8, 1943, I outlined the contents of two rather lengthy memoranda received from the Department concerning this subject, particularly as to the desire of the Department that the investigation of this case be continued under the theory of the Seditious Activities Act and the Federal Corrupt Practices Act. My letter designated certain specific items of information desired and also outlined the general pattern which this investigation should follow.

Recently other officials high in the Government have expressed interest in the activities of Smith and I think it should be quite clear to you that the Bureau must be in the position of being appropriately advised as to all phases of his activities. I want to take this occasion to again impress upon you the absolute necessity of your personally supervising this matter and seeing that this investigation is afforded most thorough and vigorous attention.

4  
DE-INDEXED  
DATE: 1/1/92

|                |  |   |
|----------------|--|---|
| Mr. Tolson     |  | You should continue to arrange with other offices to appropriately              |
| Mr. E. A. Tamm |  | cover his out of town appearances, as I stated in my letter of February 8,      |
| Mr. Clegg      |  | and the investigation at Detroit should primarily follow the form of            |
| Mr. Coffey     |  | substantiating pertinent information received from [REDACTED]                   |
| Mr. Glavin     |  | by evidence or information from other sources which is of such a nature as      |
| Mr. Ladd       |  | could be introduced in testimonial form if prosecution is undertaken against    |
| Mr. Nichols    |  | subject at some future date. The services of [REDACTED] my                      |
| Mr. Rosen      |  | not be so helpful in so far as the Federal Corrupt Practices phase of the       |
| Mr. Tracy      |  | case is concerned but as the Department has repeatedly expressed great interest |
| Mr. Carson     |  | in Smith's activities as a candidate for public office, this phase of the       |
| Mr. Harbo      |  | investigation should not be overlooked.   |

|             |  |   |
|-------------|--|---|
| Mr. Hendon  |  | COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  |
| Mr. McGuire |  | In accordance with my instructions set forth in Bureau letter dated   |
| Mr. Mumford |  | March 22, 1943, a further report in this case will be expected at the |
| Mr. Pincer  |  | Bureau sometime during the forthcoming week.                          |

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

APR 12 1943

RECEIVED - INTERNAL



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

- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Carson
- Mr. Coffey
- Mr. Hendon
- Mr. Kramer
- Mr. McGuire
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Quinn Tamm
- Tele. Room
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Beahm
- Miss Gandy

JPLia:lem

March 29, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/1/82 BY se-60/...

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: GERALD L. K. SMITH  
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION  
SEDITION

In recent months the Department has evidenced considerable interest in this case. As you will recall, under date of March 25, 1943, the President addressed a memorandum to you requesting advice as to what action was being taken in connection with the activities of Smith. The President's memorandum was accompanied by a copy of the March, 1943, issue of the New York publication "The Hour," which is devoted principally to a discussion of Smith. A detailed memorandum setting forth information as to Smith's background and the Bureau's investigation of his activities, as well as a cover letter advising of the Department's evaluation of the information developed, has been prepared for transmittal to the White House.

As you will recall, Smith is a former minister and at one time achieved a good bit of publicity as a spokesman for the late Huey Long and as a part of the Long political machine. Following Long's demise and an unsuccessful attempt to identify himself with the remnants of the Long machine, Smith went to New York and later to Detroit, where he formed an organization known as "The Committee of One Million."

At its inception the announced purpose of "The Committee of One Million" was that of combatting forces advocating communism. Later, with the coming of the European war, Smith shifted his policy to that of advocating strict isolationism and directing criticisms against the Administration's policy of assisting the Allied governments. With the involvement of the United States in the war, Smith again altered his policy and became concerned principally with criticizing the Administration's alleged endeavors to "enslave the people" as a result of the exigencies occasioned by war. Within the past year he has characterized the Government as approaching a dictatorship and has been particularly denunciative of what he is pleased to call the Administration's efforts to form a super world state dominated by Great Britain, in which the United States is a mere entity.

Although Smith boasts that he has a following of three million persons, it appears that "The Committee of One Million" is really not an organization as such but is merely a medium through which Smith as an individual operates. He publishes a magazine called "The Cross and the Flag" and frequently makes public addresses, some of which are broadcast over radio stations. He has quite a large mailing list and it is known that he receives a considerable amount of contributions from members of the public. It appears



COPIES DESTROYED

83 OCT 13 1964

I think we should bea down & get the Smith case concluded on file the War may be over. N.

62-4281-22



that he claims all of the individuals who are on his mailing list are a part of "The Committee of One Million." In any event, his claim of a following of three million is grossly exaggerated.

Last summer Smith sought the Republican nomination for U. S. Senator from the State of Michigan and although he was unsuccessful he did receive approximately 120,000 votes. Even after this defeat, he insisted on continuing his campaign in the general election in November as a write-in candidate. In the November election, he was badly defeated, receiving less support than he did in the primary campaign.

Smith's most recent endeavors have been in connection with an attempt to form a third political party on a national scale. This party is called the America First Party and Smith has indicated he believes its principal support can be drawn from persons who were formerly members of the now defunct America First Committee. Since the first of the year Smith has traveled rather extensively throughout the middle west and has made a number of speeches advocating the America First Party. The policy of such a party as conceived by Smith would be very similar to the general purposes and policy of "The Committee of One Million."

As indicated previously, it is known that Smith receives considerable financial contributions from members of the public. Even so, the scale of his operations during the past year was sufficiently extensive to indicate that he is receiving sizeable financial contributions, the regularity of which suggests that they may not come from members of the public. In this connection information has been received that Smith is being financed by officials of the Ford Motor Company. However, it should be observed that this information has been received from informants and it is not based on documentary evidence and at present it is not in such form as to be susceptible to proof.

Beginning early in 1942, the Bureau has from time to time sent considerable information to the Department relative to Smith's activities. Initially this information was referred to the Special War Policies Unit. However, on February 20, 1942, the Criminal Division indicated an interest in being furnished with the results of the investigation and up until recently the information developed has been referred to the Criminal Division.

From time to time the Criminal Division acknowledged the information received from the Bureau and occasionally advanced suggestions as to certain specific information desired. These communications on the part of the Criminal Division did indicate a definite interest in the investigation of Smith but at no time did the Criminal Division indicate that it was considering prosecuting Smith. In December, 1942, a memorandum was received from Mr. James Howe, Jr., with comments to the effect that the Attorney General was interested in the Smith case. This memorandum requested that the Bureau continue its investigation and, as in the case of the memoranda previously received from the Criminal Division, advanced certain specific suggestions as to information desired. In answer to this memorandum, the Bureau on December 23, 1942, addressed a communication to Mr. Howe requesting his advice as to whether prosecution was anticipated against

Smith and if so the theory or statutes under which such prosecution was anticipated.

On January 3, 1945, Mr. Rowe in reply to the Bureau's memorandum stated that although Smith's speeches and publications approach very closely to the point of sedition they do not actually amount to a violation of the Sedition Statutes. In this regard Mr. Rowe commented that Smith seems to have been quite well advised as to "the extent to which he could safely go in this direction." Mr. Rowe, however, expressed the opinion that due to Smith's wide-scale activities the investigation should be continued along the lines of an inquiry under the Sedition Statutes. He further requested that a particular endeavor be made to determine whether Smith has at any time maintained any connection or association with Axis representatives or adherents.

Shortly prior to the receipt of the memorandum from Mr. Rowe, the Special War Policies Unit requested that an investigation be undertaken for the purpose of determining whether Smith properly complied with the provisions of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act in connection with his primary and write-in campaigns in Michigan. In this regard, the Special War Policies Unit pointed out that information developed by the Bureau suggests that Smith's campaign fund report as required by the Michigan General Election Laws may have been falsified. Relative to Smith's write-in campaign, the Special War Policies Unit pointed out that if Smith was actually a candidate within the meaning of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act he was required by that Act to file an additional report with the Secretary of the Senate in connection with his candidacy in November, 1944. The Special War Policies Unit stated that a number of rather indefinite questions of law are involved in an attempt to make a case against Smith under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act but requested that complete information as to the circumstances surrounding his candidacy and the reports filed by him be developed. Mr. Rowe has also indicated an interest in having this phase of the investigation carried through.

Another interesting phase of this case lies in the fact that Smith is reported to have stated he has in his files detailed information which involves the President in the assassination of Huey Long. Information as to this claim by Smith was developed during the course of the investigation of the case entitled

**SEDITION**  
[REDACTED]

Smith had told him he has proof that the President was involved in the assassination of Long and he, Smith, would divulge this information publicly if he were ever proceeded against criminally by the Federal Government. Winrod, you will recall, is currently under indictment in the District of Columbia for sedition and it is known that Smith and Winrod have long been close friends. This particular information has previously been referred to the White House and to the Department.

b7c  
b7d

The Attorney General has several times indicated an interest in this case and you will recall that on October 29, 1942, he forwarded to you a lengthy statement concerning Smith prepared by one [redacted] of Detroit. [redacted] at one time had close connections with the Ford Motor Company and for several years served [redacted]. This statement was prepared by [redacted] for publication in the New York newspaper "PM" and dealt in detail with the various activities of Smith, particularly in connection with his associations with officials of the Ford Motor Company. [redacted] had previously been interviewed by the Bureau on a number of occasions and always refused to divulge information concerning his knowledge of Smith. However, he apparently intended to sell this statement to "PM." For some reason "PM" did not publish it but referred it to the Attorney General.

Prior to the receipt of this statement from the Attorney General, [redacted] during the early part of October, 1942, appeared at the Detroit office and in an interview, in contrast with previous contacts with him, furnished all of the information set forth on the statement made available by the Attorney General. He was closely questioned as to the allegations made by him but he was unable to furnish any documentary evidence or other information acceptable as evidence tending to show a direct tieup between Smith and the Ford Motor Company. Although [redacted] had an unsavory reputation, it might have been possible to utilize him as a witness in any action taken against Smith. [redacted]

This phase of the case in so far as [redacted] is concerned is mentioned in view of the fact that the Attorney General was personally interested in the statement referred to "PM" by [redacted].

In view of the potential ramifications of this case, it is being given careful investigative attention and the closest supervision. A technical surveillance has been in progress since May, 1942, and considerable information has been developed through this means. At the present time this technical surveillance is being followed and all Smith's publications and speeches are being carefully covered. All of the information developed is being promptly referred to Mr. Rowe of the Department and the case will continue to receive the closest attention. It is of interest to note that eight reports have been referred to the Department since the receipt of Mr. Rowe's memorandum on January 8, 1943.

Attached to this memorandum is a summary memorandum setting forth detailed information as to Smith's background and previous activities.

Respectfully,

  
D. M. Ladd

Attachment

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b7D

March 29, 1943

GERALD L. K. SMITH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/1/82 BY SP. 847/HL

Personal History and Background

①  
Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith, better known as Gerald L. K. Smith, was born during February, 1898, at Pardeeville, Wisconsin. He attended Butler Seminary at Indianapolis, Indiana, and later was graduated from Valparaiso University (Indiana) where he pursued a course in theology. Smith's antecedents and early life were in no way unusual and are of no particular interest.

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

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

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

More detailed comments are set forth subsequently as to Smith's connection with Huey Long and his activities as the organizer of "The Committee of One Million," but it is of significance to observe that it appears that the turning point of Smith's life dates from his association with Huey Long. Prior to that time he was the usual type of minister concerned with problems incidental to his calling. However, it seems that his participation in the "Share the Wealth" movement fired his ambition to the extent of self visualization of himself as a dominant political figure. Being unsuccessful in associating himself with Long's

ENCLOSURE

successors, he has apparently continued his dream of political prominence through his efforts in connection with his so-called "Committee of One Million." The fact that he still evaluates himself as an individual of at least potential political significance, is attested to by the fact that he has often described himself in confidential conversations as being likely "Presidential timber." In an effort to further augment his political background and potentialities, Smith sought nomination as Republican candidate for United States Senator from the State of Michigan during the summer of 1942. This campaign was unsuccessful.

Smith's personal life appears to be normal. He is married, lives with his wife, and has one son, about twenty years of age. His wife is said to be a distant relative of a Mr. Sorensen, described as an official of the Ford Motor Company. From time to time stories have been circulated attributing improprieties to Smith in connection with his associations with women other than his wife. However, nothing factual is known to substantiate these stories.

#### Activities Prior to 1933

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

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

Although during Huey Long's lifetime Smith was an outstanding personage in the Long machine, he rapidly lost his position after the death of Long. It appears that his services were continued for a short period of time by Long's

successors, but that he eventually was displaced due, allegedly, to his untoward efforts to attain personal power. By 1937, any influence which he previously had was completely dissipated and it was during that year that he left Louisiana for New York.

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

Toward the end of his stay in Louisiana, Smith's personal reputation apparently suffered to some extent. On November 3, 1936, he was arrested by the New Orleans Police Department on a charge of having disturbed the peace in the using of obscene language in a public place. Reportedly this arrest resulted in his receiving a suspended sentence of \$10.00 and ten days.

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

#### Current Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

Smith carries on the work of "The Committee of One Million" through radio broadcasts over Station WJL at Detroit, the distribution of literature, and through the publication of a monthly magazine known as "The Cross and the Flag." Although Smith claims that "The Committee of One Million" has a following of three million persons, it appears that "The Committee of One Million" is really not an organization as such, and is merely a name used by Smith. Smith, of course, does have a rather large mailing list, and it seems that the persons who receive his literature and make occasional financial donations to him are considered by Smith as being members of the Committee. Available information indicates that Smith's claim of three million followers is grossly exaggerated.

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

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

Late in 1942, Smith publicly announced the intention of forming a third political party on a national scale. The proposed platform for this Party, as announced, was similar to that advanced by Smith in connection with his work as leader of "The Committee of One Million" and it is understood that Smith hopes to gain support from members of the now defunct "America First Committee." In recent months, Smith has toured the Middle West and has made a number of speeches in various cities, outlining his plan for a third political party. Recently, he has indicated that it may not be necessary to form this party if the Republican and Democratic Parties "present a real issue" for the 1944 Presidential Election.

At various times within recent years it has been reported that certain officials at the Ford Motor Company are interested in Smith and have collaborated with him to the extent of furnishing him information used in some of his speeches and his publication "The Cross and the Flag."

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

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