



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

GERALD L. K. SMITH

PART 7 OF 18

FILE NUMBER : 62-43818

SUBJECT

GERALD L. K. Smith

PART 4

FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
REQUEST

SUBJECT GERALD L. K. Smith

PAGES REVIEWED: 3994

PAGES RELEASED: 2979

NOTES: SECTIONS 15-20

**FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION**

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS
RELEASE**

SUBJECT: GERALD L.K. SMITH

FILE: 62-43818

SUB: _____

VOL: 15

PAGES REVIEWED: 103

PAGES RELEASED: 99

NOTES: _____

[Redacted]

May 27/43

Walter Winchell
New York City
Dear Sir.

✓ Answer: why not the
Dear John: why not the
man arrested?
Walter

I enjoy your Sunday night broadcasts
a great deal and I wish we had more like
you and Drew Pearson.

The enclosed clipping may reveal just how far
Mr. G. L. K. Smith goes if he can get away with it.
Hoping to hear more of your broadcasts soon

Sincerely yours

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-6/STW

[Redacted]

Memo to Bergin re G.L.K. Smith
6/10/43
[Redacted]
1 ENCL. [Redacted]

act nupt
6/11/43
[Redacted]

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

62-43818-267	
2 JUN 16 1943	
[Redacted]	

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THE BUFFALO CLEVELAND NEWS

J. O'Connell, Jr., President.
Matthew, Vice-President.
Morgan, Secretary.
Chase, Treasurer.

Buffalo's Best Newspaper

LABREY & THOMPSON, INC.
Publishers Direct Representatives
Chicago—New York—San Francisco

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Postal Zones 1, 2 and 3... Daily Sunday
Other Zones and Canada... \$12.00 \$7.00
Entered as second class matter at the
Postoffice at Buffalo, N. Y., June 21, 1922.

MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
The Associated Press is exclusively en-
titled to use for publication of all news
credited to it or not otherwise credited in
this paper, also to the local news published
therein.

All rights of publication of special dis-
patches herein also are reserved.

THE FLAG HE DEFILED

Night before last, 300 Buffal-
onians saw Huey Long's former
bealer, Gerald L. K. Smith (now
director of the America First
Party), defile a replica of the flag
which first was raised over Gen.
George Washington's headquarters
at Cambridge, Mass., in January,
1776—the flag which Washing-
ton's troops carried when they
marched into Boston after British
evacuation in March, 1776; the
flag which the Continental Army
used until adoption of the Stars
and Stripes a year after the De-
claration of Independence.

Of course, the Buffalonians who
saw Huey Long's former aide jump
up and down on the flag did not
know the history of the banner
which was being defiled. They did
not know that Smith was doing
something which would have qual-
ified him for the noose if American
patriots had caught him doing it
in 1776. They believed what Smith
had told them—that this flag was
a thing which New Dealers and
British imperialists had designed
as a postwar substitute for the
Stars and Stripes. It was easy for
Smith to put over this yarn,
because Washington's Cambridge
flag of 1776 (of which Benjamin
Franklin was one of the designers)
had thirteen alternating stripes of
red and white, like our present flag,
but had the crosses of St. George
and St. Andrew where we now
have the stars.

If Smith's Buffalo hearers had
known the history of the flag
which he was defiling, we are sure
they would have put a summary
stop to the proceeding—although
his audience ought to have been
forewarned by the abusive threats
which Smith directed at the offi-
cial representative of the Ameri-
can Legion of Erie County (a
World War I veteran with two
sons fighting for America in World
War II), who challenged one or
two of the speaker's wilder flights
of oratory.

Free speech is one of the things
for which we are fighting in this
war. Under the American concep-
tion of free speech, this man,
Smith, goes around the country
trying to stir up animosity against
Great Britain, against Canada,
against Russia, against the Chi-
nese, against all our Allies. When
Smith huris abuse at our Canadian
neighbors, when he derisively bawls
the epithet, "Chinks," at Chiang
Kai-shek's gallant soldiers, when
he resorts to all the other tricks
to which he resorted here—well,
you know whom he is helping.

But American tolerance permits
Smith to enjoy his freedom of
speech. It permits him to misuse
the name, America, in the title of
his America First Party. It per-
mits him to enjoy freedom of the
press in his publication entitled
The Cross and The Flag.

That title calls attention to this
fact: The flag under which George
Washington fought in 1776 is not
the only one.

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62-43818-1267

RECORDED

62-43818-267

June 11, 1943

Mr. Walter Finchell
New York Mirror
235 East 45th Street
New York, New York

Dear Walter:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your communication postmarked June 8, 1943, with which you forwarded two letters as well as newspaper clippings recently received by you concerning Gerald L. K. Smith of Detroit, Michigan.

Relative to your penciled notation as to why prosecutive action has not been undertaken against Smith, I thought you would be interested to know that although this individual's activities have been carefully investigated and the information developed has been referred to the Assistant to the Attorney General, he has indicated that Smith's activities to date are not sufficient to justify prosecution.

The information concerning Smith's defiling a replica of the Flag once used by George Washington is being sent to the Assistant to the Attorney General, and I want you to know that I appreciate very much your bringing this information to my attention.

With kind personal regards,

Cordially,

J. Edgar Hoover

- 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 _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED 5
 ★ JUN 12 1943 P.M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-9/BJM

Approved by
[Handwritten signatures]

4 JUN 17 1943

Can you get anything out of this? N.Y. Middle Mass. Why not?

The American Federation of Labor recently accused ... of renewing its anti-union campaign in Louisiana, Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, North Carolina and Tennessee. This is no small time movement. It succeeded in popularizing so effectively the idea of prohibiting unions from making political contributions that such a clause was incorporated by Congress in the Connally-Smith anti-strike bill.

Many of the Congressmen who voted for this bill are close to Gerald L. K. Smith, America First Party fuehrer. They speak at meetings arranged by his followers in big cities. They are sponsored by the same men who are promoting the anti-Semitic, ex-Mobilizer street-corner gaulster, Joseph McWilliams.

Just a few words now for labor circles here. During the first week in June important conferences took place in Chicago to discuss realignments, conferences and America First possibilities in many regions. It was decided that the time has come to invade New York. Some of the eastern reports were from a leader of the American Rock Party, of Queens, the same organization which sent representatives to Washington to testify against lend-lease. They said then that there would be riots and worse if the lend-lease bill passed. Now Smith is planning to come East. He is stepping in where Charles Coughlin feared to tread.

The effect on local labor and liberal circles will not be salutary.

62-43818-2674

RECORDED 62-43818

Date: June 16, 1943

To: SAC, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 10/14/82 BY SP-802/ma

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

Subject: GERALD L. E. SMITH
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION
CUSTODIAL DETENTION
SMITHSON

Reference is made to the report submitted in connection with this case by Special Agent [redacted] at New York, New York, on May 31, 1943.

The Bureau desires that in connection with the further investigation of this case, efforts be made to locate and interview [redacted] and [redacted], all of whom are mentioned in reference report. It would appear that these individuals may be able to give pertinent information concerning Smith's activities and that [redacted] can perhaps furnish data concerning any relationship or association which may have been existent between [redacted] and Smith.

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 15
JUN 17 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED
62-43818-26
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 18 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Handwritten initials and signatures

Handwritten initials

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

NY FILE NO. **100-19707 DDM**

REPORT MADE AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 5/31/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/14, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 28/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases; THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION			CHARACTER OF CASE CUSTODIAL DETENTION - 0 SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Photostatic copy obtained of letter signed by [REDACTED] stating SMITH'S registration number as a member of Silver Shirts was 3223 and his wife's number 3220; also copy of excerpts of letters and telegrams from SMITH indicating his connection with PELLEY. Statement of [REDACTED] in the possession of [REDACTED] states ELIZABETH BILLING, WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY and GERARD WINROD were personal friends of SMITH and that [REDACTED] was friendly with [REDACTED] attended conferences with [REDACTED] and entertained him at luncheon which was paid for by the Committee of One Million. Efforts to locate [REDACTED] unsuccessful to date. Interview with [REDACTED] negative.

DEFERRED RECORD

* P *

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED**

REFERENCES:

Bureau file #62-43818

DATE 10/4/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] made at Detroit, Michigan dated May 5, 1943.

DETAILS: 1 At New York City:

The following information was obtained through [REDACTED]

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: [Signature] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 62-43818-269
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau 3-Detroit (encl.3)(1-USA, Detroit) 2-New York	RECORDED & INDEXED
COPIES DESTROYED 89 OCT 13 1964	4 JUN 17 1943

cc Rowe 6/16/43
cc Beck 7/2/43

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NY 100-19707

[REDACTED]

In 1936 WILLIAM DUDNEY PELLEY, founder of the Silver Shirts, announced in his magazine Liberation that SMITH was at one time a member and lecturer for that organization. On [REDACTED] interviewed SMITH and asked him if PELLEY'S assertion was true. SMITH denied it. On [REDACTED] wrote to PELLEY asking him for a verification of the statement which appeared in Liberation. At that time PELLEY was on the west coast organizing the Christian Party, the party ticket on which he later ran for the Presidency and the letter was answered by [REDACTED], whom PELLEY had placed in charge of his Asheville, North Carolina headquarters.

[REDACTED] letter which is written on the stationery of PELLEY'S WEEKLY is as follows:

"August 5, 1936.

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

"Answering your letter of [REDACTED] regarding Mr. Gerald L. K. Smith's connection with the Silver Shirts, which you say he denies, we have on file certain letters and telegrams from him received during July and August 1933. The letters are all written on Silver Shirts of America letterheads and signed by him. His registration number as a member of the Silver Shirts was 3223 and his wife's number was 3220.

"The enclosed extracts from these letters will undoubtedly serve your purpose.

Sincerely yours,

The Pelley Publishers,

/s/ [REDACTED]

The extracts referred to in the above letter are as follows:

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- C O P Y -

"Western Union Telegram dated July 22, 6:54 P.M.

"WILLIAM DUDLEY PELLEY or [REDACTED] b7c
Care Asheville Biltmore Hotel or Liberation Magazine
Woman's Club Bldg., Asheville, N. Car.

NO MAIL WHEN CAN WE EXPECT INSTRUCTIONS PEOPLE ENROUTE SEETHING ANSWER
WESTERN UNION

(signed) GERALD L. K. SMITH

"Letter dated July 31, 1933

"As was my understanding with Mr. PELLEY I am personally under cover and will be until I can make some adjustment honorable to my work here."

"Letter dated Aug. 8th, 1933

"I have been working under cover but will come out in the open the first Monday after the first Sunday in September. I succeeded yesterday in enrolling a man here with about one million dollars in oil"

"I have about three addresses ready on the following subjects:

'Who Stole America'

'Your Name May Be on the Death List'

'America's Real Dictator is an Alien'

"I am preparing others on the subject:

'Who Will Save Your Life When the Bolsheviks Descend
Upon Us'

'Some Day 100,000,000 Americans Will Hide Behind a
Silver Shirt for Protection.'

'Why I Left the Conventional Pulpit to Join the Christian
Militia of the Silver Legion.'

"Letter dated August 15th.

"By the time you receive this letter I shall be on the road to St. Louis and parts north together with a uniformed squad of young men composing what I believe will be the first Silver Shirt storm troop in America.

"Letter from Hot Springs - not dated but received by us on Aug. 18, 1933:

"Nine O'clock the second night. We have held three mass meetings two street meetings, appointed key men for literature in six towns; no, seven towns."

"Letter dated August 18th, from Shreveport, La:

"On Friday last I realized that it would be impossible for me to

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"leave the active ministry."

". . . but for the present and for at least six months I am asking that you disassociate me with the movement, officially."

"My storm troop has not lost one ounce of their courage and I have said or done nothing to affect their attitude."

Photostatic copies of the letter from [redacted] and the extracts from SMITH'S letters and telegrams, as well as the envelope in which the letter was sent to [redacted] are being furnished the office of origin.

[redacted] stated that he believes PELLEY sent the above communications to him because at the time he was angry with SMITH for denying his membership with the Silver Shirt organization. He advised that he has never actually seen SMITH'S membership cards in the organization and that he has no knowledge of their present whereabouts. [redacted] informed, however, that one of PELLEY'S field men by the name of [redacted], who was active in the Christian Party in 1936 and whom he believes is located at Seattle, Washington, told him that SMITH had admitted to him that he belonged to the Silver Shirt organization. b2
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Inquiry was made at the offices of the United Press, 220 East 42 Street, regarding an article which was released on October 20, 1936 by that association. It was ascertained, however, that the United Press did not keep records of news articles for more than 6 months.

The New York Times for October 20, 1936 contained an article entitled, GERALD L. K. SMITH Plans New Organization; this article appears to be the original statement on which the United Press release was based. It states, "The Reverend GERALD L. K. SMITH who learned political science from HUEY P. LONG and studied economics under the Rev. CHARLES E. COUGHLIN and Dr. FRANCIS E. TOWNSEND, announced last night that he would lead a new nationalist organization combining the best features of his mentor's schemes and design ultimately to 'seize the Government of the United States'. Describing his projected organization in his suite at the Hotel Warwick last night, SMITH asserted that already he has the financial backing to carry on for a year or more and declared that more than 1,000 political potent leaders in various parts of the country await his orders. He aims at a following of ten million patriots willing to lay down their lives if necessary to save the country from what he considers an international plot to collectivize it.

"Four hundred business men in twenty-two key cities worried over the future of private property and the integrity of bequests to their children have pledged themselves to contribute 1% of their incomes of 1935 to enable SMITH to wage his crusade to make America a victoriously, nationalistic,

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patriotic country, he declared. In New York City alone, he said, he has 40 financial backers, one of them a man with an income of \$280,000 a year. SMITH was chary about revealing details of his organizational program or the names of his backers. He wanted to save that for a radio speech to be delivered after the end of the campaign when he pointed out there would be less competition for national attention."

Through [redacted] of the News Department, New York Times, it was ascertained that the writer of the above article was Mr. RAYMOND DANIELL. DANIELL is presently attached to the New York Times Bureau in London, England.

The Daily News for October 21, 1936 carried an article with a Chicago date line, attributed to the United Press, which contains substantially the same information appearing in the Times article. It also adds that SMITH was reported to have replied to the accusation that he was a Fascist by stating, "I am no more Fascist than Abraham Lincoln" and explained that he was associated with a tremendous undertaking to preserve America's nationalistic identity.

[redacted] of the law firm of House, Crossman, Vorhaus and Helms, advised that his firm filed a law suit against SMITH in March, 1938 in the Municipal Court of the Borough of Manhattan, First District, for \$1,000 damages for breach of contract. He stated that the plaintiff was CHARLES COSTA, owner of a trucking company in New York and that judgment had been obtained by the plaintiff. This judgment has been fully satisfied. [redacted] explained that payment was obtained by attaching a judgment which SMITH had obtained against the Time and Life magazines. He informed that [redacted] the attorney who handled the case is presently in the United States Army and that his, [redacted], knowledge of the case is based solely on the formal papers which are in the file.

The pleadings in the case of CHARLES COSTA vs. GERALD L. K. SMITH were located at the Municipal Court for the Borough of Manhattan, First District, under index #22534 (1938). A review of these papers reflects the following information.

The complaint stated that on or about February 15, 1937 the plaintiff and defendant entered into an agreement in consideration of \$1,000 in which SMITH promised to introduce COSTA to SAMUEL ZEMURRAY, then managing director of the United Fruit Company and to assist in negotiating a certain contract with ZEMURRAY. It alleged that COSTA paid SMITH \$1,000 but that SMITH had failed to carry out his part of the contract and that COSTA claimed damages for \$1,000.

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On September 15, 1938 judgment was obtained by default for the plaintiff in the amount of \$1,126. On May 10, 1939 SMITH filed a motion to vacate and set aside the judgment and to permit him to interpose an answer. In an affidavit he stated that the Committee of One Million, Inc. was organized in 1936 for the purpose of carrying on an educational campaign to combat Fascism and Communism in this country; that it is a non-profit organization and had to obtain contributions to carry on its work. He said that JACK REILLEY held several conferences with COSTA in which he outlined the work of the Committee and COSTA agreed to contribute \$1,000 as a donation. He denied that there was any agreement to introduce COSTA to ZEMURRAY. He claimed that the suit was brought without merit; that it was false and based on perjury.

The file contains an affidavit by COSTA in which he denied he made a contribution to the Committee of One Million but stated that he wanted to meet ZEMURRAY in order to obtain trucking business.

The file also reflects that it was brought to the court's attention that SMITH was seeking \$45,000,000 damages from Time Magazine for liable. He was believed to have settled for \$2,500 or more and that he only filed the motion to answer the suit at such a late date because he realized that the liable action against the Time Magazine could not be closed without satisfying the judgment which COSTA had obtained by default.

Mr. CHARLES COSTA, 204 Franklin Street, advised that he formerly had a farm in Louisiana and that he met SMITH when SMITH was active with HUEYLONG'S organization in New Orleans. He stated that SMITH was highly regarded in Louisiana and was very popular. When SMITH came to New York and started to organize his Committee for One Million he asked COSTA for a loan of \$1,000 with which to establish his office. COSTA stated he made the loan giving SMITH 2 checks for \$500 each made out to Cash. He denied that there had ever been any contract between SMITH and him regarding an introduction to ZEMURRAY although he said that SMITH claimed to know ZEMURRAY and told him he would introduce him. He maintained, however, that the \$1,000 was given to SMITH by him merely as a loan. He advised that he collected the judgment against SMITH by attaching a judgment or settlement which SMITH had obtained from the Time Magazine.

COSTA said that he took no particular interest in the Committee of One Million and claimed to know nothing about it except that it purported to be a patriotic organization. He stated that he was not close to SMITH although he admitted that he had met SMITH'S wife and son, both of whom impressed him very favorably. He claimed that he had no knowledge of SMITH engaging in any subversive activities or having any connections with persons or organizations

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of such tendencies. He advised that although he fell out with SMITH over the loan of \$1,000 he nevertheless has no doubt as to SMITH'S loyalty to this country. [redacted] advised that he conducted an investigation concerning SMITH in 1934 in connection with a suit for damages filed by SMITH against the Washington Times Company, Washington, D. C. He stated that his report was sent to WILTON J. LAMBERT, Washington attorney who handled the case and that he has no copy in his possession. It will be noted that previous reports reflect that LAMBERT is deceased and his files have been destroyed. [redacted] informed that he interviewed a number of people in and around Shreveport, Louisiana and that upon receipt of his report LAMBERT filed a motion in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in Washington, D. C. to take the depositions of 23 witnesses in Louisiana. He said that when SMITH learned of this he realized that this testimony would develop a great deal of unfavorable information and he suddenly decided to drop his suit.

[redacted] suggested that a copy of this motion is on file in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia containing the names and addresses of the proposed witnesses. He also suggested that the name of the attorney who was to make the deposition at Shreveport, Louisiana would appear in this motion and it is probable that he received a copy of [redacted] report.

[redacted] made available a correspondence file pertaining to this suit which reflects the following information.

The title of the case is GERALD L. K. SMITH vs. the Washington Times Company. It was filed on February 3, 1934 and carries index number 83688. The declaration claimed injury to the extent of \$150,000 because of the published statement that SMITH was the bodyguard or secretary of Senator HUEY LONG and conveyed the thought that he and LONG tried to get a fight out of T. SAMUEL WALKSLEY, LONG'S political opponent and that "he was a quarrelsome person and given to brawls, disturbances, etc."

The file contained a copy of a letter from THOMAS O. HARRIS, Political Editor to JOHN D. EWING, publisher of the Shreveport, Louisiana Times. This letter stated that SMITH came to Shreveport from Indiana 5 years ago to take over the pastorate of the Kings Highway Christian Church. Stories got around concerning SMITH'S "bibulous habits" and "the issuance of rubber checks". SMITH also made radio talks which were considered Communistic and the trustees of the church demanded his resignation.

According to the letter, one DAVID HARRIS who was in charge of one of Shreveport's branches of city service telephone Mr. H. H. TARVER, who is

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an independent oil operator and advised him that SMITH demanded an automobile to be used for a trip to Asheville, North Carolina. HARRIS supposed that this car was to be used in connection with church work but TARVER advised him that it was not. The automobile was supplied, however, and SMITH took it and a party of friends to Asheville. There he visited the head of the Silver Shirts, an organization which is said to be basically anti-Catholic and anti-Jewish. SMITH let it be understood that he was engaged as a lecturer by that organization.

The letter further states that SMITH returned to Shreveport and placed a substitute in the pulpit and let it be known that he was quitting the ministry and went to Little Rock, Arkansas where he was scheduled to deliver a lecture. This lecture, however, was never delivered and SMITH returned and resumed his duties as pastor.

HARRIS later advised that he was mistaken about SMITH having been asked to relinquish his pastorate because of his personal habits and his Communistic statements but that he had been requested to resign because of his frequent absences from his parish.

This file also contained a letter from Mr. LAMBERT which stated that he was able to force the plaintiff to dismiss the case against the Washington Times Company without payment of any kind. He stated that this act was taken after he had carefully selected from the report of [REDACTED] a large number of witnesses for the defense and had given notice of his intention to make their depositions. He said that when this motion was filed SMITH realized what the testimony would develop and came to the conclusion that he could not take the time to come to Washington for the trial of the case.

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Inasmuch as the investigation in connection with the above law suit was aimed solely at refuting SMITH'S denial that he was LONG'S bodyguard and that he was a quarrelsome person, it is not believed that the witnesses named in the motion filed at Washington could furnish any pertinent information in connection with this investigation.

[REDACTED] advised that the membership cards for SMITH and his wife in the Silver Shirts are not in his possession and that his information concerning them came from [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] made available his file on GERALD SMITH. A review of this file reflects that most of the information contained therein has already been reported by the Detroit Office. There was observed, however, a statement allegedly given by one [REDACTED], but which actually, according to [REDACTED]'s secretary, is the statement of [REDACTED].

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According to this statement [redacted] met SMITH through [redacted] and during the interview at which [redacted] was hired by SMITH, SMITH stated, "I really believe that the American public will at all times stand directly in back of a man like HUEY LONG. He bamboozled them, he stole for and from them and now I am in a position not only to employ his tactics but to improve upon his technique, and with all the experience I received in the LONG organization and with all the finesse that has come to me in other organization work, I will make the Committee of One Million the strongest organization of its kind in the United States."

[redacted] asked SMITH then if he believed in dictatorship and told him that this country is two thirds Protestant and that any man who could swing the Protestant vote could be the real power in this country.

[redacted] then asked SMITH, "Do you intend to be another HUEY LONG?" and he replied, "It did not take you long to get my idea."

SMITH then told [redacted] that he would have 3 units in every state with national headquarters in New York City, Chicago and San Francisco. There was to be a national chairman and 48 national vice-chairmen. There would be one treasurer who was Mrs. SMITH.

SMITH opened 4 offices in the Hotel Pennsylvania and had a staff consisting of 2 stenographers, 2 bodyguards, who were [redacted] and [redacted] a secretary and some outside help. The first meeting which was held in the main ballroom of the Pennsylvania Hotel was attended by 1400 persons. An average of 3 meetings were held each week at the Pennsylvania and large outside meetings were also held at the McAlpin and the Astor Hotels. At the larger meetings open collections were always held at which envelopes were handed to the people as they entered in which to insert their donations and on which they placed their names and addresses.

According to the statement, during the first part of 1937, large sums in cash were sent to the Pennsylvania Hotel addressed to either Mr. or Mrs. SMITH, the sources of these funds were unknown except that SMITH stated that they were receiving \$1,500 a week from a source which he would not divulge.

SMITH allegedly made arrangements with various persons to collect funds on a percentage basis. Among these were the following individuals: a [redacted] for the State and National Republican Party;

[redacted] and [redacted] This party was introduced by [redacted] She is stated to be a firm believer in the Bund and a personal friend of [redacted] According to [redacted] she tried to get pro-Bund material in the hands of those

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ENC. 678

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attending meetings and was prevented from doing so by him.

SMITH gave 6 broadcasts over Station WINS. [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED], was in charge of the Radio Division and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was Chairman of the Women's Division to raise funds.

The organization maintained a bank account at the Corn Exchange Bank on Seventh Avenue. This account was maintained merely for convenience in cashing checks and did not accurately reflect the amount of money which was collected. The organization also had an account in a bank in Washington, D. C. which was handled by [REDACTED]. The statement declares that by SMITH'S orders "we never kept a large balance in the New York bank for he explained it is safer to keep money behind the paper on the wall than in any bank backed by Uncle Sam. None of these larger contributions were ever put into the commercial bank account because most of the contributions were given to SMITH and consisted of cash." b7c

The statement further reflects that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], was over friendly with [REDACTED]. On many occasions [REDACTED] had conferences with [REDACTED] associates. He sat in on many conferences with [REDACTED] and his advisers and afterwards would report to SMITH. b2

On one occasion [REDACTED] entertained at a luncheon in the Hotel Pennsylvania [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of his associates. He telephoned [REDACTED] to come and meet [REDACTED] but [REDACTED] declined. [REDACTED] according to [REDACTED] signed a check for the luncheon and the bill was subsequently paid by the Committee of One Million. b7c b7D

[REDACTED] is said to have sent many of his friends to attend SMITH'S meetings. On one occasion [REDACTED] sent 500 invitations to Bundsmen to attend SMITH'S meeting. On many occasions pro-Hitler literature was prohibited from being distributed at the meetings but for months, [REDACTED] worked with Bund members to increase the Bund membership in the Committee of One Million. b7c

On another occasion [REDACTED] arranging for a mass meeting at Philadelphia sent 1,000 invitations to members of the Bund. At a conference it was suggested that the Bund members attend in full regalia. [REDACTED] agreed to this but [REDACTED] objected and SMITH backed him up. The Bundists attended in large numbers but without their uniforms. b2c b2D

[REDACTED] statement indicates that ELIZABETH DILLING was a personal friend of SMITH'S, visited the organization regularly at luncheon and sent letters of commendation. b2

[REDACTED] claimed that information came to him from [REDACTED] b7c

NY 100-19707

who was identified with the national campaign of SMITH for 8 years; that SMITH and PELLEY were interested in a midwestern campaign of religious hatred long before SMITH came to New York City to launch his campaign under the auspices of the Committee of One Million. SMITH and PELLEY would exchange communications, ideas and literature and were otherwise on friendly terms.

Rev. GERARD B. WINROD was also stated to be a personal friend of SMITH and he and SMITH often exchanged communications [REDACTED] b7'

A statement by [REDACTED] attributes the main support of the Committee of One Million to [REDACTED] b7'

[REDACTED] It also states that [REDACTED] of New York and Washington, a close friend of [REDACTED] furnished bonds of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad with which SMITH financed the contract to take over the radio time of Father COUGHLIN. It also states that an account was opened at the American Security and Trust Company in Washington, D. C. for clearing checks which were received as a result of SMITH'S broadcasts.

[REDACTED] also stated, "I recall that on several occasions SMITH instructed me to write to PELLEY asking for advance copies of all his speeches and literature to be sent to SMITH for his information and perusal."

[REDACTED] files also contained a statement by [REDACTED] dated October 28, 1942. This statement contains substantially the same information which was previously furnished by [REDACTED] It is noted that [REDACTED] claims his connections with SMITH were motivated primarily with the amount of good he could do for a Republican victory in 1940 and after the election he severed his relationship and has seen SMITH only 6 times since then. b7'

[REDACTED] file also contains a list of the contributors to SMITH'S organization in the New York area. Inasmuch as this list is identical with that reported by [REDACTED] it is not being set out.

An effort was made to contact [REDACTED] through [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the Friends of Democracy with negative results. b7'

[REDACTED] advised that she became interested in SMITH through [REDACTED] who is the widow of a former corporation lawyer who resides at [REDACTED] She stated that both she and [REDACTED] were attracted by the religious theme which SMITH injected into his speeches and that they believed him to be at that time sincere and thoroughly patriotic. She said she attended only 3 or 4 meetings which SMITH addressed and she could not now recall exactly what b7'

NY 100-19707

SMITH'S objectives were. She stated she has completely lost track of SMITH and was unacquainted with his present activities or his whereabouts. She met SMITH'S wife and son and was very favorably impressed by them. She had no knowledge of SMITH having connections with any subversive element and said she could recall no statements by him which were in any way un-American.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] of the Hotel New Yorker, recalled that there was some difficulty experienced with SMITH at the time he stayed at the Hotel in 1936. He stated that he believes it had something to do with a woman but he was unable to recall the details. He stated that he thinks SMITH was reported by the house detective to him but was unable to state definitely what the charges were. He advised that he is not personally acquainted with SMITH.

[REDACTED] at the Hotel New Yorker, examined his reports for the time during which SMITH is believed to have stayed at the Hotel but was unable to find any mention of SMITH. He advised, however, that he recalls that there was some difficulty with SMITH and that he thinks the woman involved was a member of the chorus of the Cotton Club or some similar night club and that he also believes that she was of the colored race. b7c

[REDACTED] Hotel Pennsylvania, advised that he recalled SMITH having been at the Hotel several years ago. He stated that SMITH occupied a room which he also used as his office. He could not

NY 100-19707

recall anything specific concerning SMITH'S conduct or activities and informed that the registration records for 1936 had been destroyed.

It was ascertained through the Auditor's Office at the Hotel Pennsylvania that SMITH occupied 4 rooms at the Hotel from March 1937 to April, 1938. His accounts were paid in full. From correspondence it was ascertained that [redacted] was treasurer of the Committee of One Million and that [redacted] and [redacted] were also on the staff. b7c

[redacted] of the Pennsylvania informed that his records reflect that the Committee of One Million held 37 meetings at the Hotel Pennsylvania between February 15, 1937 and April 13, 1938. These meetings were attended by some 75 to 250 people.

[redacted] of the Murray Hill Hotel, advised that SMITH occupied rooms there during the following periods: February 12, 1937 to July 1, 1938; from December 13 to 18, 1938 and from January 10 to 18, 1939. He informed that SMITH left the Hotel owing a bill of \$80 which is still unpaid. He could not recall anything specific concerning statements made by SMITH and advised that SMITH'S conduct at the Hotel was above reproach. b7c b7d

[redacted] of the Hotel Warwick, advised that he had ascertained from other members of his staff that SMITH had been at the Hotel a number of years ago but he was unable to furnish any pertinent information.

It was ascertained at the office of Cravath, De Gersdorff, Swaine and Wood, 15 Broad Street, that the attorney who handled the suit which SMITH brought against Time magazine is JOHN HARDING and that HARDING has been engaged for some weeks in the conduction of an important trial which precluded his reviewing the file on SMITH. HARDING'S secretary advised that while HARDING is of the opinion that his files contain little information of evidentiary value in this case, he will be willing to make that information available as soon as the trial in which he is engaged is concluded.

ENCLOSURES TO THE DETROIT FIELD DIVISION (3)

1 photostatic copy of letter from [redacted]
1 photostatic copy of extracts from SMITH'S letters and telegrams
1 photostatic copy of envelope in which letter with sent to [redacted] b7c

- P E N D I N G -

NY 100-19707

UNDEVELOPED LEAD

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION:

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK:

Will interview JOHN HARDING, member of the firm Cravath, De Gersdorff, Swaine and Wood, 15 Broad Street, for pertinent information in their files concerning GERALD L. K. SMITH.

6-16-43
62-43818-269

RECORDED

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

Attention: Mr. C. E. Hette

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

For your further information, I am transmitting with this memorandum copies of the following material recently received in connection with the investigation of subject Smith:

1. Report submitted in connection with this case by Special Agent [redacted] at New York, New York, on May 31, 1943.
2. Report submitted in connection with this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on May 5, 1943.
3. Photostatic copies of two statements filed by Smith with the Wayne County, Michigan, Clerk's Office, mentioned at several points in the report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on May 5, 1943, in connection with this matter.

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

4. A photostatic copy of a statement made by one [redacted] referred to in the report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at New York, New York, on May 31, 1943.

Additional investigation in this matter is being carried out and endeavors are being made to locate [redacted] of whom are mentioned in Special Agent [redacted] Report.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 MAILED 11
 JUN 17 1943 P.M.
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

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

61 JUN 21 1943

ALL b7c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 100-6699 d1

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT**

REPORT MADE AT HOUSTON, TEXAS	DATE WHEN MADE 6/12/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/4/43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH with aliases THE COMMITTEE OF 1,000,000			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - G CUSTODIAL DETENTION SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: [REDACTED] not registered at Lamar Hotel, Houston, Texas. b7c

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Washington D.C., 5/15/43. b7c

DETAILS:

AT HOUSTON, TEXAS:

On June 4, 1943, [REDACTED] of the Lamar Hotel at Houston, advised the writer after referring to the records of the hotel that [REDACTED] had been a guest of the hotel on three different occasions, having last registered on August 16, 1942, at which time his home address was shown to be [REDACTED]. This previous address was that of his office as indicated in the referenced report in Washington, D. C. [REDACTED] stated that there was no indication that [REDACTED] had been a recent guest of the hotel or that he was expected to register in the near future. b7c

In view of the above, this case is being referred upon completion to the office of origin.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/4/92 BY SP-8 BTJ/nm**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>RJ Abbatidoglio</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5-Bureau 2-Detroit 2-Houston	100-43818-270
	16 JUN 15 1943
COPIES DESTROYED 83 OCT 13 1964	RECORDED & INDEXED 741
25 JUN 22 1943	

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- Deleted under exemption(s) 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):

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
62-43818-270

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

10-10-44
62-43818

Assistant Attorney General Tom C. Clark

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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

With further reference to our previous correspondence concerning subject Smith there is attached a copy of an additional report prepared by Special Agent [redacted] at Detroit, Michigan, on September 27, 1944. Also transmitted with this memorandum are photostatic copies of the report to the report which are listed on pages 36 and 37:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8 BTJ

1. Booklet entitled, "Forty Years of Roosevelt."
2. Form letter dated August 2, 1944, written on the stationery of the America First Party and headed, "Board of Election Commissioners."
3. The August, 1944, edition of "The Cross and the Flag."
4. Pamphlet entitled, "Pattern for Revolution."
5. A circular dated "August - 1944" at Detroit, Michigan, headed, "The Hour for Action - A Personal Message."
6. A circular entitled, "A Personal Message - Blood, Sweat, Tears, Persecution - The Price of Victory," dated at Detroit, Michigan, "September - 1944."
7. A flier reading, "Gerald L. K. Smith will speak in Minneapolis....."
8. A card entitled, "Whose War Is It?" - "Will They Rule The World?", which is attached under obscene cover.

Also transmitted with this memorandum are copies of four clippings which have appeared in the public press on October 4 and 5, 1944, relative to subject Smith's appearance on October 3, 1944, at Washington, D. C., before the House Campaign Expenditures Committee. Your attention is particularly invited to the clipping from the Washington Post for October 5, 1944, which is headed, "Bennett Admits Giving \$2000 to Gerald L. K. Smith." As you will observe, this particular article indicates that Smith testified to the receipt of a donation of \$2000 from Mr. Bennett. It would appear that Bennett, when later interviewed relative to the matter, confirmed this statement.

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

In this connection you will recall that some months ago the Bureau, at the request of the Department, secured copies of statements which Smith filed as required by law with reference to his candidacy for the United States Senate both in the primary election and in the general election. Although these statements reflect that Smith listed a \$1500 contribution as having been received from an undisclosed source, it is noted that no reference was made in these statements

RECORDED

62-43818-27

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

62-43818-44

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "JMC" and "ALL b/c".

any contributions from Mr. Bennett. It is possible, of course, that such contribution, if actually made, might have been made at some other time or for some purpose other than Smith's candidacy for the Senate. Although the substance of Smith's recent testimony might be of pertinence to your past inquiries relative to Smith's activities and their possible significance under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, the Bureau does not contemplate any further investigation with reference to this particular phase of the matter unless you so request.

As a review of your file will show, considerable investigation has been conducted with reference to this subject during the past two years, consisting primarily of a coverage of Smith's publications and speaking activities. Although you have from time to time indicated an interest in having the inquiry continued, I shall appreciate your advice at this time as to whether any prosecutive action is contemplated against Smith and as to whether you are desirous of having the investigation continued in the future along the lines it has followed in the past. In the event you do desire continued investigation, I shall be pleased to receive any specific suggestions you may care to advance as to any particular type or types of information you are interested in at this time.

Enclosure 

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JUN 26 DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8 BT/wh

ma

6/25/43

7/1/43

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH

Reference is made to your recent request that you be advised as to the status of the investigation conducted by the Treasury Department concerning subject Smith.

I have been informed that this investigation has been carried out by the Intelligence Unit of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and has recently been completed. The investigation reportedly included examination of Smith's personal and organizational finances during the past several years and a Treasury Department official has advised that no recommendation has been made to proceed against Smith for the collection of additional income taxes. I have also ascertained that recently an official of the Treasury Department contacted [redacted] of the Special War Policies Unit of the Department concerning this case, advising that the investigation had failed to reveal evidence of a criminal violation.

By memorandum dated May 11, 1943, Mr. C. E. Rhett, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, advised me that the Treasury's investigation was instituted at your request and that the general results of the investigation would be made available to the Department and the Bureau. Mr. Rhett further indicated that he would discuss this matter with [redacted] of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and attempt to make arrangements whereby the reports submitted on the investigation would be made available to the Department.

- 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 _____

Respectfully,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
 TIME 5:25 pm
 DATE 6/26/43
 BY [redacted]

RECEIVED - DIRECTOR
 DEPT OF JUSTICE
 JUN 26 10 36 AM '43

RECORDED

62-43818-272

Information set forth herein obtained from [redacted] of the Treasury Department by Supervisor [redacted] and from [redacted] of the Special War Policies Unit, by Supervisor [redacted]

- Mr. Piper _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____

JUN 29 1943

DM

[Handwritten signatures and initials: "W", "D", "W", "b7c"]

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.
Detroit, Michigan

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 BTJ/mc
June 24, 1943
ON 10/4/82

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	.....
Other	.....

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH,
with aliases,
① COMMITTEE OF 1,000,000 -
INTERNAL SECURITY - G;
CUSTODIAL DETENTION; SEDITION

Dear Sir:

There is being set forth below the gist of the information received from [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau. This information was received by the Detroit Office during the period from May 20, 1943 through June 20, 1943:

Information was received from Informant to the effect that SMITH is apparently very suspicious of the activities of the lady whom he refers to as "Mrs. D." from Chicago. Undoubtedly SMITH is referring to Mrs. ELIZABETH DILLING of Chicago, well known to the Bureau. SMITH apparently suspects Mrs. DILLING of trying to interfere with various meetings held in Chicago, sponsored by Captain SOUTHARD, also well known to the Bureau. SOUTHARD also has expressed his opinion to SMITH that Mrs. DILLING is unquestionably trying to interfere with their work.

Along these same lines Informant stated that he had received information to the effect that SMITH was likewise suspicious of a man referred to by him as [redacted] (phonetic) of New York. According to SMITH, [redacted] is a spy on the staff of [redacted] (phonetic) who is supposed to be financed by the B'nai B'rith organization in publishing material under the caption "Friends of Democracy." In a conversation with a female, believed to be Mrs. KNOWLES of Detroit, SMITH was advised that this female person had shadowed [redacted] to an office located at 137 East 57th Street, New York City, and that [redacted] was found to be working with [redacted]

SMITH expressed the opinion also that he was suspicious that the National Workers League was kept alive by operators of B'nai B'rith and the Anti-Defamation League. SMITH stated that he has been observing the National Workers League and has made it a point never to allow himself to become

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

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610

JUN 2 1943

RECORDED & INDEXED 62-435-273



Letter to the Director
Dated June 24, 1943

affiliated with it inasmuch as he is suspicious that it is merely a front for some group of operators trying to "get him." (The National Workers League is a League well known to the Detroit Office as being sponsored by PARKER SAGE, known to the Bureau as the founder of the League, and who is presently under indictment for his alleged participation in the Sojourner Truth Housing dispute in Detroit, Michigan some time back.)

Informant stated that he had received information to the effect that SMITH had telephonically contacted Senator NYE at his office in Washington, D. C., and at that time SMITH discussed with NYE the possibility of NYE making a speech at one of SMITH's meetings either in Chicago, Detroit, or Cleveland. SMITH expressed the opinion that they wanted NYE to come to Michigan for the purpose of combating the Republican politicians who are backing WENDELL WILLKIE. NYE, on May 26, 1943, addressed a letter to SMITH introducing an individual to SMITH whom NYE claimed was anxious to do work in the Detroit Area. At the present time the name of this individual is not known to the Detroit Office.

SMITH has also telephonically contacted Representative CLARE HOFFMAN of Michigan at his Washington office, at which time he endeavored to have HOFFMAN promise to address a SMITH meeting. It is believed that HOFFMAN promised to speak for SMITH at some future date in Chicago.

On May 31, 1943, information was received from Informant indicating that Mrs. LUNDEEN was in the City of Detroit for the evident purpose of conferring with SMITH.

On June 12, 1943, Informant stated that he had received information to the effect that SMITH telephonically contacted Representative HOFFMAN at which time arrangements were made with HOFFMAN for HOFFMAN to be in Cleveland, Ohio, June 13th. HOFFMAN apparently was to address a meeting in Ohio on that date.

On June 18, 1943, Informant advised the Detroit Office that he had received information to the effect that SMITH was leaving on that same day for Denver, Colorado, at which place he was to visit [REDACTED]. According to the best of information available at this time, SMITH was to stay in Denver with [REDACTED] until the evening of June 21, 1943.

On May 27, 1943, Informant related that he had received some information to the effect that a man by the name of [REDACTED] (phonetic), who claimed to

Letter to the Director
Dated June 24, 1943

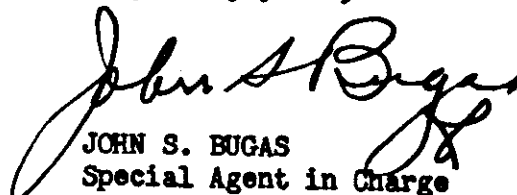
be a friend of [REDACTED] (phonetic), a New York lawyer, advised SMITH that he was referred to SMITH by Senator NYE. (This individual might be the same individual referred to in the letter sent by NYE to SMITH.)

During the time WILLKIE was in Detroit a semi-picket line was set up by the SMITH group for the purpose of passing out pamphlets, but, as they expressed it, "definitely not to picket WILLKIE."

Informant stated that employees in the SMITH office have been kept quite busy of late apparently sending out copies of the book entitled "Red Decade." These books have apparently been purchased through the Bobbs-Merrill Company, New York City, through one [REDACTED] (phonetic).

There has been some indication that SMITH is contemplating a meeting in Detroit either on June 28 or 29, 1943, and efforts have been made by SMITH to rent a hall for that particular meeting. This meeting is being closely followed by the Detroit Office. There is also a possibility that this meeting will be held in Pontiac, Michigan, where [REDACTED] has apparently been conducting some negotiations with a view to obtaining a hall.

Very truly yours,


JOHN S. BUGAS
Special Agent in Charge

[REDACTED] jah
62-1126

ALL
b2c

EAT:DS

t.

June 25, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

file

Apropos of the interest which you expressed to Mr. Tamm last evening concerning the cases of Gerald L. K. Smith and [redacted] I arranged the first thing this morning to have the Bureau supervisor who is intimately acquainted with these cases contact the Criminal Division for the purpose of determining what, if any, additional investigative activities on the part of the Bureau are desired. You will recall that the Bureau has over a long period of time kept a close observation upon the activities of these two individuals and has submitted complete reports upon their activities to the Criminal Division. The Bureau supervisor has been advised by the Criminal Division that these cases are being handled by a Mr. McInerney who is absent from Washington today but who will probably return tomorrow.

The matter will be followed up with the Criminal Division tomorrow in order that its advice may be received as to what additional investigative operations the Criminal Division desires from the Bureau.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Respectfully,

DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-9 BTJ/mc

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 _____
- Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED

62-43818-274

JUN 26 1943

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 11:45 am
DATE 6/25/43
BY _____

24 JUN 28 1943

203

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



LBN:GDC

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
June 23, 1943

CC-287a

- 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 _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON

While discussing other matters with [redacted] today, he advised that [redacted] became friends with Gerald L. K. Smith up in Detroit and spent several days at Smith's home there. At that time Smith boasted to [redacted] of stirring up trouble with the Negroes in Detroit of the contracts with the KKK and of anti-semitic stuff. Smith further boasted that he would get into power in 1948, that the Republicans would take over in 1944 but they would not do a good job of cleaning up, that he was going to keep after the Republicans after they get in power and then in 1948 they would be ready for him.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Respectfully,
RECORDED & INDEXED

L. B. Nichols



DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8BJJ/mbr

55 JUL 3 1943

162-43818-2
29 JUN 26 1943

ALL b7c

by [handwritten initials]

* Re: [handwritten note]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten initials]

62-43818
June 29, 1943

SAC, Washington

0
GERALD L. K. SMITH, was;
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

Reference is made to the report submitted in connection with this case by Special Agent [redacted] at Buffalo, New York, on June 16, 1943.

The Bureau desires that the undeveloped lead designated in reference report for the Washington Field Division be disregarded at this time.

cc - Detroit

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-9815/mh

- 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 _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 2
★ JUN 29 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED

62-43818-276
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 30 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

2
54 JUL 3 1943

ALL b2c

[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. **14-7 IMC**

REPORT MADE AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK	DATE WHEN MADE 6/16/43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/24-26/43	REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> b7c
TITLE GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases, THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject spoke at meeting 5/24/43 in Eagles Auditorium, Buffalo, New York, under auspices of the Economics League of Buffalo. JOSEPH H. STOFFEL presided. Approximately 300 in attendance. In speech subject referred to certain governmental officials as Bureaucratic Fascists; asserted that some officials possess ambition to impose dictatorship in peace time; cited use of ration book as possible means of accomplishment; compared CPA to Gestapo; criticized United States allies, Australia and Canada for no conscription laws; asserted United Nations Food Conference is peace conference; declared opposition to conscription of manpower and of women for service with armed forces; referring to burdens of United States after the war and referring to war casualties, SMITH stated: "We will have one million injured or killed, or captured this year, one out of every two men serving overseas, according to reports from Washington." Information concerning display of International Propagandist Flag and witnesses set forth.

INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 10/4/82 BY [signature]

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Letter from Detroit Field Division to Buffalo Field Division dated May 11, 1943.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">John B. Little</div> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-family: cursive;">62-43818-297</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.2em;">RECORDED & INDEXED</div>
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Detroit (62-1126) 2 - Washington 3 - Buffalo	RECEIVED LIFE DIVISION cc Rowe 6/24/43
COPIES DESTROYED 83 OCT 13 1964	32 JUN 19 1943

Let D. Washington
 6/29/43

147

DETAILS:

AT BUFFALO, NEW YORK

The reporting Agent was present at a meeting at which the subject spoke on May 24, 1943 at 8:P.M. in the Eagles Auditorium, at the corner of Tupper and Pearl Streets, Buffalo, New York. Approximately 300 person were in attendance. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Economics League of Buffalo. JOSEPH H. STOFFEL, President of the latter organization, presided.

The following individuals seated on the stage, in addition to the subject and his wife, were introduced by STOFFEL as being: Right Reverend RICHARD O'BRIEN, Pastor of Annunciation Church, and the Reverend MICHAEL A. ANSTETT, Pastor of St. Agnes Church, both of Buffalo, New York.

Mr. STOFFEL presented Reverend ANSTETT as being an adherent of Father COUGHLIN and a former leader in the Buffalo area for the National Union for Social Justice. Reverend ANSTETT delivered the invocation.

GERALD L. K. SMITH was introduced by STOFFEL. After speaking words of praise for Father COUGHLIN, he, the subject, incited the audience to make a resolution calling for Father COUGHLIN to break his silence and speak at Buffalo at an unspecified future date. A motion was made to this effect by WALTER SREDZINSKI, a local labor leader in Buffalo.

It would appear that the making of this motion was pre-arranged, for, according to [REDACTED] reporter for the Buffalo Evening News, the subject had stated to him prior to the meeting that such a motion would be made. b7c

The subject began his speech by stating the fact that, although the present war has to be won, it is an issue of the past and the efforts of the America First Party are dedicated to the America of tomorrow. In this respect he declared himself opposed to a fourth term for the President of the United States and advocated a constitutional amendment to restrict his tenure of office.

The subject criticized the present Federal Government officials, referring to them as Bureaucratic Fascists, asserting that some of them possessed an ambition to take the United States into a peace time dictatorship after the war, citing the continuation of the war time powers

14-7

during peace time and the use of the ration book as possible means of accomplishing their ambition. He stated that the newspapers have already published statements of officials that rationing might be continued after the present war. As further support to the ability of inflicting control over the American people through the ration book, SMITH cited the testimony of BERNARD BARUCH before a congressional committee in 1936, at which time, according to the subject, BARUCH testified that people in time of war could be controlled by the ration book.

GERALD L. K. SMITH, in speaking further on the rationing problem, stated that it was un-American and quoted from a purported Washington, D. C., newspaper article concerning a party given by BERNARD BARUCH for HARRY HOPKINS at \$110.00 per person for food and drinks, and referred to an article by a Chicago Tribune reporter that CLAUDE WICKARD, prior to rationing, had purchased for his father on his Indiana farm a huge icebox, which, upon inspection, contained 600 pounds of meat, 1,200 pounds of lard, and 500 pounds of butter, which would keep from three to five years. The subject then stated: "A man like that should be in a Federal Penitentiary". He compared the Office of Price Administration to the Gestapo for encouraging neighbors to squeal on one another.

The subject, in discussing the plot to enslave the United States, quoted at length the article entitled "Gestapo" in the April 1943 issue of "The Cross and The Flag", a magazine reportedly founded by the subject.

The present allies of the United States - England, Russia, etc. - SMITH stated should be used for military reasons only. He criticized Australia and Canada for not having conscription for the armed forces and stated: "Under the laws of those countries, unless the members of the armed forces volunteer, they can only be sent so far in battle; then, our boys have to continue on."

SMITH stated that an article had appeared in the Chicago Tribune concerning information to the effect that a certain United States Senator had endeavored to visit the United Nations Food Conference, held in Virginia, but that he had not been admitted. The subject stated that this conference is really a peace conference, guarded by American soldiers — "forty-three nations planning things you are paying for. Just think of this unholy spectacle - 200 soldiers to see that no American gets in..... Unless, of course, it is a military secret."

14-7

SMITH declared his opposition to conscription of manpower, asserting that under the proposed law a person could be sent to any part of the country, that it would amount to involuntary servitude, and could be used as a weapon against the people. The subject then stated: "If you want to join the WAACS, etc., do so", but further stated: "I am opposed to the conscription of women for services with the armed forces."

The article entitled "Sir WALTER VENNING'S PLAN" appeared in the October - November issue, 1942, of "The Cross and The Flag" and was quoted at great length by the subject.

In discussing the burdens the American people will have following the war and referring to the casualties following the war, SMITH stated: "There will be plenty. We will have one million injured or killed or captured this year..... This is one out of every two men serving overseas..... according to reports from Washington."

On the invitations for the meeting there was printed the following: "A silk flag which the international propagandists would substitute for the Stars and Stripes will be exhibited." In this connection the subject displayed to the audience for an instant before dropping it upon the floor and stamping on it, a flag approximately 18" x 24" in size, and designed in a manner similar to the flag of the United States with approximately thirteen alternating red and white stripes with a design of the British flag in place of the stars and the field of blue. A yellow star or similar figure was embossed in the center of the section resembling the British flag.

According to THOMAS BROWN, editorial writer for the Courier-Express, who examined the flag personally on the following day, the flag with the exception of the yellow star or figure was identical in design to the Cambridge flag, which was raised by George Washington at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1776. The Cambridge flag, according to BROWN, is composed of thirteen alternating red and white stripes with the combined cross of St. Andrew and St. George in the Canton.

GERALD L. K. SMITH announced at this meeting that he was to speak in the Elks Auditorium at Erie, Pa., on May 25, 1943. This information was conveyed to Detroit, Michigan, by teletype dated May 24, 1943.

14-7

This meeting was also attended by the following individuals: Special Agents [redacted] and [redacted] b7c
[redacted] PAUL WANSLEY, Principal of Buffalo Public School No. 51 and Chairman of the Americanism Committee of the American Legion, Erie County [redacted] and [redacted] b7d
[redacted] who is a reporter for the Buffalo Evening News, age, twenty-eight, [redacted] b7c
Buffalo, New York, and has [redacted]. All of these individuals, with the exception of [redacted] were willing to testify to all statements made by the subject. [redacted] was not present for the entire meeting, but is able to testify to the statement made by GERALD L. K. SMITH concerning casualties this year in the armed forces.

It is the opinion of these individuals that, with the exception of the quotations made by the subject direct from the magazine, "The Cross and The Flag", his speech was extemporaneous and directed to all persons present.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

14-7

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will endeavor to ascertain from the OWI office if any Washington reports have been released to the effect that war casualties for this year will amount to one million or a ratio of one out of every two men serving overseas.

14-7

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

Re: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] b2c
dated June 16, 1943 at Buffalo, New York,
entitled: "GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases,
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION; INTERNAL SECURITY,
SEDITION."

[REDACTED] b2c
[REDACTED] b7D
[REDACTED]. The identity of [REDACTED]
was not disclosed in instant report as the possibility
exists of having to use this individual as an infor-
mant for future meetings.

6-28-43
62-43818-277

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

Attention: Mr. C. E. Khetts

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases;
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION;
INTERNAL SECURITY; SEDITION.

For your information, there is transmitted herewith a copy
of a report submitted in connection with the investigation of this case
by Special Agent [redacted] at Buffalo, New York, on June 16, 1943.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure *Bw*

- 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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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 1
JUN 29 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

58 JUL 3 1943 *217*

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



FLW:TD
9:40 AM

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

June 25, 1943

CC-287

- 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. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

Re: Gerald L. K. Smith;
Internal Security - G,
Sedition

[Redacted]
Sedition

Pursuant to your instructions, I contacted the office of Mr. James McInerney in the Criminal Division for the purpose of making arrangements whereby Supervisor [Redacted] could confer on the morning of June 25th relative to the future investigative steps in both of the captioned cases. You will recall it was suggested that the Supervisor handling these cases should confer with the appropriate representatives in the Criminal Division on these cases during the conversation which Mr. Tamm had with the Attorney General.

It was learned that Mr. McInerney is presently out of the city and will not return until the morning of June 26th. I talked to Mr. Edmond Doyle of the Criminal Division in view of Mr. McInerney's absence and he stated that he would be greatly appreciative if the Bureau would wait until the morning of June 26 in order that Agent [Redacted] could discuss both of these cases personally with Mr. McInerney. He made this request in view of the fact that both cases are under the personal supervision of Mr. McInerney.

Mr. Doyle was advised that Mr. McInerney would be contacted on the morning of June 26th in order that arrangements could be made for Agent Hanratty to confer with Mr. McInerney and any other Departmental representatives concerning these cases.

Respectfully,

F. L. Welch

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F.B.I. TELETYPE

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

DLB

[REDACTED] c b1

FBI DETROIT

[REDACTED] c 6.13 PM EWT EWW b1

DIRECTOR

UMBO

~~CONF. INFO.~~

GERALD L.K. SMITH, WAS, ETAL. INTERNAL SECURITY G. INFORMATION RECEIVED TODAY FROM [REDACTED] THAT SMITH IS TO ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON FRIDAY NEXT FOR PURPOSE OF MEETING WITH DIES COMMITTEE. SMITH TO REGISTER AT STATLER HOTEL AND INTENDS TO MEET WITH SENATOR REYNOLDS FRIDAY AFTERNOON. PURPOSE OF TRIP APPARENTLY IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT RACE RIOT HERE.

b7D

BUGAS

Detroit

END

6-14 PM OK FBI WASH DC F

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

NOTE: THE UNDERLINED PORTION OBTAINED FROM GARBLE

RECEIVED [REDACTED] 7:21 PM EWT BW

c b1

Memo Atty Gen
cc: Rowe
Reese

CLASS. BY SP-8 BTJ/ma

DATE OF REVIEW 10/4/82

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: GERALD L. K. SMITH

Further reference is made to your recent inquiries and our late correspondence concerning this individual.

For your further information, I wish to advise that it has been learned from a highly confidential source of information that Smith plans to come to Washington, D. C., on Friday, July 2, 1943, reportedly for the purpose of meeting with the Dies Committee. According to this source of information, Smith will register at the Statler Hotel, and intends to meet with Senator Robert Reynolds sometime Friday afternoon prior to his contact with the Dies Committee.

Smith's purpose in connection with his reported intention to meet with the Dies Committee and Senator Reynolds is not known, but it is possible that it may have some connection with or bearing on the recent race riot at Detroit. The Bureau has previously been advised by a highly confidential source of information that on June 25 last, Smith, at Detroit, contacted Senator Reynolds at Washington, suggesting that it might be well for Congressman Dies to cause an investigation to be conducted of the race riot at Detroit. On this occasion Smith reportedly requested that Dies be contacted and told that Communists in Detroit were "scared to death" for fear Dies would proceed to Detroit for an investigation of the riot. Smith allegedly commented that "Reds" in Detroit were trying to blame the riot on good people such as Henry Ford and himself.

You will recall that data concerning this reported contact between Smith and Senator Reynolds was set forth on page 25 of a memorandum recently furnished you concerning the background of the race riot situation at Detroit.

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

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 10:25 AM
DATE JUL 2 1943
BY Jme

Respectfully

John Edgar Hoover
Director

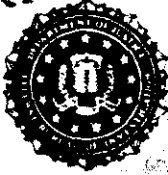
cc - Mr. James Rowe, Jr.
The Assistant to the Attorney General

Mr. Wendell Berge
Assistant Attorney General

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR
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17. III 1943



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

MAY 31 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 10/14/82 BY SP-8/TJS

Reference is made to your memorandum of May 28, 1943, concerning Gerald Smith of Detroit and one [redacted] described as being thirty-three years of age and a resident of either Detroit or Cleveland. You will recall you stated that the President telephoned you on May 27, 1943, requesting that the Bureau make an investigation of Smith and that he be informed as to the draft status of [redacted].

Smith is usually referred to as Gerald L. K. Smith and for several years has been a resident of Detroit where he has been active in connection with an organization known as "The Committee of One Million." Last fall he was an unsuccessful candidate for the United States Senate and since December, 1942, he has been principally concerned with an effort to establish a third political party known as the America First Party.

During recent months Smith has made a number of public speeches, attempting to gain support for this Party and during the course of these speeches has frequently attacked the Administration, alleging that it has seized on the emergency created by the war in an effort to develop a dictatorial form of Government. He has also criticized what he is disposed to characterize as the Government's efforts to reduce the United States to a mere entity in a great international state dominated by Great Britain. Despite such assertions, he has been careful to profess loyalty to the war effort and has urged his following to give loyal support to the war effort.

Since the early part of 1942, the activities of Smith have received very close and continuous investigative attention by the Bureau. His background, resources and associates have been closely examined and all of his public speeches since the fall of 1942 have been covered. As a supplement to such investigative attention a technical surveillance has been in effect since May, 1942.

All of the information developed has been referred to the Criminal Division and to Mr. James Rowe, Jr., but Mr. Rowe's office has stated that Smith's activities and statements to date are not sufficient to justify prosecution. However, the investigation is being continued unabated, according to certain suggestions advanced by Mr. Rowe, and reports and other information, as received, are being referred to him.



With reference to the report that Smith has made statements suggesting that people not pay their income taxes, you are advised that no information has been received indicating that Smith has made such statements either

JUL 9 1943

"Keep in FBI file
6/12/43 C.F.S."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
INITIALS ON ORIGINAL

Gerald L. K. Smith

b7c

62-43818-28

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

- 2 -

during the course of personal conversations or during his public speeches. It is known that the Treasury Department is investigating the income tax returns made by Smith during 1938, 1939 and 1940, but nothing has been developed to suggest that Smith has attempted to counsel evasion of the income tax laws.

On March 25, 1943, an inquiry was received from the President concerning Smith and subsequently, on March 31, 1943, a summary memorandum setting forth pertinent data as to Smith's background and the results of the investigation as to him was referred to the office of the President. For your information I am attaching copies of that memorandum.

Concerning the individual designated as [REDACTED], it is believed that the reference is to [REDACTED] formerly active in Christian Front activities at New York and now a resident of Chicago, Illinois. [REDACTED] has been under investigation by the Bureau for more than two years and for your information, I am transmitting herewith copies of a memorandum concerning his background and activities.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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b7c

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

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June 2, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

You telephoned me on May 27th, suggesting that I investigate GERALD L. K. SMITH, of Detroit, who is alleged to have been telling people not to pay their income taxes; and [REDACTED], now a resident of Chicago, as to the latter's draft status.

Smith, during recent months, has made speeches to gain support of his party, the America First Party, and has attacked the administration. He is careful to profess loyalty to the war effort at the same time. Since the early part of 1942 his activities have received continued investigative attention by the F. B. I. The Treasury Department is investigating his income tax returns from 1938 to 1940 inclusive; but nothing has been developed to suggest that Smith has attempted to counsel an evasion of the income tax laws.

On March 31, 1943, an answer to an inquiry from you, a summary memorandum was sent to you with respect to Smith's background and the results of the investigation. A copy of that memorandum is enclosed.

[REDACTED] has been under investigation for more than two years. I enclose a memorandum with respect to his background and activities. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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ENCLOSURE

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

EAT:KLN

June 28, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

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 _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Mr. Nease _____
 Miss Beahm _____
 Miss Gandy _____

For record purposes it may be noted that on June 25, 1943, the Attorney General requested I call at his office at which time he indicated that the President was most anxious to have some prompt and vigorous action taken against Gerald L. K. Smith and [redacted]

I pointed out to the Attorney General that the Bureau had been covering Smith's activities for a period of several years and had submitted voluminous reports to the Criminal Division in the Department which had not taken any action thereupon. I pointed out that the same situation existed with reference to [redacted]

The Attorney General inquired about [redacted]

I told the Attorney General that I thought someone in the Department should review all of the reports which the Bureau has heretofore submitted upon these individuals and determine whether some action could not be taken. Mr. Berge in the Criminal Division stated that he would re-assign these cases in the Criminal Division at once for this purpose.

The Attorney General requested that the Bureau:

1. Determine the status of the Internal Revenue investigation of Gerald L. K. Smith's income tax returns.
2. Determine what connection, if any, [redacted] had with the Ku Klux Klan.
3. Determine what, if any, connection [redacted] had with the recent race riots in Detroit.

of 7/2/43 done & to mem. d. B. E "



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DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/mc

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Memorandum for Mr. Ladd

-2-

4. Determine whether the Governor of Michigan intended to initiate Grand Jury proceedings for the purpose of determining the facts with reference to the race riots in Detroit.

*handled
6/25/43
me
A-S*

Very truly yours,



Edward A. Tamm.

281

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



JPHa:WLLJ

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

June 26, 1943

CC-287

- 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. Harbo _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Beahm _____
- Miss Gandy _____

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DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8 JPHa

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

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

INTERNAL SECURITY
SEDITION

Pursuant to your instructions and the request recently made of Mr. Tamm by the Attorney General, Supervisor [redacted] of this section has conferred with Mr. J. M. McInerney of the Criminal Division of the Department concerning these two cases. This conference began today at 1:30 P.M. and extended for an hour and forty-five minutes. During this period Mr. Harratty, at Mr. McInerney's request, furnished the latter with detailed information concerning the results of the recent investigation in these cases.

Concerning the Smith case, Mr. McInerney stated that the Criminal Division has not been following the case accurately since the first of the present year inasmuch as beginning about January 1, 1943, Mr. Rhett's of Mr. Rowe's office assumed supervision of the case. However, Mr. McInerney was generally familiar with the nature of the investigation and during the course of his conversation referred specifically to the three phases of the case: that is, the sedition phase, the possible OPA regulation violation phase, and the Federal Corrupt Practices Act angle.

With regard to the sedition phase of the case, Mr. McInerney asked Supervisor [redacted] the nature of the information which additional investigation has developed. He was informed in detail of Smith's speech-making activities and his publication efforts in connection with his magazine "The Cross and the Flag." All of this data has, of course, been set forth in reports which have been furnished to Mr. Rowe. On appraising Smith's activities in this regard and at the conclusion of this portion of the conversation Mr. McInerney expressed the opinion, in conformity with memoranda which have previously been received from Mr. Rowe, that Smith appears to be well advised as to how far he can go under the Sedition Statutes and that he has apparently avoided making any actionable statements, either written or oral.



DEFERRED RECORDING

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With reference to the possible OPA regulation violation, you will recall that in October, 1942, Smith openly boasted that a short time previously he had wilfully and purposefully violated the 35 miles per hour speed regulation by motoring from Pontiac to Detroit at varying speeds approaching 60 miles per hour on certain occasions. Smith openly bragged about this accomplishment, defied authorities to proceed against him, and stated that he had taken the action to show that "bureaucratic regulations" could not be imposed on the American people. Pertinent information in this regard was at the time furnished to the Criminal Division which advised that no Federal violation had been incurred inasmuch as at the time of Smith's trip no Federal Statute enforcing the speed regulation was in effect. During the conference Mr. McInerney referred to this angle of the case and stated that the Criminal Division had recently re-examined it but again concluded that no action could be taken against Smith.

Concerning the Federal Corrupt Practices Act phase of the case, you will recall that several months ago the Special War Policies Unit of the Department requested the Bureau to investigate Smith's activities in connection with his candidacy last summer for United States Senator. The Special War Policies Unit particularly requested that the statements filed by Smith, showing his contributors, with the local election commission be secured and that it be otherwise determined whether Smith has complied with the provisions of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act and the Michigan General Election Law in connection with his campaign. The statements and data requested by the Special War Policies Unit has been secured and sent to the Department, and in this regard Mr. McInerney stated that he was not familiar with this angle of the case or the possibilities involved inasmuch as this particular matter is under consideration by the Special War Policies Unit. However, when [redacted] pointed out that in one of his statements Smith has refused to identify the source of a \$1500 contribution as required by the Michigan General Election Law, Mr. McInerney expressed considerable interest and stated that he would take up this phase of the case in detail with the Special War Policies Unit.

[redacted] further pointed out that according to information received by the Bureau the Treasury Department has completed its investigation of Smith's financial activities. Mr. McInerney stated that he was aware of this and had further been informed that the Treasury Department's investigation had failed to show any irregularities. He stated that the Department expected a complete report on this investigation in the near future and that the Criminal Division might request the Bureau to make some inquiries if it appears that some of Smith's contributions may have emanated directly or indirectly from Axis-inspired or influenced individuals or organizations.

Mr. McInerney stated that he intended to secure the file concerning Smith which is presently in Mr. Rhett's possession, and after conferring with the War Policies Unit concerning the Federal Corrupt Practices Act phase of the case would probably communicate with the Bureau requesting additional investigation which the Criminal Division may, on the basis of the file review, deem necessary. [redacted] told Mr. McInerney that these additional requests will be acted on promptly as soon as a memorandum is received.

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Concerning the [redacted] case, Mr. McInerney commented that he is fairly familiar with [redacted] activities inasmuch as he has personally followed this case in the Criminal Division. He stated that he knows that [redacted] activities have been very carefully followed by the Bureau but that in his opinion [redacted] has to date failed to engage in any activities which would justify his prosecution. He indicated, however, that he intended to give this case further consideration and that he contemplates corresponding with the Bureau further as to certain other investigation which may be deemed necessary. [redacted] of course, informed Mr. McInerney that the Bureau will be glad to receive any additional suggestions as to investigation deemed necessary and that such suggestions will be promptly carried out.

It is of interest to note that at the conclusion of the interview Mr. McInerney told [redacted] that he intends to write a memorandum for the Attorney General concerning the Smith case pointing out that although the Bureau has devoted this matter exhaustive investigative attention, nothing has been developed to date on which to predicate prosecutive action against Smith. Mr. McInerney stated that in his memorandum he would inform the Attorney General that the case will continue to receive close attention by the Criminal Division and the Bureau and that if anything significant is developed, consideration will be given to immediate prosecution. Mr. McInerney did not indicate that he was preparing a memorandum for the Attorney General on the [redacted] case.

Action:

As soon as additional memoranda concerning these cases are received from the Criminal Division, the suggestions set forth therein will be given immediate investigative attention and both of these cases will in the future as in the past several months be followed very closely.

Respectfully,

F. L. W.
F. L. Welch

[Handwritten signature]

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62-43818
Date: July 5, 1943
To: SAC, New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/4/82 BY SP8 BT/ML

From: J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Subject: GERALD L. K. SMITH, with aliases
THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION
CUSTOMER DETENTION - C
SEDITION

The Bureau is in receipt of a recent memorandum from the Criminal Division of the Department concerning this case, which in its pertinent portions reads as follows:

"It has been noted that among Smith's financial backers there is listed one [redacted]. It is desired that the Bureau ascertain whether this individual is identical with [redacted] who has an office in [redacted] New York City. The latter [redacted] is described as a [redacted] who was engaged in the investment security business.

[redacted] (See p. 34, Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York, December 23, 1942, in the case entitled [redacted])."

In addition to the report referred to in the Criminal Division's memorandum, a review of the Bureau's files reflects that the name [redacted] is mentioned incidentally in the report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at New York City, on February 19, 1942, in the matter entitled, [redacted]; Internal Security - C." On page [redacted]

three of Special Agent [redacted] report [redacted] is described as an individual of "rather strong Nazi sympathies" who, several years ago, frequented a country home near Ridgefield, Connecticut, operated by a [redacted].

The Bureau's files further reflect that the name [redacted] mentioned on page two of the report submitted by Special Agent [redacted] at Washington, D. C., on April 6, 1943, in the matter entitled, [redacted]; Internal Security - X; Custodian of the [redacted].

A copy of Special Agent [redacted] report was designated for your office and as you will observe, the information set forth therein is purely to the effect that subject [redacted] allegedly made reservations at Washington, D. C., for one [redacted].

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

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INVESTIGATION DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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It is further noted that one [redacted] was mentioned in a teletype emanating from your office in the matter entitled, [redacted] Misconduct in Office," under date of March 30, 1939. In answer to this teletype the Washington Field Division advised by teletype dated March 31, 1939, that it had been determined that one [redacted] had put up at the Shoreham Hotel at Washington, D. C., on a number of occasions during 1938.

Pursuant to the request of the Criminal Division, it is desired that your office immediately institute inquiries for the purpose of determining whether [redacted] is identical with [redacted]. In the event these two names do not represent the same individual, you should identify [redacted] and develop a limited amount of pertinent background data concerning him.

Both the Bureau and the Criminal Division are extremely interested in the investigation of all phases of this case and, accordingly, these inquiries as well as the other investigation outstanding in your district in this matter should be afforded immediate investigative attention.

cc - Detroit

ALV
b7c

- 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. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

RECEIVED
MAY 1 1939
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GERALD L. K. SMITH



New York, N. Y.

June 9, 1945

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 10/4/82 BY SP-8 BTJ/wh

There is something about the cynicism of New York labor leaders which turns them into sophisticated provincials who believe that their strength in the big city makes them immune to the campaigns which have been crippling unions in outlying states.

They have paid scant notice to the spread of Christian American Association laws which have placed unions under the control of many states. They have virtually ignored Gerald K. Smith, self-appointed successor to Charles Coughlin, despite Smith's success among the hundreds of thousands of Southerners who flocked to Detroit war jobs.

The New Yorkers have skimmed through boring reports of the progress of the Connally-Smith bill, though Rep. Howard Smith said at Town Hall two weeks ago that his colleagues hoped to make this bill permanent postwar legislation.

Now the bill has been passed by the Senate and the House and is in conference. We wonder how many New York labor leaders have read through the proposed law. How many know, for example, that it prohibits unions from making political contributions in federal elections for federal offices? This would virtually keep the American Labor Party out of the 1944 presidential campaign.

How many know that they would be required to make public an audited list of their members; that no strike could be called until 30 days' notice was given and a secret ballot of workers was taken; and that one clause in effect suspends the National Labor Relations Act and the Norris-LaGuardia anti-injunction law in the event of a spontaneous strike.

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Wartime is proving a Roman holiday for the professional and amateur opponents of Labor. For example, in recent weeks a series of disturbances have spread through some war plants in protest against the hiring and upgrading of Negroes. Production

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of Rolls-Royce aircraft engines was stopped at Packard last week when Ku Klux Klan elements provoked a walkout after three Negroes were given machinists' jobs.

This is skilled provocation designed to stall war production and feed enemy propagandists. News of anti-Negro strikes is played by Berlin and Tokio broadcasts as demonstrations by American workers against all colored races. This does the Allied cause little good in North Africa and the Orient.

* * * *

In the meantime, Gerlad Smith, long a professional enemy of the CIO, has been building the America First Party. Late in May some of his agents arranged a mass meeting of war workers for him in Buffalo.

Mention of Coughlin, Senators Nye and Wheeler, Rep. Fish and Charles A. Lindbergh drew stormy applause, whistles and footstamping. A resolution was unanimously adopted to urge Coughlin to come to Buffalo to speak. Smith boasted that he had meetings scheduled for Chicago, Ft. Wayne, Indianapolis, Detroit and other mid-western cities.

The offensive of Smith and his colleagues in high places has started. The labor men are still paying little attention. They might learn what every American kid picks up on the nation's sandlots--you cannot beat the other team without organizing a better ball club of your own.

* * * *

There is a dismaying lack of curiosity among labor men over the growing strength of the America First Party which was started by a man who for a while made a specialty of attempting to smash the CIO in the automobile and rubber centers.

This man Gerald L. K. Smith, is being dismissed by cynics as one of the many would-be men on horseback who should be laughed at instead of worried over. Maybe. But Smith has carefully brought into his America First Party many of the British-haters, isolationists and disappointed politicians who have little use for the New Deal and less for labor.

* * * *

For example, ~~Martin L. Sweeney~~ was an isolationist Congressman from Cleveland. Last year he was defeated. On May 11 he spoke at an America First Party rally in Detroit.

On May 24 Smith harangued a crowd in Buffalo's Eagle Hall. "If the two old parties continue to give us Roosevelt and Wilkie, then we shall be forced to put a man in the field such as Lindbergh," he shouted.

The highlight of that meeting came when Smith tore from his pocket a red and white striped flag. In the spot where the blue starry field is on the present American flag, it had the Union Jack. Waving the banner, Smith insinuated that the New York firm was already prepared for the internationalists' merger of the U. S. and Britain. New York, to Smith's followers generally, is synonymous to "Jews".

Smith then threw it to the floor and jumped wildly up and down on it while the audience, which had previously cheered Charles Coughlin, stamped and whistled its approval. They believed Smith's statement that the flag was the New Dealers' and British "imperialists" substitute for the Stars and Stripes.

However, the flag which Smith was pouncing upon was replica of the flag which first was raised over General George Washington's headquarters at Cambridge, Mass., in January 1776; the flag which Washington's troops carried when they marched into Boston after the British evacuated in March 1776; the flag which the Continental Army used until the adoption of the Stars and Stripes a year after the Declaration of Independence.

The Head of the Americanism Committee of the Buffalo American Legion, one Paul Wamsley, arose in the midst of Smith's mob and challenged Smith's wild attacks on the government and our allies. Smith threatened to have Wamsley thrown out of the hall.

There were no others there to protest Smith's attack on our history, tradition and war effort. Yet Buffalo is the center of intense war production. There are many strong CIO and AFL unions there. The CIO United Automobile Workers, which has its

national headquarters in Smith's home city of Detroit, has a young and militant leadership in Buffalo.

Yet few are challenging Smith's statements in Buffalo, or the score of other war industry cities where he and his lieutenants are attacking our war leaders.

ADDRESS REPLY TO
"THE ATTORNEY GENERAL"
AND REFER TO
INITIALS AND NUMBER

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WB:ESL:SH

146- 28-43

July 1, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Re: Gerald L. K. Smith

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

Reference is made to our previous correspondence on this subject.

It has been noted that among Smith's financial backers there is listed one [redacted]. It is desired that the Bureau ascertain whether this individual is identical with [redacted], who has an office in [redacted]. The latter [redacted] is described as [redacted] who was engaged in the investment security business.

[redacted] (See p. 34, Report of Special Agent [redacted] dated at New York, December 23, 1942, in the case entitled [redacted])

In the Criminal Division's memorandum dated December 9, 1942, it was requested that you attempt to ascertain the identity of one [redacted] and the nature of her connection with Smith during the time he was established in New York. This lead appears not to have been covered to date. The Criminal Division now has information that this woman's given name was [redacted] that she contributed financially to Smith, and that she was a contact between him and some of the Axis embassies. It is requested that an endeavor be made to ascertain whether this information is based on fact.

Respectfully,

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&
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WENDELL HERGE
Assistant Attorney General

8 1943

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Memo to Berge
7/5/43
cc Detroit

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7-5-43
62-43818-285

RECORDED

Date:

To: Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge

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 your memorandum of July 1, 1943, requesting that investigation be made for the purpose of determining whether [redacted] who has been listed among Smith's financial backers, is identical with [redacted] also of [redacted]. This request is receiving attention and as soon as further information is available, I shall communicate with you further.

Pursuant to your request that [redacted] be interviewed as to the nature of her connection and association with Smith, I invite your attention to the report submitted in this case by Special Agent [redacted] at New York, New York, on May 31, 1943. You will note that on pages eleven and twelve of Special Agent [redacted] report the result of an interview with [redacted] who is apparently identical with the person referred to as [redacted] is set forth.

A copy of Special Agent [redacted] report is forwarded with this memorandum for your information.

Enclosure *et*

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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★ JUL - 6 1943 ★
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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DATE 10/4/82 BY 9-880/wh

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15 JUL 16 1943

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

Detroit, Michigan
June 30, 1943

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

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-8 BTJ/muc
ON 10/4/82

~~PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL~~

Director, FBI

Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, With Aliases
COMMITTEE OF 1,000,000
INTERNAL SECURITY - G
CUSTODIAL DETENTION
SEDITION

Dear Sir:

In connection with the above-entitled case, arrangements were made a few weeks ago, as I advised the Bureau telephonically, to have an individual known to the Detroit Office attempt to obtain employment in the office of the above-captioned Subject.

This individual has been emphatically advised of the necessity for complete secrecy relative to this arrangement and plans have also been made for contacts to be maintained outside the the Detroit Field Office.

The name of this individual is

In the future, all information received from this Informant will be designated as having been received from

I wish to point out at this time that this Informant is

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

*File - Detroit
7-10-43
mll*

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62-43818-286

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Letter to the Director
Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, Was

June 30, 1943

[REDACTED]

Unless advised to the contrary, information received from this Informant will be set forth in report form as having been received from [REDACTED]

Very truly yours,

John S. Bugas
JOHN S. BUGAS, SAC

[REDACTED]
62-1126

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RECORDED

62-43818-286

July 10, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10/4/82 BY SP8 BTJ/mwh

SAC, Detroit

RE: [REDACTED]

b7D

Mr. Tolson
Dear Sir:
Mr. E. A. Tamm

Reference is made to your letter dated June 30, 1943, captioned
Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith, was. Committee of 1,000,000, Internal Security
Mr. Glavin, Custodial Detention, Sedition* advising that the above named individual

Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Acker
Mr. Carson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Starke
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 11
JUL 12 1943 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Very truly yours,
John Edgar Hoover
Director

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JUL 15 5 15 PM '43
[Handwritten initials and signatures]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

FILE NO. **100-3636** JSP

REPORT MADE AT CHARLOTTE, N. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 7-7-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6-28-43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b1c
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION			CHARACTER OF CASE CUSTODIAL DETENTION - G SEDITION
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <p>Camp Butner, North Carolina, military authorities advised that [REDACTED] left that base April 1, 1943, for the Army Air Base, Lake Charles, Louisiana. b7c</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- RUC - DEFERRED RECORDING</p> <p>REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED], Washington, D. C., dated May 6, 1943</p> <p>DETAILS: <u>AT DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA:</u></p> <p>[REDACTED] North Carolina, advised that [REDACTED] of the 925th Air Base Security Unit, left there April 1, 1943, for the Army Air Base, Lake Charles, Louisiana. Referenced report set out a lead to contact [REDACTED] to ascertain whether he had any knowledge concerning the subject and his background. b7c b2</p> <p>Inasmuch as referenced report indicates that the New Orleans Field Division received copies of the report, it is not deemed necessary to restate further any facts in this case.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>Edward Scheidt</i>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT: ② - Bureau 2 - Detroit (62-1126) 2 - New Orleans 2 - Charlotte		62-43818-287 JUL 9 1943 [REDACTED]	RECORDED [REDACTED]
COPIES DESTROYED 88 OCT 13 1964			

5 JUL 17 1943

Charlotte 100-3636

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

The NEW ORLEANS FIELD DIVISION at Lake Charles, Louisiana, will contact [REDACTED], 925th Air Base Security Unit, and ascertain whether he has any knowledge concerning the subject and his background. b7c

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

FILE NO. 100-8577

REPORT MADE AT Baltimore, Maryland	DATE WHEN MADE 6-30-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5-5, 19, 20-43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] BA <i>b7c</i>
TITLE GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, was. THE COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION			CHARACTER OF CASE CUSTODIAL DETENTION - G SEDITION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Article by HENRY L. MENCKEN concerning subject appeared in Baltimore Sun July 16, 1936 on occasion of speech at Townsend Convention in Cleveland. Subject also mentioned in MR. MENCKEN's recent book entitled, "Heathen Days"

- R U C -

~~DEFERRED RECORDING~~

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 6, 1943 at Washington, D. C. *b7c*

DETAILS:

[REDACTED], Information Bureau, Sun Newspaper, Baltimore, Maryland, made available the files of MR. HENRY L. MENCKEN's articles in the Library of the paper. It was found that no index reference was made to the subject and that the articles were so numerous that it was impracticable to search all of them without some information as to the possible date of the article referred to in the reference report.

At the Enoch Pratt Public Library, Baltimore, Maryland, a copy of HENRY L. MENCKEN's recent book "Heathen Days" was secured. This was published by ALFRED A. KNOPP at New York 1943 and contains a chapter entitled, "Beaters of Brags". At Pages 294-98 MR. MENCKEN writes of GERALD L. K. SMITH as follows:

He first heard of him at the Townsend Convention at Cleveland in 1936 and at that time wrote the Sun Paper at Baltimore, "His speech was a magnificent amalgam of each and every American species of rabble-rousing with embellishments."

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E. A. Dancy</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 62-43318-288
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Detroit 2 - Baltimore	RECORDED & INDEXED ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 10/4/82 BY SP8 BTJ/ML
COPIES DESTROYED <i>7/6/43</i>	

83 OCT 13 1964

100-6577

Word from the Algonquin Indians and the Cossacks of the Don, " It ran the keyboard from the softest sobs and gurgles to the most earsplitting whoops and howls and when it was over the 8000 Delegates simply laid back in their pews and yelled. "

MR. MENCKEN says " Never in my life in truth have I ever heard a more effective speech. "

A few weeks later he writes that he heard SMITH give an even more impressive exhibition of his powers at the convention of REVEREND CHARLES E. COUGHLIN in Cleveland.

MR. MENCKEN states " When GERALD came to Cleveland it was in the humble role of a follower of the late HUEY LONG, jobless since HUEY'S murder on September 10, 1935 but when he cleared out after his two speeches it was in the lofty character of the greatest rabble-rouser since Peter The Hermit. "

In the Library of the Sun Paper in Baltimore, Maryland, the files of HENRY L. MENCKEN'S articles were again examined and the article referred to in the reference report was found to have been published on July 16, 1936. The headlines of this article were: " REVEREND GERALD SMITH STARS AT TOWNSEND CONVENTION IN RABBLE-ROUSING TALK ", " LATE HUEY LONG'S LIEUTENANT EXCORIATES NEW DEAL, JIM FARLEY AND YOUNG PROFESSORS AS NINE THOUSAND DELEGATES YELL. " "ROOSEVELT MEN DEMAND CHANCE TO ANSWER TODAY. "

This article states that the theme of SMITH'S talk was not the virtue of the Townsend Plan but the villainies of the New Deal.

A description of SMITH and his abilities as a speaker are set out in the article and these are similar to those comments made in MR. MENCKEN'S book. The article further described SMITH as Chief of Staff to the late HUEY LONG and now holding the same position under DR. FRANCIS E. TOWNSEND.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

103
5-103b

July 3, 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10/4/82 BY SP6 BJS/juc

THE DIRECTOR
Re: Gerald L. K. Smith, The
Committee of One Million;
Internal Security - Sedition

You will recall that both the President and the Attorney General have in recent weeks evidenced a continuing interest in this case.

On March 25, 1943 the President addressed a memorandum to you requesting information concerning the subject's background and the nature of any investigation conducted as to Smith. In reply to this, on March 31, 1943, Mr. McIntyre was furnished with a detailed memorandum concerning Smith's background and current activities. In a cover letter it was pointed out to Mr. McIntyre that although Smith has been under careful investigation for more than a year and all of his speeches and writings, as well as his activities, have been covered during this period, the Department on consideration of the evidence developed has stated that this individual's activities to date do not appear to warrant prosecution under any Federal statute. Mr. McIntyre was further informed that the case would continue to receive vigorous investigative attention and that all information developed would be appropriately furnished to the Department for an opinion as to possible prosecutive action. For your information a copy of the summary memorandum furnished Mr. McIntyre, which is fully reflective of Smith's activities to March 31, 1943 and is representative of activity engaged in by Smith since that date, is attached.

ENCLO. 17

Subsequently, on May 28 last, the Attorney General addressed a memorandum to the Bureau stating that he had received a telephone call from the President on the previous day concerning Smith and [redacted] of Chicago, Illinois, who, you will recall, is the subject of another very active sedition investigation. The President was apparently interested in the status of these two investigations in the Department and particularly requested information as to [redacted]. Pursuant to the Attorney General's request, detailed memoranda concerning both cases were immediately forwarded to the Attorney General and, of course, he was advised that Mr. Rowe's office, which at the time was handling the Smith case, and the Criminal Division, handling the [redacted] case, had indicated that the activities of these subjects are not sufficient to warrant prosecution. A memorandum concerning the status of the [redacted] case has been prepared for you under today's date.)

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

Original copy and is not on record. When original is received in Files Division it will be filed either with this copy or may be given a new serial.
7/3/43 OHP
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17 JUL 13 1943
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Later, on June 24 last, the Attorney General telephonically contacted Mr. E. A. Tamm, advising that the President had again communicated with him requesting that these cases be given close attention, with the view of early instituting any prosecutive action possible under existent statutes. The Attorney General stated he thought it would be helpful to arrange a conference between the attorney in the Criminal Division handling these cases, and the Bureau supervisor intimately acquainted with the investigations. He indicated he felt that as a result of such a conference the Criminal Division could perhaps become more accurately acquainted with factual data and would be in a better position to analyse the cases and perhaps to make further requests of the Bureau for additional investigation.

Pursuant to this request, the conference was held on June 26 last between Mr. James McInerney, Chief of the National Defense Unit of the Criminal Division, and the Bureau supervisor handling these cases. With reference to the Smith case, Mr. McInerney pointed out that the Criminal Division was not conversant with all of the late developments, inasmuch as until recently the case has been followed in the Department by an attorney assigned to Mr. Rowe's office. He therefore requested detailed information concerning investigation carried out during the last eight or nine months. In view of the ramifications of the case, the discussion with reference to factual data revolved itself around the three principal phases of the investigation: the sedition phase, the Federal Corrupt Practices Act angle, and the phase involving a possible violation by Smith of the National Speed Regulation.

Concerning the sedition phase, Mr. McInerney was informed in detail of Smith's speech-making activities and his publication efforts in connection with his magazine, "The Cross and the Flag." It was pointed out that Smith has been primarily concerned with attributing "dictatorial trends" to the Government and has frequently charged the Government with conspiring with Great Britain and other countries in an effort to set up a "super world state" after the war. These have been his most frequent themes and have been repeated numerous times during the course of Smith's many public speeches in connection with his "America First Party", the principal tenet of which is the "guarding of America against the dictatorial trends and Bureaucracy of the present administration." It was pointed out to Mr. McInerney that since the first of the year all of Smith's public speeches have been covered and that the reports on this investigation, as well as copies of all his publications, have been sent to Mr. Rowe. Mr. McInerney stated that he would secure these reports and carefully review them, and expressed the opinion that Smith appears to be well advised as to how far he can go under the Sedition Statutes and has

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apparently avoided making any actionable statements, either oral or written. In this connection it will be recalled that in all of his statements, both written and oral, Smith has always been careful to profess loyalty to the war effort and has even exhorted his followers to cooperate "in every way" with the war effort. Mr. McInerney further observed that the Bureau's investigation has been very adequate and quite exhaustive, pointing out that the only logical way of proving a sedition case is by covering the subject's statements and writings.

With regard to the Federal Corrupt Practices Act phase of the case, you will recall that several months ago the Special War Policies Unit of the Department requested that Smith's activities in connection with his candidacy last summer for United States Senator be investigated. The Special War Policies Unit particularly requested that the statements filed by Smith, showing his contributors, with the local Election Commission be secured and that it be otherwise determined whether Smith has complied with the provisions of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act and the Michigan General Election Law in connection with his campaign. All of this data has been secured and sent to the Department, but in this regard Mr. McInerney stated that he was not familiar with this angle of the case, inasmuch as this particular matter has been under the purview of the Special War Policies Unit. When the Bureau supervisor pointed out that in one of his statements Smith has refused to identify the source of a \$1,500 contribution as required by the Michigan General Election Law (which according to the Special War Policies Unit may have significance under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act), Mr. McInerney expressed considerable interest and stated he would take up this phase of the investigation with the Special War Policies Unit. He indicated that this phase of the case would probably be handled by the Criminal Division in the future and if it appears that Smith's omission amounts to a violation of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, the Bureau will probably be requested to conduct further investigation concerning this phase of the case.

Concerning the possible violation of the National Speed Regulation by Smith, it will be recalled that in October, 1942 Smith openly boasted that a short time previously he had wilfully and purposely violated the 35-mile-per-hour speed regulation by motoring from Pontiac to Detroit at varying speeds approaching 60 miles-per-hour on certain occasions. Smith made this boast while attacking OPA regulations as "bureaucratic and dictatorial" and stated that he had taken this action to show that "bureaucratic regulations" could not be imposed on American people. Pertinent information concerning Smith's use of excessive speed, as well as his public statements

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in connection therewith, was at the time the information was developed referred to the Criminal Division, which advised that no Federal violation had been incurred, inasmuch as at the time of Smith's trip no Federal statute enforcing the speed regulation was in effect. During the conference, Mr. McInerney referred to this angle of the case by stating that although the Criminal Division had recently reexamined it, the conclusion was again reached that no action could be taken against Smith either for his speeding or for his public statements in connection with the incident.

Mr. McInerney further pointed out that according to information he has received the Treasury Department has recently completed its investigation of Smith's financial activities. You will recall that this investigation was requested by the Attorney General and was conducted primarily for the purpose of determining whether Smith has made false income tax returns. According to information received, both by the Bureau and the Department, the Treasury Department's investigation has failed to show any irregularities. However, Mr. McInerney stated that as soon as the Treasury Department makes its report available to the Department it is possible that the Bureau may be asked make some additional inquiries if it appears that any of Smith's contributions may have emanated from Axis-inspired or influenced individuals or organizations. In this regard he commented that although the evidence developed to date does not suggest that Smith has been under the guidance of foreign sources, and it is not contemplated to proceed against him under the theory of the Registration Acts, it would be helpful on the question of intent in any sedition prosecution to show a relationship between Smith's background and German sponsorship or sympathetic forces.

It is of interest to note that at the conclusion of the conference, Mr. McInerney stated that he intended to write a memorandum for the Attorney General concerning the Smith case, pointing out that although the Bureau has devoted the case exhaustive attention, nothing has been developed to date on which prosecutive action against Smith can be successfully predicated at this time. He stated that in his memorandum he would inform the Attorney General that the case will continue to receive close attention by the Criminal Division, and in this connection he commented that as soon as he is able to adequately review his file, further requests will be made of the Bureau for additional investigation. He was, of course, informed that the Bureau will be glad to receive these requests and that they will be given immediate investigative attention as soon as they are received in memorandum form. Yesterday a memorandum of this type was received from the Criminal Division, requesting inquiries concerning a possible associate of Smith's in the New York area. This request is being covered and, of course, the case will in the future continue to receive the careful and continuous attention which has been devoted to it during recent months.

JTC

Memorandum for the Director

- 5 -

It is of interest to note that a certain segment of the public press, particularly the newspapers PM and the Daily Worker, as well as other special interests, have recently sought to convey the impression that Smith, the Ku Klux Klan, and other allegedly Fascist individuals and organizations, fomented the recent race riot in Detroit. The Bureau's investigation of Smith, as well as its technical surveillance, fails to show that there are any grounds whatsoever for this allegation. On the contrary, Smith seems to have been somewhat concerned about the race riot and through the service of a highly confidential source it was learned that on June 25 last he contacted Senator Reynolds in Washington, requesting the latter to cause Congressman Dies to investigate the riot. Smith indicated that he believed the Communists in the Detroit area were primarily responsible. In this connection it was further learned from this same source that Smith intended to come to Washington on July 1, 1943 for the purpose of conferring with the Dies Committee and Senator Reynolds, apparently with reference to this matter. This data was, of course, furnished to the Attorney General and the Criminal Division, but no request has been received for further inquiry in connection with Smith's interest in the race riot situation.

Respectfully,

L. M. Ladd

Enclosure

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[Redacted]

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

Attention: Mr. C. E. Whittle

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

For your further information, there is transmitted herewith a copy of an additional report submitted in this case by Special Agent [Redacted] at Baltimore, Maryland, on June 30, 1943.

Very truly yours,

b7c

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc - Assistant Attorney General
Randall Berge

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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to
cc	A. Tamm
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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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W. J. H.

Date: July 9, 1943
 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

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

Transmitted herewith is a photographic copy of a column captioned "Labor News and Comment," written by one Victor Riesel, which appeared in the June 21, 1943, edition of the New York Post.

As you will note, this column sets forth comments concerning Gerald L. K. Smith, and at one point advances a statement to the effect that "Smith's crowd have hired detectives to 'get something' on David Miles and Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter."

If during the course of your investigation and coverage of the activities of the subject, you secure information indicating that Smith or his associates have taken such action you should immediately advise the Bureau.

Enclosure *BW*

(Material handed Mr. E.A. Tamm 6/23/43 by Mr. D.H. Nelson of White House. See Mr. Tamm's memo to Director dated 6/24/43.)

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
 Mr. Hendon
 Mr. McGuire
 Mr. Mumford
 Mr. Piper
 Mr. Quinn Tamm
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 Miss Gandy

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J. Edgar Hoover
[Signature]

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GERALD L. K. SMITH

PERSONAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Gerald Lyman Kenneth Smith, better known as Gerald L. K. Smith, was born during February, 1898, at Fardeseville, 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,

Mr. Tolson since the involvement of the United States in war he has busied himself
Mr. E. A. Tamm especially in directing criticism to the Government's war effort and what
Mr. Clegg is pleased to characterize as the Government's efforts to enslave the
Mr. Coffey United States as an entity in an International State dominated by Great Britain.

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

Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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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 sometimes 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 1938

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

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

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

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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 a considerable amount of literature designating the purposes of "The Committee of One Million" as follows:

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

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

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

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

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 foundation of this group through the distribution of literature calling for the donation of additional funds, and it appears that its purposes were the same as those of "The Committee of One Million." According to information received, "The Inner Circle" is no more of a real organization than "The Committee of One Million" and was conceived and used by Smith merely for the purpose of collecting additional money from persons on his mailing list.

During the summer of 1942, Smith sought the Republican nomination for the position of United States Senator from the State of Michigan. He made a number of speeches and conducted quite an active campaign and in the primary

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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 that in the primary campaign.

Late in 1942, Smith publicly announced the intention of forming a third political party on a national scale. The proposed platform for this Party, as announced, was 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 was named as a defendant.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
San Antonio, Texas
June 26, 1943

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Director, FBI

Attention: Technical Laboratory

Re: GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH,
with aliases;
COMMITTEE OF 1,000,000;
Internal Security - G;
Custodial Detention;
Sedition

D4073

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Laboratory report dated June 8, 1943, Bureau File 65-43818, in which it is suggested that the San Antonio Field Division forward the original letter to the Bureau in order that a more thorough search may be made of the Bureau's files, and photographic copies made for inclusion in the Bureau's files.

In accordance with the Bureau's suggestion, the original letter is being enclosed herewith.

It is requested that upon the completion of the examination desired by the Bureau that this letter be returned to the San Antonio Field Division for inclusion in the file in the case entitled, [REDACTED]; Custodial Detention - G".

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Very truly yours,

R. C. Suran
R. C. - SURAN
SAC

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cc Detroit

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