

PSF: Justice Dept. J. EDGAR HOOVER

CONTINUED

75

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

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

October 9, 1940

350
PS7 Justice Hoover
folder
(J)

PERSONAL [REDACTED]

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of Justice

Sept. letter 12-13-61

By J Date FEB 29 1972

Dear General Watson:

I am transmitting herewith a memorandum dated October 9, 1940, pertaining to the improvement of Mexican west coast ports and the construction of the Mexican oil pipeline. This information was obtained from a confidential source.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

October 9, 1940

MEMORANDUM

RE: IMPROVEMENTS OF MEXICAN
WEST COAST PORTS AND
CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINE

A confidential informant who is in a position to obtain information concerning negotiations such as are described below, and who actually had an opportunity to see a tentative agreement which was drawn up, reports the following information:

1. A contract is now under study by the Department of Hacienda and Secretary Suarez appears to favor the agreement. It appears likely it will be signed in some form or the other. Licenciado Carlos Novoa of Hacienda has been given the commission of studying the contract.
2. The Construction Aggregates Company of Chicago, Illinois, is reported to be a holding company of a number of construction subsidiaries. One Sancibar (phonetic) is said to be directing head. In Mexico the representative is Kenneth Edlin (phonetic). This individual does not have a very good record either in the United States or Mexico.
3. An engineer named Carlos Franco commenced the negotiations some ninety days ago. The total contracts call for a total sum of approximately 60,000,000 pesos, not including the pipe line. The contracts cover the following:
 - a. Breakwater and dredging of the port of Frontera, Tabasco, (Puerto Alvaro Obregon). This work to cost approximately 20,000,000 pesos.
 - b. A dry dock in Tampico, costing from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 pesos.
 - c. Dredging of Mastalan - three million cubic meters - cost not yet specified.

- d. Wharf and dock in Manzanillo, costing approximately 2,000,000 pesos.
- e. In the port of Topolobampo, dredging, wharf, breakwaters, costing from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 pesos.
- f. It is possible that other harbor improvements will be projected and considered in the negotiations.

Lic. Suarez asked the Construction Aggregates Company to include in their proposal the building of an oil pipe line from the port of Coatzacoalcos to Salina Cruz, a distance of 160 kilometers. It is indicated that the company is presently studying this project and will send engineers to go over the rights-of-way.

It is related that Licenciado Suarez is insisting that the harbor improvements be combined with the pipeline construction or otherwise the negotiations will be discontinued. It is understood that with the signing of the contract the contractors will receive 10,000,000 pesos of bonds. With the completion of a given job or unit of the contract they will receive 25 percent cash and the balance in bonds maturing within ten years. All bonds issued will be amortized annually over a period of ten years. The bonds are guaranteed by the Hacienda agreeing to receive them in lieu of cash in payment of taxes, with the exception of the gasoline tax and probably one or two other direct taxes of a similar nature.

In connection with the contract, it is proposed that a bank called the Banco de la Marina Nacional be established to discount the bonds which the Construction Company receives and to finance other public works in Mexico.

Kenneth Edlin is giving the impression that the Construction Aggregates Company has powerful political influence in the United States. He states that Representative Sabath of Chicago, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House, is one of its backers. The Kelly-Wash group of Chicago politicians is also alleged to be backing it. Edlin has likewise given the impression that loans are to be obtained through the Import-Export Bank to finance the work. Thus, he relates that his company will receive indirectly financial help from the United States Government.

The Mexican Government officials state that the American Embassy has very highly recommended the Construction Aggregates Company.

Though Edlin appears confident of obtaining the above contract, with probably some changes in its terms and conditions, the Government officials with whom the informant has talked doubt if the deal will go through even though signed by Hacienda. Government engineers point out that the dredges which the contractors propose to use have been proven by experience to be unsuitable. Likewise, the contract must be ratified by Congress in order that the bonds may be issued, and this may take some time.

The Government unquestionably desires to use the contracts as indicating the willingness of the American firms to finance public works in Mexico, an indication of growing confidence in the stability of the present Mexican Government. The agreement likewise will be worked up to show that the United States Government is encouraging American firms to accept the bonds of the Mexican Government.

Mr. Kenneth Edlin, mentioned above as the individual who started the primary negotiations outlined, was formerly associated with General Mujica in a large road contract in the State of Michoacan. However, due to his inability to produce the finances he had agreed to, and his failure to donate a large sum of money to the presidential campaign of General Mujica, he became involved with Mujica with the result that he was arrested. Edlin was able to straighten this matter out and he now seems to be in the good graces of certain high officials of the Mexican Government. Edlin is residing at the Reforma Hotel in Mexico City and it is reported that Mr. Sancibar (phonetic) and also a representative of a New York law firm will be in Mexico City within the near future to carry on further negotiations as to the matter outlined above.

* * * * *

Resp'y forwarded to the President.

Emw

E.M.W.

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

PS7 Justice
Hoover folder

October 14, 1940

PERSONAL AND
[REDACTED]

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of Justice
Dept letter 12-13-61
By J Date FEB 29 1972

Dear General Watson:

Transmitted herewith is a memorandum dated October 14, 1940, inasmuch as I thought the President and you would be interested in instructions issued from Germany, referred to therein, to known German espionage agents in the United States.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

BY SPECIAL
MESSENGER

387
October 14, 1940

MEMORANDUM

Through a strictly confidential source, it has been learned that the following instructions from Germany have been issued to known German espionage agents in the United States:

"Tell all friends that in future technical questions do not interest as much as military questions. They are as follows and I wish everyone would work very hard to get continually information.

- A. Exact strength of air force giving figures of flying crew and ground crew separately.
- B. Details regarding flying schools, locations, amount of pupils, what special training, length of training, kind of plane used for training.
- C. Of special interest are all kinds of instruction books, especially such as are not available in open trade.
- D. Of paramount importance, if pilots are specially trained for fighting in England, where are they trained, how many, how and when they are expected to leave.
- E. Are they sent via ship or via air and what route do they take.
- G. Days of departure.

"These questions pertain to USA as well as Canada. It may be necessary to find friends in the air force itself who may be able to give you such information. I am sending for this purpose another five hundred bucks."

It is to be noted that no item designated "F" was included in these instructions.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

PSF Justice Hoover
Fisher

PSF

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

January 24, 1941

Personal and
[Redacted]

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of Justice
Dept. letter 12-13-61
By JA Date FEB 29 1972

Dear General Watson:

I have been advised by Solicitor General Biddle that some concern is felt over the fact that the Bureau has been engaged in conducting an investigation of Edith B. Helm. I wanted therefore to advise you fully of the facts in this matter in order that you might understand the background and reason for the Bureau's investigation.

Under date of October 29, 1940, Mr. Sidney Sherwood, Assistant Secretary of the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense, by letter requested the Bureau to conduct investigations of a number of persons whose names were set forth in his letter and whom he described as "per annum employees of the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense." Included in this list of names was the name of Edith B. Helm. As a result of this request, the Bureau initiated an investigation of the background, qualifications, experience and reputation of Edith B. Helm. The investigative reports prepared were transmitted to Mr. Sherwood.

Mr. Sherwood has requested investigations over a period of time of several hundred employees of the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense and his request of October 29, 1940 was considered as a routine inquiry. There was nothing in Mr. Sherwood's request which would identify Edith B. Helm as Mrs. Roosevelt's secretary. The investigation was immediately discontinued upon the indication of Mr. Biddle that further inquiry was not desired.

Major General Edwin M. Watson

- 2 -

Having been informed that some question has been raised as to the propriety of the Bureau's investigation in this case, I thought possibly the President and you would be interested in knowing why this investigation was initiated and conducted.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1
Respectfully forwarded to the President

file
personal
E.M.W.

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

PSF: Justice Hoover Folder
2-41

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

May 12, 1941

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

I thought you might be interested in a poll which will be published in Look Magazine which will be on the newstands on May 20. This poll was conducted by the Columbia Survey and the results of the poll were confidentially furnished the Bureau.

"The following are the results of the poll of Congress made by the Columbia Survey Inc. of Washington for a national magazine:

1. QUESTION: Do you approve American convoys to England if believed necessary to prevent British defeat by Hitler?

Yes 20%
No 80%

2. QUESTION: Do you favor change of the selective service draft ages?

Yes 69%
No 27%
Not at present time 4%

If so, to what ages and for what lengths of service?

Start at 17	10%	Stop at 19	3%
" " 18	41%	" " 20	3%
" " 19	4%	" " 21	25%
" " 20	4%	" " 22	8%
" " 21	4%	" " 23	6%
over 21	1%	" " 24	1%
		" " 25	3%

Stop at 30	8%
" " 31	1%
over 31	6%

(Thus, in comparison with the present draft ages of 21 to 36, it is seen that the Congressional trend is toward a shorter and earlier span of draft ages. For example, the suggested span of years drawing the highest support - 17% - was from 18 to 21; second highest support went to the span of 18 to 30, with 6% backing that.)

(Lengths) Overwhelming support went to the present service length of one year. Only 10% want less than one year, while only 3% want from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 years and only 3% want three years.

3. QUESTION: Do you believe the U. S. will go to war against Germany?

Yes	30%	Don't know	1%
No	58%	Hope not	1%
Probably	6%	No answer	1%
In war now	3%		

If so, when?

By July first	8%
By October	7%
This year	1%
1942	1%

QUESTION: Do you believe the U. S. will go to war against Japan?

Yes	15%
No	73%
Probably	6%
No answer	6%

If so, when?

By July first	10%
By October	6%

4. QUESTION: Do you think any part of the defense program is being handled poorly?

Yes	85%
No	15%

If so, which part?

(Parts reported by the Congressmen as being handled poorly fall into 13 categories, as follows.)

All parts	7%
Labor strikes and troubles	42%
Tax program	15%
Excessive profits	13%
Wasteful spending	8%
Production	7%
Favoritism to big firms	3%
Location of plants	1%
Administration	6%
Authority too divided	3%
Airplane production	3%
Cantonment construction	3%
Sabotage and subversive acts	3%

5. QUESTION: What is your general impression of progress of the defense program to date?

Favorable	49%	Unfavorable	42%
Favorable, with exceptions	5%	No answer	4%

6. QUESTION: What do those sections of American people you observe think of the progress of the defense program to date?

Favorable	44%
Mainly favorable	6%
Unfavorable	45%
No answer	5%

7. QUESTION: Do you favor the Government's present methods of handling defense labor controversies?

Yes	24%
Partly	3%
No	72%
No answer	1%"

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

September 17, 1941

PERSONAL

Miss Grace Tully
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

The President referred to me on September 6, 1941, a letter from Mr. Shaemas O'Sheel, 335 West 14th Street, New York City, in which Mr. O'Sheel asked the President to have his personal representative canvass the possible usefulness of arranging for Mr. O'Sheel to talk to Fritz Duquesne, who is the subject of an espionage case now on trial in Brooklyn, New York.

In compliance with the President's instructions I arranged for one of my personal representatives to contact Mr. O'Sheel in New York. Mr. O'Sheel was advised that this Bureau had no objection whatsoever if he desired to interview Fritz Duquesne and would be very glad to receive any information he might develop as a result of such interview. It was pointed out to Mr. O'Sheel that since Duquesne is presently on trial it would be improper for a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to arrange the interview. At his request the United States Attorney was contacted and he also advised that he did not consider it advisable for him to arrange such an interview at this time. For this reason Mr. O'Sheel indicated he would withhold conducting an interview with Duquesne until completion of the present trial.

Sincerely,

J. Edgar Hoover

file PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover Folder

J. E. Hoover
3-41

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 6, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. J. EDGAR HOOVER

Will you do this? See last paragraph -- and you can tell your men that I have known O'Sheel for many years and think he is all right.

F. D. R.

Enclosure

Letter from Shaemas O'Sheel, 335 West 14th St., NYC, 9/4/41 to the President. In re Col. Fritz Duquesne, who has been accused of espionage or sabotage or both, in the interests of the Nazi Govt. Mr. O'Sheel states that Col. Duquesne is a friend of his and he would like to have an opportunity to talk with him in the hope that Col. Duquesne could be induced to talk, either by arousing his suspicion that he was betrayed and duped by the Nazis, or by touching his conscience and awakening a sense of the enormity of his course in serving Hitler.

PSF Justice: J. E. Hoover Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 28, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR

EDGAR HOOVER:

I spoke to the Attorney General about the Hohenlohe case and he assures me that he has broken up the romance. Also, he thinks it best not to change the present domicile as the person in question is much easier to watch at that place. Please do a confidential recheck for me.

F.D.R.

PSF: Justice J. E. Hoover
Fisher
1-42

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 21, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. J. EDGAR HOOVER

What is being done about William Dudley Pelley? I am told that he has started a new publication called "The Galilean" and that some of the stuff appearing therein comes pretty close to being seditious.

Now that we are in the war it looks like a good chance to clean up a number of these vile publications.

F. D. R.

The Hour



NUMBER 124

JANUARY 17, 1942

NEWS-KEY

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NOTE: *The Hour* is a confidential bulletin, published each week by The Hour Publishing Co., Inc. The price of subscription is \$5.00 per annum, \$3.00 for six months.

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Number 124

CAREER OF BORIS BRASOL

January 17, 1942

In New York City at 230 Riverside Drive there lives a man whose writings are used as source material by the Propaganda Ministry of the Third Reich and whose brutal boast is that certain of his books "have done more harm to the Jews than ten pogroms." His name is Boris Brasol.

For years Brasol has been collaborating with pro-Nazi White Russians, Japanese agents and native Fifth Columnists. Himself a key man in the Russian fascist movement, he has served as a focal point in the United States for international Axis intrigue. His speciality is fomenting race hatred, and his accomplishments in this field have won him world-wide notoriety.

Boris Brasol was born in Poltava, Russia, in 1885. He studied law at the University of St. Petersburg and in 1910 became Prosecuting Attorney for the St. Petersburg Supreme Court. An ardent supporter of the Czar's feudalistic regime, he cooperated closely with the Imperial secret police in opposing democratic trends among the Russian people. In 1916 he came to the United States as the Russian representative to the Inter-Allied Conference in New York City. When the Russian Revolution occurred in 1917, Brasol decided his safest course would be to remain in the United States. Labeling himself an "expert on Russian law," he began practicing in New York. Officially, this continues to be his profession.

It is Brasol's unofficial labors, however, that are of interest. One of the earliest of these was distributing in the United States translations of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion. This infamous forgery, purporting to reveal a vast Jewish conspiracy to create a world-wide dictatorship, had been used by the Czar's government to provoke anti-Semitic agitation and pogroms. By spreading the wretched canard of the Protocols in America, Brasol sought to rally support for the White Russians and to convince public opinion that the "Red Revolution" was part of the "international Jewish conspiracy." Through Brasol's efforts the Protocols reached Henry Ford, who reprinted them in his Dearborn Independent. Brasol even managed to have a copy of the Protocols placed in the files of the U. S. Secret Service as an explanation of the Russian Revolution.

A prolific author himself, Brasol began writing books filled with anti-Semitic propaganda. The World at the Cross Roads, published in Boston in 1921, typifies the Jew-baiting literature which flowed so easily from his pen. The book contends that the Russian Revolution was

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instigated, financed and led by Jews; and describes the overthrow of the Czar and consequent international developments as a "sinister movement in which the Jews of the world and Mr. Wilson have become partners."

Feeling an intense nostalgia for the days of the Czarist autocracy, Brasol plotted tirelessly with other White Russian emigres against the Soviets. Jew-baiting played a major role in their propaganda work. One of Brasol's fellow conspirators was the notorious pogromist, Major-General Count V. Cherep-Spirodovitch, to whom Brasol wrote in a letter on July 1, 1921;

"Within the last year I have written three books which have done more harm to the Jews than ten pogroms would have done them."

Brasol's Current Activities

When Adolf Hitler came to power in Germany, the Russian fascists throughout the world saw new hope for the overthrow of the Soviets. Der Fuehrer promised to smash the Bolsheviks, and the Russian White Guards took him at his word. Their colonies in Germany and Japan became centers of pro-Nazi intrigue. In Harbin, Japan, the Russian fascists organized an army to be placed at Hitler's disposal.

In the United States Brasol created the Russian-American National Committee, a coalition of anti-Semitic, pro-Nazi and pro-Japanese White Guard groups. The Committee concentrates on building pro-Axis and anti-Soviet sentiment. It has brought into the United States propaganda material issued by Russian fascists in the employ of Japan. One of the most recent of these was a leaflet distributed by Brasol in the tens of thousands, entitled "Declaration of the Russian Emigrant Colony in Shanghai." The Declaration, a vitriolic attack on the Soviet Union, speaks hopefully of "the inevitable collapse" of Russia in the present war and of the "New Order" to follow -- presumably that which Adolf Hitler will establish. Among the groups listed as signers of the Declaration is the Russian Fascist Union.

A typical excerpt from the Shanghai Declaration states: "We evaluate the present German-Soviet war as a means for the liberation of our Motherland from the communist yoke."

(An interesting sidelight is that Brasol arranged for copies of this Declaration to be distributed by the America First Committee, an organization which he held in high regard. He had his own Russian fascist representatives, such as Baron Carl R. Wrangell, in high places in the Committee.)

Brasol's Russian-American National Committee has consistently attacked President Roosevelt for sending aid to Russia. No opportunity has been overlooked by Brasol for creating a breach in the anti-Axis front.

Brasol's Connection With Rossiya

Brasol has cooperated closely with the New York pro-fascist Russian newspaper Rossiya. This publication has maintained intimate contacts with Japanese agents, as well as with the Nazis. The most important of the Japanese agents are two Russian fascists, Constantine Radzaevsky and G. M. Semenoff. Radzaevsky has supplied the paper with regular material from the Far East, where he operates under the direction of Tokyo. Semenoff, another Rossiya correspondent, is regarded as one of Japan's key espionage and propaganda agents in the Far East, from where he sends frequent dispatches to Rossiya.

Brasol Interviewed by The Hour

On January 15 Boris Brasol was interviewed by The Hour at his office in Room 1409, 2 West 46th Street, New York City. Brasol denied he is pro-Nazi but stated that a Russian victory over Hitler's army on the eastern front would be a calamity for the United States. He declared he is not anti-Semitic but added that the Jews are responsible for communism. He said he carried on no dealings with American Fifth Columnists, but was forced by us to admit he had been meeting with George Paganelli, notorious U. S. fascist agent (for Paganelli's record see The Hour for August 2, 1941).

A portion of our conversation with Boris Brasol follows:

Q: Isn't it true, Mr. Brasol, that your committee has cooperated with Russian fascists operating under Japanese supervision?

A: That's an absolute falsehood.

Q: Do you consider the Russian Fascist Union a fascist organization?

A: Of course.

Q: Well, here's a document (showing it to him) which you have been distributing under your organization's name. This document is signed by the Russian Fascist Union and originated from Japanese-controlled territory.

A: (after pause) Well, that's an exceptional case.

The interview ended with Brasol's complaining bitterly of having been attacked by the "gutter press" in the United States. He declared that in Czarist Russia people were never persecuted in such a manner.

Need for Investigation

Boris Brasol moves in high circles in this country. His contacts include prominent businessmen, politicians, professors in leading universities. He boasts of his "friends in Washington" and is said to have powerful connections in the State Department. At a time when Hitler and his allies are so desperately striving to disrupt the democracies, the perverted talents of such a man are in particular demand by the Axis powers. Today Brasol constitutes more of a menace than ever before to the unity of the American people. The Hour therefore urges that the Department of Justice conduct an immediate investigation of the current activities of Boris Brasol.

* * * * *

PELLEY BOOSTS JAPAN'S CAUSE

Silver Shirter William Dudley Pelley, whose connections with the Tokyo Propaganda Ministry were revealed in The Hour on December 7, 1940, is currently publishing a new magazine which ridicules the war effort of the United States and Great Britain, and proclaims the inevitability of a Japanese victory. The name of the publication is The Galilean. It is issued weekly by the Fellowship Press, Inc., Box 1477, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The December 29, 1941, issue of The Galilean gloats over the initial reverses that have been suffered by U. S. armed forces in the Pacific. In an article entitled "Nippon Grabs the Lead," Pelley observes:

"... We envision the Mikado remarking to the White House Spokesman; 'So Honorable Hyde-Parker wishes honorable boom-boom eh? Very pleased to accommodate.' And before his envoys had finished their bowing, twelve to fifteen of America's finest ships of the line were kicking their propellers shamefully in the air, the Pearl Harbor flying field looked like an abandoned WPA project in Keokuk, and General MacArthur found himself isolated on an acreage of Philippine shore, wondering how he was going to stave off two million Oriental China-War veterans with forty squirrel rifles and a trunk of White House manuscripts."

Another article "British Lion Gored," contains this typical piece of Axis propaganda:

"Whether the average American cares to accredit it or not, the losses which Britain has taken in the Far East in the past two weeks, may mean the end of the war. With Singapore gone, India must go, too -- for the people of India will not be slow in seizing their opportunities to throw off British rule with the English chased out of the Orient and no British warships to enforce London's decrees."

The attacks on the Roosevelt Administration are particularly venomous. An article, headed "Inglorious Wash-Up of New Dealism," blames the President for having "driven the sons of America's plain people" into this war through "intentionally-bad diplomacy." The war, according to Pelley, will not terminate as the Administration hopes it will -- that is, in a defeat of the Axis powers -- but will achieve the "end of the vexatious Jewish Question." Hitler and his allies will not be held to blame for the suffering caused by the war, says the Silver Shirter, but the Roosevelt Administration and the Jewish people will;

"Somebody should, in all kindness, advise Mr. White House Spokesman exactly how hard-headed Midwesterners regard

the catastrophe that terminates the New Deal dynasty. ... The Japanese, Germans and Italians will be too far away and inaccessible [to be held responsible for the war]. But the Israelites will not be too far away and inaccessible. They will have representatives no farther away than the nearest corner. ... The plain people of America 'who know all about the Jews' by reason of having suffered their eccentricities during nine years of New-Dealism, may well act upon their own instincts in those moments."

As a loyal servant of the Axis and a traitor to the United States, William Dudley Pelley has redoubled his efforts to stir up animosity against the leadership of this country and to promote dissension among the American people.

The Hour asks; how much longer will this Nazi hireling be permitted to circulate his treasonable propagaganda?

* * * * *

HUDSON PRECAUTION

The December 22, 1941, issue of America In Danger, the subversive bulletin published by Charles B. Hudson in Omaha, Nebraska, includes this significant comment: "NOTICE: If any soldier receives A.I.D. bulletin, I did not send it. If any subscriber joins Armed Forces, advise me so I can remove such name from A.I.D. mailing list."

Apparently Hudson is well aware of the seditious character of his publication.

* * * * *

DESTINY PARTY DISCONTINUES SECRET MEETINGS

The Hour learns that the American Destiny Party, the stormtroop band headed by Fifth Columnist Joseph E. McWilliams, is temporarily discontinuing the secret meetings its membership has been holding since America entered the war. A confidential memorandum issued by the Destiny Party leadership explains that these meetings are being discontinued "because of a progressive falling off in attendance, indicating a lack of interest." We are reliably informed, however, that the leaders of the pro-Nazi group have decided it is too risky to continue holding membership meetings, even in secret. Their future policy will be to carry on their subversive activities as a loosely-knit, underground organization of individuals who periodically receive directives from the inner circle.

— • —

PSF: Justice

Hoover folder
2-42

OK
Personal

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 11, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE PRESIDENT

In regard to the Trinidad matter about which Jack Carter spoke to you yesterday, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover is all set to go ahead with it but the latter would personally feel happier about it if he or Carter were allowed to advise Berle. They fear that if the State Department hears about it they might get very angry.

G. G. T.

PSF: Justice J. E. Hoover Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 3, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

EDGAR HOOVER:

Have you pretty well cleaned
out the alien waiters in the principal
Washington hotels. Altogether too much
conversation in the dining rooms!

F.D.R.

PSF: Justice Folder
Hoover folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 17, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

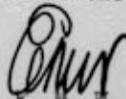
Will you please speak to
me about this?

F.D.R.

Confidential memo from J. Edgar Hoover
April 15 re alien waiters in Wash. Hotels

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 2 1972

Respectfully forwarded to the President.



E. M. W.

Hoover's answer to query of the President on
April second, concerning situation of alien
waiters being employed in principal Washington
hotels.

PSF Justice

J. E. Hoover Folder
1-42

~~Confidential~~
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 17, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. J. EDGAR HOOVER

Once more I have to bother you about that Hohenlohe woman. This time I am told that her son has been in a detention camp but has written to his Mother that Uncle Lem (Lem Scofield) has arranged to get him out in a short time. I really think that this whole affair verges not merely on the ridiculous but on the disgraceful. Is the woman really at Ellis Island?

F. D. R.

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.
By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 29 1972

PSF: Justice J.E. Hoover Files

June 19, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of Justice

Sept. letter 12-13-61

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT By JS Date FEB 29 1972

On June 13, 1942, at 1:30 A.M. an unarmed Coast Guard Patrolman near Anagansett, Montauk Point, Long Island, discovered two men placing material in a hole which they had just dug; one of them covered the Patrolman with a gun, gave him \$260 and told him to keep his mouth shut.

Subsequently members of the Coast Guard returned to the spot, one of them thought he saw the silhouette of a submarine off shore; upon digging a large amount of explosives and incendiary devices were discovered available for bombing vessels or factories. There was also discovered clothes similar to those worn by German submarine personnel with markings in German.

A plant has been established on the spot and fifteen men are being used on each shift of twelve hours. Every effort has been made to avoid publicity.

The Eastern and Gulf Coastal Commands have been cautioned by the Army and Navy of the danger of additional landings by German Agents; and the number and strength of the Coast Guard patrols has been substantially increased.

So far as I know, this is the first discovery of definite evidence of sabotage by German Agents. I shall, of course, keep you informed.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis Biddle
Attorney General

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

PSF; Justice Folder
Hoover folder 242

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED]
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Marvin H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

file 71
DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of Justice

Dept. letter 12-13-61

By JH Date FEB 29 1972

Dear Marvin:

In accordance with our recent telephone conversation, I am transmitting herewith for the information of the President a memorandum outlining the developments in connection with the apprehension of two groups of German saboteurs who landed in the United States.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely,

J. E. Hoover,

Inclosure

June 27, 1942

Late in May, a German submarine departed from a French port with a group of four specially trained saboteurs who were acting under secret orders of the German High Command. Later, a second German submarine departed from the same port. Both submarines were en route to the United States to place these saboteurs on the shores of this country for the purpose of destroying plants engaged in manufacturing war material, as well as other important industrial facilities which would retard this nation's war production.

On the early morning of June 13, 1942, the first German submarine slowly approached the south shore of Long Island near Amagansett Beach. The submarine came to a stop about 500 yards off shore and a small collapsible boat was rowed through the darkness and fog from the submarine toward the shore bearing the four saboteurs and two sailors from the submarine. After landing the four men on the shore with their equipment, the collapsible rubber boat returned to the submarine.

The four saboteurs left on the beach quickly removed their seamen's clothes and dressed in civilian clothes after which they cached their equipment and their uniforms on the beach. These saboteurs belonged to Group No. 1 and were led by George John Dasch, age 39, a German alien. With him were Ernest Peter Burger, age 35, a German by birth but who became a naturalized American citizen; Heinrich Heinok, age 35, a German alien; and Robert Quirin, age 34, a German alien. Immediately after concealing their equipment, these men proceeded to New York City.

On the night of June 17, 1942, the other German submarine landed the second group of saboteurs on an isolated section of the Florida Coast south of Jacksonville Beach and Ponte Vedra Beach. These saboteurs cached their sabotage equipment on the beach after which they immediately departed from that section of the country. The second group was under the leadership of Edward John Kerling, age 33, a German alien, and he had with him Hermann Neubauer, age 32, a German alien; Werner Thiel, age 35, a German alien; and Herbert Haupt, age 22. Haupt was born in Germany but is a citizen of the United States having derived his citizenship through his father who was naturalized in this country.

The cache of Group No. 1 consisted of a sea bag containing the uniforms worn by the saboteurs while they were on the German submarine, together

with four waterproof cases containing high explosives, disguised bombs, timing mechanisms, detonators and incendiary material. This equipment is of the most modern type and the mechanical devices are of exceptional quality.

On June 20, 1942, Robert Quirin, Heinrich Heinck, and Ernest Peter Burger were apprehended in New York City by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The leader of the group, George John Dasch, was apprehended by Special Agents of the FBI on June 22, 1942, at New York City.

On June 23, 1942, Edward John Kerling, leader of Group No. 2, and Werner Thiel were apprehended in New York City by Agents of the FBI. Herbert Haupt and Hermann Neubauer were apprehended on June 27, 1942, in Chicago, Illinois. The cache of explosives, bombs and other sabotage devices of Group No. 2 have been located in Florida.

At the time the members of Group No. 1 were taken into custody, they had in their possession American money amounting to \$50,806.15. The members of Group No. 2 had \$58,942.61 in American money in their possession, or a total of \$149,748.76 having been obtained from both groups. This money had been furnished to these men for the purpose of carrying out their sabotage activities in the United States.

Interrogation of these men has revealed that they received approximately four weeks' training at a sabotage school operated by the High Command of the German Army. This training consisted of theoretical and practical training with explosives, timing devices, incendiary materials, as well as secret writing and similar subjects. This school is located near Berlin, and part of the training consisted of taking the men through industrial plants, railroad shops, and other facilities in Germany for the purpose of explaining the most efficient places and the manner in which to commit sabotage.

Specific instructions in Germany to destroy the plants of the Aluminum Corporation of America at Alcoa, Tennessee, Massena, New York, and East St. Louis, Illinois; the Cryolite Plant in Philadelphia; and to attack the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and the Pennsylvania Railroad and bridges vital to transportation in the New York area, including the Hell Gate Bridge. They also had plans to destroy the locks on the Ohio River below Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and other inland waterways. Attempts were to be made to create panic and hysteria by placing bombs in locker rooms of large railroad stations and department stores. Consideration had also been given to interference with the water supply of New York City.

PS F Justice

J. Edgar Hoover
F. J. T. J.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Bx 61

July 11, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE

ATTORNEY GENERAL:

Unless the Immigration Service cleans up once and for all the favoritism shown to that Hohenlohe woman, I will have to have an investigation made and the facts will not be very palatable, going all the way back to her first arrest and continuing through her intimacy with Schofield.

I understand she is interned at the Service Station at Gloucester, New Jersey, but that she appears to be receiving special privileges. The same thing is said to be true in the case of her son who is held at Ellis Island.

Honestly, this is getting to be the kind of scandal that calls for very drastic and immediate action.

F.D.R.

Present status of Princess Stefanie von
Hohenlohe Waldenburg and her son Franz Hohenlohe,
as requested by the President.

The Princess is interned at the Immigration
and Naturalization Service Station at Gloucester,
N.J., apparently for the duration, where she
appears to be receiving special privileges. The
son is still held at Ellis Island, pending hearing
by Alien Enemy Hearing Board which will determine
whether he will be detained for the duration.

EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

JUN 19 1942

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED]
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of Justice
Dept. letter 12-13-61
By J Date FEB 29 1972

Dear General Watson:

This will acknowledge the President's memorandum dated June 17, 1942, in which he made inquiry concerning the present status of Princess Stefanie von Hohenlohe Waldenburg and her son, Franz Hohenlohe.

Princess Hohenlohe is presently interned at the Immigration and Naturalization Service Station at Gloucester, New Jersey, and from all appearances will remain there for the duration. She apparently has not been in contact with Major Lemuel B. Schofield of the Immigration and Naturalization Service but it has been reported by a confidential source that she has been allowed certain privileges of the grounds there which are not accorded the other internees. In this regard, it is reported that her mother is allowed to visit with her at any time and during such visits is permitted to converse with the Princess alone. Such activity is said to be contrary to the existing rules of the Service Station where definite visiting hours are in effect and no internees are allowed to converse with outsiders except in the presence of a censor. It was further reported that the Service Station officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service are noticeably friendly toward the Princess. In this regard, it was stated that on one occasion an Inspector was seen to be walking about the grounds with his arm around the Princess conversing with her. Princess Hohenlohe is said to be in good physical condition although in the past she has loudly complained of her health, saying that her internment is further abusing it.

Major General Edwin M. Watson

- 2 -

Franz Hohenlohe, the Princess' son, is still being held at Ellis Island pending a hearing by the Alien Enemy Hearing Board which will determine whether he will be detained for the duration of the war. However, on May 1, 1942, he wrote a letter to his mother, the Princess, from which the following quotation is taken:

"Lemmy found me looking so well when he was here for the week end that he couldn't get over it. We get out into the yard twice a day now. Incidentally, I thought it extremely nice of him to visit me. Of course I had asked him to come; not that I had anything in particular to tell him, but I thought it would be nice to see him again. He told me he was terribly sorry I was in here and how he hoped that I would soon be out. Also that the F.B.I. had not been able to find anything against me, much as they had tried. Then he asked whether I needed anything and whether he could send me something; but Mrs. Park keeps me so well supplied with everything under the sun, from fruit and flowers to stamps and toiletries that there was nothing at the moment I needed."

You may be assured that any further information received concerning this matter which would be of interest to the President and you will be transmitted to you immediately.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

PSF Justice

J. Edgar Hoover Files



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

July 31, 1942

File
Confidential

My dear Mr. President:

Immediately following receipt of your memorandum of July 11, concerning the Princess von Hohenlohe and her son, I sent my Executive Assistant, Mr. Carusi, to Gloucester City, New Jersey, and Ellis Island, to make a thorough inquiry into the situation.

Following an examination of the regulations and records, and after talking at great length with many of the alien detainees as well as the officers and employees of both stations, he reported to me that he found no substantiation of the charge that favoritism was being shown these two persons, and, indeed, that all evidence he could obtain disproved it.

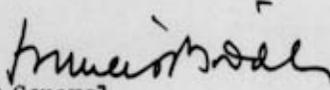
In checking with Director Hoover of the FBI, I learned that the information which he had received from confidential sources indicating favoritism was accepted by him as gossip and rumor not worthy of investigation. He had no corroboration of the statements, nor did he seek any.

Nevertheless, in order that ground for suspicion might be removed, the Princess von Hohenlohe was transferred last week to the internment center at Seagoville, Texas. Earl Harrison, the new Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization is, of course, aware of the reasons for the transfer, and I have every confidence that he will keep a watchful eye on the situation.

The son, Prince Hohenlohe, was apprehended several months ago; the review of his case was expedited, and he has now been interned. From now on he will be in the custody of the War Department.

In my judgment, this is a satisfactory disposition of the matter.

Respectfully yours,


Attorney General

The President

The White House

Mr. President

To take up with
the Attorney General -
G.

Handwritten notes on lined paper:
Mr. C...
Mr. J...
Mr. F...

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

AUG. 8th

MEMO:

GIVE TO THE PRESIDENT WHEN
HE RETURNS FROM SHANGRI-LA.

Current reports on Mrs. Eleanor Hartshorne Richards, the Princess Stefanie von Hohenlohe Waldenburg, and her son, Prince Franz Joseph Rodolf Hans von Hohenlohe Waldenburg - in response to the President's query of July twenty-second.

J. EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

AUG 5 1942

PERSONAL [redacted]
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

file 7218
Personal
confidential

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

J. E. Hoover
Folder
PSF
Justice

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of Justice
Sept. letter 12-13-61
By J Date FEB 29 1972

Dear General Watson:

Reference is made to the memorandum of the President dated July 22, 1942, requesting recent information concerning the activities of Mrs. Eleanor Hartshorne Richards and also any further information concerning Princess Stefanie von Hohenlohe Waldenburg and her son, Franz.

There are transmitted herewith memoranda setting forth additional information received in this regard.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures

AUG 5 1942

MEMORANDUM

RE: MRS. ELEANOR HARTSHORNE RICHARDS

This memorandum reflects information obtained concerning Mrs. Eleanor Hartshorne Richards subsequent to that previously furnished on May 9, 1942.

The chauffeur of Mrs. Richards, Franz Adolph Ludwig Schefe, was taken into custody on March 5, 1942, as a dangerous alien enemy. At that time it was found he had access to a short-wave radio, a 22 caliber Colt Woodsman pistol, a 16 m.m. Eastman movie camera, and a Leica camera, these articles being the property of Mrs. Richards, with whom Schefe lived. On May 28, 1942, Schefe was afforded a hearing before Alien Enemy Hearing Board No. 4, Southern District of New York, which Mrs. Richards attended as Schefe's friend.

Mrs. Richards was enthusiastic in her efforts to have Schefe released, unconditionally or on parole, and stated she was willing to furnish any bond necessary and would do anything she could to obtain the release of this person. The Hearing Board was definitely of the opinion that Mrs. Richards would not be a proper person to sponsor Schefe should he be released on parole. During the hearing afforded Schefe, Mrs. Richards' conduct was such that the Board threatened to remove her from the hearing. She insisted upon answering questions asked Schefe by the United States Attorney and members of the Board before Schefe had an opportunity to answer, insisting that Schefe did not understand the questions. An example of her conduct at this time was indicated by the fact that Schefe himself refuted certain statements made by Mrs. Richards, although the answer given by him was to his detriment.

Information has now been received that Schefe, on July 1, 1942, was ordered paroled by the Attorney General for the duration of the war.

AUG 5 1942

MEMORANDUM

RE: PRINCESS STEFANIE VON HOHENLOHE WALDENBURG

Information contained in this memorandum pertains only to the relationship between Princess Stefanie von Hohenlohe Waldenburg and Major Lemuel B. Schofield, Head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, since her internment.

On December 8, 1941, Princess Hohenlohe was taken into custody by the Immigration and Naturalization Service as an alien enemy at the Hotel Philadelphian, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where she was registered as Mary Reihert. She was given a hearing before the Alien Enemy Control Board, Philadelphia, on December 19, 1941, and on February 13, 1942, the Attorney General ordered her interned for the duration of the war. Since that time she has been detained at the Immigration and Naturalization Station at Gloucester, New Jersey.

Reports have been received from time to time concerning certain privileges which have been granted to the Princess, allegedly in view of her association with Major Lemuel B. Schofield, Head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Shortly before her arrival at the Immigration Station at Gloucester, the Princess complained of illness and was confined to the female dormitory under a doctor's care. Examination indicated she had a tumor. A doctor of the United States Public Health Service, after examination of the Princess, recommended that she receive outside hospitalization. This condition was called to the attention of the office of the United States Attorney at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and subsequent word was received that the Department had ordered Princess Hohenlohe removed to the place of her choice for hospitalization and appropriate safeguard. Princess Hohenlohe requested that she be removed to the Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia.

In this regard it is interesting to note that on February 2, 1942, the Princess wrote her mother, Baroness Maria Szepeasy, a letter in which she issued the following instructions:

"Tell Lempy the name of the hospital is the Jefferson. To speak to the reporters so that they may not molest you no longer. Tell Lempy they came from the paper called the Record. Ask Lempy to communicate with Franzie and Collins and read everything over before it is published. Don't forget that. Should you want anything get first the permission. Ask for it tomorrow. P.S. Tell Lempy I have been told the reason I am here is because I am an alien enemy. By now Hungarians are no longer enemy aliens so why am I here any longer."

The individual referred to as Lempy is believed to be identical with Major Schofield.

On February 20, 1942, the Princess was transferred from the Immigration and Naturalization Station at Gloucester, New Jersey, to the St. Agnes Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for medical attention. She was subsequently returned to the Station.

Information, which has not been confirmed, was received from a confidential source, indicating that Pat McQueen, an investigator in the Special Inspection Unit, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, has on occasion acted as a chauffeur for Baroness Szepeszy, mother of the Princess. It was determined that the Baroness visited Major Schofield's private office in the Morse Building, Philadelphia, several times each week.

Information was received on June 29, 1942, from a confidential source that the Princess is permitted special privileges through her connection with Major Schofield. In this regard, it was stated, she is allowed to leave the internment camp under guard to go to the hairdresser and generally "do the town." The reliability of this source is not known.

Information was also received from a confidential source close to the officials at the Immigration and Naturalization Station at Gloucester that Major Schofield visited the Princess at the Immigration Station on Thursday, July 9, and Sunday, July 12, 1942. On each occasion, it was said, he arrived at the Immigration Station at 9:00 p.m. and stayed until midnight. This same source continued that the Princess does receive more attention and more privileges than the other aliens who are detained at the Immigration Station. For example, it was said that she is allowed more recreation privileges and is generally allowed to do as she wishes.

With regard to Baroness Szepeszy, it is reported that on July 17, 1942, she went to the Immigration Station at 1:10 p.m. and remained there until 4:30 p.m. On Sunday, July 19, 1942, she arrived at the Station at 1:00 p.m. and remained there until 6:30 p.m. She allegedly was reported to be walking on the grounds in company with her daughter. On July 20, 1942, she arrived at the Immigration Station at 1:00 p.m. and did not return to her residence, the Whittier Hotel, 140 North 15th Street, Philadelphia, until 8:00 p.m. On July 22, 1942, she made another visit to the Station, arriving there at 1:00 p.m. and leaving at approximately 5:00 p.m. In connection with these visits, it has been determined that the visiting hours at the Station are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on week days, during which time each internee is allowed twenty-minute visits daily. No internees are allowed to have visitors on Sunday.

It was reported that Princess Szepeszy was transferred from the Immigration and Naturalization Station at Gloucester, New Jersey, to an internment camp located at Santa Fe, Texas, on Wednesday, July 23, 1942.

Information has also been received that Henry Mulle, Immigration Inspector stationed at the Gloucester Station, is in constant contact with the Princess and her mother, Baroness Szepessy. On July 18, 1942, he telephoned the Baroness' hotel, leaving a message that he would interview her on Sunday afternoon, July 19th. At 6:30 p.m. on July 23rd, it is reported that Mulle telephonically advised Mr. R. T. Kelly, clerk at the Hotel Whittier, that the Baroness was at the Immigration Station and would remain there overnight. He asked whether there were any messages for her. Kelly advised that there was one telegram and Mulle instructed him to open it and read it. Kelly did so and read as follows: "Applying for passport. Franzi."

On July 24, 1942, at 10:20 a.m., it was said the Baroness left the Whittier Hotel with a suitcase or overnight bag, advising hotel clerk F. J. Kuhn that she was going to the Immigration and Naturalization Station at Gloucester to visit her daughter and would remain there over the weekend, in view of the fact that her daughter was ill.

It was the opinion of a confidential informant, who is close to the authorities at the Immigration Station at Gloucester and who is in a position to know, that the Princess is presently in good physical condition. This informant stated, however, that the Princess continually pretends to be ill and to have fainting spells. These spells occur only when the Princess is taken out of the barrier to the visitor's room or when any persons, preferably men, are present to offer her sympathy. It was said that inasmuch as the matrons in charge of the women's section of the Station do not cater to the Princess, she does not indulge in these fainting spells in her quarters.

This same source continued that when Dr. Harold S. Rambo, United States Public Health Service, with offices at 5918 Wayne Avenue, Germantown, Philadelphia, comes to visit the Princess, she pretends illness and goes to bed. Immediately upon his departure, she arises and resumes her usual habits.

This source stated that on July 22, 1942, when the Baroness came to visit the Princess, the latter had a fainting spell and her mother was called in to sit with her for a few minutes. Later the Princess was taken back to the women's detention floor and placed in bed. During that afternoon she was discovered taking sleeping pills which she had obtained from her handbag. The informant said that under no circumstances was the Princess allowed to have sleeping pills, and evidently they had been smuggled in to her. The informant added that this information should not be construed to indicate that the Princess was taking an overdose of these pills or any other sedative, but that it showed she was receiving articles prohibited to the other internees.

Information has been received that Princess Hohenlohe was transferred from the Immigration and Naturalization Station at Gloucester, New Jersey, to an internment camp located at Sabo, Texas, on Saturday, July 25, 1942.

AUG 5 1942

MEMORANDUM

RE: PRINCE FRANZ JOSEPH RODOLF HANS
VON HOHENLOHE WALDENBURG

Prince Hohenlohe was taken into custody on February 16, 1942. He was held at Ellis Island, New York, until July 10, 1942, when he was given a hearing before the Alien Enemy Control Board, New York City. That Board recommended to the Attorney General that the Prince be interned for the duration of the war. A decision has not been received from the Attorney General's Office as yet confirming the decision of the Alien Enemy Control Board in this regard.

It is interesting to note that on May 1, 1942, he wrote a letter to his mother, Princess Stefania von Hohenlohe Waldenburg, who has been ordered interned for the duration and is presently being detained at the Immigration and Naturalization Service Station, Gloucester, New Jersey, from which the following quotation is taken:

"Lemmy found me looking so well when he was here for the week and that he couldn't get over it. We get out into the yard twice a day now. Incidentally, I thought it extremely nice of him to visit me. Of course, I have asked him to come; not that I had anything in particular to tell him, but I thought it would be nice to see him again. He told me he was terribly sorry I was in here and how he hoped I would soon be out. Also that the FBI had not been able to find anything against me much as they had tried. Then he asked whether I needed anything and whether he could send me something; but Mrs. Park keeps me so well supplied with everything under the sun, from fruit and flowers to stamps and toiletries, that there was nothing at the moment I needed."

The individual referred to as "Lemmy" in the letter is believed to be identical with Major Lemuel B. Schofield, head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



PSF: J. Edgar Hoover folder
Justice 2-42 2267

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

October 28, 1942

PERSONAL ATTENTION
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER.

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear General:

Last Friday when the President sent for me, he requested me to make an investigation of a report which he had received concerning an incident which occurred in the vicinity of Perona Lake in Sussex County, New Jersey. I immediately had one of my principal assistants at Washington proceed to New Jersey and make a thorough investigation of the area in which the incident occurred.

The result of the investigation is as follows:

It seems that a Mrs. Winthrop Rutherford, who resides near Allamuchy, New Jersey, while driving with her chauffeur, was stopped on the private road leading to the John Perona home. Mrs. Rutherford is a relative of Mr. Allen Stuyvesant of New York City, with whom I believe the President is acquainted, and to whom Mrs. Rutherford related the incident.

The original report was to the effect that an unnamed individual had been driving along a highway leading from Andover, New Jersey, to Sparta, New Jersey, and had turned to the left of this highway on a dirt road immediately east of Perona Lake, had driven along this dirt road for a short distance, and had then turned again to the left on another dirt road. It was reported that after making the last turn and driving a short distance, the driver was stopped by some foreign appearing individuals and told that he could proceed no further on this road. When he endeavored to turn his automobile around, he was then told by the foreign appearing individuals that he should not endeavor to turn his automobile,

but should back it down the road to the intersection with the road from which he had last turned. This individual also reported that he observed what appeared to be construction work going on at the point where he was stopped.

On the basis of the information furnished, the confidential survey which I had made in the vicinity in question disclosed that there was a dirt road leading from the main highway at a point just east of Perona Lake. This dirt road leads from the highway to Clearwater Lake, at which point the German-American Bund Camp Nordlund was formerly located. This camp has been closed and is not being used at the present time. There was also located a second dirt road leading from the one just mentioned, to a residence on the shore of Lake Perona. There were indications that some repair work had been done on the last mentioned road and it appeared that a culvert had been placed under the road. In this connection it was noted that immediately to the left of the road was a plot of ground which had recently been seeded with rye. This ground was extremely wet and the indications were that the culvert had been placed under the road to drain this area. A stone foundation was also observed in the same vicinity. An examination of this foundation disclosed that it had been constructed sometime previously and was not used, and was grown over with vegetation.

Contact was had by my representative with Mr. Joseph Ayres, a member of the State Game and Fish Board, who resides at Andover, New Jersey. Mr. Ayres upon being interviewed, stated that he believed he knew the nature of the inquiry and the basis for it, which we were making. He stated that during the latter part of September or the first week of October, a Mrs. Winthrop Rutherford, who resides on her estate near Allamuchy, New Jersey, had been driving with her chauffeur in the vicinity and had turned into the private road above referred to. He stated that Mrs. Rutherford and her chauffeur were stopped and requested to go no further on this road, but to return to the road from which they had entered the private road. Mr. Ayres stated he had received this information from Mr. Arthur Danks, who is superintendent of Mrs. Rutherford's estate, and who contacted Ayres on the morning after this incident had occurred, informing him that Mrs. Rutherford had been

stopped by "an Italian fellow" who refused to permit her to continue on the road, and had been most discourteous. Danks expressed the opinion to Ayres that there was possibly some suspicious activity in the vicinity as there appeared to be some construction going on and the person who had stopped Mrs. Rutherford was possibly apprehensive that she would observe the nature of this construction.

Ayres, who is in the building supplies business, advised that he had sold twenty-three feet of ten-inch galvanized pipe such as is used to construct culverts to Mr. John Perona on September 23, 1942, and produced a copy of his bill to Mr. Perona confirming this sale. He said that Mr. Perona had advised him that this pipe was to be used in installing a drain across his private road on his estate. Mr. Ayres expressed the opinion that this was possibly the type of construction referred to, and also advised that the Peronas had lived in the vicinity for over twenty-five years, and to his knowledge were loyal Americans. Mr. Ayres further stated that the help employed by Mr. Perona was of Italian descent, and that this probably accounted for Mrs. Rutherford having been stopped by "an Italian fellow."

After receiving the above information from Mr. Ayres, my representative made a further visit to the vicinity in which the incident occurred, and found that there had been no construction work such as the building of any foundation for a house, but that the only work which had been performed was the construction of the culvert across the private road. Inquiry further disclosed that the ground near this private road had been very wet and swampy for sometime and that the culvert had been installed to drain this ground.

In conversation with Alberto Ariotti, who is the caretaker for the Perona estate, and under whose supervision the construction work was performed, it was learned that for a period of two or three days the road was impassable inasmuch as the ditch had been dug across it for the installation of the culvert and that it had been necessary to use a different road in driving to and from the Perona residence. It was further learned that the stone foundation which I referred to

earlier in this letter had been constructed many years ago by Perona's father, who had originally intended building a house on the foundation, but had never consummated his plans. This foundation has been unused for many years and is overgrown, as indicated, with vegetation. Ariotti further advised that he recalled that they had stopped one automobile driven by a chauffeur at the point where the culvert was being constructed and had requested the driver to return to the road adjoining the driveway. Ariotti can understand little English, and it is extremely difficult to converse with him in the English language so that one would very definitely gain the impression that he was a foreigner.

I am transmitting with this letter a diagram showing the location of the Perona home and the various features of the terrain mentioned in this memorandum. I am transmitting herewith also the copy of the map which the President handed to me.

No contact was made with Mrs. Rutherford because her name was not given to me by the President and I gathered that it was not desired that it become known who may possibly have been the original informant in this matter. It is entirely possible that the President may wish to advise his original source of information of the facts as set forth in this letter.

I would appreciate your bringing the contents of this communication to the President's attention so that he will know of the final disposition which I have made of this investigation.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Inclosures

(316)

hm

PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover folder
2-42

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 11, 1942

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. J. EDGAR HOOVER

The President directs me to send you the enclosed. He forgot to give it to you yesterday.

GRACE G. TULLY
Private Secretary

Enclosure

Let to Mrs. Roosevelt from Josephine Truslow Adams, c/o Brenner 2090 Morris Avenue, NYC 12/4/42 re the "letter I am sending you concerning Peglers dealing with the Nazis was sent me by Robert Heinemann, one of my Swarthmore Students".

DECLASSIFIED
By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 24 1972

PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover
folder

RESPECTFULLY FORWARDED TO THE PRESIDENT:

C.M.W.
C.M.W.

(re Mrs. Winthrop Rutherford's suspicions of John Perona
estate, near Camp Nordland, a German-American Bund
Camp. Further report later after investigation is made
of Perona home and vicinity.)

EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

DEC 28 1942

PERSONAL ATTENTION
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

PSF: J. Edgar Hoover folder
7-42

*File
Perona*

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

On October 28, 1942, you will recall that I advised you by letter of the results of an investigation of an incident which occurred in the vicinity of Perona Lake in Sussex County, New Jersey, which investigation was made at the request of the President.

At that time, the investigation revealed that the original informant in the matter was a Mrs. Winthrop Rutherford, who had been stopped from proceeding on a private road on the grounds of John Perona's home and because of the actions of the Perona employees, Mrs. Rutherford apparently made a report to the effect that she believed there were un-American activities in the vicinity of the Perona estate.

On December 10, 1942, the President called me to the White House and advised me that he had learned that Mrs. Winthrop Rutherford had advised that the information which I furnished by my letter was inaccurate. He, accordingly, requested that Mrs. Rutherford be interviewed at her home in Aiken, South Carolina, and further requested that additional investigation be made in the vicinity of the Perona home in New Jersey. In accordance with the President's instructions I sent an official of this Bureau to Aiken, South Carolina, to interview Mrs. Rutherford and secure her views about this matter.

Mrs. Rutherford stated that some time before the last of September, this year, she was driving on the road from Andover to Sparta and had in the car with her, her invalid husband, her son, her daughter, and her husband's nurse. They noticed Perona Lake and for the purpose of getting a better view of it, turned left on a dirt road near a large eating establishment known as Perona Farms. After proceeding up this dirt road for a short distance, she again turned left on a dirt road which later turned out to be a private road to the Perona estate, but which was not marked as such. She proceeded up this road to a large paved parking area which is around the

Major General Edwin M. Watson

Page 2

Perona home and as she neared the home, an Italian-appearing individual rather rudely stopped her and tried to make her back out of the road. She stated that at the time this individual approached, she was already attempting to turn around inasmuch as a large pile of sand on the road in front of the Perona home would have prevented travel on the road beyond the house. Mrs. Rutherford then turned around and left by the way she had entered.

She stated that while she was stopping and turning, she noticed a man standing in front of an automobile near where her car passed, and stated he was very German looking and eyed her in a very suspicious manner.

Mrs. Rutherford felt that because the actions of these two individuals were so suspicious there was something illegal or un-American going on at the Perona home, or else these men would not have been so suspicious of her presence there. Mrs. Rutherford felt that this was a particularly serious matter because of the proximity of Perona's home to the former site of Camp Nordland, a German-American Bund Camp.

Mrs. Rutherford also stated that the original report she had made of this matter had apparently become garbled when it was transmitted by her caretaker, Arthur Danks, to Joseph Ayres, who is the mayor of Andover, New Jersey, and a contractor who has done considerable business with Perona.

In accordance with the President's instructions, the Newark Office of this Bureau has been instructed to cause a thorough undercover investigation to be made in the vicinity of the Perona home. The results of this investigation will be made known to you for transmission to the President as soon as it is possible to get a clear picture of the situation there.

I would appreciate your bringing this matter to the President's attention so that he may know the developments in this investigation to date.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

71692

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

PERSONAL ATTENTION
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

(788)

hm

PSF Justice J. Edgar Hoover folder
2-43

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 18, 1943.

~~_____~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. J. EDGAR HOOVER

Will you speak to me about
this?

F.D.R.

Vanderbilt

Letter from "Neil", Major, A U S, Walter Reed
General Hospital, Army Medical Center, Washington,
D.C., 3/14/43, to Mrs. Roosevelt, in re Gullion plot,
and asks if he is to be Court-martialed.

DECLASSIFIED

By Deputy Archivist of the U.S.

By W. J. Stewart Date FEB 29 1972

(1717)

hms

PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover
J. Edgar Hoover
2-43

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 7, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. J. EDGAR HOOVER

Will you be good enough to
look into this?

F. D. R.

Memorandum on which is penciled notation "To Grace Tully from Winchell", calling attention to a meeting held in the Engineer bldg., at which Dr. Hagge, former president of the Executives Club and the former secretary of the Furniture Manufacturers Assn., was the chief speaker. The meeting was attended by 300 persons. Dr. Hagge said that nationalism must win over internationalism. He attacked Great Britain, China and the Free French.

PSF: Justice 9. Segar Hoover folder 2-13

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 21, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR GRACE TULLY:

I don't think there is any
necessity of showing this to the Boss
and suggest you just file it.

MEM

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

SEP 17 1943

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Marvin H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Marvin:

There is being transmitted herewith a memorandum prepared relating to the activities of the United Americans of Italian Origin for United Nations Victory, which I believe will be of interest to the President and you, in view of the information that this organization sponsored a rally held at New York City on the evening of September 9, 1943, which was said to be entirely sponsored and arranged for by the Communist Party, U.S.A.

Should additional information concerning this matter be received by this Bureau it will, of course, be made available to you.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Edgar Hoover", is written below the typed name.

Attachment

THE UNITED AMERICANS OF ITALIAN ORIGIN
FOR UNITED NATIONS VICTORY

On the evening, September 9, 1943, a rally was sponsored at Madison Square Garden, New York City, by the above-captioned organization. This rally, together with Italy's unconditional surrender and capitulation, has caused considerable comment among functionaries of the Communist Party, U.S.A., in the New York area. A report on the rally and background of the sponsoring organization, together with the comments made, are furnished herewith.

The United Americans of Italian Origin for United Nations Victory originated on the night of August 4, 1943, at a conference held at the Hotel Roosevelt, New York, New York. The sponsors of this movement were said to be Assemblymen John J. Lamula, Hamlet O. Catenaccio, Frank Rossetti; State Senator of New York Richard A. DiConstanzo, and Councilman Peter V. Cacchione of New York City.

On August 9, 1943, an article appeared on Page 3 of the Daily Worker entitled "Italo-Americans Push Garden Rally." The article reflected that Congressman Vito Marcantonio had been elected temporary chairman of the United Americans of Italian Origin for United Nations Victory and that on the Committee's initial meeting which was held August 4, 1943, the organization adopted a five-point program and perfected plans for a United rally at Madison Square Garden on the evening of September 9, 1943.

The article reported the five-point program adopted by the organization as follows:

- "1. Unconditional surrender to the United Nations to free Italy from Nazi domination.
- "2. Full punishment for Mussolini and his Fascist gang.
- "3. Complete abolition of all traces of Fascism.
- "4. Free choice by the Italian people themselves of a government based on the democratic principles of liberty and equality.
- "5. A comprehensive program for the release and rehabilitation of the liberated areas of Italy."

On September 8, 1943, an editorial appeared on Page 1 of the Daily Worker which is quoted as follows:

"The Madison Square Garden rally tomorrow will serve to unite Italian-Americans. It will express full support to the nation's Commander in Chief and his war program. It should also give whole-hearted backing to the anti-Fascist front of the Italian people fighting for the same goal and against the same foe.

"Since that foe is Nazi Germany, the Garden rally should urge the immediate invasion of the European continent from the west as the best guarantee for a swift and decisive victory over the Nazis.

"More than any other factor, it is the Soviet people who, by their magnificent victories against the Nazi armies, made possible the ousting of Mussolini, the emergency into the opening of the Italian anti-Fascist front, and the success of the Allied invasion.

"While the meeting is sponsored by a group of patriotic Italian-Americans from various walks of life, it is clearly an event that will express the aspirations of all Italian-American patriots, irrespective of whether they are in any way represented on the Organizing Committee. It should receive the support of all such Italian-Americans.

"Make tomorrow's Garden meeting a ringing demonstration of the solidarity of the people of America with the oppressed people of Italy."

On September 8, 1943, another article appeared on Page 1 of the Daily Worker entitled "Toscanini, Ida Lupino Back Italian Meeting." The article reflected that Ida Lupino, the movie actress, had written to Congressman Vito Marcantonio stating she wanted to join the United Americans of Italian Origin, as did Arturo Toscanini, conductor of the NBC Symphony Orchestra. This article further reflected that the speakers at the rally would be Representative Vito Marcantonio; Joseph Salerno, President of the Massachusetts C.I.O.; Magistrate Nicholas H. Pinto; Assemblyman Hamlet O. Catenaccio; Arduilio Susi, President of Local 98, Cooks' Local, A.F.L.; Assemblyman John J. Lamula; Assemblyman Frank Rossetti; State Senator Richard DiConstanzo; Justice Rocco A. Parella; City Councilman Peter V. Cacchione; Assemblyman S. Robert Molinari; and Rocco Franceschini, Secretary-Treasurer of the Show Workers' Council, C.I.O.

After the announcement of Italy's capitulation and unconditional surrender, the Daily Worker announced on September 9, 1943, that Mayor LaGuardia of New York City would also address the rally.

The following comments obtained through highly confidential and reliable sources were made previous to the holding of the rally by functionaries of the Communist Party in the New York area relative to the surrender of Italy and as

to plans concerning the rally held in Madison Square Garden on September 9, 1943.

Rose Wortis, a member of the National Committee and also of the Industrial Section of the State of New York Communist Party, U.S.A., advised Gil Green, member of the National and Political Committee and also Secretary of the New York State Communist Party, that "she had met with all Section organizers and they are already having separate meetings. All leaflets are to be changed." (This conversation took place on the evening of September 8, 1943, when Italy's surrender had been announced.)

Rose Wortis advised Gil Green that "They (Italy) surrendered just to help fill the Madison Square Garden for the rally." Gil Green was reported as stating "The meeting must be turned into a victory demonstration." Gil Green advised Joseph Roberts, a member of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party, "to get the union leaders to talk up tonight's meeting." Rose Wortis advised one Martin Young "to send a wire to President Roosevelt and to General Eisenhower congratulating them on the Italian victory." Rose Wortis advised Shirley Rappaport of the Furriers Union "that the rally takes on a new aspect and Shirley should tell her bosses to go to town today to get out a leaflet; that all of the unions are getting out leaflets. They should cover all of the shops and do everything that they humanly can." Gil Green advised Michael Garramone, Executive Secretary of the United Americans of Italian Origin for United Nations Victory, "that this will be a break for a tremendous victory rally." Bill Lawrence was reported to have talked to Garramone relative to the text of the leaflet to be published. It was reported this leaflet was entitled "Italy's Surrender Assures Place for Italian People. The Italian People Want A Free Democratic Government Of Their Own Choosing." The conversation between Green and Garramone also made known that 6,000 tickets to the rally this evening had been paid for, and it was expected 50,000 would be ultimately in attendance.

Since the rally, information has been received reflecting that the speakers of the rally were Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia; Congressman Vito Marcantonio; Joseph Salerno, President of the Massachusetts C.I.O.; Magistrate Nicholas H. Pinto; New York State Assemblymen Hamlet O. Catenaccio, John J. Lamula, S. Robert Molinari; New York State Senator Richard DiConstanzo; Arduilio Susi, President of Local 89, Hotel and Restaurant Employees A.F.L. and Bella Dodd of the New York Teachers Union. Messages of greeting were also read at the rally which were received from Arthur Osman, President of Local 65, United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employees, C.I.O.; Esther Adler of the United Office and Professional Workers of America, C.I.O.; Peter V. Cacchione and the Italian newspaper "L'Unita del Popolo." The rally was said to be presided over by Dr. Leonard Covello, the Principal of the Benjamin Franklin High School in New York City.

Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, in his speech, stressed chiefly the purchase of War Bonds and the unity of the Italian people.

Councilman Peter V. Cacchione, who is a member of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party, U.S.A. and Councilman at Brooklyn, New York, in his message, asked for the immediate opening of a second front in Europe.

In speeches delivered by Bella Dodd, who is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, a reported Communist front organization; Joseph Salerno, President of the State of Massachusetts, C.I.O. and Congressman Vito Marcantonio, they demanded a second front be immediately established. The confidential source also reported that in addition to the theme of Salerno's speech, he also made the statement that "The King and present government of Italy should be ousted and the Italian people allowed to choose their own government."

It was reported that a resolution was unanimously passed at the rally which was directed to President Roosevelt pledging support of the Italian people in the war effort, and further stressing that "now is the time to open a second front in Western Europe."

As reported, contributions were received by Bella Dodd, which were to be used for the publication and distribution of leaflets among the six million Italian people in the United States to educate them against Fascism. It was reported that the Furriers Joint Council made a contribution in the sum of \$200.00.

The confidential source reported that during the rally when flags of China, England, the Soviet Union and the United States were presented, the applause for the flag of the Soviet Union was the greatest. The source likewise advised that great applause was given to the Garibaldi hymn and at every mention of the Soviet Union.

In addition other confidential sources have advised that the rally in its entirety was sponsored and arranged by the Communist Party, U.S.A.

PSF: J. Edgar Hoover *file*
2-43

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

9-29-43

GENERAL WATSON:

In March, at request of the President, the FBI sent thru Secy McIntyre a report on the activities of Gerald L. K. Smith of Detroit. Attached is latest information on the subject:

1. Smith says Sen. Robt. Reynolds invited him to Washington shortly after race riot in Detroit and that they conferred on various national matters, including the race riot.
2. Smith also arranging for Sen. Gerald Nye to speak before several "nationalist" groups in the mid-West. Sen. Nye is said to have accepted. Smith has also conferred with Mr. Ford and Mr. Bennett who handle campaign donations at Ford Motor Co., and that they will support Sen. Nye.
3. Walter Winchell during recent broadcast said Smith defiled the American Flag while making speech in Buffalo. Smith told Sen. Reynolds he was going to sue radio station.
4. Smith says real name of David K. Niles is David Neyhus and that some years ago Mr. Niles served time in prison for a "low-down sex crime".

The Criminal Division, Justice Dept., says Smith's activities do not yet warrant his arrest.

Respectfully forwarded to the President:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E.M.W.', written in dark ink.

E.M.W.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

September 28 1943

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Major General Edwin H. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Watson:

On March 31, 1943, in answer to a request received from the President, I furnished a memorandum to Mr. Harvin H. McIntyre setting forth in summary form information concerning this Bureau's investigation of Gerald L. K. Smith of Detroit, Michigan.

This investigation is continuing and in recent weeks certain data emanating from confidential sources of information has been received pertaining to Smith's contacts with various persons at Washington, D. C. I thought the President would be interested in the substance of this information and, accordingly, I am transmitting with this letter a memorandum embodying the pertinent data.

For your further information, the facts developed in connection with this case are being referred to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice, but to date the Criminal Division has not indicated that Smith's activities are sufficient to warrant any prosecutive action.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

September 18, 1943

GERALD L. K. SMITH

The following information concerning Gerald L. K. Smith's reported contacts with certain parties at Washington, D. C., has recently been received:

Several weeks ago, Smith allegedly wrote Senator Robert Reynolds, and in referring to the Detroit race riot, stated that a Reverend Claude Williams, said by Smith to have the backing of the Communist Party, had endeavored to lay the blame for the riot on Smith. In his letter, Smith reportedly requested Senator Reynolds to secure a Dies Committee report concerning the alleged Communist activities of Williams, and according to one source of information, some time later Senator Reynolds, in reply, furnished Smith a copy of a memorandum which purported to be a Dies Committee report prepared concerning Williams.

In this connection, it is further said that Smith asserts that his trip to Washington shortly after the race riot was the result of a telegram he received from Senator Reynolds inviting him to come to Washington. It is known that Smith did make a trip to Washington at about that time, and according to report, Smith states that while in Washington he conferred at length with Senator Reynolds concerning various national matters, including the race riot, its causes, etc.

It is reported that Smith is quite incensed with the book "Under Cover" written by one John Roy Carlson and currently rated as a best seller in some American cities. It is reported that Smith, in communicating with Senator Wheeler, has referred to the book as evidence of a "conspiracy" between the Communist Party, Anti-Defamation League, the newspaper PM, and Mr. Walter Winchell, and has specifically recommended that Congress take steps to curb the publication. In this same connection, Smith has allegedly communicated with Congressman Martin Dies and Senator Reynolds, making similar allegations and recommendations. According to one source of information, Senator Reynolds, in answering Smith's request, indicated he intends to investigate the book and its sponsorship.

During recent weeks, Smith has also allegedly been in rather close contact with Senator Gerald Nye in connection with attempting to arrange for Nye's appearance as a speaker before several "nationalist" groups in the Midwest. It is said that Nye accepted several of these invitations and, on one occasion, in instructing Smith as to how to contact him, requested Smith to use the name "Walker." On another occasion, Smith allegedly reported to Senator Nye that he had had a recent conference with Mr. Ford and Mr. Bennett, who handle campaign donations at the Ford Motor Company, and that these two individuals had evidenced a desire to support Senator Nye.

On several occasions lately, Smith has expressed an intention of suing Mr. Walter Winchell for slander in connection with Winchell's assertion during a recent radio broadcast that Smith, while making a public address at Buffalo, New York, some time ago, defiled the American flag. Mr. Winchell reportedly remarked that on this occasion the flag defiled by Smith was a replica of the flag of Saint George once used by George Washington at the time of the Revolution. Smith, however, claims that the flag was not the flag of Saint George but was a proposed flag which has been advocated by certain persons sponsoring the idea of "union now" or "world government." In this regard, Smith has allegedly advised Senator Reynolds he intends to institute suit against a local Detroit radio station carrying Winchell's address for damages in the amount of \$100,000.

Information has also been received that Smith has made several remarks derogatory of Mr. David K. Niles and recently informed Senator Reynolds that there is positive evidence that Mr. Niles' name is David Neyhus, and that some years ago Mr. Niles was arrested and served time in prison for a "low-down sex crime."

(846)

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5286

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 25, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

J. EDGAR HOOVER

x10-B

Is anything being done
about this? Please return for my
files.

F.D.R.

Copy of "The Hour", Number 151-2, dated March 19,
1943, the editor of which is Albert E. Kahn,
51 East 42nd St., NYC, in re "The Case of *x*
Gerald L. K. Smith", a notorious anti-democratic
rabble-rouser in the City of Detroit, who is
making a major contribution to the casue of the
axis. Mr. Smith is the editor and the publisher
of a magazine called "The Cross and the Flag".

x

Note: Report from J. Edgar Hoover on above mentioned
Mr. Smith, dated 3/31/43, is filed in safe.

x1661-A (F.B.I)# 2323.

x1661

Mr. English
Here it

is -

For

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

MAR 31 1943

file

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Marvin H. McIntyre
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Marvin:

Recently the President referred to me a copy of the March 19, 1943, issue of "The Hour" which is devoted primarily to a discussion of the activities of Gerald L. K. Smith, of Detroit, Michigan.

In reply to the President's inquiry as to what action is being taken in regard to Smith's activities, I wish to advise that this individual has been under careful investigation by this Bureau for more than a year. All of his pertinent activities, including his public speeches and publications, have been closely followed and all information developed has been referred to The Assistant to the Attorney General. He has stated that Smith's activities to date do not appear to warrant prosecution, but has requested that the investigation be continued under the theory of the Sedition Statutes. The Assistant to the Attorney General has also requested that inquiries be made to determine whether Smith violated any of the provisions of the Federal Corrupt Practices Act in connection with his candidacy for the United States Senate last year. The additional investigation requested is presently under way and the information developed will be appropriately referred to The Assistant to the Attorney General.

For your more complete information there is attached a memorandum setting forth a summary of detailed information as to Smith's background and activities and as to the results of the investigation conducted to date.

Pursuant to the President's request the issue of "The Hour" referred to me is returned herewith.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Attachment

2323

memo filed x 5286

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(846)
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 25, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR

J. EDGAR HOOVER

Is anything being done
about this? Please return for my
files.

F.D.R.

Copy of "The Hour", Number 151-2, dated March 19,
1943, the editor of which is Albert E. Kahn,
51 East 42nd St., NYC, in re "The Case of
Gerald L. K. Smith", a notorious anti-democratic
rabble-rouser in the City of Detroit, who is
making a major contribution to the cause of the
Axis. Mr. Smith is the editor and the publisher
of a magazine called "The Cross and the Flag".

Original of this memo. is filed 5286.

MAR 31 1948

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 Pardeeville, Wisconsin. He attended Butler Seminary at Indianapolis, Indiana, and later was graduated from Valparaiso University (Indiana) where he pursued a course in theology. Smith's antecedents and early life were in no way unusual and are of no particular interest.

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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 WJR 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 a real organization than "The Committee of One Million" and was conceived and used by Smith merely for the purpose of collecting additional money from persons on his mailing list.

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

election received approximately 120,000 votes. Although this was not sufficient for nomination, political observers were of the opinion that Smith had made an unusually good showing. Even after this defeat, Smith continued his candidacy in the general election in November, 1942, when he projected himself as a write-in candidate. He was badly defeated in the general election, his following being less than 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.



The Hour

NUMBER 151-2

MARCH 19, 1943

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NOTE: *The Hour* is a confidential bulletin, published fortnightly by The Hour Publishing Co., Inc. The price of subscription is \$5.00 per annum, \$3.00 for six months.

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Number 151-2

March 19, 1943

THE CASE OF GERALD L. K. SMITH

In the city of Detroit, where tens of thousands of war workers are making a major contribution to the cause of the United Nations, a notorious anti-democratic rabble-rouser is making a major contribution to the cause of the Axis. His name is Gerald L.K. Smith. His speciality is distributing defeatist and disruptive propaganda. His Detroit headquarters have become a national center of fifth column intrigue, menacing the war effort of the United States.

Gerald L. K. Smith is the editor and the publisher of a magazine called The Cross and the Flag. Eight months ago a Federal indictment listed this magazine as an agency which had been used in a conspiracy to sabotage the morale of American soldiers and sailors. The Cross and the Flag is still being published in Detroit. Each month a new issue carries Smith's virulent propaganda to Americans in every part of the country.

Gerald L. K. Smith is head of an organization known as the Committee of One Million. This organization has all the characteristic earmarks of a fascist party. It is now being used for the purpose of reviving the America First movement, with the object of launching a new nation-wide appeasement campaign.

Gerald L. K. Smith is the man who once proudly reported to America's would-be Hitler, William Dudley Pelley:

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

William Dudley Pelley, who was then Fuehrer of the pro-Nazi terrorist Silver Shirts, is now in jail, where he belongs. Gerald L. K. Smith, who was then Silver Shirter No. 3223 and Pelley's most trusted aide, is now very much at large, carrying on his old work in a new and far more deadly way.

(MORE)

Past Record

The burly, smooth-shaven, rabble-rousing Smith, who was once a small-town preacher in Indiana, has come a long way since the days when he was a mere organizer of Silver Shirt stormtroop squads. After he and Pelley separated in the early 1930's, Smith moved steadily upward in reactionary and fascist circles. He served for a while as a lieutenant to the late Huey Long, and shortly after the death of the Dictator of Louisiana, he joined forces with Father Charles E. Coughlin. Together Smith and Coughlin organized support for the presidential candidacy of Representative William Lemke in 1936; and it was then that the intimate personal and political relationship, which has lasted until this day, first developed between Smith and the pro-Axis priest of Royal Oak.

Early in 1937 Smith founded the Committee of One Million (which at first had the somewhat less imposing title of Committee of Ten Thousand). From the beginning the organization had an obviously fascist character. Membership was secret. Cells were organized on a nationwide scale, the smallest having ten members and a "Leader." Smith's title was National Leader. For many months he stumped the countryside, endeavoring to build a mass following among the discontented and the insecure. His speeches were rabidly anti-Administration and anti-labor. Tirelessly stressing the favorite Axis theme of the "Bolshevik menace," he pictured the United States Government as overrun by Communists, the labor unions as Moscow-controlled, and himself as the great potential savior of private enterprise and the American way of life.

During the early days of the Committee of One Million, Smith was less cautious in his public utterances than he is today. After one of his speeches, the Cleveland News remarked that "Smith smells of Fascist KuKluxers a block away." Another newspaper had this to report about Smith's activities in the summer of 1938:

"In his recent speedy tour of Ohio, Rev. Smith has spoken in both urban and rural communities. In the urban communities he has made no reference to racial groups, but in the rural communities he has decried the sinister influence of Jews and Catholics."

Work in Detroit

In January, 1939, Smith set up headquarters for the Committee of One Million in Detroit. His talents as a reactionary rabble-rouser were put to quick and profitable use in the city where the murderous Black Legion had been spawned. He was soon giving a series of anti-Administration, labor-baiting broadcasts from WJR, Detroit's largest

and most expensive radio station. The name of his sponsor was never made public, but it was fairly common knowledge that a close working relationship had been established between Smith and a prominent automobile manufacturer, well-known for his extremely anti-democratic views.

When the America First Committee was formed late in 1940, and fifth columnists flocked into this organization, it was inevitable that Gerald L. K. Smith should attach himself to the Wheeler-Lindbergh movement. Although he was never an official member of the Committee, he became one of its leading organizers and spokesmen. He helped arrange the largest America First rallies in Detroit, and energetically distributed vast quantities of the Committee's propaganda. He could justly have claimed the title of America First Gauleiter of Michigan.

In the spring of 1941, when America Firsters were making a furious effort to obstruct defense legislation, Smith went to Washington to testify against the Lend-Lease Bill at a hearing held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Subsequently his arguments against sending aid to Great Britain and the Soviet Union were widely publicized in fifth column circles.

The Inner Circle and Congressional Friends

Immediately after the United States entered the war, Smith formed a secret society called The Inner Circle. Its headquarters were in Detroit. We exposed the existence of this cabal in the February 21, 1942 issue of The Hour, reporting that its purpose was to serve as a brain trust for reactionary, appeasement forces in the United States. One of the first projects of The Inner Circle was The Cross and the Flag, a monthly magazine filled with propaganda assailing the United States war effort and harshly criticizing America's allies. The first issue of the publication appeared, by what seemed scarcely coincidence, in the very same month that Father Coughlin's Social Justice was banned from the U.S. mails because of its seditious content.

Before the second issue of The Cross and the Flag had been published, The Hour revealed that certain die-hard isolationist Congressmen who had previously worked with the America First Committee were helping promote the circulation of Smith's defeatist magazine (see The Hour for April 19, 1942). We named Senator Robert R. Reynolds, Senator Gerald P. Nye and Representative Roy Woodruff as Smith's most enthusiastic Congressional supporters.

On July 23, 1942, a Federal Grand Jury in Washington, D.C., handed down an indictment naming The Cross and the Flag as one of several agencies which had been used in a conspiracy to sabotage the morale of the United States armed forces. Nevertheless, Smith has continued to publish the magazine, featuring flagrantly disruptive and defeatist propaganda in every issue. Here are the titles of typical articles appearing in The Cross and the Flag: "Union With Britain -- International conspirators seek to destroy America's sovereignty in the name of wartime emergency and peacetime chaos"; "Will Refugees Take the Jobs Left Vacant by Soldiers?"; "Is President Roosevelt Being Used by the

Red Smear Artists?"; "Sir Stafford Cripps -- Whose Man is he? Churchill's or Stalin's?" Commenting on the war, the magazine rumors that "much bad news is being kept from us because it is feared it would break the morale of the people." The United States is described as being "overrun with brain trusters, intellectuals, ... war mongers, politicians, international financiers, pressure groups, special interests." We do not know what sort of victory we are fighting for, writes Smith, although "we are to exhaust our financial and physical resources ... to fill rivers with blood and oceans with ships, and battlefields with the dead and dying."

Need for Government Action Against Smith

Smith's latest undertaking is the reorganization of the America First movement, which Dr. Joseph Paul Goebbels once praised as "truly American and truly patriotic!" In January of this year Smith formed the America First Party, with himself as National Chairman. He claims that his Party has no connection with the former America First Committee. It is clear, however, that the fundamental purpose of the new organization is to resurrect the old Committee and renew its pro-Axis, appeasement operations.

The time has obviously come for the Federal authorities to put an end to the disruptive activities of Gerald L. K. Smith. The United States is fighting its sixteenth month of war against the Axis. Defeatist propagandists and anti-democratic plotters, who menace the war effort of this country, have no place in America today. Gerald L. K. Smith falls within this category. The Hour therefore urges that the Department of Justice take prompt action against him.

* * * * *

POEMS FOR HITLER

Tens of thousands of copies of scurrilous anti-Semitic poems are being distributed around the country, particularly in war plants, in a special Nazi propaganda campaign to incite animosity against American Jews and thus disrupt our war effort. Some of these virulent Jew-baiting rhymes are in the form of printed pamphlets and leaflets; others are on mimeographed sheets and a number are simply typed, with multiple carbon copies. All spread the familiar Hitlerite canard that the present war was brought about by "World Jewry," and that the Jewish people are now reaping immense profits from it and are shirking every patriotic duty.

A typical poem is entitled "The Official Song of the Kosher Air Wardens." Another, called "The Marine Hymn," which pro-Axis elements are circulating among defense workers in navy yards, concludes with the comment that, after this war is over, "You will find the Jews are ruling you, in Washington's old White House." "America's Fighting Jew" pictures the Jewish people as "setting up black markets in steel and hoarded food" as "the Gentile soldiers go marching proudly by." A poem called "Rejected" is followed by this note: "Copyrighted by Satan & Satan, Inc., Jew York, Jew York." Another, headed "Three Wise Men", ends with this line: "Damned if I don't think Hitler's right."

The Hour recommends that the Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately investigate the printers, publishers and distributors of this new form of pro-Axis propaganda.

file personal PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover folder 2-43

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

October 9, 1943

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

Attached, a copy of a letter from J. Edgar Hoover relating to the Communist "Second Front" campaign. It will be of interest.

asb
A. A. Berle, Jr.

Enclosure.

COPY

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 8, 1943

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Berle:

In connection with the current campaign by the Communist Party for the establishment of a "Second Front" in Europe, Communist Party members in labor unions in one section of the country have been instructed to write letters to parents of boys in the armed forces urging the establishment of a "Second Front" with the argument that delay in opening one now will only serve to keep their boys away from home for a longer time and that the longer the war lasts the greater will be the possibility that the war will end in defeat. In these letters the parents of the boys in the armed forces are urged to write letters to the White House demanding a "Second Front".

A member of the National Committee of the Communist Party in issuing the foregoing instructions to Communist members of labor unions has stated that the parents had to be "sold" on the "Second Front" with those arguments because if they, the parents, have any intelligence at all they will realize that tremendous casualties will result as soon as the "Second Front" is opened.

Sincerely yours,

J. EDGAR HOOVER

PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover folder

Oct. 15

2-43

Miss Tully:

Mr. Hopkins asked that I send you
the attached copy for you to show to the
President.

d e krauss

encl.

SECRET
Classification
The information contained herein is to be used only for the purpose for which it was prepared.
Date: 10/14/43

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

COPY

October 14, 1943

file

PERSONAL [REDACTED] SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Harry L. Hopkins,
The White House
Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of Justice
Dept letter 12-13-61
By JS Date FEB 29 1972

Dear Harry:

I have just received information that British authorities have become greatly concerned about Communist activities in England. The source of this information has stated that within the past month British army authorities have found that a British army officer who was assigned to the Secret Operations Section is a Communist.

It is reported that this officer was in the Secret Operations Section for about six months and that he was obtaining all information possible concerning the operations of guerrilla warfare and saboteurs in Europe and furnishing this information to Russia. English officials desired to execute this British officer as a spy but did not do so in view of Russia's position as an Allied Nation. He is reported to have been Court-Martialed and sentenced to a penitentiary term.

I thought these data would be of interest to the President and to you. No further details concerning this matter are available at this time.

With expressions of my highest esteem.

Sincerely yours,

(s) Edgar

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



PSF: Justice → *J. Edgar Hoover folder*
file 2-43
0

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

October 18 1943

Miss Grace G. Tully
Private Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Thank you very much for forwarding to me on October 13, 1943, the item which Mr. Walter Winchell sent to you together with a newspaper article appearing in the New York Sunday News for October 3, 1943.

I certainly appreciate receiving this information and thought you would be interested to know that I am calling this matter to the attention of the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. This Bureau, of course, will continue to promptly make available to the Secret Service any information indicating a threat or an alleged threat against the person of the President.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 13, 1943.

Personal and Confidential

MEMORANDUM FOR

J. EDGAR HOOVER

The President directs me
to send you the enclosed for your
information.

Grace G. Tully
Private Secretary

Enclosure

A copy of the article which appeared
in the New York Zeitung, taken from the
Sunday News, Oct. 3, 1943 issue, entitled,
"Justice and the 'Great Reason'", which
stresses assassination for anyone seeking
more than two terms in Presidential office -
this was sent to Grace Tully by Walter
Winchell.

J. Edgar Hoover folder
2-43

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover folder 2-43

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

File Confidential

October 19, 1943

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Harry L. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D. C.

*To the President
HCH*

Dear Harry:

As of possible interest to the President and you, information has been received from a confidential and reliable source in Rio de Janeiro indicating that within the past two weeks certain rumors have been spread in the cities of Paranagua, Curitiba, Joinville, Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, by the Germans, and particularly German waiters in various bars and restaurants in the aforementioned cities.

The informant stated that all of the rumors are patterned along these lines: There is at present a conflict between the United States and Russia; the United States has learned that the Russians have been supplying Japan with war material; and United States troops in the South Pacific area have captured from the Japanese war material which was previously sent to Russia under the Lend-Lease Act. The same source added that rumors are especially being spread to the effect that the Communists in the United States are going to make an attempt on the life of President Roosevelt in the immediate future.

The informant concluded by adding that he has received the same reports through so many various sources that it appears to him that these rumors are being circulated through organized German propaganda channels.

With expressions of my highest esteem,

Sincerely yours,

Edgar

T-181

*J. Edgar Hoover file
2-43*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 26, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

H. L. H.

I think Edgar Hoover should follow this up. If there is anything in it it should be nipped in the bud.

F. D. R.

Oct. 15

Miss Tully:

Returned with accompanying memo.

Mr. Hopkins asked me to send you the enclosed copy of a letter he had from J. Edgar Hoover which he would like to have you show to the President.

encl.

d e krauss

C
O
P
Y

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

October 15, 1943

Honorable Harry L. Hopkins
The White House
Washington, D.C.

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

My dear Harry:

Information has come to me from an outside source relative to a matter which I thought might be of some interest to the President and to you, although I have been cautioned that the matter is a very confidential one. It is reported that the former Turkish Consul General in New York, whose name is Shefki Pasha (phonetic), and who was but recently appointed Turkish Minister to Canada, is a member of a group of Turks and Persians who have formed a syndicate which is selling or is to sell post-war concessions in Turkey to various high bidders in the United States. The group is reported to be very secretive about its operations but allegedly recently arranged to sell to the Sun Oil Company "and the Pew interests" oil rights at a figure reported to exceed \$100,000,000.00. The syndicate is alleged to be very fearful that the Government of the United States or the Government of Great Britain will learn of its activities and force the group to discontinue its operations.

I am, of course, not in possession of any first-hand facts concerning this matter and no investigation has been conducted concerning it. One of the participants in this program, in addition to Pasha, is Morin Hare, who resides on upper Madison Avenue, New York City, and who, some years ago, was associated with the New York Times.

Pasha is reported to be a wealthy Turk who has stated that he was not in sympathy with the present Turkish Government but that he was maintained in the United States by the Turkish Government because of his independent wealth and the difficulty which the Turkish Government would experience in maintaining anyone else here.

If any further information reaches me concerning this matter, I shall immediately bring it to your attention.

Sincerely,

s/ Edgar (Hoover)

By special messenger

(2164)

hms

PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover folder 2-43

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 20, 1943.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. HARRY L. HOPKINS

I think in some ways that this should be paraphrased and got to the Secretary and Under Secretary of State -- especially about American clannishness.

F. D. R.

Letter from Hon. J. Edgar Hoover, FBI, 11/17/43, to Hon. Harry L. Hopkins, ~~marked~~ marked "Personal and Confidential", in re information received that President Lopez of Colombia will resign in the rather near future. He is taking this action because of rising criticism in Colombia, of the extraordinary success in private business of Lopez' several sons and the general public belief that their prosperity is due to some irregularities through Lopez' position as President.

(over)

PSF: Justice J. Edgar Hoover
file folder 2-44

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 19, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL WATSON:

I want to see Edgar Hoover
before I leave for Hyde Park.

U.G.T.

WASHINGTON
THE WHITE HOUSE

OK
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 17, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Should I make a memorandum for General Watson that you want to see J. Edgar Hoover? You will recall that W.W. wrote you about a bad situation over in the Navy Department and he feels that it is very important that you talk with J. Edgar Hoover about this gentleman.

GGT

Hold
for
Hornes
appet.

isotope of ^{14}C c.f.

& S.V. Smith

also -- Mr. King of

Low -- C Biddle

Ne

En. L. H. ...
G. L. ...
Inc. ...
...
16x

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 10, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR
GRACE

To call Walter Winchell and inquire how his daughter and wife are and say I am getting a little better but still laid up with the end of the flu and to tell you the name of his bugaboo in Miami Beach.

F. D. R.



Roney Plaza Hotel
MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA

Dec.24th.1943

My dear President:

Welcome home and thank goodness. I just do not sleep well when you go traipsing around taking MY life in your hands like that. I am omitting the soandso's name in this letter for fear it might go astray.

Please have someone call me (reverse charges) where I may phone Mrs.Roosevelt so I may relay the name to her for only your ears.

He is invariably stewed.He is a high ranking man who feeds much of the stuff to newspapermen against you. His most recent utterance is that you have arranged to cancel drafting of all men "just before the elections" to win the support of them and their families,etc. My source is a good loyal friend of YOURS,who cannot tell it to you--for a reason I'll explain to Mrs.Roosevelt.

My daughter Walda (you met her in a hurry in your office a few years ago)and she left a pair of miniature doll booties on your desk,which she was wearing on her suit lapel.You admired them.Walda is desperately ill with pneumonia at St.Francis Hospital here.My wife is just getting over virus pneumonia.So I am not merry this holiday.

I trust you and yours are.

Faithfully

Walter Winchell

1A-11

PSF: Justice 9 Edgar Hoover file
2-44

WAR DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 22, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL MARSHALL:

I think you ought to see
this. Please return for my files.

F.D.R.

FBI report Feb. 19 re German plans in
Italian campaign; manufacture of German
Secret Weapon - jet propelled rocket gun;
and effect of bombing German cities

WAR DEPARTMENT
SECRETARY, GENERAL STAFF
WASHINGTON

23 Feb 44

Memo General Watson -

These papers
noted by General
Marshall, and
Mr. Hoover showed
them to G-2.

J. McC.

**THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON**

February 22, 1944.

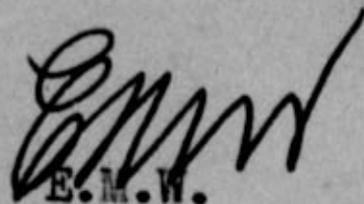
MEMORANDUM FOR

GENERAL MARSHALL:

I think you ought to see
this. Please return for my files.

F.D.R.

RESPECTFULLY FORWARDED TO THE PRESIDENT:


E.M.W.

(re German plans in Italian campaign; manufacture of German Secret Weapon - jet propelled rocket gun; and effect of bombing German cities)

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

February 19 1944

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED]
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Major General Edwin M. Watson DECLASSIFIED
Secretary to the President By Authority of Justice
The White House
Washington, D. C. Next letter 12-13-61
By JS Date FEB 29 1972

Dear General Watson:

I am submitting the attached memorandum covering the following matters which I feel will be of interest to the President and you:

The Italian Campaign
German Secret Weapon (Rocket Gun)
Effect of Bombings on Germany

The information set forth in the memorandum has been obtained from a known German agent in Lisbon, Portugal.

With assurances of my highest regards,

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosure

MEMORANDUM

On February 7, 1944, information was received from a highly confidential source concerning matters of general interest pertaining to the war effort. The information as supplied by the informant is set forth without comment in this memorandum.

THE ITALIAN CAMPAIGN

Within the past week in a small gathering of German officials, one made the comment that some steps must be taken to prevent Franklin Roosevelt from being elected President of the United States again. This invoked numerous comments, and various measures were suggested including a radio campaign. A prominent German official then entered the conversation and stated that something was being done in Italy to prevent the election of Roosevelt. He added that an offensive would start in Italy in approximately three to four weeks of "blitz" proportions. This campaign by the Germans would only last about a fortnight, but every American and British soldier would be thrown out of Italy. He continued by stating that the casualties would be extremely heavy, and no President of the United States could retain his popularity during an election year with this occurring. This same prominent German official was of the belief that if the Americans and the British were thrown out of Italy that it would have such a tremendous influence on the strategy of the Allies, the Second Front would be delayed and possibly prevented. He went on to state that it was a trifling thing for the German Army to remove fifteen divisions from the Russian Front for their lines are now shorter, and transfer them to Italy. The informant received the impression that this is what Germany is doing.

It was also stated by this same prominent German official that if the Americans get too close to Rome from their beachhead at Anzio, the Germans will evacuate without firing a shot or making any destruction of the city. With their planned offensive in the near future, they will then retake Rome, which will be defended by the Allies and then point to the destruction made by the barbaric Allies in defending a city of culture which the Germans had graciously evacuated for humanitarian and cultural reasons. The German official also commented that Hitler's recent order to the troops in Italy that the Gustave Line must be held at any cost was a ruse. This ruse was for the purpose of making the Allies believe the Germans were on their last legs in Italy.

The informant states that although the prominent German official has not been in Germany since before Christmas, 1943, it is believed that he is well informed since he is in constant contact with the German Ambassadors in Lisbon and Madrid.

GERMAN SECRET WEAPON (Rocket Gun)

Informant has learned from industrialist friends in Germany information concerning a German secret weapon, the rocket gun. Informant's industrialist friends are presently concerned in the active manufacture of this weapon. The

informant states that the projectile itself is made up almost entirely of high explosives. It weighs twenty-two tons, and is ten meters in length. Germany at the present time is manufacturing these projectiles at a rate of three thousand per month in underground factories in mountainous areas, exact places unknown, since this is the most guarded secret in Germany. The principle of jet-propulsion is used as a driving force for the projectile, and it is controlled by radio. Its range was not stated specifically, but was stated sufficient to reach all southern England, including London from some distance back from the French shore. The racks or cannon used as the starting mechanism of the projectile are approximately forty meters in length and quite simple in construction. The Germans expect to be fully prepared to use this new weapon about the end of April, 1944. Informant's contacts made the comment that all of the city of London would be wiped out within a matter of a few hours.

With reference to the above matter, the informant states that officials of the German Gestapo have attempted to determine the effect of bombs dropped by a raid of only two planes over London, England, on January 28 or 29, 1944. Gestapo officials indicate that the bombs dropped by these two planes were considered one of the new weapons of Germany. This was the first time this particular bomb had been used in any combat operations, and the raid of the two planes was primarily experimental.

EFFECTS OF BOMBING ON GERMANY

The informant referred to the bombings on Germany by stating they are doing enormous material damage. However, the same thing is happening in Germany that happened in England, i.e., the population is getting hardened and can think of nothing but revenge. The informant has heard this comment from many Germans that have come out of Germany recently, a number of whom are not particularly favorable to the Nazi regime.

The following is related concerning the bombing of Innsbruck, capital of Tyrol. This province is almost all Catholic and there has always been a strong feeling for the Allies among the people. Innsbruck was ostensibly bombed because it is a rail junction through which supplies pass to the Brenner Pass and Italy. Some of the bombs did hit the tracks, but the majority hit dwellings. Informant pointed out to prevent supplies from going to the Brenner Pass, it would have been more logical to bomb the railroad bridges between Innsbruck and Brenner where each mile of track has some two to three bridges. He advised that this is very hard for the people of Tyrol to understand, and a serious injury has been done in that area to the cause of the Allies from a morale standpoint. Informant stated that the bridges over the Rhine River are still standing, and that many factories are still working, and that a number of industrial plants are still in production, but the Allies continue to bomb cities indiscriminately.

It is informant's belief this practice only assists the Russians. In advancing this theory he commented that the Russians had not bombed German cities

apparently leaving this distasteful job to the Allies for political reasons. He thinks when the Russians are a little nearer to Germany they will make capital of the fact their bombers have not devastated German cities and killed women and children in making a bid for the support of the German worker who is the one that is suffering primarily.

According to the informant, the view is often expressed that the Russians fight ruthlessly on the ground and in the air on the battle front, but do not kill German women and children. It is the opinion of the informant that the Allied bombings would be one hundred per cent more effective if the Allies would concentrate on military objectives, such as factories, bridges, communications and military installations, and cease bombings of cities indiscriminately. He states the present practice means only to build up hate and desire for revenge which will make the post war period a nightmare for the Allies. Further, the present practice is hardening the morale of the German people, and they will fight harder than ever.

Production in Germany is going ahead with not nearly the interference the weight of the bombings would indicate. The informant states there are interruptions in production, but the industries are being dispersed and repairs made unbelievably fast.

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



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

July 31 1944

PSF: J. Edgar Hoover folder 2-44

PERSONAL AND [REDACTED]
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Miss Grace G. Tully
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Miss Tully:

Please refer to my letter dated July 19, 1944, forwarding a memorandum relative to the personal history and background of Reuben Hollis Fleet.

You will recall that this information was being forwarded to the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice for its consideration. In this regard I thought you would be interested in knowing that the Criminal Division has now informed that the institution of criminal proceedings is not warranted upon the basis of the information presently available.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

July 18, 1944

REUBEN HOLLIS FLEET

Reuben Hollis Fleet was born March 6, 1887, at Montesano, Washington, the son of David Walker Fleet and Lillian Waite Fleet, who were pioneers in Grays Harbor County, Washington. He received his elementary and high school education in Montesano and then attended Culver Military Academy, Culver, Indiana, from 1902 until 1906. He was reported as being "a little wild" in his younger days but taught school in Brady, Washington, for one year. On April 29, 1908, Fleet married Elizabeth Griton of Aberdeen, Washington, and two children, Phyllis Fleet, who is presently Mrs. Alvin S. Nelson, and David Griton Fleet, who is presently employed by Consolidated Aircraft Company, San Diego, were born of this marriage.

Fleet and his first wife lived together approximately ten years and were subsequently divorced, his wife presently residing in San Diego and reportedly being on excellent terms with him. Fleet was reported to have resided in Montesano, Washington, from 1907 until 1917, where he was City Clerk in 1907 and the youngest member of the Washington State Legislature in 1913, serving as Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. He was also president of the Montesano Chamber of Commerce and entered the army with the Washington State Militia at the outbreak of the first world war. He later transferred to the air corps, where he attained the rank of major and supervised the first army air mail service between Washington, D. C. and New York City. Fleet left the army in 1922 and became vice president and general manager of the Gallaudet Airplane Corporation of East Greenwich, Rhode Island. In 1923 he raised approximately \$40,000 around Montesano and organized the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation on May 29, 1923, which corporation purchased the government owned aircraft plant at Buffalo, New York. In Buffalo Fleet was Director of the Manufacturers Trust Company and president of the National Flying Schools, Incorporated. He married Dorothy Mitchell, who was reported to have been his secretary, on July 7, 1931, and three children, Preston Mitchell, Dorothy Lillian and Nancy Fleet were born of this union. In 1935 the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation moved to San Diego, where it continued operations. He separated from his second wife in November, 1940, and she subsequently brought suit for divorce in Los Angeles, California, naming Fleet, his financial secretary and seven California firms as defendants. This suit alleged bodily injury and requested all community property estimated at ten million dollars, as well as the custody of the three children.

Fleet was president and general manager of the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation from 1923 until 1941, when the company was merged with the Vultee Aircraft Corporation. This merger culminated in the sale of his holdings to the Vultee Aircraft Corporation, allegedly because the government insisted that control and management be changed due to a poor production record. Fleet presently has an office in the corporation's San Diego plant and receives \$60,000 per year under a five year contract, but officials do not consult him and salary is allowed because it is considered as part of the purchase price of his stock.

In 1942, Fleet was given the Award of Merit by the American Academy of Public Affairs and in 1943 was the president of the Institute of Aeronautical Sciences. He has been reported as having been anti-Wilson during the first world war and as anti-Roosevelt during the present war. He has been described by some

sources as being considered a drinker who is rough and tough, swell headed, egotistical and who is promiscuous with women in the upper social strata. One source stated that the wife of a prominent Buffalo physician followed Fleet to California in 1935 and remained there for two or three months. Another individual who has been closely associated with Fleet for a number of years stated that Fleet possesses a dual personality in that he "will take the gold right out of your teeth and will then make up with you the next day." This source also remarked that Fleet would rather make a hundred thousand dollars through a slightly shady deal than a half million honestly, because of his eagerness to outwit other people and have them under obligation to him.

Records of the Buffalo Police Department reflect that Fleet was arrested July 14, 1930, and charged with driving while drunk and failure to give the proper signal. He was fined fifty dollars and his license revoked, but the case was reversed upon appeal to the county court. He was also arrested July 8, 1935, and paid a five dollar fine for speeding. On December 24, 1941, Fleet was reported to have delivered a speech at a luncheon where he assumed a decidedly defeatist attitude regarding the war, and this same source stated that upon other occasions in 1942 Fleet was heard to state that the Government would repudiate the war bonds as they were a poor investment. In various speeches Fleet has allegedly indicated his disapproval of any government control of industry and has strongly criticized the Wagner Labor Relations Act. In March, 1943, Fleet addressed the San Diego Chamber of Commerce Committee, at which time he strongly criticized the Administration for involving the United States in a global war which was heading the country toward Communism. However, in San Diego, our source reported him to be highly regarded both personally and in a business way. He has also been described there as the bombastic, loudmouthed and promoter type that is believed to be noisier than brainy. These sources have also stated that Fleet rode to wealth and prominence on the wave of the miraculous growth of the aircraft industry. He is reported to be a Republican and a member of the Masons, Knights of Pythas, and Elks at San Diego.

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*J. Edgar Hoover folder
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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 11, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR
J. EDGAR HOOVER:
FOR INVESTIGATION.
F.D.R.

Transmitting copy of a memorandum in re
a Mr. Fleet of Consolidated Aircraft Co.

It is reported that a Mr.
Fleet of Consolidated Aircraft Co.
(while on a train bound for Los Angeles
from Chicago recently) said in effect:
"If that stoetra runs again and wins
there will be a Revolution!" and they
were told he bragged of the part he'd
play in it.

MEMO

JULY 7th 1944

Dear Grace:

Friends of mine and admirers of FDR told me that a Mr. Fleet (an old scoundrel) of Consolidated Aircraft Co. (while on a train bound for Los Angeles from Chicago recently) said in effect: "If that scoundrel runs again and wins there will be a Revolution!" and they told me he bragged of the part he'd play in it.

I think FDR should know the names of his enemies, so please tell him I sent this about this Fleet man.

Regards
Walter
WALTER WINCHELL

AirMail

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.
JUL 7
5:30 PM
1944



Miss Grace Tully
THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington, D. C.

Personal
Confidential

MEMO

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