FBI File: Black Legion

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April 8, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL KEENAN

With reference to your memorandum of March 19, 1935, trans-
mitting a copy of a letter addressed to the Attorney General, under date
of March 5, 1935, by Chief Post Office Inspector K. P. Alrich, and ac-
compained by a copy of a Confidential report prepared by Inspector J. F.
Cordrey of Lima, Ohio, dated February 23, 1935, relating to the existence
of an organization known as the "Black Legion", you are advised that I
have received no indication that any employees of this Bureau are members
of the "Black Legion". It does not appear, therefore, that any action is
required of me in connection with this matter, and I am accordingly re-
turning to you the original letter addressed to the Attorney General
and the signed copy of Inspector Cordrey's report. I thought you might
desire to refer this matter in its entirety to Mr. Stanley.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure §718334
March 19, 1935.

MEMORANDUM FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

Transmitted herewith please find a copy of a letter dated March 5, 1935, addressed to the Attorney General, from the Office of the Chief Inspector of the Post Office Department, relative to the alleged existence of an organization at Lima, Ohio, known as the "Black Legion," which is said to be revolutionary in its tendency.

An examination of the facts fails to disclose any violation of any Federal law or laws, but the observation has been made that representatives of the Department of Justice are reported to be members of the organization.

This information is forwarded to you for whatever action may seem appropriate in the premises.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Joseph B. Keenan
Assistant Attorney General.
March 5, 1935.

The Honorable

The Attorney General.

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information and any action that may be deemed advisable, there is attached copy of a report submitted under date of February 23, 1935, by Post Office Inspector J. F. Cordrey, relative to the alleged existence at Lima, Ohio, of an organization known as the Black Legion, said to be revolutionary in its tendency. The uniform referred to is also being transmitted herewith.

It will be observed that, among others, representatives of the Department of Justice are reported to be members of the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,

For the Postmaster General,

(Signed) K. P. Aldrich

Chief Inspector.

Insclosures.

APR 11 1935
J. P. Cordrey,
Inspector.

Lima, Ohio, February 23, 1935.

Subject: Confidential

1. A few days ago one of the most prominent men of Lima called me by telephone and requested an interview. He stated that it was his desire that the matter be regarded in strict confidence, at least to the extent that his name be not used, but that he believed it to be of sufficient importance to be brought to the attention of the proper Government Agency.

2. It developed that this man had learned, through a person in his employ, of the existence in Lima of an organization known as the "Black Legion," which he believes to be against the present administration, and revolutionary in its tendency. An interview, at the suggestion of this man, was later had with the informant. It was learned from that young man that he had been a member this outfit, but that he had severed his connection, and that as result thereof his life is in more or less constant jeopardy.

3. I was informed that a person known as Dr. Shepard, Bellaire, Ohio, is the head of the Black Legion in the United States, and that they claim membership of one million five hundred thousand. It was related that the United States is divided into thirteen districts (patterned the thirteen original colonies) with a Major General in charge of each. The initials of Dr. Shepard are not known, but it is stated that this man either has a daughter or sister at Bellaire who is also a doctor. One Bert Effinger (former head of the Ku Klux Klan here) is said to be Major General of this district, and to have charge of all territory west of the Mississippi River. There is no initiation fee, but, it was explained, each member is required to pay Effinger 10 cents each month. These persons are ordinarily referred to, among themselves, as "blacks." The character of dress is black with separate cape effect and black head covering ornamented by white skull and cross bones.
4. The Chief of Police, also the head of the plain clothes-force, at Lima are said to be members. Neither of these persons were selected for their positions because of any qualification.

5. New members are referred to as privates, and the entire method of organization is along the lines of the army service. A company is represented by 99 men and one Captain.

The meeting places at Lima are the "Ford Dance Hall", rooms used by the Junior Order of American Mechanics Lodge, and Harry Tabscott's farm, about halfway between Lima and West Minster. Harry Tabscott is recognised as a Major. Other Majors are Russell Croft, North Pine St., John Frankhouser, 723 So. Broadway, Lima. Captains are named as follows: O.L. Boyd, 1513 St. Johns Ave., Fisher W. Kibby, and one "Potzberger" who is employed as mechanic for Gibson Co., Lima. Guy Effinger, 114 Harrison Ave., is Lieutenant Colonel, as is also one John Hawk, whose address is given as F.E. R.A. (old Federal building).

7. It is stated that this organization is "hiding behind the old Ku Klux Klan and the Junior Order of American Mechanics, and it has recently been referred to in Lima as the "Bullet Club".

8. The method of obtaining members is by approaching a prospect, and asking whether he would like to join a good organization, and to leave the impression that its purpose is "protection" and aid in securing employment. The person approached is told that it is an "all American organization" and is asked to place his confidence in the solicitor. Approximately 60 per cent of the employees of the F.E.R.A. in Lima are said to be "Blacks", and they, without question, are under the control of "Major General Bert Effinger" whose son "Lieutenant Colonel Guy Effinger" is in the regular employ of the F.E.R.A. at Lima.

9. Initiates take the oath with a "Black" standing on each side of him with drawn revolvers pointed at him. They are asked concerning their views of "mob violence" also the lynch law, also whether they will vote as directed. They are asked if they are willing to accept one man (Bert Effinger) as their "judge, jury and advisor". Inquiry is made as to whether they own a horse or automobile, and whether they possess any firearms. If they do not own a revolver, shot gun or rifle they are ordered to obtain a revolver and are instructed to carry it at all times. The maximum penalty for carrying concealed weapons in Ohio is three years imprisonment. They are supposed to take the witness stand and lie for a brother member, or, in the event of jury duty, "hen a jury" if a brother member's interest are involved, regardless of what the charge may be. It is related that Bert Effinger has at least ten men in Lima who will carry out his orders regardless of what they may be. I was told that men who refuse to take oath along these lines find themselves confronted
from all sides by black-robed individuals with drawn revolvers; that they are then forcibly removed and threatened with death (sometimes beaten) if they ever reveal anything they have seen or heard. The only acceptable excuse for failure to attend a meeting is said to be "sickness or absence." "Once a member always a member." New members are given a loaded cartridge as a "token." They are directed to so conduct themselves that there may be no necessity of requesting its return. They are informed that if the cartridge is ever demanded it must be promptly surrendered, and that "half of it will be returned to them." Further that if they resign or abandon the organization their only escape from punishment is "suicide or leave the country."

10. I was told that Dr. Shepard has been heard to say that when the time comes "to take the field" it is not his desire to act in the capacity of surgeon, or words to that effect.

11. It was related that a certain person (former Major in the Black Legion) at Lima, was directed by "Major General Bert Effinger" some time in the past "to take 15 men and put a certain moving picture theatre out of business" merely because of the showing of a moving picture, that did not conform strictly with his views on religion. The Major refused. He demanded that Effinger explain, in the event of a riot or blood shed, who would go their bond, and was informed by Effinger that he (Effinger) would take care of them. The Major now "goes armed to the teeth" to protect himself against "outside members of the Black Legion Mob!" Other former members are harassed night and day by automobiles circling their homes. Wives are placed in mortal fear because of inquiries by strange men in the absence of husbands.

12. I was informed that "Major General Effinger" is tireless in his denunciation of the administration in Washington, and that his trend is toward the views of Stalin in Russia. It does not seem that "privates" and others of lower rank than Major General in the "Black Legion" know what the real purpose of the organization is. As viewed by me it serves no good purpose, and should be thoroughly investigated by the proper Government Agency.

13. It is stated that Bert Effinger boasts that 62 members of the Department of Justice and other Bureaus the Government are members of the Black Legion.

14. There is transmitted, under separate cover, a uniform of a "Major of the Black Legion."

/s/ J. F. Cordrey,
Inspector.
April 22, 1935

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith copies of a memorandum received from Mr. William Stanley, the Assistant to the Attorney General, dated April 15, 1935, requesting an investigation with a view to ascertaining the identities of the individuals connected with an organization known as the "Black Legion".

There are also being transmitted copies of a letter addressed to the Inspector in Charge, Cincinnati, Ohio, by J. P. Cordrey, Inspector, Post Office Department, dated February 23, 1935 in regard to this matter. This will be of assistance in conducting the requested investigation.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Inclosure No. 339058
Department of Justice
Washington

April 15, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER

Assistant Attorney General Keenan has sent me a memorandum relative to the alleged existence at Lima, Ohio, of an organization known as the "Black Legion", said to be revolutionary in its tendency.

In view of the fact that it is alleged that sixty-two employees of this Department are members of this organization, I wish that you would conduct an investigation with a view to ascertaining who they are.

William Stanley
The Assistant to the Attorney General

RECORDED
APR 25 1935
May 11, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 22, 1935, requesting an investigation concerning the identity of individuals connected with an organization known as the "Black Legion".

There are being transmitted herewith copies of a letter received from Mr. [redacted] of Police, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, Baltimore, Maryland, dated April 26, 1935, which apparently pertains to this matter. In the event additional information is desired from Mr. [redacted], it is suggested that appropriate leads be indicated to the Washington Field Office.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #284396.

RECORDED
June 14, 1935

Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company,
Baltimore, Maryland.

Dear Mr. [Redacted],

I have received your letter of April 26, 1935, which transmitted a memorandum relating to a secret organization known as the "Black Legion," which is reported to be in existence at Fort Wayne, Indiana. While the facts outlined in this memorandum do not appear to constitute a violation of any Federal statute coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I am glad to have this information, which is being incorporated in the Bureau's files. In the event additional information is desired concerning this organization, I will instruct a Special Agent of the Bureau to call upon you.

I desire to express my appreciation for your courtesy in transmitting this material to me and to assure you of my desire to cooperate with you at all times in matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company

The Baltimore and Ohio Chicago Terminal Railroad Company

POLICE DEPARTMENT

R. J. DOYLE, Supt., Police
NEW YORK TERMINAL LINES, NEW YORK, N. Y.
P. J. ROYCE, Supt., Police,
EASTERN LINES, BALTIMORE, MD.
F. J. YOUNG, Supt., Police
WESTERN LINES
B. M. C. R. R. - CINCINNATI, OHIO

Baltimore, Md. April 26, 1935

SUBJECT: Secret organization at Fort Wayne, Ind.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

Dear Sir:

I am attaching memorandum concerning a secret organization at Fort Wayne, Ind.

I do not know whether or not you will be interested in this affair, as at the present moment I am not in position to state whether this is purely a local organization or whether it has an interstate angle. I would assume that it is of interstate character, and I thought you might be interested in its activities.

This information comes to me confidentially from one of my Division Captains, and while the Baltimore & Ohio R.R. has no direct interest in the matter, our department endeavors to keep in touch with any activities that might be of interest to any law-enforcing agency.

I am in position to get further information concerning this organization, if the matter is of sufficient interest to you.

Yours very truly,

MAY 21, 1935

[Signature]

RECORDED & INDEXED

[Signature]
Baltimore, April 26, 1935.

Information was received to the effect that during the last few weeks solicitation was made to various persons to join a secret organization at Ft. Wayne, Ind.

This organization meets every Saturday night at 8:30 on the third floor of the building directly across the street from the Majestic Theatre, Ft. Wayne.

The organization is known as "The Black Legion." There are no membership dues or fees, a collection being taken up at each meeting, and other contributions are solicited.

Men initiated into this organization are called "Recruits" and are made "Black Knights" by initiation, the officers being known as Chief, Colonel, and Major, all of whom are armed during the meeting. The countersign is similar to a military salute, and the pass-words are "Elect only Americans to office." All members are asked what arms they possess and whether they are willing to secure arms and ammunition and use them at the command of the officers of the organization. The word "Luxor," followed by the name of a city or other location, will constitute a command that members report at that place, armed.

As a badge, the members are presented with a 38 calibre pistol cartridge. Examination of this cartridge fails to show any peculiar marks on the shell.

On April 20th the speaker at the meeting was a peg-legged man, his left leg being amputated, also his right thumb. This man derided both political parties, all fraternal organizations, and all churches. This meeting was attended by about 175 men, and about 25 candidates were initiated.

All persons connected with this organization are very close-mouthed. The members were warned that the penalty for disloyalty to the organization is death.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
1448 Standard Building
Cleveland, Ohio

June 1, 1935

Re: BLACK LEGION
Miscellaneous
Confidential

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to report of Special Agent E. E. Smith, dated 5-24-35, relative to the above-captioned case, wherein it is stated that one 45 calibre Colt Automatic pistol, with identifying numbers on same obliterated, had been obtained from a former member of the Legion.

The gun in question is being forwarded, under separate cover, and it is requested that the same be given appropriate laboratory examination in an endeavor to ascertain number of same for the purpose of tracing the gun to its last owner.

Very truly yours,

J. P. MAC FARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

J. P. MAC FARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 8 1935

[Handwritten notes and stamps from 1935]
Laboratory Report

June 12, 1935

Case:
Black Legion;
Miscellaneous;
Confidential;

Specimens:
One 45 calibre Colt automatic revolver with number obliterated.

Examination requested by: Cleveland Bureau Office.

Date received: June 6, 1935.

Examination requested: Ballistic.

Result of examination: Examination by: Examining.

Test cartridges have been fired in the above gun. These test bullets and shells have been compared with all evidence specimens of that type contained in the files of the Bureau's Laboratory, but no identification was affected.

These test specimens will be filed in the Laboratory for possible future reference.

The serial number was restored and found to be 251440.

There was also restored the inscription "United States Property", which establishes this gun as government property.

This gun will be retained in the Laboratory collection of firearms.

5 - Director.
2 - Cleveland.
2 - Laboratory.
Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio,

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter of June 14, 1935, enclosing the laboratory report dated June 12, 1935, in connection with one .45 calibre Colt automatic with number obliterated, which was subsequently found to be 251440.

A review has been made of the Bureau's files, but there was found no record concerning this gun.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
June 14, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Black Legion;
Miscellaneous;
Confidential.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Division June 6, 1935.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure: #584034.
Laboratory Report

June 12, 1935.

Case: Black Legion; Miscellaneous; Confidential.

Specimens: One 45 calibre Colt Automatic revolver with number obliterated.

Examination requested by: Cleveland Bureau Office.

Date received: June 6, 1935.

Examination requested: Ballistic

Result of examination:

Test cartridges have been fired in the above gun. These test bullets and shells have been compared with all evidence specimens of that type contained in the files of the Bureau's Laboratory, but no identification was effected.

These test specimens will be filed in the Laboratory for possible future reference.

The serial number was restored and found to be #251460.

There was also restored the inscription "United States Property", which establishes this gun as government property.

This gun will be retained in the Laboratory collection of firearms.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
MR. WILLIAM STANLEY

Your attention is invited to your memorandum dated April 15, 1935 relative to the alleged existence at Lima, Ohio of an organization known as the Black Legion, which is said to be revolutionary in its tendency.

There is transmitted herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent C. E. Smith dated at Cleveland, Ohio, May 24, 1935 concerning this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover, Director.

Enclosure 307608

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77
LEO/DC

DECLAS. DATE 9-3-77 02:01P:03:18
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
FROM: UNIT #1 & UNIT #3

1934.

TO: Director
    Mr. Nathan
    Mr. Tolson
    Mr. Edwards

Unit Four
    Files Section
    Personnel Files
    Equipment Section
    Chief Clerk's Office

SUPERVISORS

Unit One
    Mr. Listerman
    Mr. Lowdon
    Mr. McKee
    Mr. Newby
    Mr. Richmond
    Mr. Thompson

Unit Two

Unit Five
    Identification Unit
    Statistical Section
    Technical Laboratory

Unit Three
    Mr. Deaderick
    Mr. Joseph
    Mr. Smith

Miss Gandy
    Mrs. Kelley
    Washington Field Office
    Stenographic Pool
    Secretary
    Correct
    Re-write
    Re-date
    See me

Send copy of Form 3 to
61-2332 to Cleveland
for info. Also suggest head
for Mr. Renton.

E. A. TAMM - Room 5107
Secret organization national in scope and military in nature, apparently organized by Dr. Shepard, of Bellaire, Ohio. Membership restricted to native-born, white, gentile, protestant citizens. Former members state organization is revolutionary and is terrorizing former members for withdrawing. General of organization, at Lima, Ohio, has ordered subordinates to wreck picture shows, burn roadhouses and assault individuals. Organization purports to have completely equipped machine gun company in Detroit, Michigan. Former members advise 80% of FERA employees at Lima, Ohio, are members and relief in district is controlled by head or order. Chief of Police, Lima, is reputed to be a member; General of Legion, Lima, stated to former member that 60 to 70 members of Department of Justice were members; also stated that Cincinnati, Ohio, agent was admitted to order fall '34. Event of unknown nature scheduled for Nov. 20-26. Ritual, organization and partial list of members set forth.

REFERENCES:
Bureau letters dated 4-22-35 and 5-11-35.

DETAILS:
AT LIMA, OHIO
Agent interviewed Mr. J. F. Cordrey, Post Office Inspector, stationed at Lima, Ohio, who advised he had been approached on numerous
occasions in the past by various individuals who had requested to investi-
gate a secret order known as the Black Legion, and more popularly known
locally as the Bullet Club.

According to Mr. Cordrey, several ex-members had complained to him that
since they had refused to go to the meetings machine loads of men had night-
drawn past their homes and prowlers had gone to the extent of peering in
their windows; that their women folk had become frightened by strange men
calling during their husbands' absence and various other activities that serv-
ed to intimidate the ex-members.

Mr. Cordrey further advised agent that a man known by the name of Bert
Effinger, former head of the Ku Klux Klan, in Lima, O., was apparently the
head of the organization in the district and was known as "General Effinger"
and his son, Guy, was "Lt. Colonel", employed by the Federal Emergency Re-
lief Association in Lima. Cordrey stated he had occasion to call upon Mr.
Effinger about the time it became known that the ex-members had complained
to him, and Effinger during the time he was conversing with Cordrey was
called by his son on the telephone, saying, "Father, that man is not to
leave the house for a half hour". Their conversation, (Cordrey and Effin-
ger, Sr.,) took place in latter's office, located in the basement of his
home. Cordrey stated that the call was made apparently to try and frighten
him, but he advised Effinger he would leave whenever he saw fit to do so.

Continuing, Cordrey stated that Effinger had called at his office a
short time back and gave him a letter, which reads as follows:

1114 Harrison Ave.
Lima, Ohio
May 3rd, 1935

Mr. J. F. Cordry
Postal Inspector
Lima, Ohio

Dear Sir:

"Referring to our conversation some time back concerning the
activities of certain men in and around Lima, Ohio, I am presenting
to you the names of men, a part of which have been closely connected
with the only registered Communist in Allen County, Ohio.

Mr. George Armstrong
Mr. Kenneth Carter
Mr. George Pratt
Mr. George Scheid

A man by the name of Sanders or Sanders.

"A man by the name of Martin, who is reported to be a State
or Federal Officer," spends a great deal of his time at the Cook resi-
dence, which is his God-given right, and seems to be directing some of
their unamerican activities according to the statement of Mrs. Cook.

- 2 -
"I hereby pledge allegiance to the Stars and Stripes our flag, the United States of America, the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice to all.

"Thanking you for your patience, and wishing you God speed and success in your efforts to do good, I am

Truly yours in all things

Honorable

/s/ V. H. Effinger."

The original of the above letter was turned over to agent by Mr. Cordrey and is retained in the files of this case at Cleveland, Ohio.

With reference to the persons mentioned in the letter by Effinger as being connected with Communists, Cordrey advised that was an employee of the in Lima and a former of the Legion and one of the persons who had complained to him about the organization. was a respectable business man and a former officer of the Legion, and at present one of the moving spirits behind the fight to expose the of Cordrey's and had at one time served a sentence at Atlanta for violation, National Motor Vehicle Theft Act, but since his release in '29 had endeavored to go straight and had assisted him materially on several occasions when he needed information on various matters regarding the underworld. This man became a member of the Legion at the request of , former investigator for the FERA at the time threats had been made to blow up the Old Post Office Building. , was also a former member of the Legion and had been discriminated against in the matter of relief and had been harassed to such an extent by the mysterious actions of other members of the Legion that his wife had called upon practically every law enforcement agency in the county and city for assistance in breaking up the organization. Relative to the discrimination against by the FERA, Cordrey stated that had given out that information but Cordrey had no direct evidence bearing upon it.

Mr. Cordrey further stated he did not know the Armstrong or Sanders mentioned in the letter, but advised that the Martin mentioned was J.B. Martin, investigator for the FERA.

At Agent's request Mr. Cordrey had come to his office, where he was questioned by the writer and said he was a residing at , attending college, and had joined the Black Legion about three years ago and had worked up until he became a in the order. Further stated when he joined there were 18 members in the order in Allen County, but it had since grown to about 700 and that when he first joined he had been told that the order was to be a patriotic one and against all sorts of Communism and other ideas but at the present time it was distinctly revolutionary in that the heads of the organization were attempting to use it to gain control of various Gov-
Continuing, Mr. stated that after he became he started to disagree with some of the policies of General Bert Effinger and finally broke away from the order about a year ago, when Effinger had ordered him to take 20 men go to the Sigma Theatre in Lima, Ohio, and there destroy a film that was being shown.

Mr. stated that the name of the picture was the "White Angel" and Effinger objected to it on the grounds that it upheld the Catholic faith. According to , he had heard a discussion in the basement of Effinger's home on the advisability of taking over the Federal Buildings by the Legion and had also heard Effinger brag about the Legion burning down a roadhouse known as the "Twin Oaks", which was located about three miles south of Lima, Ohio, on US Route 25, as well as the burning of the "Imperial Roadhouse" located on US Route 25, near Wapakoneta, Ohio. Mr. advised the writer that after he had dropped out of the order he had been approached on numerous occasions and warned that he had better look out and on one occasion during the winter of '34 about 50 earload of men had collected around his house, and he had been forced into calling several of his friends to stay with him for protection; further stated that he now went armed and had warned Effinger that if anything happened to either Carter, Pratt or a man by the name of Albert Unger, who is also a former member, he, Effinger would be the next one to get it.

Mr. was contacted by agent and he advised that he had been a member of the Black Legion and had attended the meetings until about 7 weeks ago when he became disgusted with the revolutionary tactics of the order; stated he was a private of the Foot Legion of the Night Riders, a degree of the Black Legion; according to a select number of the Blacks, as all members of the Legion are known to each other, was banded together in a unit known as the "Bullet Club."

According to a John B. Martin, investigator for the FERA, who lives at Sandusky, O., had been investigating the FERA at Lima, Ohio, after a rumor had started that the Bullet Club was going to blow up the Old Post Office Building and had been hired by Mr. J. C. Timberlake, former supervisor of the FERA, to find out what and where the connection was that existed between employees of the FERA and the Black Legion, and during the course of his investigation he had found that 90% of the FERA employees were members of the organization and Guy Effinger, son of V. H. Effinger, was a Lt. Colonel of the organization and travelling timekeeper for the FERA.

Continuing, Mr. advised that after he became a member of the Legion he had been handed a penciled note written on the back of a daily report form of the State Emergency Relief Administration, reading,
62-3

Carl Priestap, Jr., "John has got the rawhide now. /s/ Russ" - by Russell Croft, a traveling timekeeper for the FERA. According to Mr. Priestap is a member of the Black Legion and so is Russ, meaning Russell Croft.

The above-mentioned note was turned over to agent by Mr. Cordrey, who had received it from [redacted] and same is being retained in the files of this case. Mr. Cordrey also gave agent a card of the Legion, which is made as an ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROSPECT CARD, and same is being retained in the files of this case.

The John mentioned in the above note is, according to [redacted] John Hawk, a foreman of the FERA. [redacted] further stated that on one occasion he had been called on the "carpet" by General Effinger and was accused of talking to Federal men and had been told by the General that all Federal men who came to Lima had to report their arrival to him, and, in the future, any Federal men that [redacted] saw was to immediately report their presence in the town to the General. [redacted] later found out through J. Martin that a Roy Hoover, janitor of 210 West Market St., and also a Black had notified Martin that two "Feds" were in town; subsequent investigation by Martin revealed that the two "Feds" names were Fleming and Madden. (It will be noted here that Fleming and Madden are the names of the two State Prohibition men who worked this territory and are mentioned in the Breckinridge file in connection with the investigation of that case in the Toledo, O., district.)

Later in the day Mr. [redacted] called at agent's hotel room with two men who were introduced as a Major in the Legion and Mr. [redacted], a former Captain of the Legion.

Agent questioned [redacted] and [redacted] relative to their knowledge of the Legion, who stated they had joined the Legion about two years ago, when it was held up as a patriotic organization that had been formed to combat the various isms that were then gaining a foothold in the country, but had been forced to withdraw when they had been ordered to commit several felonious acts.

[redacted] stated he had been ordered by General Bert Effinger to burn the roadhouse known as "Peacock Inn", but had refused to do so and had later been ordered by the General to steal some dynamite from a job that the General was watching on. [redacted] was unable to advise agent for what purpose the dynamite was to be used. According to [redacted] a man had recently come to him and stated he had been approached by a man, named Homer Taylor, who requested the man to place his confidence in him and join an organization that could within a very short period of time have thousands of men marching on Washington. [redacted] stated that Taylor was a Major of the Legion, and he had advised the man not to have anything to do with him; further stating he had caused about 50 men to become members of the
Legion, but had since convinced them that he had been wrong in his beliefs and had caused them to drop out, but that owing to the manner in which the Legion had been intimidating those who had dropped out they could not talk for fear of reprisals.

Continuing, Mr. stated he had on numerous occasions heard Effinger state that about 60 or 70 members of the Department of Justice were members of the Legion and related that about Nov. 1934 there had been a rumor that the Bullet Club of the Legion was going to blow up the old Post Office, and as a result of that rumor, a Department of Justice man from Cincinnati, O., had conducted an investigation, which resulted in the detention and questioning of a Black by the name of Kane, who was later released, and Effinger stated that the agent was joining the Legion and would be initiated that week.

Agent was unable to furnish agent with the date of Kane's detention or the name of the agent; however, stated that, as he recalled it, his name was "Smith".

Agent was further advised by Mr. that Effinger had a large yellow map at his home he kept in the rafters of the basement, and according to Effinger, it was a map of the location of all of the secret fortifications of the country. In this connection stated that Effinger had told him that under the Statue of Liberty were concealed several large coast defense guns of the disappearing type.

Agent was further advised by Mr. that General Effinger had told him that the Detroit, Mich., unit of the Legion had one fully-equipped company of machine guns and one battalion of (Blacks) equipped with army rifles. Further advised agent that about two years ago he had attended target practice of the Legion at Bowling Green, Ohio, and while there had been introduced to General UPFS, (phonetic spelling), who was introduced as a Government man. was unable to state what department of the Government that UPFS was with, but described him as 40 years old, 5' 10" in ht., dark hair, with dark complexion, and driving a Ford V-8 Sedan. Agent was further advised at the same time he met an ex-Detroit police officer by the name of WILKINSON, who lost his leg in a gun battle with the Purple Gang. White is also supposed to be a member of the Legion.

Continuing, advised the writer that the Legion was continually striving to have its members join the National Guard; in this connection, writer advised by Mr. that he had once been ordered by General Effinger to distribute his men that each guardsman would be covered by several Blacks and when the time came to take over the Armory and capture the rifles and ammunition the Blacks assigned to each guardsman was to overcome them, in order to insure the capture of the guns. Further stated that he had overheard Effinger and others discussing the son of Dr. , who was supposed to own a Thompson submachine gun, and they were planning to pose as Federal men and call upon him and confiscate the gun for the Legion, also informed agent that he had heard that a driver in town had a machine gun, but he had no additional information the identity of the man.
During the course of the interrogation, exhibited to agent a 45 cal. Colt Automatic pistol, which he stated he had purchased from Charles Hartzog for $8.00. Further stating that the same gun had been given to him by Hartzog, together with 65 cartridges and had been later taken away by Hartzog. At the time Hartzog gave the gun to him, he stated that they had taken it in a raid on some Catholics in another county. Agent examined this gun and found that both the secret number and the number of the outside of the gun had been filed off. In view of the fact that some thefts of the above-described guns have been reported from various armories, agent requested the gun and same will be forwarded to the laboratory for examination.

Informed the writer he had been ordered at one time by General Effinger to "bash in the head" of a man, because he would not attend meetings.

Both and advised agent that at the last meeting on May 14, '35, the Blacks had been instructed to secure arms and be prepared to expect something between November 20th and 25th of the year. Agent was unable to secure any information as to what that "something" was.

Continuing advised that about a year ago he had personally disarmed Ward Taylor, Chief of Police, when he was being admitted into the Legion, further stating that on one occasion the Lima police had received a broadcast relative to a holdup and had picked up several men in a machine answering the description of the holdup getaway car, but subsequent investigation had revealed that the men were Blacks just returning from a meeting and despite the fact that they were all armed they had been released without being charged. further stated that it was impossible to get the local police to do anything regarding the terrorist methods of the Black Legion, in view of the fact that both the Chief of Police and the head of the Plain Clothes' force were Blacks.

supplied agent with a 36 cal. lead-nosed short bullet made by the U.S.C. Co. for the 36 S&W, and same is being forwarded to the Bureau laboratory for investigation.

According to a like bullet is furnished each Recruit being admitted to membership in the Black Legion, and they are told upon its presentation that they are to so conduct themselves that it will never be necessary for the Legion to ask for its return and in the event that its return is asked one-half of it will be returned, meaning the LEAD end.

advised agent that one of the rules of the Legion is that the only way that one can ever sever his connection with it is to leave the country or commit suicide; further stated that after he left the order some, whose identity was not known to him, left a note of his darstern advising him to either commit suicide or leave the country. The note was not mailed.

Agent was further informed by Mr., Mr., and Mr. that they had heard of whipping squads, hanging squads and killing squads
In the order and stated that at the present time there were eight names on the death list, whose death warrants had been signed by General Sloan of Sidney, Ohio, who is an employee of the State Highway Department.

The following information relative to the history, ritual, organization, officers, members and meeting places of the Order were furnished agent by Messrs. [Redacted] and Scheid.

The Black Legion, historical in itself, was first formed prior to the Revolutionary War, and it was this organization that organized the Boston Tea Party, after the Colonies won their independence; there being no more need for the existence of the Order it disbanded; however, those who were Generals at that time, there being one General for each of the 13 colonies, handed down their rank to their sons, and thus the order was kept alive. The next time that the Order felt it must become active was immediately after the Civil War, and a band of gorillas under Quantrall was organized and operated until they had satisfactorily straightened out the country. It was again disbanded and has now been reorganized as the country is once again being threatened by various sorts of ISMS. *(Note: the above is part of the speech made by General Effinger at meetings.)*

RITUAL and INITIATION:

Members are armed and masked, recruits are lined up for preliminary questions and oath. Grounds are patrolled by masked armed guards.

CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD:

1. Are you a native-born, white, gentle, protestant citizen?
2. Do you understand that this organization you are about to join is strictly secret and military in character?
3. This organization is classed by our enemies as an outlaw organization; are you willing to join such an organization?

(The above questions are asked each recruit.)

PRELIMINARY OATH:

Kneel upon your right knee; place your left hand over your heart and raise your right hand; repeat after me: *(Say I and repeat your name.)*

"Do solemnly promise and swear that I will never reveal any part or portion of the work I have already received or that which is about to be communicated to me. I further promise and swear I will never reveal a single word of anything that has transpired here tonight or the identity of anyone I may recognize in case I am refused membership in this organization. The penalty for violation of this oath is — DEATH.

(The recruits having passed this test and placed under oath are now taken before the larger body of Night Riders and surrounded by armed masked men.)

- 8 -
QUESTIONS BY COLONEL:

Address of Captain to Colonel presenting Recruits:

(Military Salute by Captain):

I present these recruits for further interrogation; they have answered the preliminary questions satisfactorily and have been well-recommended by friends in this organization; they have been bound by oath not to reveal anything that transpires here tonight or the identity of anyone they may recognize in case they are refused admission to this organization.

1. What is your name?
2. Where do you live?
3. How old are you?
4. Are you a protestant?
5. What church do you belong to, or believe in?

LECTURE BY CHAPLAIN:

"This organization is one of chivalry and daring, following footsteps of the giant bands of the south and is based on southern chivalry; by our enemies were classed as outlaws and outlaws we are, indeed; we have no charter; if we were chartered, our roster would have to be available at all times. You have already signified your willingness to join such an organization. We class as our enemies all negroes, Jews, Catholics and anyone owing any allegiance to any foreign potentate. We fight as gorillas, using any weapon that may come to our hand, preferably the ballot, and, if necessary, by bearing arms. The Republican party are in the grasp of the rich, while the Democrats seem to be in the clutches of the Pope. Our forefathers won this land from the savages and paid for it with their blood. The purpose of war is to kill, for did not God make it honorable to kill; did he not cast Lucifer out of Heaven. Our purpose is to tear down, lay waste, destroy and kill our enemies without mercy as long as one enemy remains alive or breath remains. Black Knights come to the sign of the Death Head and the slogan of a Night-Rider is - UNTIL DEATH.

QUESTIONS BY COLONEL:

Will you accept an order and go to your death, if necessary, to carry it out?

Will you accept for your bed the earth, your roof the sky, your reward Death?

Will you oppose with the ballot and, if necessary, by bearing arms any attempt to place public tax money in the hands of Roman Catholics for use in their schools or use in their buildings or institutions?

Will you accept one man as your Judge, Jury and Attorney for the Defense?
Do you believe in the separation of church and state?
Will you lie to protect a comrade in this organization, if ordered to do so by your superior officer?
To what political organization do you now belong? Will you forget your party and vote for the best man if ordered to do so by your superior officer?
Can you keep a secret?

(On the last question a phoney password is passed around and one of the Blacks purposely repeats it, and then he is taken out and hung before all the recruits; a special harness is used and the rope is hooked on; a strap in the back; in the dark it looks like a true hanging. Carter stated that he has frequently been the victim in this act.)

**COLONEL to LIEUT. COLONEL:**

"Do you think these men have shown their fitness to join this organization by their answers to questions?" Answer: "Sir, I wish to subject these men to further questioning, have I your permission?" Answer: "You have."

**QUESTIONS BY LIEUT. COLONEL:**

"Can you ride a horse and shoot a rifle?"
"Are you properly armed?"
"Will you properly arm yourself as soon as possible?"
"Do you believe in Lynch Law?"
"Will you sign your name in Blood?"

**LIEUT. COLONEL TO COLONEL:**

"Sir, these men have answered all questions properly, and if they are bound by the oath that we are bound by - they are acceptable tome."

**BLACK OATH:**

Kneel on your right knee; place your left hand over your heart; raise your right arm, repeat after me: (Orders are then given to cover these men with loaded guns, and if they fail or falter, you know your duty.)

"In the name of God and Devil and by the power of light and darkness, good and evil, here under the black arch of heavens avenging symbol, I pledge and consecrate my body, my limbs, my heart and my mind and sweat by all powers of Heaven and Hell that I will devote my life to the obedience of my superior officers in this organization and that I will never betray a comrade in this organization. I further promise and swear that I will destroy, without mercy, all FEDERALS, Jay Hawkers and their agents, whose serpent trail has winnowed the fair fields of our allies and sympathizers; these I will fight without mercy as long as breath remains. Before divulging a single word or implied pledge of this, my solemn oath, and obligation, I will pray to an avenging God and merciless Devil that..."
my limbs be broken with stones and cut off by inches; that they may be food for carrion birds; that my body be ripped open and my bowels torn out and fed to the foulest bird of the air, and that my head be split open and my brains scattered over the earth, my heart be torn out and roasted over flames of sulphur. And, lastly, may my soul be given unto torment, may it be submerged in a molten metal and stifled in the flames of Hell, and may this punishment be meted out to me through all eternity."

**SIGNS AND PASS WORDS:**

Pass word: PUT (name of place) Americans only on guard.

Call word: LIXTO (When this word is received by a Black Knight, either by word of mouth, telephone, telegraph or mail, he is supposed to drop anything he is doing and take up arms and go to the place named; for instance, if a call was made for Cleveland, the word would be LIXTO, CLEVELAND).

Test word: (Under the star of the guard, which is answered by the party approached saying -Until Death).

Signs: At night-time either a flashlight, match or auto headlights are flashed three times, and if the party flashed is a Black, he will answer with three flashes. In day-time the hat is pushed back on the head three times and is answered the same way. Any sign may be used in multiples of three and must be answered the same way.

Two copies of the above ritual were furnished to agent by Mr. and Mr. ; however, it will be noted that the part where the candidate is asked if he will accept one man to be his Judge, Jury and Attorney for the defense is not in it; Mr. stated that at the present time that question is asked and has, therefore, been placed in the above.

**DEGREES:**

1. Lowest rank - Foot Legion
2. - Night Riders
3. - Black Knight
4. - Armed Guard
5. - Bullet Club (consists of only selected Black Knights)

**ORGANIZATION:**

1. Squad - consists of 6 men and a corporal.
2. Company - consists of 78 privates, 18 corporals, 6 sergeants, 1 2d lieut., 1 1st lieut., and 1 captain.
3. Battalion - consists of 3 companies and is commanded by a major
4. Regiment - consists of 3 battalions and is commanded by a Colonel.
Colonels, Major Generals and Brigadier Generals are assistants to the General, who is in charge of one thirteenth of the U. S. In this connection, Mr. Effinger stated that he had heard that Senator Huey Long of La. was a General. However, he was unable to state who had told him, but did state that General Effinger had distributed about $20 worth of Long's speeches to the membership.

**PARTIAL LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Shepard</td>
<td>Bellaire, Ohio</td>
<td>Organizer and reputed head of Legion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claude Sutter</td>
<td></td>
<td>Assistant to Dr. Shepard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Dr. Shepard</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sister of Dr. Shepard and head of woman's auxiliary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bert Effinger</td>
<td>Lima, Ohio</td>
<td>Major General, in charge of all territory -Lima,Oh. to west coast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Frankhouser</td>
<td></td>
<td>Major and body to Effinger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles Hartzog</td>
<td></td>
<td>lst Lieut. sold 45 automatic to Carter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. L. Boyd</td>
<td></td>
<td>Intelligence Squad, works at Lima, News as a foreman; News is only paper in Lima.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mai Nevergall</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guy Effinger</td>
<td>Lima, Ohio</td>
<td>Lt. Colonel, son of General Effinger and travelling timekeeper for FERA.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Barber</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Colonel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry Tapscot</td>
<td>near Lima</td>
<td>Lt. Colonel; meetings are held on his farm; several houses containing dynamite are located here. Supposed to belong to a Mr. Jones, a hardware man.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(?) Rodaburger</td>
<td>not known</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russell Croft</td>
<td>Lima, Ohio</td>
<td>Major, travelling timekeeper for FERA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. E. Doty</td>
<td>Lima, Ohio</td>
<td>Major, Principal of Jefferson School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homer Taylor</td>
<td>not known</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Fisher</td>
<td>Lima, Ohio</td>
<td>Captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ma. Leffler</td>
<td>not known</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ray Clemens</td>
<td>Lima, Ohio</td>
<td>Captain, bodyguard of Effinger's</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilbur Sherritt</td>
<td></td>
<td>Captain and member of Intelligence Squad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dale Archer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lieut., works for FERA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bob Roush</td>
<td></td>
<td>Captain, FERA timekeeper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roy Hoover</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lieut., janitor, 210½ W. Market St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cransom McClure</td>
<td>not known</td>
<td>FERA employee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homer Murry</td>
<td>Lima, Ohio</td>
<td>FERA employee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
John Parkins  Lima, Ohio
Ed. Dubler  
Walter Jackson  
Don Painter  
Ed. Wise  
(? Joseph  
Roy Diltz  
Ward Taylor  
(?) Sloan  Sidney
Political contact man
Chief of Police, Lima, O.
General, employee State Highway Dept., supposed to sign all death warrants of errant members.

Bill Zimmerman  Lima, O.  Former FERA paymaster
Glen Webb  Present FERA paymaster
Dick Adams  Employed by FERA
(?) Marsh  
Ed Worthington  
L. M. Neal  
Stewart Caugh  
(?) McGinnis  
(?) Riley  
(?) Simone  
Amy McGinnis  Lima, Ohio  
Mrs. Shafer  

MEETING PLACES in LIMA, OHIO

Old Ford Dance Hall, Findlay Rd and Sugar St.
Order United American Mechanics Hall, N. Main and Wayne
Ku Klux Klan Hall, South Central St.
132 E. 5th - only a company meeting place.
Tappan Farm, Bellefontaine Rd., 5 miles east of Lima, O.
Old P.O. Bldg., used by the FERA at present; basement used for meetings of FERA employees.
Orfidersville Town Hall, 7 miles south of Lima, O., (The marshal is a member.)
DATES OF MEETINGS AND ROSTER OF MEMBERS:

There are not stated meetings; some are called by the officers at their will and the word is passed around by mouth. The only roster of members kept is that in the possession of each Captain: ie, a list of the members of his company.

The following addresses were obtained by agent from Mr. Cordrey, who stated that they were the return addresses on mail that had been recently received by Bert Effinger:

- 521 North County Line St., Fostoria, Ohio
- 1716 Richardson St., Ft. Wayne, Indiana
- 37 Campau St., NW, Grand Rapids, Mich.
- 1810 Munaford Road, Toledo, Ohio
- 202 Georgia Av., Bowling Green, Ohio
- Box 828, Columbus, Ohio
- 15877 Indiana Avenue, Detroit, Michigan
- M. S. Kemsell, Cadiz, Ohio
- Log Kehin Kemp, Deshler, Ohio
- 319 Stearns Avenue

UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

The CINCINNATI, Ohio, office will at Columbus, Ohio, ascertain to whom Box 828 is listed and endeavor to ascertain that individual's connection with instant organization, if any. It is suggested that this investigation be conducted in a discreet manner, as members will not talk if approached directly.

The CINCINNATI, Ohio, office will at Bollaire, Ohio, endeavor to ascertain the identity of Dr. Shepard and Mr. Claude Sutter, reputed heads of the Black Legion, and conduct such other investigation as they deem advisable.

The DETROIT, Michigan, office will at 15877 Indiana Ave., Detroit, ascertain the identity of the person who sent Bert Effinger mail from that address with a view to ascertaining whether or not the Black Legion has a completely equipped machine gun outfit in Detroit.

The DETROIT, Michigan, office will at 37 Campau St., Grand Rapids, ascertain who is sending Bert Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, mail from that address.

The CLEVELAND, Ohio, office will continue to investigate instant cases along such lines as are deemed advisable for the purpose of ascertaining the identity of the members of the Department of Justice, who are reputed to be members of the Black Legion.

- PENDING -

- 14 -
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.
June 12, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: BLACK LEGION;
   NIGHT RIDERS;
   BULLET CLUB - Miscellaneous

The Bureau was requested in a memorandum from Mr. William Stanley dated April 15, 1935 to conduct an investigation concerning an organization known as the Black Legion, allegedly existing at Lima, Ohio. This matter came to the attention of the Department through Mr. K. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C.

Investigation conducted by Special Agent C. E. Smith of the Cleveland Office disclosed that the Black Legion is a secret organization, originally formed prior to the Revolutionary War for patriotic purposes. The order subsequently disbursed, was re-assembled after the Civil War, and was recently again organized for the purpose of protecting the country against the various "sorts of isms" in the Government. It was ascertained that a Mr. Bert Effinger, commonly referred to as General, is the head of the organization at Lima, Ohio.

Former members of the Black Legion advised that membership in Allen County, Ohio had grown to about three thousand; that the organization as originally planned was of a patriotic nature; but at this time is distinctly revolutionary and is designed to obtain control of Governmental agencies. It is also stated by former members that about 80 per cent of the employees of the local Federal Emergency Relief Administration are members of the organization. Mr. Bert Effinger is reported to have stated that sixty or seventy employees of the Department of Justice are members, and that after a rumor had been spread that the Old Post Office Building was going to be destroyed by the Legion, a Department of Justice man from Cincinnati, Ohio had conducted an investigation. Effinger is alleged to have reported that the "Agent" was about to join the Legion. No further or definite information was obtained as to this matter.
Memo for the Director

Information was also obtained that the legion has a fully equipped company of machine gunners and a battalion of members equipped with Army rifles at Detroit, Michigan. A .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol was obtained from a former member of the legion who is alleged to have received it in a raid on certain Catholics located in another county. The serial number of this gun was mutilated and efforts are being made by the Bureau to ascertain the number so that the origin thereof may be known.

It was learned, upon the resignation of members of this organization, that they and their families were harassed and threatened by the organization.

The Black Legion is organized in degrees known as the Foot Legion, Night Riders, Black Knight, Armed Guard and the Bullet Club. It is to be noted that the activities of the Bullet Club came to the attention of the Bureau in November, 1934 by a report of Post Office Inspector J. F. Cordrey who alleged a plot was being formed to destroy the Federal buildings. The plot was allegedly directed against the Federal Emergency Relief Administration by dissatisfied Communists. Investigation by Mr. Cordrey revealed that the rumors were unfounded; that an unemployment league known as the Bullet Club was engaged in a dispute involving religious questions.

The investigation of this matter is proceeding to determine the truth of the statements concerning the membership of the Department of Justice employees and to determine the origin of the .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

A. G. Berens.
July 6, 1935

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,
Mr. Stephens

With reference to the memorandum of Mr. Stanley dated April 15, 1935, which requested an investigation regarding an organization known as the Black Legion, alleged to be in existence at Lima, Ohio, there is forwarded herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent J. D. Cunningham, dated at Detroit, Michigan, on June 24, 1935.

You will be promptly furnished with copies of further reports in this matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #307667

DECLASSIFIED BY
ON 9-30-77
L.E.M.
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CLEVELAND, OHIO

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN

DATE WHEN MADE 6/24/35

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/5, 10, 14/35

REPORT MADE BY J. D. CUNNINGHAM

CHARACTER OF CASE MISCELLANEOUS - Confidential

TITLE

BLACK LEGION

NIGHT RIDERS

BULLET CLUB

DATE

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

John F. Scendahl, 15877 Indiana Avenue, employee American Blower Company, Detroit, Michigan,

Employers state good worker with good record in that concern; born Sweden, naturalized American citizen.

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, 5/24/35.

DETAILS:

At Detroit, Michigan

The premises at 15877 Indiana Avenue were viewed by this writer, and it was ascertained that this is a modern two-family dwelling house.

At the Palmer Park Postal Station, William Stewart was interviewed and he stated that he would cooperate thoroughly in the matter and have the mailmen delivering mail to the above premises make a discreet inquiry as to the occupants thereof. Mr. Stewart subsequently advised that Paul D. Davis resided in the lower apartment; that he has resided there for the past three years; that he is employed with the Michigan Title Company, is married, and is of the Roman Catholic Religion. Mr. Stewart further advised that John F. Scendahl has resided in the upper flat for a period of approximately 60 days; that this man is of Swedish nationality, is a naturalized American citizen, and is employed at the American Blower Company, Russell Street, Detroit. This man is of the Lutheran Religion. Due to the nature of this investigation and

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND INAWARDED: D. H. Nicholson
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

RECORDED AND INDEXED: 6/22/35

BUREAU 13
Cleveland

Detroit 3

JUNE 23 A.M.

DECLASSIFIED BY

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILE 60,00

1935

JUN 23 A.M.

RECEIVED BY

1935

JUN 23

RECEIVED BY

1935

JUN 23

RECEIVED BY
the fact that Paul E. Davis is a Roman Catholic, he was not investigated further.

At the American Blower Company, 6000 Russell Street, Mr. Abel, executive, was interviewed, and he stated that Mr. Scendahl had been employed by that concern since approximately last January; that as far as he knew he was a good worker. He stated that Mr. Kane was in charge of the employment records, and advised that this man be interviewed. Mr. Kane upon being interviewed stated that Scendahl was hired through the Engineering Department about the first of the year; that according to the records he was born April 21, 1898, is married and has no children but is at the present time supporting his mother. The records further showed that he was five feet six inches in height, 156 pounds, was naturalized June 16, 1924; that he was born in Sweden; that he owns realty valued at $6,000 with a $3600 coverage; and that he is a member of the Lutheran Emanuel Church. This man's prior employers were:

1916 to 1919 — Gorbensen Axle Company, Cleveland, Ohio
1919 to 1920 — Eaton Axle Company, Cleveland, Ohio
1922 to 1934 — Dohlstrom Metal Door Company, Jamestown;

and that he has been employed in his present position since January 16, 1935. A notation appears on the record to notify Mrs. Carl Stolpe, 15335 Roselawn Avenue, Detroit. In conclusion Mr. Kane advised that this man's immediate superior is Mr. Polk.

Mr. Polk upon being interviewed stated that this man is apparently a good worker, honest, conscientious; that he never speaks wildly nor has he shown comministic or radical tendencies; that he is apparently open and above board. Mr. Polk further stated that this man's duties at the company are those of a draftsman, and that the company is very well satisfied with his work. Mr. Polk advised that he would make discreet inquiries in an attempt to learn further information about this man's home life.

In all of the above interviews it was carefully explained to the employers of Scendahl that he was not implicated criminally in any way and that in all probability this man was not the one about whom information was sought. As report of reference requests that this investigation be made discreetly; no further contacts were made.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: The Detroit Office at GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN, 37 Campau Street, will ascertain who is sending mail to Bert Effinger, Lima, Ohio, from that address.

PENDING
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERMINAL</th>
<th>DATE MADE</th>
<th>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE</th>
<th>REPORT MADE BY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/6/35</td>
<td>6/26/35</td>
<td></td>
<td>S. L. FORBES</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TLD**
- BLACK LEGION
- NIGHT RIDERS
- BULLET CLUB

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

37 Campus Street in Grand Rapids, Michigan, found to be the office address of the Richards Storage Warehouse, Transfer Lines, F. G. Oldham, Manager, and Marion Keller, Secretary, unable to give any clue as to the identity of person writing to Bert Effinger, of Lima, Ohio. They have many employees, and Manager Oldham will attempt to locate the one corresponding with Effinger by inquiring of them under the pretense that mail has been returned from Bert Effinger to 37 Campus St.

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**REFERENCE:**

Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, 5/24/36.

**VISIT:**

Agent located the address of 37 Campus Street and found it to be the office entrance to the Richards Storage Warehouse and Transfer Lines. Miss Marion Keller advised that they employed approximately fifty persons and that they were all away at the time this agent called, but that she could not give any idea as to the person writing the letter.

Mr. F. G. Oldham, the manager, later appeared, and he advised that he had had some trouble with labor leaders from Detroit attempting to organize his force and that he was continually on the look out for...
anything that may cause trouble with his laborers. He was unable to
give any clue as to the possible identity of the person writing to
Bert Effinger at Lima, Ohio, but advised that he would inquire among
his employees, advising them that mail had been returned from Bert
Effinger to his office address. Mr. Oldham was very co-operative with
Agent and assured him that he would make every effort possible to learn
the identity of the person writing the letter.

UNDEVELOPED LEAD:

The DETROIT OFFICE at Grand Rapids, Michigan, will
again contact F. C. Oldham at 37 Campus St. at an early date to ascer-
tain from him if he has any information as to the identity of the
person writing from that address to Bert Effinger at Lima, Ohio.

PENDING
Mr. [Redacted] stated he was well-acquainted with Dr. Shepard; that he had known him for some fifteen or twenty years and considered him more or less a braggart. Mr. [Redacted] of the First National Bank stated Dr. Shepard was a "big wind jammer"; that he did not consider him a leader among men. [Redacted] advised Dr. Shepard was city health officer for the city of Bellaire, O.; that he had known him several years but considered him harmless; that he was of the opinion Dr. Shepard was a dope addict. Supt. of Mails Columbus, O. advised there is no post office box numbered 828 at Post Office Columbus.

Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, dated 5-24-35, Cleveland, Ohio.

AT BELLAIRE, OHIO.

Agent contacted Mr. [Redacted] Bellaire, Ohio who advised that he had known Dr. Shepard for the past fifteen or twenty years; that several years ago Dr. Shepard was mixed up with the Klu Klux Klan and seemed to take an active part at that time; that...
Shepard retained a large box in the post office but rarely received any mail other than monthly bills; that on several occasions while talking with Dr. Shepard the Doctor would state how he hated Catholics and all foreigners and that they should be run out of this country; that on one occasion, several years ago, Dr. Shepard made the remark that he was going to blow up the First National Bank Building in Bellaire because the president of the bank had been lending money to foreigners. Mr. [obscured] stated that he paid little attention to this statement as he knew Dr. Shepard was a boastful talker and he knew he didn't mean what he said.

Agent contacted Mr. [obscured] of the First National Bank, Bellaire, Ohio, who stated that he had known Dr. Shepard practically all his life; that he came from a good family who had lived in and around Bellaire for the past thirty or forty years; that Dr. Shepard had always been a big talker and was at one time connected with the Ku Klux Klan several years ago but that he had heard nothing of the supposed organization which Dr. Shepard is now supposed to be organizing; that it was the general talk about town that Dr. Shepard was a big wind jammer and no one paid much attention to what he had to say.

Agent contacted [obscured] of Bellaire, Ohio, who stated he had known Dr. Shepard for several years; that Dr. Shepard was now employed as city health officer for the city of Bellaire, Ohio; that he knew Dr. Shepard was connected with the Klan several years ago but that he had no recent information about Dr. Shepard organizing a secret organization there. He stated that he had heard Dr. Shepard on several occasions curse the Catholics but that as he had known him for several years and knew that he was harmless he paid no attention to what he had to say. [obscured] stated that several years ago when the Klan had their meeting which were held out in the country, usually upon some high hill that some of the members would shoot off bombs or loud cracking fire crackers and also light up a large red cross; that he had heard nothing of this until about three weeks ago at which time a band of gypsies were camping a few miles from Bellaire; that about midnight one night someone shot off several loud bombs and scared these gypsies into leaving the community; that he had heard that Dr. Shepard was the instigator of this, but couldn't say of his own knowledge.

Dr. Shepard is described as being:

- Age: 50
- Height: 5'10"
- Weight: 170 lbs.
- Mustache: Smooth shaven
- Hair: Dark
- Complexion: Dark
- Marital Status: Married; one daughter 12 years old;
stated that there was no Mrs. Shepard in Bellaire; that Dr. Shepard had a sister whose name is Jenny Shepard, who works as a nurse in Dr. Shepard's office; that he had heard that Jenny Shepard was connected with the Women's Auxiliary of the Klu Klux Klan several years ago; that she was about 40 years old.

Agent made inquiry at the post office as well as at the city hall but was unable to locate Claude Sutter mentioned in reference report as being an assistant to Dr. Shepard. Claude Sutter is unknown in Bellaire, Ohio.

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent J. E. Thornton,

AT COLUMBUS, OHIO.

Agent contacted H. R. Burchfield, Clerk in the office of the Superintendent of the Mails, Columbus, Ohio, who informed agent that there is no post office box numbered 828. Mr. Burchfield took agent around to the Box section and showed that for purposes of convenience in sorting that the smaller boxes are arranged at the top and the larger boxes are arranged down low and that in the series of boxes that the numbers between 825 and 831 are omitted.

If any mail were sent to this box number at Columbus it could not be delivered and would eventually go to the "dead letter office."

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.
MARION KELLER advised the Manager of the Black Legion Club at Detroit, Michigan, that Mr. Oldham had been unable to find out the identity of the person sending mail from 37 Campus Street in Grand Rapids, Michigan, to Bert Effinger at Lima, Ohio. He advised that he would notify the Detroit Office if information is received.

REFERENCE:

AT GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN.

In the absence of Mr. F. C. Oldham, Marion Keller was contacted and advised that Mr. Oldham had been unable to ascertain the identity of the person writing to Bert Effinger at Lima, Ohio, and giving 37 Campus Street, at Grand Rapids, Michigan, as the return address. Miss Keller advised that the Detroit Office would be immediately notified in case they should find the identity of the person using that address as a return address in corresponding with Bert Effinger. If information should at any time be sent to the Detroit Office, the Cleveland Office will immediately be furnished with same.

CLASSIFIED BY 6-080

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION: TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN
August 22, 1935.

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio,

RE: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB - Miscellaneous;

Dear Sir:

The Bureau file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your district.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADvised By ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF DECLASSIFIED
DATE: 10-3-77
63774

RECORDED
61-7878-13

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77
LED05

FILE SECTION
MAILED
AUG 22, 1935

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FBI
UNITED STATES BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

This case originated at CLEVELAND, OHIO

STROTT, MICHIGAN 8/31/35 8/20/35 REPORT MADE BY: H. E. MURSE

BLACK LEGION
NIGHT RIDERS
SMOKER CLUB

APPROPRIATE ANALYSTS AND FIELD OFFICER ADVISED IN ROUTING CLIP (B) OF DATE

CHARACTER OF CASE: MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:
Michigan State Police arrested three members of Black Legion after meeting held 8/12/35 near Adrian, Michigan. Concealed weapons, black gowns with skull hood found in their possession. County Prosecutor, Adrian, Michigan, states he will prosecute on charge of carrying concealed weapons.

DETAILS:
This investigation was made in response to the request of County Prosecutor L. B. Kuney, Adrian, Michigan, who advised that the Michigan State Police had arrested three men carrying concealed weapons and who claimed to be members of the Black Legion.

In a preliminary discussion with Sergeant G. W. Waterman of the East Lansing, Michigan, State Police, Sheriff Fred Seger, County Prosecutor L. B. Kuney and this agent, the following facts were given by Mr. Kuney. For some months an organization known as the Black Legion, which has its main supporters in Detroit, Michigan, has held meetings in and around Adrian, Michigan, for the purpose of aiding this section of the country in its state wide and national organization. The meetings are held in the open air, out on prairies or clearings in the woods, away from the main highways. The meetings are held from the beginning of darkness until midnight. The police were told that a meeting was to be held on the night of August 19, 1935, and they trailed a car after the meeting and searched the occupants and car after being questioned. The State Police took the following men into custody: Elsworth S. Shinasbery, 1576 Pasadena Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, age 40, occupation mechanic, Ford Motor Company, Badge #34716, married, 5 feet 6' inches, 120 pounds.
The following is the important property taken from the automobile of the above men and held at the Sheriff's office, Adrian:

1. .38 calibre Colt Police Positive Special revolver, #165220
2. 6121 German Luger Automatic Pistol, mark Gesichert, with attached dagger and scabbard.
3. Black gowns with hood for head bearing skull and cross bones.

There were also various printed instructions similar to army instructions as to how many men were composed in a platoon, company, etcetera. There were orders for mobilization and plans of attack. Mr. Kuney stated the men admitted the suitcases belonged to them but not the contents; that the guns and other equipment were packed and merely handed down to them by higher officials whom they did not know; that these articles were for the purpose of holding the meeting. They admitted carrying the concealed weapons but insisted that they did not own them. There was also an address book in which was listed one Harry Davis, 775 Ferdinand Street, Detroit, Michigan. This individual was arrested on August 14, 1935, at Detroit, Michigan, charge carrying concealed weapons, meetings Black Legion, Detroit, Michigan. This was reported in the Detroit papers a few days before this investigation.

A prospective Black Legion member of Adrian, one _, informed those present at the preliminary discussion that he was invited by one of his customers to attend a worthwhile meeting. He thought he would be taken to a cock fight or some such event but found an open air meeting of about 30 people, the leaders of which were wearing the gowns and masks. He explained that it was on the order of the Ku Klux Klan which organization arrived some years ago, except the purpose of this Black Legion seemed to be to protect citizens in uprisings which might develop or those in which the local law enforcement officials would fail to quell or handle in a proper manner. As an example, if a negro had raped a white girl the orders from those in command of the Black Legion might be such that they would deem it advisable to lynch the negro; therefore, it is necessary that every member have a gun in readiness for any call that may come part of the state of Michigan. _ further stated that another prospective member, one Thomas Heinreich, has been threatened that he will be taken for a ride if he does not attend the meeting. Neither nor Heinreich would become members and refused to sign the secret oath with their own blood which the commander of the Black Legion desired.
All members are given a bullet, which is a token of membership, and they are to conduct themselves so that it will never be necessary for the officials to ask for its return. He stated that he was told he would not be required to do any of the tough jobs as these jobs are handled by men imported from Toledo and also from Detroit.

After this preliminary discussion, one of the men arrested, Andrew Martin Jr., was called into the meeting for questioning. He insisted that he was an American citizen upholding the Constitution of the United States; that he had taken the secret oath in the Black Legion and could divulge no information regarding the individuals of the organization. He stated that even he did not know who the superior officers were as the orders came down the line similar to army orders. He further stated that their main objective was to combat communism, which was sweeping the country; that their oath in becoming a member of the Black Legion was only a renewal of their faith in the United States Government and upholding the principles embodied in the Constitution of the United States. As an example he mentioned that we are all familiar with United States history and that a body of men two hundred years ago had to take things into their own hands at Boston, Massachusetts, which resulted in the Boston tea party. He stated that within the last two or three years communism has become rampant throughout the United States and it was again time for the red blood of American patriots to take things into their own hands.

Martin stated that he had not worked since 1928 and keeps house for his mother; that most of the members were of the working class of people and respectable citizens, and were interested in preserving order and dignity in the United States. At this point Agent informed County Prosecutor Kuney and Sergeant Waterman privately that he would submit the serial numbers of the guns for tracing. Kuney stated that he would commence prosecution on charges of carrying concealed weapons.

This report is for the information of the office of origin which office is conducting a confidential investigation into the activities of this organization.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS: The New York Office at HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, will contact the Colt Firearm Company and trace the ownership of the 38 Colt Police Positive Revolver, Serial 160250.

The Detroit Office at ADRIAN, MICHIGAN, will contact County Prosecutor L. B. Kuney and obtain the disposition of this case and any other pertinent information that was obtained through prosecution.

PENDING
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:
Informant advises state committee recently investigated relief conditions in Lima and received complaints about Legion. Armed guards, members of the Legion, to be at polls on election day.

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 5-24-35.

DETAILS: AT LIMA, OHIO

Mr. [redacted] was interviewed and advised that recently a committee from the state legislature had been in Lima, Ohio, investigating relief conditions in Allen County and that during the investigation George Armstrong, a resident of Lima, and self-confessed member of the Black Legion, had appeared before the committee and stated that the Legion controlled all relief jobs in Allen County through Burt Effinger, head of the local Legion. Armstrong further stated that discrimination was shown in the manner in which relief jobs were issued, especially to Catholics and colored workers.
On August 10, 1935, Special Agent in Charge J. P. MacFarland received a letter from Mr. L. E. MacFarland, which is as follows:

Lima, Ohio
August 9, 1935

Dear Sir:

I have been doing some checking since you were here and have found out that on or about September 1, 1934, there were some guns stolen from the Allen Co. Historical Society, located in Memorial Hall, corner Elm and Elizabeth Streets, of this city.

I am unable to get the numbers of these guns, as there is no record of that kind kept, but did obtain the make of the guns taken. There was one German officer's Luger; one German Sharpshooter's Luger and holster; one German sharpshooter's Mauser pistol; one American officer's pistol (Colt); one American officer's .45 automatic pistol; one D.A. .45 revolver; one .45 Smith and Wesson; 2 German clips for pistol; 2 clips and 65 rounds of .45 ammunition. This equipment was taken from the case display of Major John H. Blattenberg.

It is my understanding that some members of the Black Legion planned to get this equipment. I believe that it will be found that one Chas. Hartzog stole this equipment as this man, who is known to be a member of the Black Legion, works at Memorial Hall and could have very easily gotten this equipment.

I have been unable to locate the gun dealer I was telling you about when you were here, but hope to do so soon. I understand that there is a man by the name of George Barrington, who is a member of the Black Legion, and lives on the northeast corner of Eureka and Jackson Streets, has a .45 automatic Colt and holster which he bought from a man who works at the White Mountain Creamery, whose name I have been unable to learn, but I understand this man sells quite a few guns. I talked to Mr. Barrington a few days ago and he tells me that a man in this city, can tell you considerable about the maps of fortification of this country which Burt Effinger has in his possession. I made a few inquiries as to whether or not the Black Legion would have armed guards at election booths this coming election, primaries, and understand they will have. Of course, I do not know for sure, but in view of the fact that they have had in the past, it is reasonable to believe they will have this time. I believe that if you were to come down here and stay for a day or two we could get this straightened out. I have been informed that Burt Effinger at a meeting time ago displayed a card with several names on it and told the people
at the meeting the names on the card were those of all federal men and their religions and that these men all reported to him when they came in town. Of course, I realize no federal man reports to him, but a lot of these folks here believe everything he says.

"I have moved from directly above.

"Must close and hope to see you soon or hear from you.

/s/

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The CLEVELAND OFFICE at LIMA, OHIO, will discreetly interview Major John H. Blattenberg and endeavor to ascertain the numbers of the guns he had on display at the Allen County Historical Society and check same against the number of the .45 cal. Colt Automatic previously obtained and now in possession of the Bureau.

The CLEVELAND OFFICE at LIMA, OHIO, will interview Mr. [redacted] and obtain from him all information he has in his possession relative to maps of fortifications in the possession of Burt Effinger. In this connection it is suggested that Mr. [redacted] be contacted through [redacted] as he may be able to assist. Will also again interview [redacted] for the purpose of obtaining if possible the name of the individual who is employed by the White Mountain Creamery, reported to be selling guns.

PENDING
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORT MADE AT: NEW YORK CITY
DATE WHEN MADE: 9/11/35
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: 9/9/35
REPORT MADE BY: JUNE H. HENRY

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:


REFERENCE:
Report of Special Agent N.R. Manson, Detroit, Michigan, dated August 31, 1935.

AT HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT.

Mr. Robert Courtney of the record department, Colt Patent Firearms Manufacturing Company, 17 Van Dyke Avenue, advised that .38 calibre Colt Police Positive revolver, serial No. 160290 (4 inch barrel) was sold by the Colt Company to the Standard Bros. Hardware Corporation,

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

APPROVED AND FORWARD: [Signature]

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 12 1935
SEP 12 A.M.

RECORD AND INDEXED

BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SEP 13 1935

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
Bureau of Investigation

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FUNNISH TO:

1. Bureau
2. Cleveland
2. Detroit
2. New York

DECLASSIFIED BY: [Signature]

CLERK'S OFFICE
SEP 12 1935
DETROIT OFFICE: At Detroit, Michigan, will make proper inquiry of Standard Bros. Hardware Corp. as to their sale of .38 Colt Police Positive revolver, serial #160890.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

[Redacted] and [Redacted], both of Lima, Ohio, state that about a year and a half ago they saw a map supposedly of the secret fortifications of New York City and of the United States in the possession of [Redacted]. Effinger, leader of the Black Legion, and that Effinger said he was getting the maps through the U.S. Department of Justice and that they were very hard to get. No information obtained concerning identity of Special Agents of the U.S. Department of Justice who are supposed to belong. No information as to identity of person in White Mountain Creamery who is selling guns to members of Black Legion. Colonel Lupps, prominent at City Hall, Detroit, Michigan, supposed to be supplying guns also.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES

ADVISORY EYEWITNESS

DATE

REFERENCE

Report of Special Agent C.E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 9/6/35.

DETAILS:

AT LIMA, OHIO

Agent interviewed as to what additional information he had concerning the facts of the instant case other than that contained in his letter to the Cleveland Office under date of August 9, 1935 and set out at length in the report of reference. Mr. [Redacted] advised that he did not have any additional information stating that he had not been able as yet to ascertain the
identity of the man who is employed at the White Mountain Creamery who is reported to be selling guns. He advised that he was unable to find out where the cards were that contained a list of Federal Agents that were supposed to be members of the Black Legion. He also informed Agent that Major John H. Blattenberg was deceased and it was from his collection which he had given to the Allen County Historical Society, that various guns were recently stolen. Mr. advised that he believed these guns were stolen by a man by the name of Charles Hartzog who is a member of the Black Legion, a known radical, and he probably stole them for the purpose of arming some of the members of the Legion.

Mr. located who is employed as a who advised Agent that he had been a member up until about fourteen months ago and shortly prior to that time he had seen a map of the secret fortifications of New York City in the possession of Burt Effinger, leader of the Legion in Lima; that Effinger kept it either in a safe in his basement or under the rafters of his home. He stated at the time that he procured these maps from the U. S. Department of Justice and they were very hard to get, it taking as much as eight months to purloin one. He stated that at the time he went into the Legion, Effinger had stated there were about sixty some Agents of the U. S. Department of Justice who were members and they reported regularly to him when they came to town. Mr. was unable to give the name of any of the Agents who were supposed to be members. He also advised that at present information was that there were about 3200 members of the Legion in Allen County and they control the relief organization in Allen County.

Through Agent contacted who is a carpenter in Lima, Ohio, and who advised that he had joined the Black Legion about four years ago at the time it first started in Lima; that it was not the outgrowth of the Ku Klux Klan though most of the members of the latter organization had become members of the Legion. Mr. advised that about eighteen months ago he had been to a meeting of the Legion in the old Ku Klux Klan Hall in Lima; that at that time Burt Effinger had possession of a map which he said was the secret fortifications of New York City; that Effinger stated there were some disappearing guns located underneath the Statue of Liberty. Mr. advised that it required several men to hold it up for inspection; that when Effinger asked him, him, to take hold of it he refused because he did not want to get "framed". At this time Effinger stated that he got the maps through the Department of Justice and it was very hard to get them; that often it took as much as six or eight months to obtain one. Mr. stated that at the time he became a member, Effinger was saying there were nine Agents of the U. S. Department of Justice who were members of the organization, but had never heard any of the names.
As Agent was talking to Mr. lime the name of "Uppe" was mentioned, at which Mr. lime advised that the name was not "Uppe", but "Luppe"; that he was well known around the City Hall in Detroit, Michigan. He stated he had been Colonel Luppe on several occasions and he seemed to be the one who was supplying most of the Black Legion with guns through his political connections at the City Hall in Detroit.

Mr. lime was unable to throw any additional light on the present set-up of the Legion, but stated there was a city election coming shortly and the contest was between the members of the Black Legion and those who were Catholics or were not members in the Legion.

Following this interview, Agent was contacted by lime who advised that one of the candidates for the office of mayor in the city election, to be held in the near future in Lima, was Catholic and a bitter opponent of the Black Legion, and had stated to him that if a Government man with the proper credentials was to come to him, he had enough information to blast the Legion into Kingdom Come. He stated this candidate's name was William Murphy and he was employed in the local locomotive works. On first thought Agent intended to contact Mr. Murphy but later deemed it advisable that in view of the impending election in which there appears to be considerable strife developing, it would be wiser not to contact Mr. Murphy at the present time since it might involve the Bureau in a local political detriment.

Mr. lime advised that other persons known to him as being members were:
- Charles Long, City Solicitor, Lima, Ohio.
- State Representative Meyers, Lima, Ohio.
- Lieutenant Steen of the Erie Railroad Police, Lima, Ohio.

Mr. lime also advised that he was the person who disarmed the Chief of Police of Lima, Ward Taylor, at the time he became a member of the Black Legion. He stated that he had told him a man by the name of Joe Louis, living near Lima, who was a former member, would be able to give some information.

Agent consulted Special Agent in Charge J. P. MacFarland, as to further steps to be taken in this investigation, since it is apparent that the only informants developed are those who were members some months back. It was discussed whether it would not be better to interview Burt Effinger, leader of the Legion, and ascertain the membership of the Black Legion and the character of the fortification map he is alleged to have in his possession. Agent was advised that in view of the fact the Bureau had requested a confidential inquiry, such a procedure, as suggested by Agent, should be referred to the Bureau for its decision. Agent was informed that such a reference would be made shortly by letter to the Bureau.
UNDEVELOPED LEADS:

THE DETROIT OFFICE at DETROIT, MICHIGAN, will ascertain at the City Hall, if a man by the name of Lupps is known there, and determine, if possible, what connections he has which would enable him to purchase firearms for distribution to the members of the Black Legion.

THE CLEVELAND OFFICE at LIMA, OHIO, will interview Joe Louis who may be located through either or as to any information concerning the Black Legion.

Will interview William Murphy on or about November 1, 1935, after the city election at Lima, Ohio, as to what, if any, information he may have concerning the Black Legion.

-- PENDING --
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

On 8/28/35, Justice of the Peace, Adrian, Michigan, dismissed case in which Michigan State Police arrested three members of Black Legion on charges of carrying concealed weapons; held that Michigan State Police exceeded their authority in searching the defendant's automobile. Inquiries at Detroit City Hall failed to reveal person by the name of Colon Luppa.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE:
Report of Special Agent, N. E. Manson, Detroit, Michigan, dated 9/31/35.
Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 10/1/35.

DETAILS:
AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN.

At the Standard Hardware and Auto Supply Company, 1361 Gratiot, Agent was informed by the manager that this concern had no connection with the Standard Brothers Hardware Corporation; that this latter concern had gone out of business several years ago.
At the Detroit City Hall, Agent interviewed the following persons, who have a wide acquaintance with persons making contacts at the City Hall:

Policeman Andrew Miller and Policeman Jack Miner.

At the Record Bureau, James Stockwell, formerly in the Mayor's office.

Ray Nester in the Department of Public Works Office.

None of these persons ever heard of Colonel Lupps.

AT ADRIAN, MICHIGAN.

Mr. Lawrence J. Hammond, Assistant County Prosecutor, was interviewed relative to disposition of trial of Andrew Martin, Jr.; Roy L. Hepner, and Elsworth S. Shinaberry, who are held on charges of carrying concealed weapons. Mr. Hammond stated that this case was dismissed by Justice of the Peace, Franklin Kissel, on August 28, 1935; that Judge Kissel held that the search was illegal; that the Michigan State Police exceeded their authority in searching their automobile, as there was not probable cause, since the original information had been obtained by the Michigan State Police some five weeks previous, in which a similar meeting was held by the Black Legion; that the rest at which these three defendants were arrested and searched was at a later time.

The defendants were represented by an attorney, Harry Marx, Union Guardian Building, Detroit, and were also interceded by a person whose name Mr. Hammond could not recall. This latter individual was from Lima, Ohio, and he described him as being very stout and that he had informed Mr. Hammond that he was one of the highest officers of the Black Legion from the Lima district. He pleaded the case for the defendants, stating that the guns found in their possession had not been intended to violate the law, and did not, but were used exclusively as part of their ritual.

Mr. Hammond further stated that the whole affair has since quieted down, and that there have been no further complaints made, or other talk about the town, as was prevalent during the summer.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

- 2 -
Mr. William Murphy, Lima, Ohio, has no information of value. He desired to contact an Agent of the U.S. Dept. of Justice at election time for political purposes. He advised that Ward Taylor, Chief of Police, Lima, O., told him that he was a member of the Black Legion. Information indicates that Joe Louis, Lima, O., is at present a member in good standing with the Legion.

- P -

Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 10/1/55.

Agent contacted _______ who advised that he did not have any other information concerning the activities of the Black Legion than that which he has already furnished. He accompanied Agent to interview Mr. William Murphy, 712 S. Main St. who was a candidate for Mayor of Lima in the last election.

Mr. Murphy stated to Agent that if he had come around about election time that the Department of Justice could have done him some good by exposing the Black Legion. He stated that he knew nothing concerning the Black Legion except what he had picked up by hearsay. It developed that about all he had heard was what had been told him by
Mr. Murphy did state that last June he had met ward Taylor, Chief of Police of Lima, on the street and had asked Taylor point blank during a conversation if he was a Black Legionnaire. According to Mr. Murphy, Taylor admitted that he was a member.

In an effort to locate Joe Louis for an interview concerning what he knew about the Black Legion, it suggested that contact be had with George Scheid, 112 E. Market Street. While talking with Scheid, who was also a former Legionnaire and who has been interviewed, he advised that Louis is a member in good standing in the Legion. Mrs. Scheid also advised that Mrs. Louis is a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Black Legion. Under these circumstances it was not deemed advisable to interview Louis. Mr. Scheid was unable to furnish any additional information as to the recent activities of the Legion.
December 16, 1935

61-7398

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

BLACK LEGION, NIGHT RIDERS,
RE: BULLET CLUB,
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your district.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,


John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

[Signature]

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES AS IT MAY REQUIRE.

DECLASSIFICATION
DECLASSIFIED BY [Signature]
ON 5-30-77
LHD/AR

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

DEC 16, 1935
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION,
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
January 22, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders;
Bullet Club;
Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sirs:

Investigation in the above entitled case was requested by
Bureau letter to your office dated April 22, 1935, at the instance
of the Assistant to the Attorney General, Mr. William Stanley,
copies of his memorandum requesting investigation being transmitted
therewith.

Although investigative action has been carried on for a
period of nine months, the Bureau file reflects that same has failed
to develop any information of the nature desired. It is, therefore,
requested that your office thoroughly review its file in the above
case with a view to setting out all appropriate leads requiring
investigative action so that the case may be brought to a logical
conclusion at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
March 6, 1936,

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 22, 1936, in which your office was requested to institute a review of its files for the purpose of setting out such appropriate leads as might bring instant ease to a conclusion at the earliest possible date.

The Bureau file reflects that this matter has not received proper attention by your office. You are, therefore, requested to give same immediate attention and submit a report not later than March 25, 1936.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
March 14, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: BLACK LEGION;
NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
MISCELLANEOUS — CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated March 7, 1936, in which you request the advice of the Bureau as to the desirability of interviewing Burt Effinger and his son Guy, who are officers of the above named organization, relative to its purposes and membership, so that it may be definitely determined whether any employees of the Department of Justice are connected therewith.

After a careful consideration of the facts developed by the investigation to date, the Bureau desires that Effinger and his son be interviewed at this time in order that instant investigation may be brought to a logical conclusion at an early date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
March 7, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

RE: 
BLACK LEGION; 
ONTAGR RIDERS; 
CHICAGO CLUB;
MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

In connection with the investigation conducted by the Cleveland office in this matter, it appears that past investigation has developed considerable facts concerning the organization, including the names of the various persons appearing to be its directing heads. It also appears that the organization is primarily political in nature and that the allegations that employees of the Department of Justice belong to the organization is merely a "bluff" used on the part of the head of the Legion in Lima, one Burt Effinger, in order to impress members of the organization with its strength and position.

Accordingly, the Cleveland office is of the opinion that it might be appropriate at this time to interview Burt Effinger and his son, Guy, who is also an officer of the organization, relative to the organization and its purposes, having in mind making a demand that the membership list of the organization be produced so that it might be examined for the names of any Department of Justice employees, and also so that the officers could be requested to name the members who are employees of the Department. Other investigation does not appear to be particularly pertinent.

It is, therefore, requested that the Bureau advise as to whether it approves the procedure suggested herein, or whether it desires that further investigation be conducted along other lines, and that the officers of the organization not be approached.

Very truly yours,

J. P. MacFarland
Special Agent in Charge
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CASE ORIGINATED AT: Cleveland, Ohio
REPORT MADE AT: 3/7/36
DATE WHEN MADE: 2/21/36
PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: B. M. HIRSH
REPORT MADE BY: EJE
CHARACTER OF CASE: MISCELLANEOUS - CONFIDENTIAL

BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS; BULLET CLUB.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Informant is unable to furnish any further information of value. Is more than ever convinced now that organization is purely political.

- P -

REFERENCE:
Report of Special Agent E. H. Williams, Cleveland, Ohio, dated 12/12/35; letter from the Bureau dated 1/22/36.

DETAILS:
AT LIMA, OHIO

Interview was had with Street, who furnished considerable information of value in this case. Furnished information all of which, however, appears to be already incorporated in the file. In this connection he reiterated that the Legion has as members the Chief of Police of Lima, as well as the Chief of Detectives, Ross Landfair, as well as other detectives and patrolmen; that Mayor Metheny of Lima is also a member, although it appears that he received a private initiation. Stated further that his last information was that there are approximately 3,400 members of the Legion in Allen County, including the members in the city of Lima. In this connection it might be stated that the population of Allen County, together with the population of the city of Lima amounts to approximately 60,000 persons.
was unable to advise as to whether there is in existence any list containing the names of all of the Black Legion members.

advised further that he has not heard in the past several months of any acts of violence on the part of the Legion toward individuals in that vicinity. He further stated that he feels quite certain that the Legion is primarily a political organization and that by using the method that it does in its initiation and organization it is better able to control absolutely the votes of its members.

In accordance with suggestion contained in reference letter from the Bureau, the Cleveland office will take appropriate steps to conclude the investigation in this case.

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

The CLEVELAND OFFICE at Lima, Ohio, will continue investigation in this case.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH B. KEENAN,
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders;
BULLET CLUB; MISCELLANEOUS —
CONFIDENTIAL.

I am transmitting herewith a copy of the report
of Special Agent R. E. Hanson, dated at Cleveland, Ohio,
April 14, 1936, which completes the investigation which has
been conducted by this Bureau pursuant to the memorandum
from Mr. William Stanley, then Assistant to the Attorney
General, dated April 15, 1935.

Your attention is invited to the fact that the
purpose for which this investigation was conducted was to
ascertain whether any employees of the Department of Justice
were members of these organizations. Inasmuch as all the
investigative action to date has failed to disclose any facts
indicating that this situation exists, no further investigation
will be conducted by this Bureau in the absence of a specific
request from you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Review of the file made. In interview with Burt Effinger, Lima, Ohio, 4-8-36 he denies leadership activities in Black Legion, claiming he never was a member of the secret order. Admits he is member of Ku Klux Klan, but does not know of any Department of Justice agents who belong to either organization; also denies having possession of map showing secret fortifications of the United States.

DETAILS:

This file has been reviewed. The paramount investigation in this case has been an attempt to ascertain authentic information alleged to have been made by "Major General" Burt Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, who is said to be the local leader of the secret order, known as the Black Legion. On various occasions in 1934 and the early part of 1935 Effinger is alleged to have said to several Lima residents that sixty-two members of the Department of
Justice are members of his secret organization. The complainants also reported that a Dr. Shepard, of Bellaire, Ohio, is the head of the Black Legion in the U. S., that the son of Burt Effinger, Guy Effinger, is Lieutenant Colonel and that the entire organization is of a revolutionary character. The original complaint was made in February 1935 to Post Office Inspector J. F. Cordrey in Lima, Ohio.

Mr. Cordrey stated later that he subsequently had occasion to call upon Burt Effinger at his home, the result of which was a letter mailed by Burt Effinger to Mr. Cordrey, which contained the names of six persons who were thought to be closely connected with Communitic activities. Two of these individuals could not be identified or located and the other four have been interviewed many times, and it has been difficult to understand why these are the same persons who made or through whom the original complaint was made to Mr. Cordrey. These persons tell practically the same story in that they were former members of the Black Legion and were told that the order was to be a patriotic one and particularly to be against Communism and all otherisms; that later it grew to be distinctly revolutionary in that the heads of the organization were attempting to use it to gain control of various government agencies, taking the law into their own hands by resorting to firearms and bombings; that Burt Effinger said sixty or seventy members of the Department of Justice were members of the Black Legion and that he had in the basement of his home a large map showing the secret fortifications of the United States, which had been obtained from the U. S. Department of Justice.

Investigation revealed that Dr. Shepard was considered by the local residents of Bellaire, Ohio, as "a big wind jammer" and his apparent rash statements as being harmless. Other than scaring away a gypsy camp with loud bombs nothing was learned about the doctor being affiliated with the Black Legion, although it was learned that he had been active with the Ku Klux Klan some years ago.

The complaints as made by the Lima, Ohio, residents were also made in the summer of 1935 by several citizens of Adrian, Michigan, except that the headquarters of the Legion were at Detroit, Michigan. The Michigan State Police arrested three members of the Detroit Black Legion on August 19, 1935, after one of their out-door ceremonial meetings held near Ogden, Michigan. The police found concealed weapons, black gowns or shrouds, together with skull caps in their possession. These members were the only active members found during the entire investigation, and it was learned from them by this agent that no information regarding the individuals of their secret order could be divulged by them, because of having taken a secret oath to this effect. Information was obtained from them, however, that the Black-
Legion was of a strictly military type, orders coming down the line from their unknown superior officers; that the main objective of the order was to combat Russian Communism, which was sweeping the U. S., that their oath in becoming a member of the Black Legion was simply a renewal of their faith in the United States Government and to uphold the principles embodied in the Constitution of the U. S. Later investigation in this area disclosed that no further meetings were held and no further complaints were made. No prosecution was brought against these three members, the matter being dropped by the local authorities.

This reporting agent interviewed Burt Effinger at his home, 1114 Harrison Avenue, Lima, Ohio, on April 8, 1936. He informed agent he has resided in Lima, Ohio, for many years; that he was born in West Virginia and is an electrician by trade; that in the past he has been active in the American Federation of Labor circles, but that on account of his beliefs, in which he termed himself a constructive radical, in contrast to a destructive radical, he was pushed out and finally even lost his job, but was told that the latter was due to his ultra-conservative policies.

Burt Effinger denied to agent that he was a member of the Black Legion but did say he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan. He stated that this country is swiftly and more or less secretly being overcome by Communism; that Communism is a destructive theory of government, builds up nothing and that through its influence the homes of the citizens of this country are being undermined and broken down until there is no respect for the law; that the politicians and the law enforcement agencies through graft, parole and political power have failed to cope with the wide spreading crime wave that is prevalent over the country. Therefore, Effinger said quoting the last clause in the second amendment of the Constitution of the United States - "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed", it is sometimes right and necessary, in his opinion, for the patriotic citizens of this country to take the law into their own hands and to cope with situations that the local law enforcers have failed to handle. Effinger talked at great length rambling from one subject to another, but he continually stressed the fact that he loved the U. S. and the republic for which it stands; that the Constitution must be upheld at all costs, and that there are enough red-blooded Americans trying to awake the dormant citizens and politicians to realize that Russian Communism was making great inroads in the United States.

Since Effinger denied that he was a member of the Black Legion and also informed agent that he never attended any meetings of the Black Legion but had only heard of the Order, he was asked to whom agent might go to obtain information regarding the Order. He stated that he could refer agent to no one. He was questioned quite closely regarding the hearing of the three members of the Black Legion who were arrested near Adrian, Michigan, at which time an official from the Black Legion came from Lima to intercede for them, but his name was not preserved in the records by the local authorities.
Effinger stated that he was not the man and that all he knew about the case was what he obtained from the newspapers. He again stated that he never participated in their meetings nor is he familiar with their organization.

Agent then informed Effinger that his name had been complained of in that he was generally known to have the leader in the Black Legion and was asked to account for this. He replied that he is known as a radical, but that he wished to convey to agent that this term be understood in the right light as a constructive radical and that any person who attempts to do anything will be criticized; that, therefore, his name was probably turned in by the local communists whom he termed as dirty rats. He was then asked as to the rumors of bombing the post office, movies and roadhouses, to which he replied that these are the things that the communists want to do; that when and if these things should occur and the law fails to curb such activities, it is then time for the patriotic citizens to take the necessary steps that will prevent such destruction. Effinger admitted that he had heard rumors of such contemplated activities, whereupon he was again questioned as to the name of the person whom agent might interview in order to obtain definite information. He stated that he believed that it was one of the communists by the name of Armstrong, but he could furnish no address for him. (Armstrong was one of the names turned in by Effinger to Mr. Cordrey, but was never identified). Effinger then made the bold statement that if any such bombings or destruction did take place the situation would be well taken care of by the time that the Department of Justice would get to know about it.

Agent asked if this would be taken care of in behalf of the Ku Klux Klan or the Black Legion or just what organization, to which he replied that "only by the Red-blooded American Patriotic citizens of this community".

Effinger was then interrogated as to how many Department of Justice agents belonged to any such organizations as the Black Legion, Ku Klux Klan or any other secret order that he knew of. His answer was that he did not know any Department of Justice agents and, therefore, he does not think any agents belong; that about two years ago Agent Dickstein came to his house and questioned him along the same lines that the writer was doing. (This would be prior to the inauguration of the Cleveland field office and prior to the complaint made in this case).

Agent then informed Effinger of a certain map that he was supposed to have in his possession purporting to show the secret fortifications of this country and that he obtained it from the Department of Justice. He replied that he is not and never was in possession of such a map and, furthermore, stated that if he heard of anyone having such a map he would report it at once to the U. S. officials as the very possession of such a map is a penitentiary offense.
At this point Mrs. Effinger came into the room, and she stated that they were members of the Ku Klux Klan but not of the Black Legion. Inquiry was made concerning her son, Guy. She replied that Guy has not been at home for years, except for a short while last year; that he has a good record with the Grand Rapids, Michigan, Telephone Company, where he worked for six years; that last year he was home for a while when he was out of work; that he is now working as an engineer for the WPA out of Zanesville, Ohio. Both Mr. and Mrs. Effinger denied that their son ever belonged to the Black Legion or the Klan and, furthermore, when Guy was home he criticized his father for belonging to the Klan. Mrs. Effinger said Guy was a very conservative boy, of good habits, never having inhabited the pool rooms; was studious and a Mason. Mrs. Effinger appeared to be of refined and quiet manners while Mr. Effinger was of the loud and braggart type of individual. They live in a bungalow in a good section of town, together with their married daughter and grandchildren. On the whole, the home is of a refined atmosphere.

The following description of Burt Effinger was obtained by observation:

Name: V. H. Effinger  
Address: 1114 Harrison Ave., Lima, O.  
Age: about 60  
Height: 6'  
Weight: 200 lbs.  
Build: heavy  
Complexion: ruddy  
Hair: light grey-bald  
Eyes: blue

Reporting agent made attempts to interview some of the former persons interviewed in this investigation in order to ascertain if any Black Legion meetings were held recently, but was unsuccessful. Agent learned that informant had moved somewhere out in the country and left no forwarding address at this place. However, on February 21, 1936, when he was interviewed he stated that he had no further information. Other persons interviewed in the latter part of 1935 had no additional information to offer.

Inasmuch as this investigation reveals that the activities of the Black Legion were started some four years ago and that the complaints in this case relate to 1934 and the early part of 1935; that in the absence of additional complaints and no reports being received of any actual bombings or destruction of property, it is felt that the Black Legion movement has reined in a political issue and has now quieted down. It is also felt that an interview with Guy Effinger would not dis-
close who the alleged Department of Justice employees might be who are supposed to belong to the Black Legion. However, a copy of this report is being sent to the Cincinnati field office in the event that the Bureau deems it advisable to interview Guy Effinger in Zanesville, Ohio.

This case, therefore, is being closed with the sanction of Special Agent in Charge J. P. MacFarland and further investigation discontinued unless advised by the Bureau to the contrary.

- CLOSED -
May 29, 1936

Mr. H. H. Reinoehl,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
911 Federal Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Iams of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

[Signature]

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Brenchman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Ogle
Mr. Coffey
Mrs. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harby
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Sull
Mr. Lester
Mr. Smith
Mrs. Taum
Tracy
Mrs. Gano

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED MAY 29 1936
P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Detroit, Michigan

RE: BLACK LEGION, NIGHT RIDERS, BULLET CLUB
MISCELLANEOUS - Confidential

Dear Sir

Reference is made to the telephone conversation between this writer and Mr. E. A. Tamm on May 25, 1936, in reference to recent publicity in the Detroit newspapers regarding the Black Legion Society.

Since the above conversation, Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, called at this office, and in an interview stated that he was initiated into this organization approximately in October of 1934. He explained the ritual at the time he was initiated and part of the ceremony, including the oath of office, as set forth in report of Special Agent C. E. Smith, Cleveland, Ohio, dated May 24, 1935, which was read to him (its source was not explained) and he immediately identified the oath of office and the various rituals as being the same as that which he took.

It, therefore, appears that the investigation which was conducted previously, in which Cleveland was the office of origin, concerns the same organization which is presently receiving the publicity in Detroit.

At the time this writer spoke to Mr. Tamm he was not familiar with the Detroit file on this matter, and as this was before the interview with Mr. as above stated, this information was not given to Mr. Tamm by phone.

The Detroit office is not conducting any investigation into this matter in Detroit, Michigan, as apparently there is no Federal violation involved.

It might be mentioned in closing that before Mr. would give the above information, he was promised that his name would not be used in connection therewith and it is, therefore, suggested that his name be not mentioned in connection with this matter.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Reinecke
Special Agent in Charge

CC - Cleveland

JUN 2, 1936
Mr. Edgar Hoover,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Revelations of Black Legion with its political and industrial ramifications require thorough federal investigation. I remember your statement due to the politics back of criminal elements. Here we have a situation where state prison employees, municipal employees are definitely implicated and local investigation will be curtailed before the real criminals behind the scenes are exposed.

The political strength of such a terrorist society should not prevent immediate thorough investigation of this barbarous condition.

Decent Michigan people would welcome action and it is my hope that your able department will be given this difficult task.

Sincerely yours,

Nathan J. Bicknell
Dr. W. J. Bicknell,
10508 West Chicago Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sirs:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1936, requesting that this Bureau take appropriate action relative to the terroristic activities of the Black Legion, by reason of the fact that local authorities are allegedly so implicated that their investigation will be curtailed prior to exposing the real criminals.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted to investigating violation of specific Federal laws and to collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the members of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, I regret this Bureau is without authority to take action in this premiss.

Your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau are greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Detroit.
MEMORANDUM FOR MRS. STURDIES

RE: Charles A. Poole

I telephoned Chief of Detectives H. W. Piel at Detroit and stated that in answer to his wire our records revealed through fingerprint identification that the man in question is Charles A. Poole; that the record indicates he was arrested in December 17, 1926 at Dodge City, Kansas, charged with vagrancy at which time he gave his residence as 21 North Fourteenth Street, East St. Louis and his birthplace as Warrensburg, Kentucky. I also furnished Chief Piel with the description as indicated on our records.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MAY 13, 1936

P.M.

MAY 14, 1936

P.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

82
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Charles W. Poole.

In regard to the request for the search on the fingerprints of a man found shot to death in Detroit, I told Mr. Suydam that an identification had been made; that the man was Charles W. Poole who had been arrested in Dodge City, Kansas, in December, 1926, his home being given at that time as East St. Louis. I stated I had advised the Chief of Detectives at Detroit in response to his wire and had also called Mr. Blair Moody of the Detroit News who was not in at the time. In response to my suggestion Mr. Suydam stated he would advise Mr. Moody of the results.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
DETROIT MICH MAY 13 112P MAY 17 1938

J EDGAR HOOVER
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION DEPT OF JUSTICE
BLAIR MOODY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT DETROIT NEWS HAS
WIRE PHOTO OF FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTO MAN MURDERED HERE KINDLY
WIRE ME IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE ABLE TO IDENTIFY

HENRY W. PIEL CHIEF OF DETECTIVES

134PM.

[Handwritten notes and markings on the document]
FELIX COTTEN=

SENATE PRESS GALLERY=

PLEASE ASK GOVERNMENT FINGERPRINTERS CHECK PRINTS OF MAN FOUND SLAIN HERE TODAY. TAKE SHEET PAPER AND DRAW

RECTANGLE WITH TWENTY EIGHT SQUARES SEVEN ACROSS AND

FOUR DOWN FIRST LINE FIRST SQUARE M NEXT FOUR BLANK FIFTH

SQUARE ONE SIXTH SQUARE 6 SECOND LINE L I R ZERO

ZERO ZERO LAST BLANK THIRD LINE M ONE U ZERO ZERO ONE LAST

BLANK FOURTH LINE ALL BLANK EXCEPT SIXTH ZERO=

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Mr. Aygarn: This is my interpretation of the puzzle.

S. Cotton

Date: 4/15/30
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

Mr. Suydam telephoned yesterday afternoon and stated that the body had been found of a gangster who had been shot to death in the streets of Detroit yesterday morning and that a representative of the Detroit News had received a wire photograph of the fingerprints and had turned them over to Mr. Suydam requesting that the records of the Identification Division be checked in an effort to establish his identity.

Mr. Suydam stated that he had advised the representative of the Detroit News that the facilities of the Bureau could be made available only to regularly appointed law enforcement officials and that if the Chief of Police at Detroit telephoned the Director, undoubtedly such information as was available would be furnished. I immediately sent the prints to Mr. Edwards in your absence with the request that a search of the files be made and then communicated with you advising you of Mr. Suydam's request. An identification was made in this case and all identifying data was turned over to Mr. Tracy who informed me that the Director communicated with the police department at Detroit and advised them of the identification.

Mr. Reinecke also telephoned yesterday afternoon concerning this same case and stated that the chief of detectives had communicated with him advising that he had sent a telegram to the Director requesting information as to whether an identification had been made. Mr. Reinecke was informed that upon the return of the Director to his office, he would undoubtedly communicate with the chief of police at Detroit as to the information obtained from the Bureau's files.

Mr. Suydam endeavored to reach me on two or three occasions by telephone. However, I was out of the office.

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn

JUN 1 1936
RECORDED & INDEXED
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: Black Legion at Detroit.

Colonel Gates telephoned and stated that he had received several calls inquiring if the Bureau had been asked to investigate the Black Legion case. I stated that we had not and that the Bureau was not in the case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Frank Waldrop called and said there is a rumor current among the newspaper people that evidently emanates from a District Attorney in Michigan, to the effect that the Bureau is going to initiate an investigation of the Black Legion and wipe it out over night.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm.
May 25, 1936

Mr. W. H. Moran,
Chief, Secret Service Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Moran:

Confirming the information furnished to you by telephone today by Mr. Tamm of this Bureau, you are advised that the following telegram was received today from Flint, Michigan, bearing the signature of R. C. Roberts, City Editor of the Flint Journal, Flint, Michigan:

"Confidential information from member Black Legion here says organization intends here to prevent Roosevelt - planning armed march on Washington. Informant available. Believe 2,000 here."

This information is transmitted to you for any attention deemed appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Miss Julia F. Daly,
5523 Paseo Street,
Kansas City, Missouri.

Dear Madam:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 23, 1936, together with enclosed newspaper clippings, furnishing an expression of your views relative to the criminal activities on the part of the Black Legion, and requesting that an appropriate investigation be conducted by this Bureau in regard thereto.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of such a Federal law, no action can be taken by the Bureau in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
I, Edgar Hoover,

so this news. "Black" regen
in my judgement are Public
Enemy #1, you must do
this Country a real service
if you could clean upon
this class of all American
100% — John Dillinger was a
gentleman in comparison to
this organization.

[Signature]

[Note: The note is not legible due to the handwriting and the quality of the image.]
I wish you a happy some kind of service to you for God knows they will have to be cleaned up soon, do your best.

Yours truly
CHILD OF KU KLUX KLAN

AUTHORITIES DELVE INTO MYSTERIES OF THE "BLACK LEGION"

Similar, but "a Higher Organization," one of Four Who Have Admitted Detroit Ritual Killing Explained.

(See Front Page Story.)

Boise, May 22.—Duncan C. McCreary, prosecutor, sought tonight to unravel the mysteries of the "Black Legion," four members of which have confessed, he said, that they killed Charles A. Poole, 21-year-old WPA worker, because he was accused of beating his wife.

The men who confessed and John I. Nance, police inspector, said they admitted they were present when Poole was shot to death at a roadside the night of May 17, and Harvey Davis, 28, a "colored" in the fantastic organization; Dayton Dean, M. Irvin Lee and Urban Lips.

McCreary said he would ask murder warrants tomorrow for them and for
to be held for trial in the following case: J. Johnson, Paul R. Edwards and Edgar Baldwin, who, he said, also were present at the slaying.

The prosecutor said there were seven and nine other alleged members of the organization, but he said, were "tight-lipped" about the details of the Black Legion and that Lips, he said, came some information.

Lips, he said, although expressing fear of retribution from other members, told him that the "Black Legion" is "something like the Ku Klux Klan, only it is a higher organization," literature found in the "Black Legion" meeting place and in the homes of alleged members bore the United Brotherhood of Power.
MURDER BY HOODED BAND

BLACK LEGION MAY HAVE COMMITTED SEVERAL SLAYINGS.

Michigan State Police Head Gets Reports Deaths Were Made to Appear Suicide—Check Missing Persons.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LANSING, MICH., May 22.—Capt. J. H. Marmon of the state police today announced he had received an unconfirmed report that members of the Black Legion, secret vigilante society, had killed several men and made their deaths appear to be suicides.

Marmon said he had sent two officers to Jackson, Mich., to investigate a report from an informant whose name was not disclosed that a terrorist group had killed a man there recently.

"There have been a number of questionable suicides in the state," Marmon said. "We are checking the list of missing persons in Jackson and all unsolved murder cases and doubtful suicide cases."

WIDE SPREAD OF TERROR.

Activities of the "Black Legion" Get Far.

DETROIT, May 22.—Disclosures that hound night-riders of the "Black Legion" have been terrorizing parts of Michigan for a year, even attempting to seize control of one city government, came today on the heels of the arrest of-at least the Black Legionnaires in connection with the murder of Charles A. Poole here.

Boiling blood of the night-riders who executed Poole, a former WPA worker, on an apparently apocryphal charge Poole beat his wife, also were acrimoniously leveled by the Detroit police, Inspector John J. Navarro of conducting several "horse-whipping parties" here while the "Black Legion" itself divided the city up into "zones."

"The murder also brought charges the Black-robbed Edouard Pontiac tried to dominate the Pontiac city elections fourteen months ago, threatened three political candidates there with death, kidnapped a former member of the band, tortured him to a tree and threatened to kill him."

The Pontiac charges were based on revelations by Arthur F. Roque, public prosecutor there at the time of the kidnapping. It also was revealed that charges once were publicly made that some members of the "Black Legion" also were officers of the Pontiac police department and tried to oust George S. Hardin, former police chief. The latter was found not guilty of charges he was "trumped up" by the secret organization.

In Pontiac, according to one reliable source, the "Black Legion" boasts 2,000 members.

In Flint, according to information given police there, there are about 2,000 members, including a member of the city government there. Other chapters of the cult were believed active in many other Michigan cities. One man who was questioned by Police Inspector Navarro here claimed the "Black Legion" had 6 million members throughout the country.

Inspector Navarro said "the Black Legion has a far-flung organization. In Detroit, they have the city divided up into zones and each district has its own organization; many of them are masquerading under the guise of social and political clubs."

RAIL PENSIONS ARE NEAR.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

I have talked to Mr. Reinecke at Detroit about the Black Legion murders appearing in the newspapers and told Mr. Reinecke that you have observed newspaper dispatches and heard radio announcements that the Federal authorities have offered full cooperation in this matter. Mr. Reinecke stated that he has not offered any cooperation to anyone in the case and as a matter of fact, the police have not contacted the Detroit Office. Mr. Reinecke said that he has had a number of calls from the newspapers asking whether the Bureau would enter the case, and has informed the inquiring parties that the matter, in so far as the facts are known to him, have not to date disclosed any violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction.

It is not unlikely that statements concerning the cooperation of Federal authorities emanates from the fact that the Bureau made an identification of the fingerprints sent in by wire photo of Poole, the victim of a murder plot. You will recall that Poole is the individual about whom you called the Detroit Police Department a week or more ago.

I asked Mr. Reinecke as to the general extent and nature of the developments in this matter, and he stated that the police have made four or five arrests of individuals who have admitted membership in an organization known as the Black Legion. These people had in their possession the regalia that has been pictured in the newspapers, and according to Reinecke's information, one, at least of the persons arrested as admitted that a number of the members of the Black Legion killed Poole, because of a complaint that they had received, which indicated that Poole was abusing his wife.

The police have learned that some months ago an individual died at Jackson, Michigan, presumably from diabetes. Within the last day or so, however, his wife has come forward and claimed that he was taken from his house one night and beaten by a crowd, presumably of the Black Legion. It is reported that at least two Prison Guards of the State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan are members of the Black Legion and Reinecke states that recent information is that one of the Prison Guards has been suspended for his membership in this organization. It is further reported that a list of the members of the Black Legion was found in the possession of one of the Prison Guards. In answer to any inquiries as to the indicated.

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SPECIAL AGENT
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
size of the organization, Reinecke stated that so far the police have found indications that about 10 people belong to the organization from various items located, but the prosecuting attorney has stated that if the organization is recruited to its full strength in Michigan, it has 135,000 members. Mr. Reinecke stated that the organization has two objectives, the fostering of Protestantism and the suppression of Communism.

There has been absolutely no indication of an organization on a national scale, although there have been some rumors that the President of the Black Legion resides in West Virginia. The individuals identified as participating in the Black Legion to date are from the mountains of Tennessee and Kentucky. These individuals, according to Reinecke, are typical "hill billies" who came into Detroit and obtained work in industrial pursuits there.

From the facts available there is nothing to indicate any violation of a Federal Statute within our jurisdiction and I do not believe we should enter into this case or publicly offer any assistance to the Detroit Police in the absence of some showing of a Federal violation. Of course if the Detroit Police want any Laboratory work or anything of that kind done, I believe we should do it, but I don't think we should make any statement upon the matter.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm
Pursuant to your instructions, I telephoned Chief Moran of the Secret Service here in Washington and read to him the telegram which the Bureau received from the city editor, Mr. R. E. Roberts, of the Flint Journal, Flint, Michigan, stating that one of the members of the Black Legion has stated the Legion is planning an armed march on Washington for the purpose of assassinating the President of the United States.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm.
Mr. Fred Cook,  
729 East Elm Street,  
Lima, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the letter dated May 25, 1936, signed by you and Floyd Sanders, in which you request the cooperation of this Bureau in furnishing adequate protection against the Black Legion, against which organization you indicate the local officials are powerless.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of any such Federal law, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to take any action.

This matter appears to be one of purely local nature, and solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the State of Ohio.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.
May 20, 1935

Dear [Name],

We are now appealing to you for cooperation regarding the "Black Legion" incident.

We have appealed to County and City officials without any results whatever.

We feel we have a right for protection.

Please contact us as soon as possible.

This case has been going on one and a half years with negative results. Hoping you will please act immediately.

Yours truly,

Fred [Name] and Floyd [Name],
729 E. Elm St. Lima, Ohio
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MAY 25 1936

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO:

R. E. ROBERTS
CITY EDITOR
FLINT JOURNAL
FLINT MICHIGAN

INFORMATION CONTAINED IN YOUR TELEGRAM CONCERNING ALLEGED HARM TO
PRESIDENT BY MEMBERS BLACK LEGION HAS BEEN REFERRED TO B. H. MORAN
CHIEF U. S. SECRET SERVICE WHICH ORGANIZATION CHANGED WITH DUTY

PROTECT PRESIDENT

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[Handwritten notes and stamps on the page]
BI27 GVT PAID 5 25 36 552P

R E ROBERTS  CITY EDITOR
FLINT JOURNAL  FLINT MICH

INFORMATION CONTAINED YOUR TELEGRAM CONCERNING ALLEGED
HARM TO PRESIDENT BY MEMBERS BLACK LEGION HAS BEEN REFERRED
TO W H MORAN CHIEF US SECRET SERVICE WHICH ORGANIZATION
CHARGED WITH DUTY PROTECT PRESIDENT

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

BI R 27 W THANX
FLINT MICH MAY 25 835A

J EDGAR HOOVER

DEPT OF JUSTICE

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION FROM MEMBER BLACK LEGION HERE SAYS ORGANIZATION INTENDS HARM TO PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PLANNING ARMED MARCH ON WASHINGTON INFORMANT AVAILABLE BELIEVE TWO THOUSAND HERE

R E ROBERTS CITY EDITOR FLINT JOURNAL

Get down service at once.
MASS MURDER LAID TO ‘BLACK LEGION’

‘Master Mind’ Hunted; 7,000,000 Members Of Weird Society Revealed

DETROIT, May 23 (U.S.I.). The Black Legion, whose presence was first disclosed here in the Charles Poole murder, actually is a nation-wide organization which aims at a dictatorship of America by its gun-crazed members, Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, declared late tonight.

Harry Coburn, McCrea’s chief investigator, who said he got his information from a “colonel” in the organization whom he could not name, declared:

“The Legion is arming men all over the country to seize control of the government.”

DETROIT, May 23.—A veritable avalanche of evidence lately branding the Black Legion with responsibility for scores of fanatical crimes similar to the slaying of Charles A. Poole was uncovered by State and county police tonight, rounding out a new picture of the cult as a mammoth-black-robed secret society, seeking political power throughout the nation.

Convinced that the whole fiction-like story of the Black Legion—its weird rituals, moonlight rituals, and coast-to-coast political ambitions, has not been bare sufficiently, Michigan authorities sought the “master mind” of the society, seven of whose members are charged with Poole’s “execution.”

NATIONALLY ORGANIZED

Police Inspector John J. Navarra said he has learned from prisoners’ confessions that the Klan-like terrorists are nationally organized.

And he quoted several informants declaring that it boasts a membership of more than 10,000 in Michigan and 7,000,000 in the nation.

At the same time Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, investigating the Legion, said he received reports that dozens of victims have been hanged by the order of night and they definitely had a hand in some recent mysterious “sane slayings” in Michigan.

Twelve alleged black legionnaires were being held for the murder of Poole, 33-year-old former Works Progress Administration worker who was shot to death on a lonely road May 13, after a secret meeting in which it was declared Poole had beaten his wife, an expectant mother. Mrs. Poole has since vehemently denied her husband beat her.

ASK PROTECTION

Dayton Dean, father of two and an employee of the public utility system, has confessed to firing the five fatal shots, according to Inspector Navarra. Four others admitted they were present at the “execution.”

The thirteen men, ranging in age from 16 to 60, have asked that they be kept in jail to protect them from Black Legion vengeance, Prosecutor McCrea said.

The latter indicated that death was the cult’s penalty for members who told of its secrets.

State police stationed at Lansing late today announced they had been reliably informed of several deaths, believed suicides, had been laid at the door of the Legion’s door. Capt. T. H. Marmore said:

“We are checking all leads of missing persons and all unexplained deaths. Some, we believe, are the results of the Legion’s orders.”

Details of one confession were reported to have been made to a policeman in the late Poole case. It was proposed members of the Legion, who are supposedly staff members of the Pullman police department, “get rid” of that city’s chief of police, George Eckhardt.
Inspector Reveals Tip Baring 'Black Legion'

(Police Inspector John I. Navare tells in the following story how information from a tipster solved the murder of Charles A. Poole and unveiled the weird activities of the night-riding, black-robed "Black Legion").

BY POLICE INSPECTOR JOHN I. NAVAARE

DETROIT, May 23 (U.S.)—The murder of Charles A. Poole which finally led us to unmasking the "Black Legion" here was a tough case to break because for a long time, we couldn't get anything to go on.

Poole, with five shot in him, was found in a field along a lonely road but even after we identified him we were puzzled because the case had all the marks of a gangster killing. But Poole was not mixed up with racketeers. He didn't drink, except a few glasses of beer sometimes, and we couldn't see any reason why anyone would want to kill him. He was a former relief worker, 33 years old and the father of two children, one of them justborn.

CLUES MISSING

His family life was the same as any American family of four in their modest circumstances. That's what baffled us. That's how it stood for days. No motives, no clues—nothing.

But finally somebody came to us and told us he had overheard a remark in a beer garden that "something will have to be done about Poole—he's beating his wife." It wasn't much to go on, but it gave us a start. We went to the beer garden, learned that Poole had been there a few hours before his death and then was summoned out by some men on the pretext of playing baseball on some amateur team. And one of the witnesses—I won't disclose his name at this time of the same—knew one of the men who served the death summons on Poole.

We began rounding up men and then we learned of some secret organization and dimly I began to vision what we were up against. As we rounded up the 10 men we were holding we found a curious thing. The fear of being locked up to them was nothing compared with the fear of talking.

"LEGIONS UNMASKED"

For a long time none of them would tell us much. But finally one talked and involved a couple of others. Then the story of the murder began to unfold and what a story it was! They called themselves the Black Legion, they were for clean politics, were anti-communist and considered it their duty to punish husbands who erred.

The officers wore those hooded black shirts with white skull and crossbones painted on them. They claimed their history went back to the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. They had a regular arsenal in their homes, a dozen pistols, five blackjacks, and ammunition.

PRIVATES AND "OFFICERS"

I'll say this, whoever organized that outfit was no slouch. These babies fairly cried before they talked. I can't begin to estimate the total membership, but I know this crew we got is only a little piece of it. They had officers ranging from privates up, just as in the army.

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WASH. HERALD

MAY 24 1936
50 Deaths Laid To Black Legion As Net Widens

Membership of 135,000 in Michigan Reported for Murder Cult.

By the Associated Press.

Detroit, May 24.—The roundup of "Night riders" of the hooded Black Legion spread today as officials directed their inquiry to reports of membership totaling 135,000 in Michigan alone may be responsible for some 50 deaths.

In Detroit, Prosecutor Duncan C. McCreary said murder warrants would be issued tomorrow for seven men present at the killing of Charles A. Poole, young WPA worker, and said the prosecution would include as many as may be identified of some 50 persons present at a Black Legion meeting from which Poole, a non-member, was taken to his death.

Ray Ernest, guard at the Southern Michigan Prison, was held at Dearborn for arraignment Monday on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, after he denied connection with the reported flogging of Paul Every, 42, also a prison guard, and who died April 14 of what physicians pronounced heart disease and diabetes.

State Police Capt. Ira H. Marmon, whose troopers have been investigating the secret vigilantes for months, said he was investigating a report that 50 Michigan men had been massed for death, and that the Black Legion, made its killings appear suicidal.

Harry Colburn, investigator for the Wayne County prosecutor's office, said he was informed the Black Legion's membership in the State grew in three years to 135,000, divided into five brigades of 25 regiments each, that each member carried a pistol, and that the organization is much more dangerous than people think.

Claims in Black Legion literature accused by State police that it antedates the Ku Klux Klan and that the Klan was an offshoot from it are ridiculed by investigators, who said the claims were made to impress prospective members. At New York, Hiram W. Evans, master mason of the Klan, indignantly denied any connection with the legion and said the Klan has no affiliates and was firmly aligned on the side of law and order.

Detroit police, who seized 18 men after an investigation into the shooting of Poole at a lonely road near Dearborn, released three who said they did not attend the Black Legion meeting that preceded it. Hearing on habeas corpus was set for 15 others was set for Monday before Circuit Judge Adolph P. Marschner.
similar shameful inequities within their
own borders. This reappearance of ter-
rorism, whether in Florida or Michigan,
holds an arresting significance for the
country as a whole. Violence breeds only
on discontent. To clap a few leaders into
jail is only a start toward solution of the
problem. The key of rooting out
the causes of discontent is a national obli-
gation that has not yet been discharged.

On the heels of a Louisiana verdict find-
ing Sheriff Lee guilty of negligence for failure
to prevent a lynching comes news of the
conviction in Florida of five policemen in-
volved in the notorious "Tampa floggings."
The lamp of social justice burns the
brighter for these decisions.

What makes the Florida verdict particu-
larly significant is the fact that the jurors
had a complex case to decide. Though
from a distance it appeared to be simply a
question of whether the police officers had
assisted in kidnapping and tar-and-feather-
ing three men, one of whom died as a re-
sult, in the Florida courtroom other fac-
tors tended to obscure the issue.

To begin with, flogging and "striping" are
not uncommon practices in that region.
Order, it is explained, must be maintained
among the armies of transient laborers
attracted by the citrus industry, for these
men often become dissatisfied with the
small wages allowed them. In Tampa it-
self, a cigar industry, likewise operating on
a low wage scale, invites further labor
disturbances which, in the euphemism of a
native of the area, "must be discouraged."
Moreover, the usual cry of "Communists!"
was sent up to distract the jurors. And
both local and State politics played con-
spicious roles in the trial. Finally, it
was no secret that Ku Klux Klan mem-
bership cards had been found on some of
the men accused of participating in the

The verdict comes opportunely to lend
force to the drive against the "Black
Legion," a strong-arm agency of the same
Ku Klux Klan in Detroit. Several mem-
ers of this gang have confessed to the
murder of a laborer "because he beat his
wife." Evidence points to a membership
in Michigan alone that runs high into the

thousands. Organized to stir up the usual
"racial and religious hatreds, the society is
now strongly suspected of many other
hitherto unsolved murders and seeming

suicides.

Authorities are amazed at a deluge of
statements from persons too afraid to
speak "before" indicating that the area had
been at the mercy of night-riding fanatics
for months if not years. Leaders of the
organization, stripped of their hoods, re-
veal a characteristic low intelligence often
verging on dementia. Creatures of the
dark, they grovel before the light of pub-
licity now flooding their dens.

Other States might take a tip from
Michigan's experience and look about for
50 "Black Legion" Victims Traced as Cult Is Unhooded; Dark-Age Barbarism Bared

Seven Face Murder Warrants; Chief of 135,000 Is Hunted

DETROIT, May 24 (U.S.). A sinister and elaborate underground organization, patterned along military lines, calling for a huge membership of 135,000 in Michigan alone, was disclosed by authorities tonight as they revealed the Dark-Age ritualistic practices of the Black Legion, accused of killing two victims and possibly 50 others.

The theory that the Black Legion, already charged with gunfire "execution" of one man and the fatal flogging of another, may have been responsible for at least 50 mysterious deaths in this State during the past three years was being investigated by authorities.

Federal Search Hinted

State and local officials issued peremptory orders for the arrest of every officer of the new terrorized legion above the rank of "captain."

It was intimated at county headquarters that G-men have begun a Middle Western search for the hooded successors to the Ku Klux Klan.

This report, however, was not officially confirmed.

Meanwhile, Prosecutor Duncan C. McGraw announced murder warrants will be issued tomorrow naming seven of the 15 men being held here in connection with the death of Charles A. Poole, young Works Progress Administration worker whose bullet-riddled body was discovered days ago in a roadside ditch.

THE WASH. HERALD
**Seize Skull Hoods**

Revelations of the blind fanaticism and awesome rituals of the legion came with seizure of voluminous manuscripts and literature in Jackson today. These contained the grim oath the legion's neophytes were forced to take and their pledge that they would fight as guerrillas with any weapon that comes to our hands.

They were found, along with 50 black skull-and-cross-bone hoods, and two black robes, officers said, at the home of Ray Ernest, a Jackson State prison guard. Ernest is accused by the widow as the leader of a gang of masked men who dragged Paul Every, another prison guard, from his home and flogged him so cruelly that he later died.

**Torture Oath Bared**

Officer Edward Johnson, of the State police at Jackson, said the oath taken by the Black Legionnaires read:

quoted: "I further pledge my heart, my brain, my body and my limbs, never to betray a comrade; that I will submit to all the tortures that mankind can inflict and suffer the most horrible death, rather than reveal a single word of this, my oath.

"I will not violate a single clause or implied pledge of this, my obligation. I will pray to an avenging God and an unmerciful devil to tear my heart out and roast it over flames of sulphur; that my head be split open and my brains be scattered over the earth; that my body be ripped open and my bowels torn open and fed to the carrion birds; that each of my limbs be broken with stones and then cut off by inches that they may be food for the foulest of birds of the air and, lastly, that my soul be given unto torment; that my body may be submerged in molten metal and suffocated in the flames of hell; and that this punishment may be meted out to me through all eternity." Ernest, held on a technical charge because a .45 caliber gun was found in his possession, denied that he belonged to the Black Legion, declared the charge false, and that he had led the "avengers" who flogged Every "ridiculously," and that he had no knowledge whatever of the legion.

Describing the alarming growth of the Black Legion, Wayne County legislator Harry Colborn said he had uncovered evidence that the organization was being built from the ground up as a real army. Prospective members are asked if they can "ride a horse, drive an automobile, and shoot a rifle and pistol."

**Five Brigades Bared**

For Michigan there are five brigades of 16 regiments each, four battalions to a regiment and four companies to a battalion. The organization calls for 1,593 men to a regiment, and that commanded by "Colonel" Harvey Davis, one of the prisoners held here in the murder of Poole, was said to have 600 members enlisted already.

A grim phase of the league organization is that there are no "members." That is what is believed to have caused the allegedly loyal flogging of Prison Guard Comstock to withdraw.

Not talk with anyone until he gets permission to learn the secrets of the organization. Faded, none of those in low, the in the lower.

**Trail Cult General**

The 15 Black Legion members complained of fright and suffer and the effects were not even noticed. One of those who John had to stand in the 'General' at the
June 4, 1936

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of May 26, 1936, advising that you are in possession of a document which you believe to be the original of the laws and regulations of an organization that is now the subject of inquiry on the part of certain police departments. I assume that the organization to which you refer is the Black Legion and I desire to inform you that this Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of that organization. I would suggest that if you have information concerning this organization, you furnish it to the officers of the Detroit Police Department who are conducting this inquiry.

If the information in your possession pertains to some other organization and you believe it would be of interest to this Bureau, I will, of course, be glad to examine the information in your possession if you forward it to me.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
RECORDED & INDEXED  
MAY 27 1936 P.M.  
FILE

JUN 4 1936

Excerpts from 3/16/36: Edgar Hoover, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, reported to his superiors that a group of hooded men had been sighted near the South Beach area of Miami. Hoover suspected that the group was involved in a criminal enterprise and requested additional agents be sent immediately to investigate.

Eventually, you will get the message: the hooded men are not to be trifled with. They are a law unto themselves and their presence is a threat to the well-being of the community. Be warned, the hooded men will not tolerate interference with their operations.

The hooded men are a force to be reckoned with. They have a reputation for violence and are known to wield weapons with lethal force. It is advised that any attempt to approach or arrest the hooded men be made with caution and preparedness.

These men are not to be trusted or underestimated. They are a dangerous and unpredictable force that should be treated with the utmost respect and caution.
May 25, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. FAY

RF: Black Legion at Detroit.

In the course of a telephone conversation Mr. Suydam stated that he had been asked if the Bureau is investigating the Black Legion at Detroit. I stated that we were not in this case as yet; that the report of the Bureau's activities in the case came about because the Bureau had identified through fingerprints the unknown dead person; that the Bureau will cooperate in performing laboratory or fingerprint work desired by the Michigan authorities. I stated that so far I knew of no violation of a Federal statute in the matter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: "Black Legion"

Mr. Saydam telephoned and stated that last night, the Cleveland Plain Dealer called him inquiring if the Bureau had been interviewing people in Ohio in connection with the "Black Legion". I told Mr. Saydam that we had not taken any action and did not intend to as there is no violation of a Federal statute as yet.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

With reference to my teletype to the Bureau dated May 28, 1936, having to do with the Black Legion, and a statement appearing in the Indianapolis Times, Indianapolis, Indiana, issue of May 28, 1936, stating that the Black Legion was being investigated in Indianapolis by U.S. Department of Justice agents at the request of Detroit authorities, permit me to attach hereto for your information the news item and a kindred item over a Detroit date line of May 28 (UP).

It is my understanding that this Bureau Office is not to interest itself in the Black Legion, or its activities, unless its activities are in violation of a Federal Statute over which this Bureau has basic investigative jurisdiction, and that this office is not to interest itself in making investigations even when the facts indicate Federal Statutes over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, until the information has been submitted to the Bureau, and the Bureau thereafter issued instructions to make an investigation.

In other words, no activity is to be engaged in by this office in the absence of Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

JOHN A. RODY,
Special Agent in Charge.
U. S. Reply to Detroit Plea for Aid Is Delivered to McCrea.

12 MEN ARE SOUGHT

15 to 18 States Involved in Movement, Belief of Authorities.

By THOMAS P. FROST

DETROIT, May 28.—The Federal government yesterday sent to the Attorney General in Washington, D. C., the reply to his request for Federal aid in the investigation of the Night Riders, or Black Legion.

The Federal government has already sent to the Attorney General a list of 12 men suspected of operating the Black Legion in Michigan, and the Attorney General has asked for similar lists from the other states involved. The Michigan list was sent to the Attorney General in Washington, D. C., by the state authorities.

The Michigan list includes the names of 12 men, all of whom are members of the Black Legion. The Attorney General asked for similar lists from the other states involved in the movement, and the Michigan list was sent to the Attorney General in Washington, D. C.

The Attorney General asked for similar lists from the other states involved in the movement, and the Michigan list was sent to the Attorney General in Washington, D. C.

Interrogated by G-Man

William H. Smith, a Ohio farmer who was kidnapped and beaten by the Black Legion on Sept. 29, 1934, said he was interrogated by a Department of Justice agent who told him: "You'll be called upon to tell your story in court at the proper time." With a mass of evidence already compiled, McCrea intimated that the 12 men being sought were of great importance to his investigation.

At Jackson, a grand jury resumed its investigation of Black Legion activities there. The jury already has issued warrants for the arrest of 25 men accused of kidnapping and flogging Harley Smith who was forced to join the Legion and beaten when he failed to attend one of its meetings.

Grand Jury Probes Planned

Atty. Gen. David N. McCrea, said that he was prepared to proceed with the investigation of the Black Legion in Michigan. McCrea said that he was prepared to proceed with the investigation of the Black Legion in Michigan.
'Legion' Messages Found at Apartments

Correlative:

We have received a letter from a man who claims to be a leader of the World Legion. His name is not given. He states:

"We must not give up. We must make a cry of the whole and cross-bones terror of the world. We must and will tell the law in our hands before August. Please sign up now!

A lieutenant will call at your house soon. (At night in robe) Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

Major
INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
5-28-36

G-MEN PROBE 'BLACK LEGION' HERE

ALLEGED TERROR NOTES ARE LEFT AT LOCAL HOMES
Messages: Promise--Calls
Will Be Made 'at Night
in Robe.'

LIKE MICHIGAN NOTES
Indiana Infested With Ardent Members, Says
Detroit Prosecutor.

(Copyright, 1936, by The Indianapolis Times)

Notes purporting to be from "The Black Legion" were found last night in Indianapolis and today were being investigated by United States Department of Justice agents at the request of Detroit authorities.

They were found in two near-North Side apartments, stuck in doorknobs. The notes promised the occupants--representatives of "The Legion" would call "at night in robe" to accept their memberships.

Duncan MacCrea, Wayne County, Mich., prosecutor, about whom centers the main probe of the organization's known activities, told The Indianapolis Times today that the notes bore marked characteristics of known Legion documents now in possession of authorities.

"We know definitely," he said, "that Legion members do appear at night in robes both to recruit new members and to force delinquent members to attend meetings."

"Sound Authentic," He Says

"The Indianapolis notes sound authentic to me, and I am asking Department of Justice agents assigned to me by Atty. Gen. Homer Cummings for this investigation, to immediately probe the Indianapolis angle.

"I have already had several confidential communications from the Indianapolis area, which lead me to believe that the Legion is organized there and has been responsible for at least one outrage.

"There is no question in my mind, or in the minds of my associates, but that Indiana is infested with ardent Black Legion members."

The notes, found yesterday afternoon, each consisted of two pieces of paper. One was a salmon pink bond paper, six by four inches. On it was typewritten what was interpreted to be a membership blank. It read:

"Black Legion Membership."
"There followed blank lines for age, name, address, both City and State.

Under that appeared:

"Oath:

"I, in the name of God and the Devil, I will stand up to the Black Legion. I will follow my orders and will abid (misspelled) by the laws of the Black Legion. Never shall I betray its secrets to its ex-members.

"Death is penalty for the breaking of a law of the Black Legion."

This was followed on one note by the designation "611X7" and a blank preceded the word "Rank." The other note bore the number "610X7.

"Last of all, at the bottom, appeared "Black Legion--611X7." The other note's number was "610X7."

Message Is Typed

Inside was a piece of cheap white paper, about the same size, upon which was typed the following message:

"Comrade:

"We must re-organize quickly. We suffered a shock that has broke our stride but we will get back to our feet and rush on through the night and show them haw (apparently typing error) it is done.

"The Chief has given the order:

"Fellow comrades we must not give up. We must make the symbol of the skull and cross-bones the terror of the world.

"We must and will take the law in our own hands by August."

"Please sign up now!

"A Lieutenant will call at your home soon (at night in robe). Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

"MAJOR 29KI."

Imprint of Stamp

On each document was the imprint of a stamp in purple ink. The design had 16 points connected by seven circles. Indianapolis rubber stamp manufacturers said they believed no such stamp was manufactured and suggested that it may have been cut from cork.

The imprint, they said, did not appear to have been made by rubber.

The two pieces of paper were folded lengthwise and fastened by what appeared to be gummed paper tape similar to that used in groceries.

The occupant of an apartment at which one of the notes was sent denied all knowledge of it. He said he knew of no one who would have sent it either in extenso or part.

At the same time, Lima, O., authorities disclosed that records of the Black Legion are in possession. It indicates that the organization went by various names in different states, and were designated, as "Red Legion" in parts of Indiana, and "The Black Brigade" in West Virginia.

From Fort Wayne came information that an organization there believed to be closely connected with "The Black Legion" was called "Black Stakes."
POST OFFICE BOX 2116
DETROIT - MICHIGAN
May 27, 1936

Special Agent in Charge
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

A local newspaper writer called this writer's attention to a dispatch from Washington, D.C., which advised that United States Representative R. R. Hoffman, Allegan, Michigan, had received a threatening letter which was mailed from Benton Harbor, Michigan, May 4, 1936.

This letter was apparently written by a crank and evidently has some connection with the Black Legion investigation now being conducted by State authorities in the State of Michigan.

An attempt was made to reach Congressman Hoffman at his home in Allegan, Michigan, but this writer was advised that he is not 'in' in the city of Washington, D.C.

You are requested to contact this Congressman at once and ascertain the circumstances surrounding the receipt of this letter and whether or not it is the type of threatening letter over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

For your information, the Detroit office has received instructions from the Bureau that no investigation is to be conducted relative to the 'Black Legion' without specific authorization from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

R. H. Reipke
Special Agent in Charge

D.C./Frm
CC - Bureau

RECORDED & INDEXED
JUN 19 1936
MAY 29, 1936 7:39 A.M.
U.S. Considers Joining Inquiry

Cummings to Confer with G-Man Hoover

WASHINGTON, May 27—Attorney General Homer B. Cummings will reach a decision within 24 hours on sending G-men into Michigan to investigate the Black Legion, his office announced here tonight.

A telegram was received from Prosecutor Duncan C. McIver, of Wayne County, asking that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation be sent into the state. Cummings will confer tomorrow with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, and announce his decision as to whether Federal matters are involved.

Before the telegram was received, Cummings announced that he had been following the investigation of the Black Legion through the newspapers, and that as far as he could see no Federal law was violated.

Rep. Clare E. Hoffman, of Allegan, today made public a letter in which he was threatened with death because of his opposition to the Townsend movement in Michigan. The letter was signed "K. K. K." and was forwarded from Benton Harbor. The envelope in which it was forwarded carried the letterhead of the "Twin City Refrigerating Co., P. O. Box 401, Benton Harbor, Mich." Across the letterhead were scrawled the words "out of business." The Postoffice Department will attempt to trace the sender.

Hoffman has also received an abusive letter from a man signing himself "John Anderson, Aurora, Ill." The Representative was not inclined to take the threats seriously, asserting that he had received numerous abusive letters since he denounced the Townsend Plan. He could see no connection between this letter and the Black Legion.

Most of the contents of the letter mailed from Benton Harbor were unprintable, and the same applied to the letter from Illinois. The Benton Harbor letter spoke of a recent meeting at which Hoffman had been condemned as a traitor and not fit to represent a dog house.

New evidence that the Black Legion is no new organization in Michigan was indicated by a statement from Rep. George A. Dondroo, of Kalamazoo, who represents the Seventeenth District. Dondroo said that in 1922 and again in 1923 it had been indicated to him that he could win easily if he would join the "Follet Club." He said the invitations were always extended in a kidding way, and that he did not think much about them until the disclosures following theacco murder.

As far as could be learned today, no other Michigan Congressman has been threatened or asked to join the legion.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. EDWARDS

This is to advise that there were received today in the Identification Division, fingerprint cards from the Michigan State Police, Jackson, Michigan, on the following individuals:

Clarence Ernest, their #J-5326
Glen Ernest, (no number given)
Allen Degan, their #J-5327
Ray C. Ernest, their #J-5328

On the reverse side of the fingerprint card on Ray C. Ernest, there is the following notation:

"This man is Brigadier General of Black Legion"

The date of the arrest of these individuals is indicated as May 26, 1936, and the charge is given as kidnapping and felonious assault. The criminal specialty on all is noted as "Black Legion". All of the above-mentioned fingerprint cards were searched through the files of this Bureau without effecting an identification.

Respectfully,

H. A. Martin.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 2 1936
Mr. George E. Hopkins,
Clear Creek, West Virginia.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 27, 1936, together with enclosed newspaper clipping, furnishing information relative to one Ernst, who in 1922 was in Alliance, Ohio allegedly as an organizer for the Ku-Klux Klan. It is noted that you furnished this information as an assistance to this Bureau in connection with its investigation of the activities of the Black Legion.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to be in violation of any such Federal law, no action is being taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in furnishing this matter for my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

P.S. Pittsburgh

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILING
JUN-5 1936
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Cedar Creek
May 27 - 36

Dear Mr. Edgar Hoover,

One of the enclosed article from the Beckley newspaper. My mind reported fact and met a man by the name of Jim. Instead of Ernest, he was regaunter for the Blue Line. I have a large membership. The last was sent to jail for Constipation. Vizing same to the organization. I was formerly from Coconino, and there might be more than a Co. Salermo rise. You may do it with my compliments to one of our Government Institution who is a Very truly yours,

Member of Alliance VP 1936

[Signature]

Very truly yours,

Member of Alliance VP 1936
HOODED LEGION

FOUND TO HAVE UNIT OF WOMEN

RECRUITING AUXILIARY FOR W. A. Of Women

Herald, Legion, Found To Have Unit Of Women

FATHER CHARLES E. Googins, of

Herald, Legion, Found To Have Unit Of Women

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INDIANAPOLIS TIMES ISSUE MAY TWENTY EIGHTH CARRIES STORY
THAT NOTES PURPORTING TO BE FROM BLACK LEGION WERE FOUND LAST NIGHT
IN INDIANAPOLIS AND WERE BEING INVESTIGATED BY US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
AGENTS AT THE REQUEST OF DETROIT AUTHORITIES. STORY QUOTES DUNCAN
MACCREA, WAYNE COUNTY MICHIGAN PROSECUTOR, AS SAYING IN PART QUOTE
THE INDIANAPOLIS NOTES SOUND AUTHENTIC TO ME, AND I AM ASKING
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AGENTS ASSIGNED TO ME BY ATTORNEY GENERAL HOMER
CUMMINGS, FOR THIS INVESTIGATION, TO IMMEDIATELY PROBE THE INDIANA-
POLIS ANGLE UNQUOTE. THIS OFFICE HAS NOT INVESTIGATED AND IS NOT IN-
VESTIGATING ANY ANGLE THIS MATTER, AND NO REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED
TO MAKE ANY INVESTIGATION RECORDED
& INDEXED DOWD

END

JUN 4 1936

OK FBI WASHINGTON DC PCB
MEMORANDUM FOR THE

Re: "Black Legion" matter.

I telephoned SAC Reinecke at the Detroit Office with reference to the publicity which has come out about the Federal authorities offering every cooperation in connection with the above matter in that vicinity. Mr. Reinecke said that this is absolutely all wrong; that he has not offered any cooperation to anyone in this situation. He said that he has been called by the papers on two or three occasions wanting to know if the Bureau was in on the case, to which he replied that since there are no facts to date indicating a Federal violation within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau, no investigation by the Bureau is being conducted. However, he said that the newspapers may have just put that in as a result of the identification by the Identification Division of the Bureau of the fingerprints of the murdered man. Mr. Reinecke said that the papers are trying to bring the Bureau into the investigation of this matter out there for news value, and, realizing this, he has very carefully handled every inquiry in order to make sure there would be no basis in fact or from innuendo which would indicate the Bureau is participating in the investigation. As a matter of fact, Mr. Reinecke said that the local authorities have not requested the assistance of the Detroit Office in this matter, and have not contacted that office either officially or unofficially about the case.

Mr. Reinecke said that so far as he can see at this time, there is not even a scintilla of evidence developed to date indicating a Federal violation of any kind. The victim of the murder, Poole, was found on the outskirts of the city, and the murderers were arrested in the city itself, thus eliminating the unlawful flight possibility. He said that from the newspapers, he understands a man died in Jackson, Michigan, some time ago and his wife is now claiming that shortly before his death, he was taken out and beaten by an organization such as the Black Legion, and that he died as a result of this beating. The death certificate shows his death to be from another cause. There is no Federal angle for consideration in this situation either. The victim was beaten on the outskirts of the city, and the beaters apparently are still in the city itself. However, in the Jackson angle, Mr. Reinecke said the papers indicate a couple of prison guards were members of the organization, and that one of them has been suspended by reason of his membership.

INDEXED

Mr. Reinecke said that Poole, the instant victim, was found shot on the outskirts of Dearborn, Michigan. Through the identification of his
fingerprints by the Identification Division of the Bureau, it was found that
he was originally from down in Kentucky. A check among his friends and
acquaintances by the police out there resulted in several arrests, and the
police obtained confessions from five or six who stated that they were mem-
bers of this Black Legion. These people admitted, according to the papers,
that they killed Poole for the reason that they had received a complaint at
one of their meetings that Poole was mistreating his wife. This was the
starting point of uncovering this Black Legion, a group of men who organized
to promote Protestantism and Anti-Communism, etc. There were found among
the personal effects of the men arrested some black robes which had been
used by them. While there are claims running around to the effect that
the organization is national in scope and has officers like the Army,
Mr. Reinecke has no idea and has no way of knowing the extent or number
of members of this organization.

Mr. Reinecke said that the people who are in custody and who have
admitted killing Poole are people who have migrated into Michigan from
Tennessee and Kentucky — George W. Barrett type. He said that they are
just a bunch of low-type hill billies who have come out of the mountains
of Kentucky and Tennessee and have obtained employment in the industrial
enterprises in the vicinity of Dearborn, and it is easy to see how they
would kill with impunity just on the violation of a woman.

Mr. Reinecke is doing absolutely nothing on this matter and will
not do anything unless specifically advised by the Bureau.
Dear Father Kelly:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 29, 1936, furnishing an expression of your opinion relative to this Bureau's present attitude in respect to the matter of investigating the activities of the Black Legion.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in permitting me to apprise myself of your views in this matter, as well as your favorable comments relative to the work of this Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Franciscan Monastery
PATERSON, NEW JERSEY

Mt. Alverno Retreat

May 29 '36

Warwick, New York.

Dear Dr. Hoover:

When I returned from Paterson last Wednesday evening I found in my mail a copy of your address before the Boys' Clubs of America in Philadelphia on May 20th. It is very good and I have glad to have it. I also heard you deliver that address over the radio.

I believe that your Bureau is taking the right stand in the matter of investigating the unholy activities of the Black Legion. Those who are howling for the intervention of the F.B.I. should know that you cannot interfere until there is evidence that Federal laws have been violated. No doubt such laws have been violated but when it is clear that such is the case I am confident that you will act. When the Bureau is sure of its ground nothing can or will stop you.

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Kelly.
of the KKK, called at Atlanta Office offering his organization's assistance in the inves. of the Black Legion. Was informed by did not have the Black Legion under investigation.

emk
May 29, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

[Redacted name] of the Ku Klux Klan, who resides at Atlanta, Georgia, called at this office about Noon today, after having been referred to this office by United States Attorney Lawrence S. Camp.

When he arrived at the office, indicated he might have some information which would be of value to the Government in the investigation of the Black Legion. I informed [redacted name] in keeping with instructions previously received from Mr. Tamm of the Bureau, that this Bureau did not have under investigation the Black Legion and was receiving no information regarding the activities of that organization. I informed him that in the event he had any information which he desired to furnish to interested officials, it would be proper for him to direct his information to the Detroit, Michigan local authorities.

[Redacted name] stated that his information was in the nature of theories developed as the result of his knowledge of secret organizations and organizers of such associations. He stated he had called at the office to advise that the Ku Klux Klan is ready and willing to aid the Government to its fullest extent in any investigation which may be conducted. He stated this Bureau should feel perfectly free to examine the books of his organization or interview any of the officials of that organization at any time.

He advised that inasmuch as the Federal Government itself was not interested in the Black Legion, he, [redacted name] would carry the matter no further. [Redacted name] requested that no publicity whatever be given his visit at this office and his offer of cooperation.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

E. E. CONROY
Special Agent in Charge
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E. A. TAMM - 5742.
Attached hereto you will find a news item appearing in the Chicago Herald and Examiner, issue of May 28, 1936, over a South Bend, Indiana, date line of May 27, 1936 having to do with the Black Legion and its activities in Starke County, Michigan. You will note therein that in the opening lines of the item it states that information pertaining to the spread of the organization in Northern Indiana was laid before a representative of the Department of Justice here (South Bend) on May 27, 1936.

Special Agent J. E. Jones, stationed at South Bend, Indiana, as a resident agent working under this office, informs me concerning the matter as follows.

On the evening of May 27, 1936, William Diedrich, Chief of Detectives of the South Bend Police Department telephoned Agent Jones at the latter's residence and stated that a man was in his office and wanted to speak to a Bureau Agent relative to the "Black Legion" activities in this section. The chief requested that Agent Jones go to the Police Station and talk with the above individual. Agent Jones diplomatically declined the invitation and advised Chief Diedrich that Agent had no authority to check into the matter or to talk to anyone concerning the same; that such an investigation must be first ordered by headquarters; that it was thought advisable not even to go to the police station and discuss the matter because of the dangers of false newspaper publicity. Accordingly, Agent Jones did not go to the police station and did not discuss the matter with anyone.

On the morning of May 28, 1936 while at the Police Department on other matters, Chief Diedrich called Agent Jones' attention to an article in the Chicago Herald and Examiner (Indiana Section) dated May 28, 1936, which article was purportedly written at South Bend, Indiana and was to the effect that a "Starke County man had discussed the Black Legion activities with a Department of Justice representative at South Bend." This information is false in every respect. Chief Diedrich explained that newspaper reporters were present after he, the Chief, discussed instant matter with the "Starke County man";
that he, Chief Diedrich, said nothing to them about telephoning
Agent Jones and specifically requested the reporters not to even
mention the fact that a Starke County Man had called at the Police
Department to give information on Black Legion activities; that in
spite of his, the Chief's, request, the attached article appeared in
the Chicago paper.

Agent Jones is aware of none of the information offered by the
Starke County individual and knows nothing of instant matter except
that set out above and that which appeared in the attached newspaper
clipping. Agent Jones examined both South Bend newspapers on May
28, 1936 for similar articles but apparently none appeared therein.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

JOHN A. DOWD,
Special Agent in Charge.

1 Enclosure
HAMMOND BLACK LEGION ACTS TO DISBAND
Fort Wayne Hooded Riders Kidnap Township Officials; Ordeal Described to Sheriff

Indiana's Robed Riders—

FEARFUL 'LEGION' RECRUIT TALKS

Starke County Member's Story Laid Before G-Man

SOUTH BEND, May 27—Information pertaining to the spread in northern Indiana of the notorious Black Legion, whose criminal activities in Michigan resulted in a nationwide investigation, was laid before a representative of the Department of Justice here today.

The information was volunteered to Assistant Chief of Police William Diedrich by a business man of Starke County.

The informant was said to be a member of the black legion who did not realize its criminal proclivities and fears now to renounce his membership.

An amazing large membership in the legion in Starke county of the state is said to exist.

Alexander Campbell, assistant United States district attorney stationed here, said this afternoon that nothing pertaining to the Black Legion's activities had been brought to his attention.

Cult's Armed 'Jury' Sits on Crescent Throne; Threatens Two With Death

HAMMOND, May 27—Approximately 250 members of the Black Legion in Hammond were scheduled to meet at midnight; it was learned, to decide whether the unit should be disbanded in the face of developments in Detroit.

It was learned authoritatively that the Hammond branch has been in existence since last September. The local clan met for a while in a downtown room and later in an office building.

FORT WAYNE, May 27—Kidnapping of a former township official and his chief deputy were revealed tonight by Sheriff George W. Gillie as authorities pushed their investigation into the activities of the Mystic Order of Black Snakes, hooded cult, which the sheriff believes is an agency of the Black Legion.

The sheriff did not reveal the names of the cult victims, adding that he had no evidence tangible enough on which to base requests for arrest of the abductors.

The two officials, Gillie said, were strolling along Calhoun st. when they armed men ordered
ADRESSED BY LEADER.

According to the story told the sheriff by the two officials, twelve hooded men with pistols sat upon a crescent throne, surrounded by a silent circle of figures clad in black, unrevealing robes.

The hooded leader of the cult, the victims told the sheriff, then addressed them, stating that the cult had obtained information that the officials were contemplating the discharge of two of its members, who were in the township officials' employ.

Should they carry out their plans, the hooded figure warned, the officials would again be kidnapped and beaten with a vicious blacksnake whip—which lay on the ground before them.

The leader added that "worse consequences" might follow. This the two victims interpreted as a threat of death.

WPA WORKER'S STORY.

The township officials and his deputy then were taken back to the spot where they had been abducted and released.

A Works Progress Administration worker today also told the sheriff how he had been duped into becoming a member of the cult, but that he had never attended a meeting. He said that his coworkers had recently advised him to attend meetings regularly "or suffer the consequences."

—Ray American—
Mr. R. H. Harriss, Street,
Zanesville, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Harriss:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 26, 1936, in which you offer your assistance to this Bureau in connection with the investigation into the activities of the "Black Legion".

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the "Black Legion" are in violation of any such Federal law, no action is being taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

Your offer of assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated, but I must advise you that all investigations by this Bureau are conducted only by duly appointed Special Agents thereof. All applicants for this position must be between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five years and must show by their application that they are graduates from accredited law schools, having had two years of practical college experience, or graduates from accredited business schools, having had two years of practical business experience and capable of testifying in the witness stand as an expert in accounting matters, or investigators having had extensive criminal experience. Inasmuch as you indicate your age to be twenty-three years, it appears that you are not eligible for the position of Special Agent.

Very truly yours,

[signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Cincinnati
J. Edgar Hoover
Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Lebring, Ohio

RECORDED
May 28, 1936

INDEXED
61-1378-49

I am writing you in connection with a possible investigation into the activities of the Black Legion of the Middle West, and am willing to do anything that I can to aid you.

I am 25 years old, 5 feet 11 inches tall and weigh 160 lbs. and will do what I can to assist you in your fight to stamp out crime.

You can write to Mr. Ray Harris, of the Zanesville
regard to anything in your letter about me. I am awaiting your reply.

If there is anything else you require.

Fresnoville
Ohio
Dear Sir:

I refer to the acknowledgment receipt of your letter dated April 18th regarding information relative to the activities of Dr. Martin Luther Thomas that you believe are in violation of the existing Federal laws. I am forwarding this letter in accordance with the request of the Bureau of Investigation relative to Dr. Thomas.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Bureau is limited to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the above-named individual are in violation of any such Federal law, there is no action which can be taken by the Bureau in the present circumstances.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to our attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director.
San Diego California
May 26 36

Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington D.C.

Sir,

I am shocked but not surprised by the uncovering of a murdering Black Leg in Michigan.

If the Federal Government does not put a hand to stamp out such vermin, if we in California will see a reign of terror too in the not distant future.

We have here in Los Angeles a Dr. Martin Luther, a religious Baptist preacher who I believe could bear an investigation. He arrived eight twelve years ago from Chicago. I believe, in San Pedro, to be a minister of the First Presbyterian Church.

His activities from the very beginning I have anti-social and wholly diabolic and in the spirit of this Black thrift group. He had special N.K.K. services in his Church in full regalia and on account of these and other activities was forced to resign from the Presbyterian Ministry by demand of the district councils.

For the last 3 years he has been taking twice a day on coast wide tours (Hopst. Slaves I believe) under the slopes.
Under the cloud of attaching fortunes he apparently accumulated much prestige and power full groups, as he now lives in a mansion in Pasadena with the seventeen-bedrooms surrounded in high prized cars.

This person was my neighbor for 6 years, and when I write this, I do this not in a spirit of revenge or of personal grudges, but as a social obligation as I am residing at this address for 14 years.

I have positive proof that this raider, raconteur would not hesitate to commit violence or to urge someone else to do it. I saw him going into the yard of a neighbor with a shotgun in hand, demanding his cat. The sanctity of the home would not stop him to gain his and whatever it may.

He even demanded of my minor son to shoot cats around his home (he couldn't do in the heart of the city, and if the police say anything to send them to Dr. Martin Luther.

In 1936 with the coming in office of the notorious Klan Administration of Mayor John Q. Porter in Los Angeles he became the mayor's super-cop. He also was appointed by the Mayor as chairman of a committee to investigate the Bureau of Power, light, the great municipal owned institution of its kind in America, presumably for the purpo
expert. why, his neighbor found not the observe, that for instance the garage was hanging on one hinge for years.

Recently he was appointed by our Klan Governor as Chaplain to the State Militia with the rank as Major.

By reading between the lines you can readily where he belongs now.

It is with extreme gratitude that I view the activities of our Department of Justice to stamp out gangsterism & racketeering, with this Radio racketeer shouting twice a day his hatred against our Administration under the cloud of fighting Communism. I hope you will look into the activities of this person, believe this man's unholy influence & be used at some later date for some violent purpose by those who control & finance him.

Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty.

Sincerely,
Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 19, 1936, furnishing information relative to your employment, etc., by the Burns Detective Agency, Tulsa, Oklahoma, which position you state you were offered. In view of your refusal to join the secret society which you believe is similar to the "Black Legion," it is noted you are desirous of assisting this Bureau in its investigation relative to that organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws and collecting evidence in cases wherein the United States is not in any way directly interested. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of either the "Black Legion" or the organization to which you referred are in violation of any such Federal law, no action can be taken by this Bureau relative thereto.

I appreciate, however, your interest and courtesy in furnishing this information to me.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Communications Section
Mailed
Jun 10, 1936

[Stamp: U.S. Department of Justice, F.B.I., Washington, D.C., 20535]
Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I do not know whether or not the Federal bureau of Investigation will interest itself in the purported investigation of the secret society, known as the "Black Legion", but the fact that I am an applicant for a position as Special Agent makes me vitally interested in the continued success of your organization, and I am writing now to give you what little information I have, about what I believe, might concern this so called secret society.

In order that I might acquire some experience as an investigator I applied for a position to Mr. F. N. Burns of the Burns Detective Agency here in Tulsa. I worked for him several Saturdays before he approached me on the subject of entering a secret society, which had for its purpose (according to Mr. Burns) things similar to the secret society already mentioned. Hoping that I might learn something of this society I kept an appointment, made for me, by Mr. Burns with two men in the Bliss Hotel. I spent an hour with them but obtained very little information. They wanted me to promote this society in Tulsa, but refused to tell me the name of it, or the names of its officers. I refused to join, and shortly after this, Mr. Burns asked me to return my indentification card.

This is not being written with the intention to promote my own interest with your Bureau, neither is it because Mr. Burns asked for the return of my card. I would have written before this except for the fact that I did not think the Federal Bureau of Investigation would have jurisdiction, however it looks now as though it will have.

I sincerely hope that if the Federal Bureau of Investigation is interested in this investigation that I can be of some small help.

Sincerely and Respectfully yours,
Tulsa, advises that F.N. Burns of the Burns Detective Agency in Tulsa, for whom he worked, approached him on subject of entering secret society which had for its purposes things similar to Black Legion.

This man is the applicant who sent telegram to airport in Tulsa in Jan. of this year for Director requesting 10 minute interview. He has failed twice to pass Agents' examination. Recommendation unfavorable.

emk
Supplementary communication

Note pictures enclosed - dentist sealed by their importance. If they can organize an organization of what sort they request or to depend on woman or any you have to deal with.

Sam.

JUN 3 1936
RECORDED
INDEXED

61-7398-52
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUL 9 1936
U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE

From a national standpoint this Federal job you can secure deputies by the millions by giving badges and arranging an auxiliary legion - the county divided into federal departments - of the kind at Subversive Department, and government overthrow organized.
The Teapot Dome scandal of the Harding administration is a case in point. In this scandal, Secretary of the Interior Albert B. Fall sold the right to lease federal lands for oil drilling to private companies, receiving a significant bribe for the privilege. The public outcry that followed led to the first-ever impeachment of a U.S. president. The scandal cast a shadow over the administration of President Warren G. Harding and contributed to the decline of the Republican Party during the 1920s.
J. Edgar Hoover
Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.
Founder of Black Legion Is Just Plain 'Doctor Billy' to Bellaire Home Folks

BELLAIRE, O. — "General" Billy Shepard, a jovial drug store owner and a man who likes to be a bit mysterious at times, is a harmless fellow who can absorb a lot of kidding. But William Shepard, commander-in-chief of the Black Legion in America, is a little which draws little more than mock solemnity or open guffaws from the sophisticated members of the B-S and Tabb's Luncheon club, which meets regularly in the rear of Dankworth's drug store.

Admits Founding Legion

Upon such a man are the eyes of the nation and many parts of the world centered today, for "Doc" Shepard has become an international figure as the founder and leader of the Black Legion. He admits readily enough that he conceived the idea of the Black Legion when he was thrown out of the Ku Klux Klan 11 years ago because he formed his own "Black Guard" by coloring the white hoods of his followers with lampblack.

Wan Was Jealous

Grand Dragon James A. Colescott was jealous of the Black Guards' popularity, and in the way he charged Shepard was trying to form a separate organization within the klan.

McMurry Cough Party

Any men for St. Union to trade up behalf of except candid be expelled! That was Sylvester, senator of Coughlin, to Raymond J. Ites and Town third party state and cou, he'd run for Jefferson's gannitizations, large, a nomination. Yesterday! It run for governor. sponsored New Town end.

"Any men the National any part county or a state in violation of the order Congress. The political matters."
ACTIVE IN BLACK LEGION. Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Luppie, at their summer cottage in Algonac, Mich., yesterday told of their affiliation with the Black Legion. He was chief recruiting officer in Michigan. She held rank of "colonel" in war.
Mr. Raymond Phillips,  
2704 Alvarado Way,  
Sacramento, California.

Dear Sirs,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 27, 1936, furnishing an expression of your observations as to the purposes and activities of the "Black Giant" in this country and requesting that this Bureau take appropriate steps to expose and present to the leaders of this organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws and collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. As much as the activities of the organization which you refer do not appear relevant to any such Federal violation, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in referring this matter to my attention, as well as your favorable comments as to the work of this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director, F.B.I.
California Citrus Pulp Company
Office and Factory
Colton, California

Manufacturers of
CITRUS BY-PRODUCTS OF
Oranges ■ Grapefruit ■ Lemons

May 27th 1936

Hon. Edgar Hoover,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Hon. Sir;

With regret we read of the activities of the "BLACK CLAN" in Michigan and other States and localities. Their Leader claims 6,000,000 members, all determined to overthrow the constituted authority of this Country. It is a disgrace to our government and shows that we are lax in our dealings with persons or organizations which are operated for personal gain and profit, detrimental to the welfare of our Country.

Your G-Men have shown the Country the way. They have shown the good people that they can have FAITH in you and your organization.

You will be doing your Country and its Citizens a great deed by smashing this "BLACK CLAN" wide open and exposing their activities. Prosecuting the guilty and the leaders and disarming these vicious men, whose principal aim and purpose is to turn our Country into an armed fighting camp, pinning various factions and religious groups against each other for no reason whatsoever. The murderous BLACK CLAN should be exposed and action should be the word.

Long life to you Hon. Edgar Hoover and your G-MEN! I beg you to move forward into this situation and show these outlaws of our Country that THIS IS A FREE COUNTRY run by constituted authorities under the Flag of Justice to All. Any and all that oppose our wonderful form of government should be exiled or deported or placed in jails or marked in such manner so that the Public may know with whom they are dealing. Anyone would be a fool to fear a rattle-snake because they can see that snake and we believe that your wonderful organization is the only organization that can run these BLACK CLAN rattle snakes out into the open where self respecting citizens may meet the situation as they see it.

Edward Phillipson
2077 Sierra Way
San Bernardino, Calif.
June 8, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous communication, postmarked at Grand Rapids, Michigan, May 30, 1936, which furnishes information relative to the activities of one C. W. Smith, 231 Union Street, S. E., Grand Rapids, Michigan, who is allegedly connected with the radical movement and communist party in that city.

This is being furnished you merely for your information.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Assistant Director.

Enclosure (1132231)
Grand Rapids, Mich.
May 25, 1936

Dept. of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I have just heard that your department is about to investigate the Black Legion in Michigan.

For your information I wish to propose a man whom I consider an ideal type for this sort of organization:

He is a member of the American Legion and the Elks; and as you no doubt know, the latter have established a fund of one million dollars to keep abreast of the radical movement in this country. He is also a member of the Communist party here. He used to be a high pressure salesman and is now conducting a one room dental and medical service business. He makes but little money but always can dig up plenty to buy liquor for the purposes finding out things about people which appear unimportant. He was one of a group of American legionnaires that kidnapped and beat up a number of the comrades of Mr. Stalin, in this city on Aug. 1, 1931. He put the rope around the neck of a one armed chap and flogged the posteriors of another whom they had tied astraddle of a barrel. He is well read and a good stalker. He has been all over and is bisexual.

His name and address is

Crescenz H. Smith
251 Union St., S.E.
Grand Rapids

Business address
34 Porter Block.

P.S.

I would like to add that the Stalin's boys and girls do not know that their Comrade Smith was a member of the flogging bee. I have just seen some pictures of the affair, taken by one of the legionnaires showing his features quiet plainly along with most of the others. These pictures are now in the possession of a young W.P.A. photographer who is trying to sell them both to Smith and anyone else.
DEAR SIR:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 26, 1936, together with the newspaper clippings relative to the Black Legion, advising that there is a person in Vancouver who has represented himself as being the head of this organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to indicate any such Federal violation, I regret that no action can be taken by this Bureau in the premises.

Your courtesy, however, in furnishing this information for my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director.
Mr. G. C. Hume, Federal Def.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir,

1105 8th Street, Southworth
Washington.

There is a man here in the vicinity who represented himself to me as being the head of what I think is the organization referred to in the enclosed clipping. If this information is of any assistance I can send

RECORDED

Do not address me, ask my
questions address a letter comm.
will get me the paper, R packed.
Received Jun. 5 1936.
(Handwritten text not legible)
TODAY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

MURDER P'ARADES IN WEIRD MASK

A few executions in the regular way, with no help from the Black Legion, should convince that body that America prepares "purification" in the old-fashioned way.

Halle Selassie is on his way to London and British statesmanship wonders what to do about it. Theoretically, he is still an emperor, the British not having recognized Mussolini's mopping up in Africa.

One thing is certain: the young English king, who has a sense of humor, will not go to the railroad station to meet Selassie on a piece of new red carpet.

Those sanctions with twenty-one to one against Italy in the league did not move Emperor Selassie. He did cripple Italy's foreign trade, but the League's actions have been too little too late.

An Italian report is of a wide Anglo-Italian rift in Ethiopia, where the Italian conquerors would wish to command, to march on British colonies. The Abyssinian command is necessary.

ROBE OF BLACK LEGION TORTURE CULT

Members of the Order, Have Been Seized as Slayers of a WPA Worker in Detroit. (Story on Page 6)

(Picture from International News Photo Service)

U.S. SOCIAL SPLIT; ANOTHER PARTY LOES

'Old Guard' Announces Separate Group as 'Lefts' Get

CLEVELAND, May 24

Within an hour after the convention of the Socialists voted down the 'right-guard' forces from New York, the leftists deposed Thomas, the "left guard," as chairman today and announced they would form a new party.

The "old guard" delegations for a new party met in New York, and the "lefts" for a new party in Washington. The New York "left" group are the Socialists, the Socialists, the Socialist, and the Socialist. The New York "left" group are the Socialists.

However, rightist less these states would make a party.

PLATFORM TODAY

While the "old guard" was looking for an identity crisis for itself, the rightists were turning the platform.

Left-wing delegation arrived to the afternoon session not participate in the platform. The rightists turned the platform.

The differences centers such issues as the left wing of principles adopted two years ago and the exclusion of local "socialists" from the platform on points as May Day demands.

But the immediate from the 'lefts' of the party was a distinct...
Note an article of today: Effinger should be arrested.

German race supremacy dream must be destroyed. The government of the United States and put the German race and German language on top.

You are doing good work, but that is peanuts to that. Enlarge your scope; if necessary you will find millions ready to help in your work of ferreting out the underhand enemies of the government of the U.S. and the institution of the United States.

They should be arrested. They should be arrested and their property confiscated.

P.S. Your Bureau and department should be absolutely and professional non-partisan workers of party or politics.

61-7398-56
As critic of both Parties the
interest is in the loyalty
and maintenance of the liberty
and institutions of the Nation
and Land—and the better
and more disciplined
Government system the
better irrespective who
or what leader is head of
the Ministry or Cabinet rank
or position—So more science
more permanence—
something like military
best government and rule.

Same.
Your own terms

FUR STORAGE! Your fur or cloth coat stored and insured for only 2% of your own valuation. Minimum charge $1.50. Add the cost to your account.

WHITE SUITS
In single and double-breasted 14-leg suits with epaulet or shoulder flaps. $8.95

WHITE COATS
In free-swinging or swing, box coats, etc. $8.95 to $14.95 and $19.75

TUB-FRACKS
Artificially styled in smart, new, soft, color materials. $15.50 to $34.95

WASHABLE SILKS
and cottons. Very good looking sports and dressy styles. Unusual values at $4.95 and up

Palm Beach
Suit. Tailored of genuine Palm Beach cloth. Exclusively styled. $16.95

All Remaining Spring Coats and Suits Have Been Greatly Reduced! Buy Now and Save!
Assistant Attorney General Jackson telephoned me and said this morning a lawyer friend of his in New York City telephoned and said that he had some information to offer relative to the above matter, and if the Federal Government is going to enter the case, he wanted to furnish it to us, but if only the State authorities were to investigate the case, he would want to furnish the information to them.

I advised Mr. Jackson that in the absence of any indication of a Federal violation in this matter, the Bureau is conducting no investigation whatsoever. Consequently, the Bureau would not be interested in the information which his friend in New York has to offer.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm.
Mr. J. E. Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington.

Dear Sir:

Accept the thanks of this office for your letter of May 25, 1936 quoting a telegram received by your bureau from the City Editor of the Flint Journal, Flint, Mich., regarding the proposed armed march on Washington by the Flint organization of the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
Chief
Special Agent In Charge,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sirs:

I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous letter dated at Los Angeles, California, May 26, 1936, furnishing information relative to the location and alleged activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Los Angeles, California.

This is being forwarded merely for your information, and the advisability of furnishing same to the Los Angeles Police Department is being left to your discretion. However, no investigation should be conducted by your office relative to this matter under any circumstances.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Los Angeles, California,
May 26th, 1936.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I feel that I have some information that you may find interesting, and it comes to me through a very dear friend of mine whose integrity is above reproach, and he informs me, that he is a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

What he says, they are making life quite miserable for him, as they are strong in their efforts, and try in every way to run him in to all kinds of trouble such as V type pockets, cutting in front of him and causing him to have to road at times to avoid an accident, and probable death.

You have noticed, there has been an outbreak in Detroit, Mich., and sooner or later it will happen here, and there is only one hand of the law that can stop it. That is the Department of Justice under your command, and from what the Times has to say, you will evidently be called upon to take a stern hand.

It is really what I want to tell you, my friend says, that there is evidence that a KKK organization is in Los Angeles, and that the headquarters of the KKK is in the Financial Center Building, room 902, the name on the door is J. C. Price, this building is at Spring Street, at 7th.

Looks that in the face of events, there would be an opportune time to raid this office, which no doubt would be very interesting to your department, I would like very much to have written you under my letter head, as I have evidence in you that one could possibly have, but something might happen which you would have no control, that would let this dangerous Ku Klux Klan name, and make life miserable for me also, so, I sincerely hope you will stand me, when I will merely sign my name as a good friend,

Very Respectfully, And Sincerely,

A FRIEND.
May 29, 1936

Mr. E. J. Connellcy,
Federal bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
126 U. S. Custom House and Post Office Building,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Sir:

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Tanas of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Mr. T. A. Crowe,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
506 Fletcher Trust Building,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

May 29, 1936

Mr. Crowe,

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Taus of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
MAY 29 1936
P.M.

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

61-7396-61
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUN 1 1936 P.M.
FILE
SAC Conroy of the Atlanta Office telephoned me and said he just received a telephone call from the United States Attorney down there, who advised that he was sending over to the Atlanta Office Mr.,[redacted] of the Ku Klux Klan, who went to the United States Attorney to give him some information relative to the Black Legion, and who the USA referred to the Bureau for interview.

I told Mr. Conroy that the Bureau is not going to investigate the Black Legion in the absence of some definite showing of a Federal violation over which the Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, and consequently, when Mr.,[redacted] comes to the office, he should be advised that any information he has concerning the Black Legion should be furnished to the local law enforcement officials in Detroit.

However, I told Mr. Conroy that if someone comes in purporting to have information about a Federal violation, the information will have to be accepted, but no action should be taken on the same other than forwarding the same into Washington for transmittal to the Attorney General for a decision as to investigation.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.
May 29, 1936

Mr. V. P. MacFarland,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
1448 Standard Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Confirming the telephonic instructions issued to your office by Mr. Tapp of the Bureau, it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau. If any person desires to furnish a representative of your office with information concerning this organization, he should be informed that the Bureau is not conducting any investigation into the activities of the Black Legion.

If information is furnished to your office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereupon by your office, other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmission to the Department for appropriate consideration.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover, Director.

RECORDED
61-7398-63
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JUN 1 1936 P.M.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FILE

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY
MAILED
MAY 23, 1936
F. D.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
W. H. J. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

1:45 P.M.

RE: BLACK LEGION

Dumont, New Jersey, was referred to me for interview from your office.

advised that she wished to furnish information relative to the Black Legion and requested that this Bureau institute an investigation of this organization. I advised her that in the absence of a violation of Federal law, this Bureau was conducting no investigation in the above matter, but asked her to furnish any information which she might have relative to a violation of Federal law. She was unable to furnish any such information, but insisted that the Bureau institute an investigation. When I advised her several times that we could do nothing, she became hysterical and cried, and stated that the country was certainly going to be taken over by the Black Legion. It appears that the basis of her information is solely what she has read in the newspapers, but because of her mental condition it apparently plays on her mind to such an extent that she can think of nothing else.

requested that I call the White House and make an appointment for her which, of course, I refused to do, and advised her that she was unduly alarmed and that it appeared best for her to return to her home in New Jersey, inasmuch as she made a special trip to Washington to furnish this information.

Respectfully,

R. B. Hood.
May 27, 1936

Dear Sir:

Why did you not answer my last letter on running out the diners. You claimed in one letter this was not under Federal Jurisdiction. Why in Hell don't you put it under Federal Jurisdiction. The local restaurant officials, both police & sheriff, can't or won't do anything, I se

where they had orders to round up the gun toters, but they only found one too bad, I guess, I have to tell them where when and how to find. course they are not out when the sun shines. You can't wait until after dark to catch them, fellows when the police are called in from the district in large cities, for I know you can find a policeman at 3:00 from 6th street or the levy up to 12 street after 6 P.M. the game in or large cities, when the bugs are out, they tried to hold me up, when used to leave school, if you please, but I got away with them quick but work been done.

Enclosed please find clipping of post dispatch of the New York Times activities which the picture of one of their big chiefs, him as you know, making a cigar in his shirt sleeve.

RECORD & INDEXED

Fred J. Fink, with his little news dispatch run the Ku Kluxers out of the part of the state and called them to say he would not be at the oil & gas meeting they and were all out burning and every one of a gun totter in.

How don't some of you have no jurisdiction, or do not know the or where this bunch who wants to kill people who belong to either church or position.

If our Federal Government backs down or do in sympathy or one must be afraid to say or write against them, I for one won't pay any other dollar for taxes to protect me or my property, but will strap on a gun & tell them to come on, but I will hold the government responsible for what happens to me or mine. I am one of the largest tax payers in this burg they have me charged to the limit, I am a free born, and ask no interference. All this don't come under your jurisdiction inform me where I can be heard. I will sure either write or go and see the parties or party in person if his office is my where in the great U.S.A. and will find out if or not they carry water on both shelves not or are only holding down the office impotancy with such cattle only having down their job for political or self interests.

I already expect an answer, or I will write to our Congressman and the President, will keep a copy of this letter, why its so outreach one in no given by the Clinton Post Dispatch.

Sincerely, Yours Truly,

Anonymous Communication

Keep Envelope Attached
I would sign my name but who knows if or not one of you are in sympathy with this kind of unamerican business. You may have members of either Ku Klux or Black hand in your office for all you know, better keep your ears open and eyes peeled and no not have o-in them like the old saying was when I was a learning boy.

I tell JATCO the press dispatches of your activities. The press likes the only courageous Watch Dog. Too bad Fred J is dead he would wear jacket.

You have the army and navy back of you too but busy. Or else resist.
The raids by groups of men who were considering the possibility of an armed conflict were condemned by the black community. The information supplied by a member of the secret society indicated that the individual was responsible for the bombing of the home of William W. Volksine, the village president.

Prosecutor McCrea said the informant related that "police officials and politicians" attended a meeting at which the bombing of Volksine's house was discussed. Volksine himself charged that members of a secret society were responsible for the bombing. "There was a big gang of those fellows out here," he said.

McCrea quoted the informant as saying, "When Volksine's name was brought up at the meeting there were shouts of 'Let's take him for a ride' and 'Beat him up.' The man was appointed to do the bombing and it took place two weeks later."

State-Wide Investigation

A grand jury investigation in every county in the state where crimes can be traced to the Black Legion was announced by Attorney General David H. Crowley.

Charges of kidnapping and felonious assault were filed against 25 alleged members of the organization accused by Owen Dudley, Jackson County prosecutor, with stripping and flogging a member who had attempted to withdraw.

At the Southern Michigan Prison, where Dudley has charged that the entire roster of 385 guards have been asked to join the Black Legion, Warden Harry H. Jackson announced he had discharged Guard Sergeant Charles Cooley for activity in the affairs of the secret order.

Three other guards have been suspended, and one of them, Ray Ernest, faced arraignment today as a member of the band of 25 who flogged Harley Smith, a WPA worker, in Jackson last Nov. 6.

Named with Ernest in the warrants issued today in Jackson are
TWO BOMBINGS IN DETROIT LAID TO BLACK LEGION

Weapons and Secret Society Papers Seized in Raids on Five Houses in Ecce, a Suburb.

POLITICIANS LINKED TO ITS ACTIVITIES

Western Commander Says Organization Has 6,000-7,000 Members—Denies Ku Klux Connection.

Detroit, May 26—Enlarging their drive against the Black Legion, hooded vigilantes, Wayne County authorities this morning searched five houses in Ecce, a suburb, and found what they are said to be evidence that two recent bombings were inspired by the black hand.

In the houses, which are those of two former Ecce residents, the raiders left a note and a printed leaflet of the organization.

V.F. Effinger of Lima, Ohio, who had been sought for questioning by Rochester, N.Y., police and by the Supreme Court, has been captured by authorities in Ecce.

Many persons were arrested during the search. Effinger is considered to be the "western commander" of the Black Legion.

JEWELED ETHIOPIAN CROWN AND SWORD SEEN AT SUEZ

Egyptian Customs Officials Think Articles Were Looted After Downfall of Empire.

Cairo, Egypt, May 25—Customs authorities were investigating today the discovery of a richly jeweled Ethiopian crown and a jeweled sword, which were contained in a box with a label that read: "The Crown jewels of the Ethiopian Empire." This is the first time that such a crown has been seen in the port of Suez.

SOVIET DIVORCE TAX, REWARDS TO MOTHERS

New Law Intended to End "Light-Mindedness" in Family Relations.

MOSCOW, May 25—A proposal in the case of divorce settlement in
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: Black Legion.

Mr. Cunningham, acting in charge of the Detroit Office in the temporary absence of Mr. Reinecke, telephoned me and said that Mr. Reinecke had just received a letter from Mr. Duncan C. McCrae, County Attorney for Wayne County, Detroit, inviting Mr. Reinecke to sit in on a conference which is to be held relative to ways and means of exterminating the Black Legion. Since the conference is to be held as soon as possible, Mr. Reinecke wanted an expression of opinion from the Bureau as to what his attitude should be in this matter.

I conferred with you relative to this situation and told Mr. Cunningham to advise Mr. McCrae by letter the Bureau cannot participate in any conference relative to the Black Legion in the absence of some positive showing of a violation of some Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau.

I further told Mr. Cunningham that if anyone comes to the Detroit Office with an alleged violation of a Federal Statute in this matter, they should take absolutely no action until so instructed by the Bureau here in Washington.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Res: Black Legion.

Please be advised that I have telephoned the Cleveland, Indianapolis and Cincinnati Offices of the Bureau and instructed them to conduct absolutely no investigation into the above matter without prior Bureau authority. I have told them that the Bureau is under instructions from the Attorney General to conduct absolutely no investigation into this case in the absence of some definite showing of a violation of some Federal Statute within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau. Accordingly, I have told them that if any allegation of such a violation is received, the facts should be presented to the Bureau at Washington for a decision as to whether or not we should enter the investigation.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

With reference to your inquiry concerning any interview conducted by Bureau Agents with a person at Lima, Ohio during 1936, in which this person stated that he had been beaten up by the Black Legion, you are advised that the Bureau records do not contain any information concerning such an interview. The Bureau received a memorandum on or about April 15, 1935 from William Stanley, requesting an investigation into an allegation that employees of the Department of Justice were members of an organization known as the "Black Legion" or "Bullet Club". Investigation was conducted in this matter in Ohio and did not develop any information substantiating this allegation.

Considerable information concerning the various phases of this secret organization known as the Black Legion, the Night Riders and the Bullet Club was obtained. Several inquiries were conducted at Lima, Ohio by Agent C. E. Smith but no one was interviewed who stated that he had ever been beaten up. An individual named [redacted] was interviewed by the Bureau agent, accompanied by Post Office Inspector Cordrey of Lima, Ohio and while Scheid furnished some information and stated that he had been a member in the organization and had some trouble, he did not allege that he had been assaulted.

The inquiries conducted by the Bureau at that time disclosed that the Post Office Inspector was in possession of considerable information concerning the organization and had probably conducted at least superficial inquiries concerning it. Information was received that an investigator for the F.L.R.A. had conducted some inquiry concerning the matter and that on one occasion two State Prohibition Agents named Fleming and Madden were in Lima, Ohio and it was the general belief among the members of the Bullet Club that these individuals were Federal Agents.

Information was received from [redacted] formerly a Major in the Legion that a Department of Justice man from Cincinnati had investigated this matter in Ohio, but the Bureau files contain no record of such an investigation.

The Bureau did obtain a list of approximately 45 names of residents in Lima, Ohio and vicinity, who were alleged to be members of
the Bullet Club.

A memorandum summarizing the Bureau's investigation in this situation is being prepared this morning.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm
I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 31, 1936, together with the enclosures, furnishing information relative to your experience with the Black Legion, an organization which you indicate is a unit of the Black Legion, as well as the names of various of the leaders of this organization. It is noted that you request that an appropriate investigation be conducted by this Bureau in this matter.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the fact that the activities of this organization do not appear to indicate any such Federal violation, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises. The matter appears to be one of purely local nature and solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the State of Wisconsin.

In compliance with your request, I am returning herewith the enclosures which were transmitted to this Bureau with your communication, and wish to express my appreciation for your courtesy in performing the same for my attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

[Note: No copies of enclosures retained in Bureau file.]
March 31, 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

June 1-2, 1933

May 31

I enjoyed my experience with the Huxley Club. The meeting was not so good. I knew the amount I read about the Black Legion that the smaller organizations were just a unit of a larger body. If it did not take me long to see through the membership. A pin dollar bill was my first suspicion. A member the leader Bill Harding was bound to sell his valuable Canadian pin to run for ten dollars. At that time I did not think of ransom money. Now, since the Hauptmann trial I know it was. The name Harding appeared in the News Paper during the Hauptmann trial. That politicians & Police don't.
May 28, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

There is attached hereto a memorandum summarizing the information in the Bureau files pertaining to the Black Legion.

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm
On April 15, 1935, the then Assistant to the Attorney General William Stanley requested the Federal Bureau of Investigation to conduct an inquiry into the activities of an organization in Lima, Ohio, known as the Black Legion, in view of the fact that representatives of the Department of Justice were reported to be members of this society.

Investigation disclosed that the Black Legion is reported to have been formed prior to the Revolutionary War, but following the winning of independence by the colonies the order was disbanded. Following the Civil War, it was revived and was active until post-war conditions again returned normal. The present activity of the organization is allegedly for the purpose of protecting the country from being controlled by various forms of "isms"; however, it has been charged by some former members of the society that it was revolutionary in character, and the heads of the organization are attempting to gain control of various Governmental agencies.

Membership in the organization, in which there are no dues, is by invitation. Initiation into membership of the Black Legion is accompanied with many rituals, all members being at the time armed and masked. Under penalty of death, candidates for membership pledge loyalty to their cause; all Jews, Catholics, and foreign subjects are declared enemies of the organization. Each recruit, who must be willing to bear arms, is furnished with a bullet and is instructed to conduct himself properly so that it will not be necessary for the Legion to ask for its return. For if this is found necessary, one half of the bullet, that is, the lead, will be returned. Death or departure from the country are the only means of severing connection with the society.

The organization of the Black Legion is basically military, that is, it is composed of regiments made up of battalions, which are, in turn, made up of companies, et cetera. The officers designated by military rank are headed by a general. After the fashion of the original thirteen colonies, the country is allegedly divided into thirteen districts by the Black Legion.
Members of the organisation are divided into various degrees, known as the Foot Legion, Eight Riders, Black Knights, Armed Guards, and Bullet Club, the latter being composed of only selected Black Knights. It is said that various squads are organised within the legion whose function it is to carry out certain activities, for instance, there is a Kidnapping Squad and a Killing Squad. At the time of the investigation, eight individuals were reported to have been marked for death by the Black Legion.

In March, 1935, the total membership of the Black Legion in Allen County, Ohio, was reported to be 2,400. Former members of the organisation have advised that approximately 80% of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in Lima holds membership in this society. It was rumored that 60 or 70 employees of the Department of Justice are members of the organisation; however, investigation has not substantiated this allegation. A Detroit, Michigan, unit of the Black Legion is alleged to have a company of men fully equipped with machine guns and one battalion equipped with Army rifles.

Membership in the Black Legion being secret, it has been difficult to identify individuals as being definitely associated with the organization; however, several former members have advised that a Dr. Shepard of Bellaire, Ohio, is presently the head of the Black Legion. Shepard was actively associated with the Ku Klux Klan a few years ago, and has on occasions professed his hatred for Catholics and foreigners. Because of his reputation as a loose talker, however, he is not taken seriously by his fellow townsfolk. Dr. Shepard, who was City Health Officer in Bellaire in 1935, is not regarded as a leader of men. Several years ago a band of gypsies was frightened away from Bellaire after several homes had been fired near their camp, and it was rumored that Dr. Shepard was the instigator of this affair.

Claude Bauer, of Bellaire, Ohio, is alleged to be Dr. Shepard's assistant as head of the Black Legion; however, investigation failed to reveal the identity of an individual in that town under this name.

It is reported that V. A. (Bert) Effinger, of Lima, Ohio, is the head of this society in that district. Former members advised in his capacity as general he gives orders to the society in Lima.
and that he is alleged to be responsible for the following incidents:

Some time in 1933 a roadhouse known as "Tein Oka" near Lima, Ohio, was burned. Effinger has boasted that the Legion was responsible for this, as well as, for, the destruction of the "Utopia" roadhouse near Napoleon, Ohio. Effinger is alleged to have stated that all Federal men planning to Lima report to him and to have instructed the members of the Black Legion that if they knew of any such officers being in town, they should report the matter to him at once.

On one occasion, two Ohio State Prohibition enforcement officers were in Lima, and a member of the Legion reported to Effinger that they were Federal Agents.

On numerous occasions, Effinger has boasted that approximately 60 or 70 members of the Department of Justice are members of the Black Legion. He is said to have concealed a large yellow map depicting the location of all secret fortifications in the country, and has stated that the map was obtained by him through the Department of Justice. Effinger has encouraged members of the Black Legion to join the National Guard, advising that when the time arrives to take over the arsenals and capture the rifles and ammunition the Black Legion members would overcome certain guardsmen assigned to them.

One former member has advised that he was ordered by General Effinger to "bash in the head" of a man who refused to attend the society's meetings.

These individuals who have dropped out of the order have been approached on numerous occasions and warned that they should not talk. On occasions numerous carloads of men have collected around the homes of former members; however, no trouble is known to have resulted from these activities.
As general, Effinger is said to have ordered a former member of the Black Legion to destroy a moving picture film entitled "White Angel" at the time it was showing at the Sigma Theatre in Lima, Ohio on the grounds that the film upheld the Catholic faith.

In November, 1940 it was rumored that the Bullet Club of the Black Legion was going to blow up the old post office at Lima, Ohio, following which a Department of Justice Agent from Cincinnati, Ohio is alleged to have conducted an investigation. However, the files of this Bureau do not indicate such an investigation was made.

Following this rumor, an investigator for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, John D. Martin, of Sandusky, Ohio, ascertained that about 40% of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration employees were members of the Black Legion, and Guy Effinger, son of V. E. Effinger, was a Lieutenant Colonel of the organization and the dispenser for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration.

V. E. Effinger was interviewed by a Special Agent and vigorously denied that he was associated with the Black Legion in any way, in addition each specific allegation attributed to him was specifically denied. He is an electrician by trade and did admit that he was a member of the Ku-Klux Klan, and freely expressed the opinion that the citizens of the country should take the law into their own hands to cope with the situation where local law enforcement officials have failed. In this connection the investigation disclosed that the Lima Police Department refused to do anything concerning the terrorist methods of the Black Legion in view of the fact that both the Chief of Police, Fred Taylor, and the head of the detective force were members of this society.

In addition to the above named individuals, who are said to be active participants in this society, the names of approximately 45 persons residing in Lima and vicinity were obtained. Among these are General Glenn of Sidney, Ohio, an employee of the State Highway Department. This person is said to have the death warrants for those who the Black Legion singles out for punishment.
In White, a former policeman from Detroit, Michigan, who was alleged to have lost his leg in a gun battle with the Purple Gang, appeared at target practice of the Black Legion held at Bowling Green, Ohio. White is supposed to be an active member of the Legion.

Colonel Mappe of Detroit, Michigan, employed at the City Hall, is alleged to be a source through which firearms are secured for the Black Legion. However, inquiry in Detroit has failed to reveal the identity of an individual of this name.

The Michigan State Police were aware that the Black Legion was holding regular meetings in the vicinity of Adrian, Michigan during the summer of 1935, and following a meeting held on August 19, 1935, they stopped a car containing three men and a search revealed a .38 caliber revolver, an automatic pistol, and three black guns with hoods, bearing a skull and cross bone marks. The three occupants of the car, giving the names of Elsworth E. Shinaberry, Andrew Martin, Jr., and Roy L. Neper, were taken into custody. The men admitted carrying concealed weapons, but alleged that they did not own them, that they had been furnished by individuals whose identity they did not know, and that they were used for the purpose of the Black Legion meeting. Questioning of these persons did not result in obtaining any additional information relative to the organization or membership of the Black Legion. On August 26, 1935, the case against the above named persons was discharged by the Justice of the Peace at Adrian, Michigan on the grounds that the State Police exceeded their authority in searching the defendants' car.

In the investigation conducted no evidence of a violation of a Federal Law was disclosed.

Examination of the records of the Identification Division of the Bureau disclosed no record on Elsworth E. Shinaberry, Andrew Martin, Jr., or Roy L. Neper.

Re-arranging other than that referred to is indicated by the criminal records of Elsworth E. Shinaberry, Andrew Martin, Jr., and Roy L. Neper.

The investigation conducted in this matter failed to disclose that any employee of the Department of Justice was a member of this organization.
May 29, 1936.

Mr. Hoover desires that all memoranda prepared for him be dated.

JUN 17 1936

RECORDED
61-7398-67X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
9 1936 A.M.
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NATHAN POLAN
JEPHON JOSEPH
PAINE

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[Handwritten notes and signatures]

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Mary Wetterick

1616 Braham
Sent to Mr. J. Edgar Hoover by request.

Maurice Attorney General
6/17/36

JUN 22 1936
RECORDED & INDEXED
1936 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
61-7398-69
Roosevelt’s Supreme Council

A Non-Partisan Exposée of

AN “ALIEN-STAR” ORIENTAL REVOLUTIONARY—POWER IN CONTROL OF WASHINGTON

The six-point star-picture below, showing “America’s Invisible Governors” and their allies, gives only a long list of alien-minded New Dealer “advisors” behind Roosevelt, including unofficial and official “amenities,” elected “representatives,” etc., all owing allegiance to the FRANKFURTER-BRANDES-BARUCH-GENTHAU MONOPOLY. It is estimated that 18,000 of these “key” Internationalists are now dictating American policy, directed by Professor Felix Frankfurter, called by General Hugh S. Johnson in the Saturday Evening of Oct. 26, 1935, "THE MOST INFLUENTIAL SINGLE INDIVIDUAL IN THE U. S."

WHEN WILL AMERICA AGAIN BE RULED BY AMERICANS FOR AMERICANS?

The above “Seal of Solomon,” symbol of Ownership—appearing on all synagogues—is now stamped on (1) U. S. Post Office dead-letter envelopes; (2) U. S. Army Helmets; (3) U. S. Navy Dept. seals; (4) reverse side of medals of Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt; and (5) on our NEW ONE-DOLLAR BILLS over the American Eagle—the six-point interlaced sub-triangles star camouflage mask being turned into miniature 5-point stars. Note that the FRONT of the Great Seal and shield is on the RIGHT and the REVERSE side with pyramid is on the LEFT of the bill—which is Jewish, for Jews read newspapers from RIGHT TO LEFT, opposite to Gentile reading. The Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., is a Jew.

The largest number of the above “SUPREME COUNCIL”—many of whom are foreign-born—owe their positions to Internationalist-controlled Tammany. These posts of great importance are filled, NOT by ELECTED ROOSEVELT APPOINTMENTS. Unofficial advisors are very dangerous to a free American Government as they cannot be held publicly responsible for their actions.

Definitions above and on the other side of this sheet are from published records—numbers at the end...
FELIX FRANKFURTER of Mass., foreign-born; "Unofficial Presidential Advisor"; listed in "Red Network" as a member of the Civil Liberties Union, legal advisor to the Communist (Karl Marx) Professor, called Legal-Master-Mind of New Deal in Simon-Schuster 1934 book, "The New Dealers"; branded as Bolshevik by late President THEODORE Roosevelt for defending Communist Mooney, still in prison for San Francisco bomb-killing; placed 100 "key-men" in Roosevelt jobs. "He has more influence than any other named American," says Gen. Johnson in the U. S. He called FRANKFURTER has never been elected to any public office. He was nominated in 1932 for the Massachusetts Supreme Court, but defeated by 500,000 votes. He is said to be Roosevelt's choice for the next U. S. Supreme Court vacancy.

LOUIS DEMBITZ BRANDEIS of Mass., "Unofficial Presidential Advisor"; Justice of U. S. Supreme Court; "Father" of Compulsory New Deal; He is named in "Red Network" as supporter of Communism, Commonwealth College of Arkansas. Highly praised by Albert Einstein, expelled from Germany as a Communist. The Chicago Tribune of Sept. 13, 1934, printed this statement by Gen. Hugh S. Johnson: "I am, during the whole of this intense experience, building up the [illegal NRA]. I have been in constant touch with Justice Brandeis." The N. Y. Times of Jan. 28, 1934, said: "The underlying philosophy of the New Deal is the philosophy of Justice Brandeis.

BERNARD M. BARUCH of N. Y., called "Unofficial President" by Rabbi Gross' Brooklyn Jewish Examin Wall Street speculator and associate of International Bankers; Wilson-Roosevelt Economic Advisor; admitted to Communist organizations; "If anybody had more power during the World War II," he called National Pride (patiotism) "A lot of nonsense" (see Chicago Tribune, Sept. 25). Ford's "Dearest Independent" of 25, 1925, said: "The Baruch interest, with others, has planned the Communist State. It will not be easy to stage a revolution. Upon commencement of war, the U. S. goes under Communism in one day.

HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR., of N. Y., foreign-born; "Unofficial Presidential Advisor"; related to bankers Seligman and Lehman. His son is Secretary of the U. S. Treasury and Director of the United States "Subsidization Fund." Sigmund Solomon "superintendent" for him $5,000,000,000 gold bars in the Assay Office.

EDWARD A. FILENE of Mass., "Unofficial Presidential Advisor"; listed in "Red Network" as member of American-Russian Chamber of Commerce. His 26th Century Fund financed NRA's importation from Europe. FILENE was in Moscow during the last Communist International Congress.

EDWARD A. FILENE of Mass., "Unofficial Presidential Advisor"; listed in "Red Network" as member of American-Russian Chamber of Commerce. His 26th Century Fund financed NRA's importation from Europe. FILENE was in Moscow during the last Communist International Congress.

FRANCES "PERKINS" of N. Y., Secretary of Labor. As Americans are entitled to know public servants' backgrounds and the extent of disloyal activities against our country, Robert Edwards Emson wrote a pamphlet on the subject. As has been the case with Frances Perkins, the Secretary of Labor, her name has been in the news. She is the daughter of Fred and Susan Perkins. Her parents were both native-born citizens of English and Scotch descent. They are the forebears of Protestant Christian families. Her father was a Presbyterian and her mother was a Methodist. Both were born in the United States. Her name has been in the news recently and it is likely that she will be a candidate in the next election. She is married to Hervey O. Perkins, also a native-born citizen of English and Scotch descent. He is the father of the late President Calvin Coolidge.

ROOSEVELT CONGRATULATES COMMUNISTS on 18th Soviet Anniversary. As reported in the New York Times on Nov. 6, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt congratulated Communists in Russia on the 18th anniversary of the Socialist (Communist) revolution in Russia, saying: "I am happy to extend sincere felicitations on THIS MEMORABLE ANNIVERSARY with my best wishes for Your Excellency's health and happiness."

Look at This Record, Patriots of America, and WAKE UP! THEN: "The Revolutionary Council which took over Russia in 1915 was composed of 6,000 members, of whom 400 WERE JEWS." From the Overman Report to Congress.

New York, Nov. 15, 1935 (4-7-35) (Copyright, 1936, by Robert Edward Emson)
The Jewish Minority Threatens!

WE, the Majority, Are Going to Demonstrate Our Control, Is the Patriotic Reply to an Anti-American Yiddish Political Power Challenge: What Are YOU Going to DO About It?

THE ARROGANT DEFI

"The Jews of America, because of their NUMBERS, INTEREST and ABILITY, constitute A GREAT POLITICAL FORCE. They have not usurped this power; IT BELONGS TO THEM AS OF RIGHT! They are going to exercise it AS THEY SEE FIT!—What are YOU going to DO about it?"—From an editorial of April 9, 1936, in the great Yiddish Daily, "THE DAY," of New York City.

The Jews of America "numbers" about 4,228,000 says their official estimate, presumably based, as in Biblical times, upon MALES ALONE—which would give a total U. S. Jewish population of over 8,300,000, or about a 7% minority. Based on "Passover Bread" requirements, Henry Ford's publication estimated that the Jews in America in 1920 numbered about 6,000,000—with 3,000,000 more seeking entrance.

Jewish "interest" may be debatable, but as Gentiles presumably also have the right to estimate, they find, by overwhelming evidence, that "the terrible power of the purse (Zionist Leader Hertz's boastful description), in combination with Jewish-energized revolutionary communism, has unfairly given Jews a monopoly-control of American publicity, political and social conditions.

Jewish "ability," secretly exercising gold-cornered despotic power, has, in the minds of patriots, subverted the inalienable control-rights of the democratic majority in favor of an alien-minded minority admittedly antagonistic to the fundamental American Philosophy of majority government of, by and for the whole people.

Now, this small subversive minority arrogantly and elegantly claims that such monopoly-power "belongs to them AS OF RIGHT"—presumably the "chosen people" delusion-right; and "They are going to exercise it AS THEY SEE FIT"—whether the American majority likes it or not.

It is just as simple as that!

What are WE going to do about it?

THIS is the answer of the Great Middle-Class American Majority to the 7% Jewish Minority:

The Republic of the United States of America was founded upon "A Declaration of Independence" conceived, not by a Jewish but by a Christian Majority that, through supreme sacrifice, created the greatest freedom Constitution "ever struck off by the hand and brain of man," and with it established a nation that rose from poverty to enjoy prosperity and happiness—until the advent of the revolutionary Jewish invasion.

WE ARE GOING TO DEMONSTRATE OUR CONTROL of the Destinies of the America bequeathed to us by our great Christian Forefathers.

In a renaissance of the "Spirit of '76," now rising to the heights, fighting under our historic crusading-cry "Liberty or Death!" WE are going to RESTITUITIONALLY RECAPTURE what has been treacherously and predatorioly seized through secret subversion of our unsuspecting good-will, tolerance and hospitality—PEACEFULLY, if we CAN, but MILITANTLY, if we MUST!

"Our brains have met theirs in the Cradle of the White Race. We will meet them in the Outposts of Civilization."

New York, April 15, 1936

Robert Edward Benson
(Publicist-Economist)
But Catholicism in Europe is apparently learning that it has been tricked and is becoming aware of the reality of the menace. Read this public confirmation: "The Jewish Spirit threatens to corrupt our economic and social life," declared the Federal Union of Catholic Youth in Vienna, Austria, on April 3, 1936, according to an Associated Press cable. "Polish Jewry is an avowed enemy of the Catholic religion; Jews are behind the bolshevist and socialist forces now attacking our church." That was in a cable recently published by the Chicago Tribune, according to the James T. Young Weekly Industrial Report of Feb. 29, 1936. The February (1936) Catholic Gazette of London, under a heading, "The Jewish Peril and the Catholic Church," printed a sensational article detailing proceedings at a secret Jewish Society meeting in Paris, at which a protocol program of attack on the Catholic Church was outlined. There was circulated recently in Europe this extract from the "Civita Cattolica," a Vatican publication: "The Jewish Peril menaces the whole world, in particular the Christian nations." The Pope issued a proclamation May 11, 1936, against "The common enemy of Communism, AN IMMENSE PERIL which menaces civilization."

MASONRY PREPARING A PURGE?

Organized churches of other creeds have apparently been penetrated and "ju-duped" throughout the world. Note this from the Chicago Christian Century, undenominational Protestant publication of Chicago, under date of April 29 and May 13, 1936: "Jewry is a mutual benefit propagandist organization. A Judaism which talks of its uniqueness cannot escape the suspicion that it is hoarding treasures for selfish purpose. The Jew will never command the respect of non-Jewish culture so long as he humilifies himself. Any assimilated element of our population is bound to have trouble, BECAUSE IT IS BOUND TO MAKE TROUBLE."

The Jewish-dominated Grand Orient Secret Society of Europe subverted Continental Freemasonry, according to documentary evidence arriving in this country from abroad. Both Hitler and Mussolini espoused it. The former prohibited Masonic lodges in Germany coincident with his expulsion of Communist Jews. Mussolini did the same thing when he banned Bolshevism, and only recently he arrested members of his own party for reviving Masonic in Rome. Rotten last year attacked Masonic lodges in France.

Since a free press no longer exists in the United States, the time has come for every American to look for the subversive Jew, behind the propaganda ballyhoo about "fearsome black legions."

New York, May 28, 1936

Robert Edward Edmonds

(PUBLISHED: ECONOMIST)

(COPIES TO EACH at 1000 Economic Service, 80 Washington St., N.Y. C. Tel. WH 445255. DELIVERED POSTPAID by Registered Mail (only in U.S. for 10c for 1st 20c for 25c; 10c for 10c for 20c of $1. For 10c of $1. Each plus the prepaid express. 10c for 20c express prepaid. Payable in "postal money order from office of the Express Co. or money order mailed.

(over)
“Black Legion” a Jew-Bogey?

Dickstein’s Anti-Semitic “Terrorist” Cry May Supply the Key to Unlock the Door of an Oriental “Frame Up.” Now That Suspicious Protestant and Catholic Church Officials Are Sussing “The Jewish Peril.”

EDMONDSON DARES RUSSIAN-JEW CONGRESSMAN-INVESTIGATOR TO LET HIM PUBLICLY TESTIFY AS TO THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE JEWISH ANTI-AMERICAN CONSPIRACY THAT IS COMMUNICALLY DESTROYING AMERICA.

Informing Robert Edward Edmondson that New York Representative Samuel Dickstein had introduced a bill in Congress to investigate the “anti-Semitic activities” of the Edmondson Economic Service for American Crusade in connection with the so-called “Black Legion” developments in Michigan, the Associated Press, asking for “comment on Dickstein,” requested a statement May 27, 1936—which was supplied in writing as below—and which of course was not reproduced in the newspapers, thereby again proving the Edmondson thesis of Jew-control.

“Why comment on Dickstein?,” asked Edmondson. This alien-minded, anti-American, international foreign-born Jew from Russia, who assumes to teach patriotism to native citizens who have absorbed it for generations, would not be in his present position were Congressional district-representation based on citizenship instead of alien population.

Dickstein is the “patriot” who, typically putting Jewhead before Americanism, broadcast by radio on March 18, 1934, from Chicago: “We Americans must change our laws so that it will be easy to send them home at once”—referring to the 500,000 Jews in Germany who are in danger of persecution; and for which action International Jewry is boycotting the nation, at great trade loss to America.

I DARE DICKSTEIN TO LET ME TESTIFY BEFORE HIS COMMITTEE AS TO THE TRUTH, THE WHOLE TRUTH AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH ABOUT THE JEWISH ANTI-AMERICAN CONSPIRACY THAT IS COMMUNICALLY DESTROYING THE REPUBLIC AND GUARANTEE A PUBLIC BROADCAST THEREOF THROUGH THE JEW-CONTROLLED METROPOLITAN PRESS.

For the thousandth time, I repeat: I am not opposed to Jews as individuals or as to their religion or race; but I am unalterably against what the Jewish System is DOING, by financing Communist-Civil-War-TO-ENSLAVE THE UNITED STATES AS IT DID RUSSIA AND FRANCE.

Investigations of the Edmondson Agency during the past two years by the Department of Justice, Fairley’s Post Office, and Dickstein’s “Nazifi” Committee, invariably developed the fact that I have been merely exercising my constitutional rights of free press and free speech—under handicap, for my mail has been constantly tampered with, presumably by Jewish elements, since I have no other enemies.

If, as alleged, there is in existence a six-million-man “vigilante semi-military organization” of Americans, the Jewish exodus from the United States would make the departure from Egypt look like a one-horse parade. I have no knowledge of such a body.

Setting Up a “Straw Man” to Shoot At

Is the ballyhooed “Black Legion” of Michigan a Jew-created BOGEY, camouflage-designed to divert attention from Communist subversion?

Is it an “extragrandeur” set up as a target for the “kept men of the press” to shoot at with explosive propaganda bullets?

Is Oriental duplicity active in it to blind Gentile Americans to hidden moves toward a “Red” Dictatorship, since the coup is progressively cracking down on New Deal Plans?

Are Ju-dupes and Ju-tooling being manipulated by The Hidden Hand that wrecked Russia?

These questions are becoming prominent in well-informed patriotic circles. Is there evidence to justify them? Consider the following:

The Hearst Jew-keyposted publications are in the forefront of the “sensational exposures.” The New York Times and other Jewish-owned newspapers are displaying the “news.” They are making the most of heating accusations—which remain to be proved. How will the courts handle “framed confessions”?

Does the key lie in this suggestive Washington dispatch in the N. Y. American of May 26, 1936:

“Moved by the terrorist plots of the murderous ‘Black Legion’ of Michigan, Democratic Representative Dickstein of New York (Russian-born Jew), tonight called on the Federal Government to investigate immediately all nation-wide ANTISEMITIC and anti-religious activities. Dickstein appealed to J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the G-Men, and to Postmaster General Farley, an anti-Communist. During various secret bands of terrorists are seeking to destroy JEWS AND CATHOLICS in this country. Dickstein, in a statement, said that if Federal Departments were unable to cope with the situation, Congress would be asked to reopen hearings before the House Committee on anti-American activities, Dickstein sent Hoover 30 examples of propaganda which he charged were designed to foment racial and religious prejudices.” At the same time Democratic Representative Kramer of California revealed that he had received numerous complaints of persons using the mails in California to stir up hatred against Jews.

CHRISTIAN CHURCHES SENSING SUBVERSION

Note that the Jews constantly associate Catholics with them in all persecution-publicity, just as they do the Semite race, which also includes other peoples beside Jews. This is prominent in the Rabbi Wise American Jewish Boycott Against Germany for expelling Jewish Communists, with ballyhoo pseudo-propaganda continually proclaiming persecution of Catholics as well as Jews. The truth is that most persecuted “Catholics” were Jews “converted” Jews the “converts” from the Theresian Monasteries in Spain and France during the historic expulsion from those countries—and reverted to type afterward.

(Over)
Dear Mr. Clemens Collier,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 20, 1936, furnishing an expression of your opinion that the Black Legion is merely a branch of the Ku Klux Klan, which latter organization is nothing more than a political group composed primarily of Masons.

The contents of your communication have been noted and I appreciate your courtesy in referring same to my attention. However, in view of the fact that the activities of the Black Legion do not appear to be in violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, no action can be taken by the Bureau relative to this organization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Oklahoma City
I think Presley is a great, but I will not support his music. The Masons will never let Presley tend to Shangri-la and Disgracefull and want to tell me I am 75 yrs ago and home. Ordered all these things for years it is not hearsay.

reasonably first K.K.K. except and then the BlackLegion all e and the same with someistroest of course.

Res

Elmerne Bellar

Oklahoma Okla
Black Leage In St. Clair
do. ill. then are Black.

I hope thee.

Rivers, you will find
will return and in
with some of the farmers
from Berkeley. Bill, and
the Belleville office con
have in favor of the

and

St. Clair County

RECORDED 8 L P JUN 5 1936
INDEXED 27 73 28 71

RECEIVED JUN 4 1936
BLASTED "SAFE FOUND IN POND"

Discovered Near East Carondelet
No Owner's Name on It.

Deputy Sheriffs of St. Clair County recovered an empty three-foot safe, which had been blown open, from a pond near East Carondelet.

Holes had been drilled through the door. The safe was new and bore no owner's name. The Sheriff's office at Belleville has no record of a safe recently stolen. It was discovered by Charles Pyroff, a farmer, who said it was not in the pond last Thursday, when he was there before.

NIGHT RAID ON FARM HOME

Tenant Tells of Threat of Death
by Louisiana Neighbors

SHREVEPORT, La., May 30.—Buck Townsend told the Sheriff's office today that he, his son William, and a friend, R. W. Thorp, were abducted from his tenant farm home near Minden, La., at night by a band of men who beat Thorp with a pistol. He said they were threatened with death if they did not move from the neighborhood. Deputies quoted Townsend as saying he recognized in the band neighbors who had "persecuted" him since he rented the farm for this year's crop. He said a neighbor wanted the farm he held.

Townsend's wife and daughter, Mrs. E. M. Musgrove, and Julia Townsend, were in the house when the raiders entered. In the same community several years ago "Cap'tin" Billy Stark, an aged recluse, was bound, tortured with fire and knives and left to die.
June 11, 1936

Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 9, 1936, together with the booklet relative to the "National Youth Movement," requesting that a thorough investigation be instituted by this Bureau with reference to the activities of the Black Legion and the Workers' Alliance.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of either the Black Legion or the Workers' Alliance to which you refer in your communication are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct any investigation relative thereto.

Your courtesy, however, in referring this matter to my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

os-Pittsburgh.

Communications Section
MAIL:

JUN 12 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover

Dear Sir:

In the event that you may be called upon to investigate the activities of the Black Legion, I am sending this for your information.

During May 1934 while serving in the capacity of President of the National Youth Movement, we began to hear rumors of it and, at which time, I notified Miss Perkins to that effect, and received a personally written reply from her.

In October 28-29, 1934, the National Unemployed Councils in out state formulated to march to Harrisburg on these dates for a mass demonstration, again rumors coming to me that some to the effect, violence would be attempted by a certain group in this organization. In the meantime we had members of our organization join this N.U.C. at Pittsburg. At the end we were able to stop the march. This ended as well as letters calling march were all

June 3-1936
Pennsylvania Bucktails
J. L. Megahan, Pres.

Formerly National Youth Movement

Will endeavor, by radio, to bring a comprehensive view of the people of affairs in public life, and will strive to have the W.P.A. program established as a permanent part of Government, entirely free of political influence.

Then to your Dept.

We send enough members of the National Youth Movement into the N.U.C. At the end I was elected State President in November; getting busy immediately we will succeed in having the several clubs turn back Herbert Benjamin of New York Headquarters, the N.U.C. Charter, and in its place we resign the association under the title of Unemployed Brotherhood of Pennsylvania, and changed the Communist tendency of the Unemployed to an American organization, again this information was sent Col. Howe.

In Jan. 1935 I was approached by some man on the idea of our organization joining up with a organization such as the Black Legion, against Jew, Negro and Catholic. I refused, and send one of the applications to Col. Howe, and endeavor was then made to have me attend a meeting to be held around.
During March, 1935, rumors became very strong concerning and outbreak in Pennsylvania, the Li Li Temple of Philadelphia cancelled a meeting of a group on account of anti-American activities in March. I immediately got in touch with Acty Stuill Margiotti, who caused an investigation of the affair to be made by the State Police, outbreaks were to occur in Pittsburgh, Wilki-Barre, Philadelphia, Wm. C. Miller, of the State Police, spend a day with me, and I turned over to him, evidence of their activities, but at that time I did not go in to details concerning these rumors, with Mr. Miller, due to the fact, they seemed so childish.

I paid no more attention to this, because I was informed, that the State Police, gathered material, in regards to organizer, and off of organizing, their plans, and activities.
Again in the late summer of '33 I was approached in regards to organize a service men under a plan, whereby it would be a creed organization, I.e., during June 1933, a terrific attempt was made to oust me out of the Unemployed organization, as with the Altoma branch, being outlawed for attempting such.

The National Youth Movement disbanded when the government sponsored the National Youth Administration, while in the meantime I was given officialhip in the Unemployed Brotherhood, that served in official capacity in several organizations since 1930, I wanted to rest.

About 3 months ago, a few of us started to organize the above organization, and our activities consist of mailing enclosed pamphlets and two radio broad casts, at which time we notified the Dept. of Labor at Washington, and received permission to organize from our State committee but as yet have put on no drive for members.
PENNA. BUCKTAILS
J. L. MEGAHAN, Pres.
Formerly National Youth Movement

"With endeavor, by radio, to bring a comprehensive view to the people of affairs in public life, and will strive to have the W.P.A. program established as a permanent part of Government, entirely free of political influence."

June 3, 1936.

I really believe the Black Legion, and also the Workers Alliance, which is the old National Unemployed Councils of U.S. should be investigated, for I never could understand why our government allow such activities to go un-noticed and un-hindered in our country.

There is a under-current working among the Unemployed, that bodes no good; I am not familiar with it, or could not find the source, but I am conscious of it.

Sincerely Yours,

J. L. Megahan
119 E. 5th Ave
Altoona, Pa.
Dear Friend,

Any one will readily admit, that, due to a multitude of organizations, advocating ideas, toward the solution of the Unemployed situation, the condition has not improved, but is rather more confusing, thereby, causing discord among the unemployed, and those endeavoring to solve the problem.

This has caused Strikes, Mass Demonstrations, Hunger Marches, and other Up-Risings, Proven a fertile field, for the Paid Agitator to sew seeds of discontentment, and Un-American principles, among the Unemployed, and an opportunity for the politicians, so minded, to play politics, with human misery and has availed little toward a solution.

America, will in the near future, either rise or fall, thru politics, and for that reason, this organization has confined itself entirely, to the task of taking the relief problem, out of politics. By having either, of the political parties, at their respective convention, adopt our object, as a plank in their party platform or failing in this, to have Congress enact a bill, which will establish a permanent public works program, administered as a civil service commission.

We believe this program should pay a fair wage, yet not high enough, that it will destroy the initiative of the recipient, that they will not return to, or search for private employment, when the opportunity presents itself.

It should allow those losing private employment, to be placed immediately on it, and along unemployed, assure them work on worth while projects, until such a time that private employment, would need them, and that all persons be placed on it according to their qualifications.

Such a program would assure, the professional and business persons, of a mass purchasing power at all times, and would do away entirely with the demoralizing relief affair, which disrupts business, overloads the taxpayer, causes youth to become stagnant, the recipient misery and heartaches, and the loss of self respect.

This organization has been approved by the State of Pennsylvania as a non-profit association, and for that reason no officers are paid, no dues collected, and if you are interested in our object, form a club, raise $4.00 by contributions, mail same to J. L. Megahan, 119 E. Fifth Avenue, Altoona, Pa., who will mail you 750 of these letters for distribution thru out your state and community for it is in that way we hope to raise public interest. Your officers names, State, and locality, will be included on your letters, or mail this to a friend in other locality.

61-7398-72
June 11, 1936

Portland, Oregon:

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 30, 1936, furnishing information relative to one J. White, who advised you that he was assaulted by a group of men wearing black robes, who you believe might have been members of the Black Legion, and requesting that such investigatory action be taken relative to this matter as this Bureau deems advisable.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion or other similar organizations are in violation of any of these Federal laws, this Bureau is without authority to take any action relative thereto. This matter is one of purely local nature and solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the state of Oregon.

I appreciate, however, your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover, Director.
The accused were black roses with a white skull and cross bones on it. He didn't go back to work as he was warned he would die if he did.

As near as I can remember his fellow's name was White. I am fairly certain his initial was J. I remember that because it was the same as my own. He lived out in the direction of Foster Road because he took the Mt. Labor car home at night.

Naturally you might not want to investigate this as
it is very infinite. If this so-called "menace" is national, however it will lie within your jurisdiction, and I have often said that if every citizen sent in even all the slightest details he or she knew about a certain case, you fellows would have a much easier job.

Sincerely yours.

As this white only stayed two days, couldn't sell any magazines so gut.

[Signature]

[Redacted]
Mary Vetterick

with the help of [name]

June 10, 19__

[Redacted text]
rice is clipping out of my
News Feizer and printed on a letter
Feizer
is justified in killing to
preserve the sanctity of the
family.

al no thy card my son a son of a
Bice and told me I was not
the legal wife of Mr Ernest Verber
is I'm not an immoral woman as
have ever had any after not
offer others I and yet understand
may God blind the shit that way
and by my husband's death I
real indebted the my person
or my havel has big against and
that free to slander me with
out help of my friends have or
mony to investigated with the sheen
result of big arrested for creas
fly. But a forged check in to
other hand thinking me would
cause it me that did not
work there was other outages near
drove me to eat Burnt bitter
tele for an investigation with
the result of big arrested for
Dear [Name]

I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to write and thank you for your kindness and support during my recent illness. Your visits and calls were a great comfort to me and I appreciate your concern.

I have been feeling better lately and have started to return to my normal routine. I am grateful for the opportunity to recover in the comfort of my home. Your thoughts and prayers have been a great source of strength during this time.

Thank you again for everything. I look forward to our next conversation.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
HOMER CUMMINGS
ATTORNEY GENERAL
Department of Justice
Washington

May 28, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Attorney General has requested me to transmit the copy of the enclosed telegram.

Henry Suydam
Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 10 1936
Funeral services for Miss Adelaide Wyckoff, a member of the faculty of Packer Collegiate Institute for 45 years, will be held at the First Child Chapel, 36 Liberty St., Brooklyn, tomorrow at 2:30 p.m.

Miss Wyckoff, who died Thursday at St. Francis Hospital, Jersey City, resided at 38 Hanson pl. Brooklyn, where she was born 80 years ago. She was graduated from Packer in 1874 and taught in Brooklyn public schools before joining Packer faculty in 1879. She retired in 1924.

Miss Wyckoff, who had been prefect of the senior class at Packer, was an active member of the Packer Alumnae Association. For many years she was a member of the Hanson Place Baptist Church.

She is survived by a brother, Spencer C. Wyckoff, and a sister, Miss Ella Wyckoff.

INDEXED

The Black Legion swept into the newspapers I heard its name ringing on the street phone or sounding board in Long Island section in South Hartford on Maple Avenue near Pawtucket Street. I have been told that one can get on those phones but since the Black Legion has been in the newspapers some of the names have been used in the accident columns of the newspapers. Some one shouted "Where is old man firesignal, I mean New Jersey" and that was a week before the fires started. Then when the names mentioned in the enclosed clippings were said too. I do not know how much else comes over that might be a code as I see no results in the newspapers.

Since there seems to be no motive of robbery or revenge connected with these happenings I thought that it might be some gang of street terrorists such as the Black Legion. It seems to be devilishly clever and
often perpetrated among the most conservative class of people who would not welcome any suggestion of foul play.

Often they use slang that I do not at the time understand and several times I have afterwards found out it was crooks jargon. The other day they said to me calling out my name "You have had Crooks Protection but now we will tip you the black spot". The names of people that get hurt come over once in a while quietly sandwiched in among the jargon. Then the other day they said "We will put you onto the black spot legion". Do you suppose they mean they would hook me up with the street phones giving harm signals? It makes me feel physically sick to hear the named called out and afterwards to see them in the newspaper crime accounts and not be able to do anything about it. But the thing sounds so fantastic I don't know whom to go to. The people in Hartford seem to hate the street threats but don't seem to be able to do anything about it.

Last week some deep voice on several different streets of Hartford said 167 Washington Street, I know the policeman who doesn't want her out, then Keenen, or Koenig and in a few days a policeman at that address and by that name died of heart trouble which might have been caused by several things. Now as I write a deep voice says "Miss Kelly is on our crime list."
At first I thought it might be the engineer at some big radio station or else some news agency or some amateur station fooling us but it seems to have serious enough results.

They threaten to get my mother who lives in another state and I have not got enough money to supply private guards or any written evidence that would warrant police protection. They cannot threaten me into silence. If my family are to be hurt anyway I am going to do what I can to prevent a few crimes.

They seem to be a gang who strike without warning and this street is what they call their clearing room.

One day the detonator boomed "Look out your mother with fall in the street next Thursday and if you warn her I will kill her." It seemed crazy and fantastic and I did nothing but she did fall in the street on that very day. It seems to be crime with no idea of gain other than the power over human life.

The men seem to call him Frank and some of the nurses at the Psychiatric Hospital say "Father Geshayten". I don't know what it is all about! It is awful! I haven't much faith in the local police when their own men get caught in a death trap, such as that. Every one else in Hartford can hear it ringing. I hope it comes under the jur-
isception of the Federal Bureau.

Some man's voice will give the order to "give it over 7JZ", or some other station. How can they bootle the big stations' power and for that reason it made me think that the big companies must be fooling until I read the newspapers. Some people up here call "him" Big Frank Mabwig or Paul Mabwig. But the important part is that people are getting hurt and the names used reach into different states.

I could give you pages of things that have happened but it would not be of any aid as there would not be any record of them found. The only thing I guess is to investigate the district and listen in on the signals or whatever they are, certainly orders of some kind.

Sincerely,

The threatened

(I am afraid of them!)

Ellis Kelley

4 pages.
May 31, 1936.
The three men pleaded guilty at the trial, but the court did not immediately sentence them.

Further Inquiries Are Planned

The three men pleaded guilty at the trial, but the court did not immediately sentence them.

The three men pleaded guilty at the trial, but the court did not immediately sentence them.
June 3, 1936.

Time - 12:10 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. YAMM

The Black Legion.

Mr. Surdas telephoned and stated he had been advised by the Detroit News that Mrs. Dayton Dean, who has been writing a number of signed articles for the Hearst papers about the Black Legion, has left Detroit with a reporter for the Detroit Times and it is thought she is on her way to Washington, that if she gets to interview anyone in the Department it is thought the Hearst papers would publish stories to the effect that the Department is in on the case. I stated that if she appeared at any office I would have her sent directly to Mr. Surdas' office.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
how here is what I want you to do.
Send a man here, a Federal man that
no one here knows, pretending he is lost
for a location as a lawyer, or any busi-
ness. And also say he has a brother
the east and "if I locate here, I am on
a farm and will pay him out of it," and
that he has his eyes on the farm as well
the mines so on, I suppose, where
if he can convince these best people
that he is serious there is no telling
what he might discover. Then
he should find plenty here to justify
the 2-men the morning away. As he
could be investigated. I feel safe.
this 7, 17th J. L. Rice did nothing (as
that had demand the rest of his life.) He
indeed a mere as he does not dishonestly,
I see. Stay so long in 1908 "In Paris."
in Europe. I haven't very much doubt
that this 7, 17th J. L. Rice helped about
that time. Hoover stage in the United States

...
June 16, 1936

Dear Sirs,

Reference is made to your letter dated June 5, 1936, transmitting copies of a letter addressed to you under date of June 5, 1936, by Mr. [Redacted] of Spencer, North Carolina, together with copies of a letter addressed to Mr. W. M. Robinson, of Spencer, North Carolina, by one E. H. Hicks of Asheville, North Carolina, dated May 11, 1936. It is noted that Mr. [Redacted] indicates the letter addressed to Mr. Robinson may refer to the activities of the Black Legion.

You are advised that this Bureau is taking no action with respect to the activities of the Black Legion, and you are under no circumstances to conduct any investigation relative thereto without specific instructions from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Federal Bureau of Investigation

U.S. Department of Justice

Post Office Box 1887,
Charlotte, North Carolina.

June 5, 1936,

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Re: BLACK LEGION ACTIVITIES.

Transmitted herewith are two copies of a letter addressed to this office under date of June 2, 1936, by Mr. [redacted] Spencer, North Carolina, and two copies of a letter addressed to one, H. H. Robinson, Spencer, North Carolina, by one, W. M. Hicks, dated at Asheville, North Carolina, May 11, 1936, which letter was forwarded to this office by Mr. [redacted] Two copies of my reply to Mr. [redacted] dated today, are also attached hereto.

It is noted that Mr. [redacted] believes the letter addressed to Robinson by Hicks refers to Black Legion activities. Consequently, I am bringing this to the Bureau's attention for general information and such reference as may be deemed appropriate.

The original communication addressed to Robinson is being retained in the files of this office, it being likely that Mr. [redacted] may request its return to him.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

C. W. LONDON,
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED
& INDEXED
JUN 19 1936
Mr. W. N. Lowdon,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Charlotte, N.C.

Dear Sir:

I inclose you a letter that accidentally came into my possession. I obtained this letter from the person to whom it is addressed, H. H. Robinson. Mr. Robinson informs me that this letter is from a "Black Legion" leader, who has been seeking his aid in organizing through this section. I can learn no more from him concerning this letter, other than his statement to the effect that this letter refers to the "Black Legion." He asked that I destroy the letter after reading it; so, he is unaware that it is in your possession. Please do not think me a "crank" for sending you this letter. It may be only a false alarm, yet this fellow Hicks may warrant investigation. I got hold of this letter on May 23, and would have sent it sooner, but I wasn't quite sure just what to do. I hope this letter will be of some importance.

At your service. I remain,

Respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Spencer, N.C.
Asheville, N.C.,
143 Elm St.
May 11, 1926.

Dear Bird:

I am writing you this notice in order that I may hear from you at once.

If you are going to St. Louis, Mo., let us join together Saturday night, May 16, leaving out of Asheville on train No. 27. I would like for you to come to my home the same day on No. 11 in order that we may go over somethings about our working conditions in the state of N. C. as we understand just what confronts us through this territory. If you can come on No. 11 just come right on to my home. I will be working but will be home about four o'clock.

I shall look to hear from you at earliest convenience.

Respectfully,

Signed: W. M. Hicks

W. M. Hicks

61 - 73.98 = 12
June 6, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I am transmitting herewith a news clipping from the Dallas Times-Herald of 6/2/36 captioned "Hoover Hoped in for Centennial," and an editorial from the same publication of the same date captioned "They Sent in a Call for the G-Men;" also an editorial from the Dallas Morning News of 6/4/36 "The Parole System."

Very truly yours,

F.J. Blake,
Special Agent in Charge.
THEY SENT IN A CALL FOR THE
DEPUTY FEDERAL G-MEN BERNSTEIN

THE MICHIGAN STATE AUTHORITIES

lost no time in calling for federal assistance when
they uncovered the so-called Black Legion. But
the department of justice still recognizes the fact
that national law enforcement agencies have juris-
diction only when federal laws have been violated.

To the appeal of Michigan for aid, Attorney
General Cummings simply stated that the G-men
could not step in unless there were clear indica-
tions that federal law had been flouted. Upon the
state enforcement machinery the major portion of
the task of extirpating crime still rests.

The Black Legion is a sort of nefarious politi-
cal organization. For that reason local elective
officials naturally wonder how many votes they
will gain or lose by suppressing the terrorists. It
would be convenient for them to accept federal aid
and be in position to shift responsibility to G-men.
My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of May 27, 1936, transmitting a letter addressed to you under date of May 25, 1936 by Dr. Nathan J. Bicknell of 19508 West Chicago Avenue, Detroit, Michigan, in which investigation is requested into the operations of the Black Legion. I must advise you that in the absence of some showing of a violation of a Federal statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I cannot authorize or initiate any investigation into the operations of the Black Legion.

The original letter addressed to you by Dr. Bicknell is herewith returned.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #831449
Mr. Edgar Hoover,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Enclosed please find letter which I have this date received relative to the Black Legion at Detroit.

If possible I would appreciate your investigating this matter.

Sincerely yours,

John Lesinski

John Lesinski, M.C.
NATHAN J. BICKNELL, M. D.
10508 West Chicago Avenue
Detroit.

May 25, 1936.

Dear Congressman Lesinski:-

Startling unbelievable revelations of Black Legion with their political and industrial ramifications require thorough Federal investigation.

Many state and municipal employees are definitely implicated, and local investigation will be curtailed before higher ups are exposed.

I would like to know what connection former Gov. Milbur /surkes (?) has with this organization, also if Harry Bennett, Chief Ford Stool Pigeon is not behind the scenes.

It is high time that federal authorities expose without fear or favour this entire setup. One Leader says "why a dictator from Russia or Rome, why not have one of our own?" Liberty Leagues or Wall Street Dictator? I wonder?

Decent Michigan people would welcome action.

In the name of Humanity Please act at once.

Yours truly,

/s/ N. J. Bicknell.
Barnes

The W.C. Barnes, Barnes
at Champaign I1

John Barnes at Clark I1

McManus 8c. and at

Champaign I1

Sam Peave at McManus

All 8c. Richard, Susan

Harvey Bobate 8c. A. A. Ross

Of West Cownell, To

Roberts of Tom Hunt

Grooms at 3000

Men in all 8c. and

Newsboys 16 Training

1 Village, 8c. There a

End South around here.

They have there homes to

Around West Tom Hunt

Rockville 8c. the old and
Mr. Edgar Hoover
Chief
Dept. of Justice
Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Sometime during the month of 32, after the assassination of President Chester A. Arthur, riding with the new President of the United States during a parade in Miami, Fl. I mailed you at Washington a letter relative to a person who made one of our agents join a secret organization and open a bacteriological laboratory in the region of Miami for pathological culture of bacteria.

After I have reported occurrences of this nature to the proper authorities, I destroy the copies of such correspondences in order to prevent such from falling into the hands of those persons who would use the information to an illegal advantage.

Should you still have this letter, please file it away.

Yours truly,

Mayor Frank Oueens of Detroit, Mich.

JUN 17 1936
Now confident this fellow was connected with the Black Legion under investigation.

This is the name and personal description of the fellow that the district officials would be interested in.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter remain,

Respectfully yours,

Horace S. Wicksell
46 Howard Place
Richmond, Ind.

P.S. Wish luck for your continuing success.
June 15, 1936,

Mr. Glenn Lyberger,
113 Main Street,
Meyersdale, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Lyberger,

Your letter was received in this Bureau on June 9, 1936, in which you advise of the desire of some of the young men from Meyersdale to organize a club for the enforcement of laws.

Please be advised that there is no provision whereby this Bureau can sponsor such an organization. The work of this Bureau is performed by duly authorized Special Agents whose qualifications are detailed in the enclosed copy of the publication entitled "The Selection and Training of Personnel." Only the Special Agents are entitled to identification cards.

As of possible interest, I am enclosing the following additional publications:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Addresses delivered by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation before the annual convention of the Daughters of the American Revolution on April 23, 1936, and before the annual convention of the Boys' Clubs of America on May 22, 1936.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

Enclosure (1/1/1936)

JUN 15 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Edgar Hoover, Director of Justice

Dear Mr. Hoover,

Some of the men from Reynolds would like to talk a little longer, and you can rejoin for the Black Lobo and some others. I want the Emeralds, etc. I would like to have some evidence from a gun club and the opportunity to address the judge, also to have a letter from your governor, etc.

Thanking you,

[Signature]
Mr. Edgar Horner
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.
June 29, 1936

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Dear Sirs,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 8, 1936, in which you indicate your belief that certain fires of incendiary origin may have been caused by the Black Legion, which you allege is active in your section of the country, and request that this Bureau take appropriate action.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion or similar organizations are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct investigation in the premises.

Concerning the statement contained in your letter to the effect that a certain person, who is not a citizen of the United States and without intention to become one, has attempted to take your life, it is suggested that you may have to furnish full information relative to this party to Colonel Daniel W. MacCormack, Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Labor, Washington, D.C., for such attention as he may deem appropriate.

Your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director.
The kitchen in the Water is in Maysville State of the State and but didn't put in $375 such ever and then there is a

and like water sizzling a Place here in Hallcom

city Hall. The Mayors come and people meet
ey are pretty good Christians and don't know they are

at summer because some told them to end some

forno and says do the year better look in to this

get rid of them in Macale

in them right. The
did in the devils pools. If they can

through going round and to get the poles in to tell

electricity that they and they

are a good man who have died so suddenly you it then

better clean that stuff up don't show this to any one here

as i don't want anyone to

know and these ones don't want any thing said. Be

under the world in the condition it is and the

blood come and apple trees

brige and the lightning struck

some fell lord them gods judgement in the land

could this has been going in this year 1/2 and some far 1/2nd

and by all the churches members

some of them and devinatated

things to end done out and

cured the garage man he

had done thing in the

... came to all and he called
This in the way the world is being run, human
beings having power to do as they like. This makes
human beings feel like gods. They are not
considered as the gods, but they are
considered as gods. The world is
run by these human beings who are
considered as gods. They
consider themselves as gods.
John Edgar Hoover
Washington D.C.
I like in true because the above are doing it. Now if they didn't put a much power and play decimal would
The next thing I will do is to make a list of the lumber and their sizes. I can then determine the amount needed for each piece. I have three first places this year. The next one will be a...
Where does the power come from at head quarter, or from E. central main, power go electricity over the wires as from stop at do come quickly.
Record of Telephone Call of Visitor.

May 30, 1936.

Time 11:10 AM

Name Blair Moody of the Detroit News

Details:

Stated he would like to talk to the Director about the Black Legion and about the Pension Bill.

Asked to be called at National 4566.
Gentlemen,

The writer is of the opinion that you may find traces of the Black Legion in Nenlo Park, California, and Atherton.

However, this is only a hunch.

One Mrs. Will Beatty Wright (who lived in Detroit years ago and who is rather hard-boiled towards certain elements) may be one of them.

This is only a hunch. (Signed) 

American
Honorable Tim Connally
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator,

I have received your communication of June 2, 1936, transmitting a telegram addressed to you under date of June 1, 1936, by [redacted] from Houston, Texas, in which [redacted] advises that he is in possession of information concerning the activities of the Black Legion.

I desire to inform you that this Bureau is conducting an investigation into the activities of the Black Legion because no information has been developed to date indicating that this organization is operating in violation of any Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction. I am consequently returning herewith the telegram addressed to you by [redacted].

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover, Director.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]
United States Senate
June 1, 1936

Respectfully referred to
Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Division of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

with thanks for such favorable consideration as...
the communication herewith submitted warrants,
and for a report thereon, to accompany return
of inclosure.

By direction of

U. S. S.

RECORDED & INDEXED
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JUN 15 1936
1936 JUN 1 AM 1 31

HON. TOM CONNALLY
US SENATOR OF TEXAS WASH. DC

IF THE US GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN ACTIVITIES OF BLACK
LEGION WHICH IS PROBABLY OF A WIDER SPREAD NATURE THAN IS
ORDINARILY THOUGHT OF, VALUABLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE

TEXAS STATE HOTEL HOUSTON

61-2398589
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Committee on
Immigration and Naturalization
Washington, D. C.

Samuel Dickstein,
N. Y., Chairman

May 25th, 1936.

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,
Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

Since the Committee on Un-American Activities has concluded its investigation dealing with subversive movements in the United States, there has popped up additional foreign and domestic elements which are continuously, in one form or another, advocating propaganda subversive in its tendencies through the distribution of literature against the Federal employees, which in my opinion, is not free speech or free press, but seeks to undermine our present form of Government. It may be Communism, it may be Fascism, or it may be any other ism one might care to call it.

I am enclosing herewith, a number of documents which I have received from an American citizen which shows the danger as imminent. It is most urgent, therefore, that these matters be looked into and investigated, to find out who is financing this propaganda, and from where it is emanating. If you think it necessary, I will be glad to call upon Congress for further power and assistance in combating this menace.

I also call your attention to another piece of subversive propaganda which is distributed by one who calls himself Robert Edward Edmondson. This sheet is nothing but propaganda, financed by a group in Wall Street, to betray the American people against the President of the United States, and other outstanding men and women, who happen to be members of his Cabinet, or otherwise prominent in public life.

In our investigation we came across anonymous complaints dealing with a so-called “Black Shirts” organization. We did not have the time to go into this matter at that time, and no doubt did not take it as seriously as we might have. I do not know if the present organization known as the “Black Legion” is in any way connected with this
above mentioned group, but it seems to me that this "Black Legion" is
a group of subversivists who are seeking to destroy American citizens
because of racial and religious affiliations, pointed mainly toward my
people and people of the Catholic faith. It seems to me that this
organization should receive the most careful scrutiny and investigation
of your Department.

The mails are being used to foment racial and religious
prejudice almost continually, and concerning this aspect I am writing
the Post Office Department.

I realize full well I am adding additional burdens to
your office, but when we have un-American organizations, under the
guise of patriots, stoop so low as to attack through the mails, as
shown by the enclosures, and through other nefarious methods, we are
indeed living in a Dark Age.

Respectfully yours,

/s/

SAMUEL DICKSTEIN, M.C.

<

enclosures
June 5, 1938

Honorable Sam J. Dickinson
Chairman of the Committee
on Un-American Activities
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of May 3, 1938, transmitting various documents which you have received from individuals. You have referred to the need for a full investigation of the material, and I believe you have justified such investigation, for the purpose of determining the source of this propaganda. Because of the existing limitations upon the authority of the Federal Government to investigate radical activities, I cannot initiate any investigation upon the facts furnished by you. I have, however, furnished to Mr. Joseph B. Keenan the Assistant to the Attorney General, a full account of the material submitted to you for appropriate consideration by the Department, and have requested the Department to advise me in the event any action is authorized.

With expression of my highest esteem and best regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
Director.
June 2, 1936

I am attaching hereto for your information a copy of a letter addressed to me under date of May 25, 1936 by Congressman Samuel Dickstein, together with photostatic copies of the various exhibits referred to in that letter. In accordance with your

acknowledged receipt of this letter and have informed Congressman Dickstein that the Bureau will not initiate an inquiry into these matters because of the absence of Federal statutes penalizing radical activities. In the event you believe any other action should be taken upon this matter, I would appreciate being so notified.

[Redacted information]

closure #61229
Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated May 25, 1936 furnishing full information relative to the activities of the Right Riders of Ohio, of which organization you indicate you are a member but have been unable to resign by reason of the threats received from that organization. It is noted that you request that this Bureau take appropriate action against this organization.

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal Laws. The facts contained in your communication have been carefully noted, but in the absence of any indication that the activities of this organization are in violation of any such Federal Law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

However, your courtesy in furnishing me information relative to this organization is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover, Director.
Dr. Tamm calls Dir.'s attention to the attached letter from a member of the Night Riders who tells of the actions of this secret organization (which is apparently akin to the Black Legion). He was forced to join under threat and desires to get out. The only way they can get out of the organization is by death, and he gives instructions for answering this letter.
Dear Sir:

I have been reading for the last few days of the acts of the Black Legion in Michigan and had intended to write a letter to Attorney-general John Bricker of Ohio. When I heard that the F.B.I. was taking a hand I decided to write there instead, chiefly for my own protection as they are known for keeping the names of informants secret.

I am a member of the Night Riders of Ohio and want to get out; have wanted to since the night I joined under threat.

During the summer of 1934 I was approached several times by two acquaintances who asked me if I wanted to join a "secret, patriotic organization, opposed to Communism, Fascism, and other foreign experiments and standing for white supremacy, the constitution and opposition to permitting negroes, Jews, Japanese, Chinese and any but native born American citizens who had proved their loyalty from holding or controlling office."

I sounded them out for more than a year as I thought the idea sounded dangerous. However the two men seemed to be perfectly decent citizens if not overly brainy. From general conversations that I held with them at various times I was told that this organization did not believe in terrorism, that it was chiefly an effort to spread American propaganda, that it did not believe in any sort of oppression, and that they planned no action till the day when some group tried to seize the government by force--then they would rally much after the fashion of Minute Men, and be ready for business.

On their promise that no one was forced to join against his will I accompanied them to a meeting. Another person whom I knew slightly was there also and in a few minutes when we were alone voiced the same opinion I had. "Something was needed to combat seditious activity but this didn't look like the right thing. We agreed that if we did not like the looks of things that we would not join."

This was while I was living in Wooster, Wayne County, Ohio. In September of 1935, one of the men picked me up at my home after cautioning me to tell no one where I was going. We drove east on the Lincoln Highway, U.S. Route 30 till a mile or so east of the side road to Orrville. We turned north there for some distance on a back road and turned sharply to the right at a railroad crossing, more than a right angle, and swung away from the tracks without crossing them. After driving some distance down this road we passed a large barn which the driver said was the largest all-metal barn in that territory, perhaps in the whole country. A short distance farther along we turned in at a farm lane marked by a lighted lantern hanging on some sort of wooden platform. We turned to the right and after
passing either two farm houses or one farm house and a very
artistic barn, stopped in a field. Two men in civilian
clothes stopped us and spoke to the driver for a moment, asking
him if we were candidates and if he could vouch for us. He
then parked, left us in the car and went on ahead. Several more
cars arrived and fifteen or twenty candidates were seated in
them.

After waiting nearly an hour, during which time the acquain-
tance and I discussed the thing in low tones, six men dressed
in black gowns and hoods and carrying revolvers came down to the
cars, lined us up and marched us through the field, up a hill
till we were well out of sight from the road.

We were asked numerous questions about our political, social,
and religious beliefs. I list as many as I remember:

Are you an American citizen?
Native born?
What is your religion?
What are your politics?
Do you believe in supporting the Constitution?
Do you believe in lynching? My acquaintance was the only
one who decidedly opposed it. They then asked him, "If you came
home and found a nigger raping your wife what would you do?"
He replied, "There wouldn't be any time for lynching." They
laughed and said he would do.

Do you promise to vote as your commander tells you if the
candidate is the better man?

We were then told that we had gone so far we could not back
out and that we would have to join. Two who "Refused" and
threatened to tell were punished. One was hanged and one shot.
I assume these were staged to impress us and that they were al-
ready members. At least no disappearances were reported in
that part of Ohio at the time and I watched the papers closely.
However in the dark, and with armed men all around we none thought
of it or wanted to take the chance.

We were then told to kneel and one of the members pressed
a gun to the back of each initiate while we took an oath. I re-
produce it as nearly as I can remember.

'I, candidate's name, swear by all the powers of heaven
and hell, that I will never betray any of the secrets or fellow
members of this organization; that I will be relentless in my
fight against communists, Jews, Catholics, blacklegs and any
of their kind. That I will obey all orders of a superior officer
of this organization even if they mean my own death. That I will
let no bonds of friendship or affection cause me to fail in my
duty; that I take these members to be my brothers and will never
forsake them.'

There was much more to it but that is as nearly as I can
remember.

We were told that there was no way of resigning from the
organization except by death. The leader boasted that one member
who had tried to get out had been killed and his car burned
near New Philadelphia, Ohio, and no one was the wiser. Each one
of us was than handed a .303 Savage rifle cartridge, base first,
and told that any others would come at us ball and first. We were
then permitted to leave.

Since then I have attended only one meeting which was held
in what I assumed to be the Ku Klux Klan meeting place, a room
on the third floor of a building on the north-east corner of the
public square, Wooster, Ohio.
I managed to avoid attending any other stings as I was away at college part of the time, until December, 1935, when I graduated from the School of Journalism, Ohio State University.

At other times I told them I was going out of town for the evening or had a date. We were notified only at the last minute and no one but the driver of the car knew where to go.

I have done some cautious questioning since then and was told that the Ohio commander is a veterinary doctor who lives near the Ohio River. There are between 300 and 400 members in Wayne county alone.

At the time of the initiation which was shortly after the death of Huey Long, the whole organization paid a minute of silent tribute to that great southern leader, Huey Long.

I was told that the Night Riders and the K.K.K. cooperate and have much the same ideals but there is no connection. To satisfy my desire for proof I attended an open meeting of the K.K.K. and recognized several as men I had seen after the initiation when they unmasked.

The recognition signal between two members who are not sure of each other but want to become acquainted follows:

A reaches up and raises the front of his hat or cap.

B pulls his down.

A pulls his down.

B pushes his up.

A raises his again.

B pulls his down.

They shake hands, A saying, "Under the star of the guard."

B replies, "So shall it be."

A, "Unto the end."

The password is given only when a member of sentinel in full regalia and under arms asks for it. A member is not to give it to any one else. When the guard asks for the password the member says, "Place Americans only, on guard."

The names of several whom I know to be members in the Wayne county group are:

Henry Shelley, owner of Shelley's Dairy on the Three G Highway about a mile north of Wooster. He is, or was, the colonel of the Wooster company.

John Rites who lives on a cross road just north and west of Shelley. He is employed at the Winglewood Coal and Ice plant, Wooster.

Thomas Glasgow, second hand dealer and truck driver, whose business place is on South Walnut Street, Wooster, Ohio.

Fred Reed, or Reed, or Ried, I am not sure which, who joined with me against his wishes.

Clifford C. Odell, gunsmith and railroad worker. "Business place, North Buckeyes St., Wooster, Ohio. Residence, Blair Boulevard. I doubt if he is active as he was not at either meeting I attended and has spoken very strongly against the methods of the K.K.K."

Carey Grosenbaugh.
A man named Farmer.

One of the members of the Orrville police force. I don't know his name but he was initiated the same night I was.

It is claimed that Sheriff Bert Naumen of Wayne county is a member. I did not see him at either meeting.

They were trying to get Ed. M. Mills, deputy sheriff, and now
lincan candidate for sheriff, to join. I have not heard
whether he did or not. They also boasted that "Some of the
police and National Guard are members."
They claimed affiliation with an organization in Pennsyl-
vania known as the "Wild Cats."

I am sending this letter to a friend in Columbus who is
to drop it in a mail box without any question. I am employed
here as a reporter on the Greenfield Daily Republican and do
not want to arouse any questions among possible members here.
I will be willing to help the F.B.I. as far as possible in
future but must ask that this information, my name, and the
town from which the letter was mailed be held in strictest con-
fidence.

Had I realized what the organization really was I would
never have considered joining. My newspaper training, my desire
for adventure, and my ignorance of its true character lead me
to a position where I could not safely withdraw. I hope this
will assist in breaking up what has proved to be as dangerous a
movement as the one it claims to combat. If any reply is made
please send it to my residence in plain envelope.

Very respectfully yours,
June 23, 1936

Dear Sirs:

I am transmitting herewith photostatic copies of an anonymous communication, postmarked at Los Angeles, California, June 12, 1936, containing information relative to the activities of the Ku Klux Klan organization in the southern part of California, and especially in Los Angeles, California.

This is being furnished you for your information, and it is suggested that same be referred to the Los Angeles Police Department for any attention which it may seem appropriate.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1145676
Black Legion investigation -

Believe this extends into southern California, possibly Los Angeles, unincorporated Los Angeles County which for many years past has been particularly strong as K.K.K. organization in southwest portion - organized particularly by persons in civil office in and around the Gardena township area. 

Frank R. Carroll, for some years justice-of-peace of Gardena township (since 1930 - still incumbent as justice-of-peace of Inglewood township which recently incorporated, Gardena township, where man's family has lived for years), includes local chief of police, Attorneys, L.A. County Sheriff's sub-station #3 at 107th and S. Vermont Ave., for years controlled by John Neighbor as captain, now radio squad - complaints numerous but each time he was transferred until things blew over he was always put there again among a similar group of deputies to intimidate complaining element of small home-owners and to protect the running (gathered in nightly truck-loads for running to the also constable's office (under Sheriff's office) controlled by C also protecting liquor interests. L.A. attorneys claim they can't take cases down there to defend account of this set-up. Capt. Crouchman, deputies A.B. Glass, C. Myles, and others, especially Florence St. Sta., also protecting liquor interests in respective districts and holding local property owners intimidated - all upheld by Sheriff Eugene W. Biscailuz of L.A. County. See also L.A. County Public Welfare Commission minutes of meetings (dance-hall licenses in collaboration with sheriff's office) - 914 Hall of R.L.A., - Carroll's office and residence now at Inglewood; former Gard

And: The recent mobbing of Actor W.Haines by outside mob at night a
Hon. Edgar Hoover, in Charge,
U. S. Dept. of Justice
Washington, D. C.
Reverend Columba F. Kelly, O.P.,
Mount Alverno Retreats,
Harwick, New York.

Dear Father Kelly:

I have your letter of June 29, 1936, furnishing an expression of your opinion relative to the menace to the rights and security of citizens resulting from the crimes of violence which are being perpetrated by the Black Legion, and requesting that this Bureau take appropriate action in regard to this organization.

As you undoubtedly know, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. Inasmuch as the activities of this organization do not appear to be in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

However, I wish to thank you for your commendatory statements relative to this Bureau and assure you that it is indeed gratifying to know that this Bureau is receiving your blessings and ardent support.

Sincerely yours,

- John Edgar Hoover,
  Director.
Dear Dr. Hoover:

I received your kind reply of June 11th to my letter concerning the crimes of violence perpetrated by the Black Legion. I have at hand the work and Functions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation—among the files you so kindly sent me last year while I was in Montreal. It gives you the latest information contained in your letter.

It may turn out that Senator Vandenburg will be instrumental in obtaining the evidence to the Bureau that the Black Legion will bear investigation because of the violation of the Civil Rights Statute. Certainly this organization is of far greater menace to our rights and security than the gangsters are, according to the Senator; I know that he has already given time to the matter.

The newspapers carried the happy announcement that the agents of the F.B.I. will be eligible for a pension when they reach the retirement age. Good-natured as I am, I will not advocate a raise in salary for your agency. If and when the time comes for advocating a raise in salary for your agency. You, however, are well deserving of a raise in pay is a matter for congratulation. God speed you and your men in your work. I do not fail to pray ever morning in my Holy Mass that you will succeed in your official duties. God bless you, my good man.

Sincerely yours,

Columban F. Kelly, O.F.M.  
JUL 6 1936

P.S. I follow your fine articles every month in the American Magazine.
June 17, 1936

Honorable Roy C. McHenry
United States Commissioner
Suite 501-4, 97-99 Collier Street
Binghamton, New York

My dear Commissioner:

I have received your letter of June 5, 1936, and appreciate receiving your observations concerning the progress which has been made by the Bureau, particularly with reference to the training of its Special Agents. I feel that the Bureau has made tremendous strides in this regard during the last several years.

I regret to advise you that I am unable to furnish you with information concerning the ultimate disposition made of the Thompson submachine guns which were taken from the Steerhip, 'East Side' in 1921.

In the absence of some indication of a violation of a Federal Statute on the part of the members of the Black Legion, no investigation can be conducted by the Bureau into the activities of this organization and consequently, no investigation has been initiated up to the present time.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director
June 3, 1936

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I was pleased to get your letter and wish to thank you very much for the copy of "Classification of Fingerprints" and the pamphlets "The Federal Bureau of Investigation" and "The Selection and Training of Personnel" which I have read with a great deal of interest.

The Bureau has certainly made wonderful strides since I was on the job in the training of agents. I remember one man who was appointed because he happened to run the elevator in a building where a congressman had his private law office. He turned out to be a good agent at that. But the special training along technical subjects is what appeals to me. I'd have relished in the large practice. When I was in charge of the Scranton office, we used to do a little practice shooting, with pistols and revolvers, when we got a chance, but our supply of ammunition was limited and we had to tack or targets to fence posts.

Speaking of firearms, I have often wondered what became of the shipment of Thompson Sub-machine Guns which was taken off the steamship "East Side" in 1921. Assistant Attorney General John E. L. Grimm put the quiets of on the prosecution at Trenton, but the last I knew, the guns were still in the custody of the U.S. Attorney at Newark and it was altogether unlikely that anybody would claim them and run the risk of being indicted.

According to the papers, the Bureau is to go out after the Black Legion. It sounds good but I can't figure out what Federal statute they can be prosecuted under. I studied a similar proposition with a view to prosecuting the Communists, when I was in the Criminal Division, and came to the conclusion it couldn't be done under existing law. If members of the organization go from one state to another, to avoid prosecution for an offense enumerated in the Federal Fugitive Statute, they might be got that way, perhaps.

At present people around here are not violating the Federal laws, at least no cases have come up before me since last April.

Thanking you again for the pamphlets, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(Your Signature)

[Address]
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON.

Mr. Sckopeglia telephoned and stated that he contemplated several articles on the "Black Legion" and wanted to know if any data could be furnished by the Bureau. I informed him that this was a purely local matter; that there was no federal violation involved and, therefore, the Bureau had no information concerning the "Black Legion."

Respectfully,

T. D. Quinn.
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., June 1936

Respectfully referred to

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

RECORDED & INDEXED
61-7396-96
FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATION
WUN 122 1936 P. R., U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Respectfully,
Augustine Lonergan

[Signature]

[Stamp: TIE]

[Stamp: FILE]

[Stamp: JUNE 3, 1936]

[Stamp: TIE]

[Stamp: JUNE 3, 1936]

[Stamp: TIE]
July 26, 1936

Honorable Augustine Zemergen,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:—

I have your informal memorandum of June 19, 1936 referring for my consideration, the letter of Dr. B. C. Narants of Stamford, Connecticut dated June 18, 1936 in which he makes inquiry relative to an investigation of the activities of the so-called "Black Legion".

Inasmuch as the activities of the organization referred to by Dr. Narants do not appear to constitute the violation of any Federal law within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I have advised Dr. Narants that this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

I am therefore returning herewith for your file the letter of Dr. Narants, together with the circular attached thereto, and a copy of my reply to him.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosures 1134464

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FBI

WASHINGTON D.C.

3-31-36
June 18th, 1936

Hon. Augustine Lonergan,
United States Senate,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator Lonergan:

I take the liberty of calling your attention to the enclosed circular which was handed to me on the street and want to take this occasion to inquire whether there is any investigation pending this most disgraceful of all black legislation which should never be allowed to bear the air of this great country of ours. I am not an anarchist and far from being a communist. Neither can the Socialist party claim any of my votes; but I'll be damned if a fellow isn't driven to extremes by the existence of such a menace. It reminds one of the book written by Sinclair Lewis, "It Can't Happen Here." One must certainly take his hat off to that great writer whose predictions are a short of that of a prophet and who has an uncanny sense of judging the human race.

It seems to me that our political fathers are turning a deaf ear to it; is it because of the coming elections or because of the pending adjournment of Congress? It seems to me to be international in scope. Is there any talk about it in Washington? There is some talk about the Liberty League and William Randolph Hearst being behind this scandalous affair.

Hoping to receive your reply and thanking you I am,

Very respectfully yours,

/s/ B. C. Marantz, M.D.

265 South Street,
Stamford, Conn.

P.S. - This sheet as you will notice was printed in one of our main cities; New Haven.
To The People:

Startling revelations have taken place these last few days! An organization of vigilantes, murderers, bombers, and arsonists have been exposed. In Wayne County, Michigan, this organization had its beginnings and numbered thousands of members. However, it claims to be a NATIONAL MOVEMENT WITH BRANCHES IN CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS AS WELL. IT IS THEREFORE A STATE AND NATIONAL MENACE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY.

The "Black Legion" is blood brother to the Ku Klux Klan, of Hitler in Germany, and Mussolini in Italy.

The "Black Legion" murdered dozens of men. One was a W.P.A. worker—a Protestant who was married to a Catholic girl. He opposed the Black Legion. It is claimed that the Black Legion burned Father Coughlin's Church. It is claimed that the Black Legion was responsible for killing a worker in Lincoln Park, Michigan, who was a firm believer in trade unionism.

The "Black Legion" is ANTI-COMMUNIST, ANTI-CATHOLIC, ANTI-JEWISH, and ANTI-NEGRO. So is the Ku Klux Klan. So is Hitler in Germany. Last week, Hitler arrested 50 nuns and priests—and is sending them to concentration camps together with Socialists, Communists, Jews, and trade unionists.

The "Black Legion" was preparing to set up an open reactionary, fascist dictatorship in America. It was going to smash and wipe out DEMOCRACY.

How does it come about that Republican candidates for office in the State of Michigan SPOKE BEFORE BRANCHES OF THE BLACK LEGION?

How does it come about that McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor, a Republican—SIGNED A MEMBERSHIP CARD IN THIS SINISTER, MURDEROUS OUTFIT?

The facts and connections of this murder gang are so alarming, that ALL WORKERS, FARMERS, MIDDLE CLASS PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF RACE, RELIGION, CREED OR POLITICAL VIEWS, MUST BE AWARE OF THE DANGERS THAT BESET US!

These Hitlerite storm troopers are a menace to all liberty-loving people. There is no doubt that these dupes who bought a black gown and skull cap for $2.50 (cost 75 cents) were being used as tools by higher-ups. WE MUST DEMAND TO KNOW WHAT THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE BLACK LEGION AND THE OPEN-SHOP MULTI-MILLIONAIRE, AUTO BARONS? Who are these financial backers of this fascist movement in America?

Like the Black Legion, stand for destruction of the movement. They, like the Black Legion, stand for repression of all freedom of speech, press, and assembly. They, like the Black Legion, stand for racial and religious hatred. They, like the Black Legion, are plotting to set up a Fascist dictatorship in the United States. KNOW FATHER BY THE CHILD!

These are the real Night Riders, the organizers, financial backers, of budding American fascism! And political party is the same as that of the Black Legion: Republican Party of Landon and Knox and Vandenberg and Hoover.

We must be ever vigilant! THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE, said the immortal Thomas Jefferson. We must be ON GUARD constantly.

DEMAND ACTION BY ROOSEVELT, CUMMINGS, AND CONGRESS

Demand that Roosevelt send Attorney General Cummings and J. Edgar Hoover into action against the nappers and murderers of the poor.

Instead of wasting $50,000 investigating the people’s movement for the Townsend Plan (old age pensions) the greatest need of the moment is to expose before the world the Black Legion—its murderous activities, supporters! Demand an immediate Congressional investigation and action by the Department of Justice against the murderer who is operating in fifteen to twenty states.

We, the Communist Party, call upon all people, Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Negro workers to UNITE—DEFEAT REACTION!

We urge all labor and progressive organizations to immediately resolutions to President Roosevelt, Attorney General Cummings, and to Congress demanding federal action.

Defeat the Landon-Hoover-Liberty League who would stop legally what the Black Legion is trying to do illegally.

WIPE OUT RACE HATRED, ANTI-SEMITISM, AND RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES!

UNITE FOR BETTER CONDITIONS!

Smash the Black Legion! Expose its backers! Unite in building a people’s movement against fascism and war—by the FARMER-LABOR PARTY!
Mrs. Ethel Abell,
1908 West Ohio Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

June 27, 1936

Mrs. Abell:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 19, 1936, advising that for many years you have been tormented by a group of persons who you believe may be connected with the Black Legion, and requesting that this Bureau furnish you adequate protection against those persons.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the persons to whom you refer are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to take any action in the premises.

The matter appears to be one of purely local nature and therefore solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate law enforcement officials of the State of Indiana.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
MIND: what I want to say to you is this. I know I shall not be able to see my former Husband is at the Bottom of it, he has vowed he would still me and he has tried to a good many times. He has made a good many trips to my house. Through out the years we have been separated at night and tried to lure me and he tells me that I am on the good that the night riders will get me, some of the things Thot my father do
are as follows, Swing self over roof stick on glass or screen who ever is in window, always finds some one to move in neighbors to me that throws down my fences or through a ball or rocks through the windows and dos things to me most every way they can. I think of John called the police many times that they tell me they are tired of me calling them. The Police never find the one that do the dirty work. They are in the clear.
by the time the police
got there I had reported
them more times that
ever to Juvenile Officers
it does no good, I have
reported them to school
principal it does no good
that is why I believe
there are a gang of thm
founding against me

I married this man Elan
Abell in 1912 I have
seen good God now who
ever since, but it
deems to me it had
been worse since 1919
a man that boarded at
my house in 1921 passed
out of this life support
To have killed himself
I was in a dying condition
at that time myself
and one said I was fired
or dope. When I was in
that condition a good
many strange men
come they claimed I
did not know who I was.
They said the people that
raised me was not my
parents they acted like.
They was taking my fine
prints I guess they did.
Different strange men
different times come
there. They compelled
me to sign papers and me sign them when
I was in a dying condition and could not even see what I was signing. They said some of the papers was money coming to me and I would have to sign before I could get it. And the others they said was men of war. They claimed I was then said they wanted to come in with their small force to see which one of them I was. Others come in and feed me of things I should of done or said. Things the I never did do or some of those men
Claimed to be a state man they said would send them to be gangsters. They made threats on me and my family. Some of them did these, one of them did. Is it much of a job for me to write in one letter? A neighbor woman by the name of Ellen Williams. She now lives 4114 S. A. D. This city Indianapolis. And she come with most of these strange men. I thought she brought them here. The Lord also is a part of it. I do not understand she also now my...
Former Husband Mr. Bell
here are some of the reasons I could not live with him, he would
spend days at a time with Bad Women by around
Saloons Drunks. By most
of the time when she
was with me to kill me
made a nervous reck out
of me. She told me that
she poisoned his first
wife, she said she killed
a Negro she used to put
himself to sleep with
talusform, cause she
could not sleep other wise
they would send strange
men around my house
to do Their Ruthing about 2 or 8 years ago a Strange
man came to my house
I opened the door he came in and said he was a stole
man that would fain lend
him she pulled out a bag of a bag to try to comme
me. I told him I was not
interested I ask him what
he was there for he wanted
to stay all night but did
not have the money to stay
room and I told him I could not keep him. I
ask him what she was
he said she was wife
of a man Readings 0
Effie Reeves Spiritual
She was born 14 26 Easter 87
I said, spiritual reading
he said no you no need of
not come back and talk.
I asked him why she did
not keep him if she gone
reading there. When I
finally got him out and
she was on the porch he
stared telling me if my
family would be the
next to die. He said to
me, you no old man
till don't you. He said
she. So I went in the
house and did not listen
to what he was saying
to boys.
I do wish you would find some way to stop those human beings from setting me and digesting my property then destroying it. I told the city police about it. The bellman said he thought he saw some of the first wife, the city police. I asked him to give me the Ho, Ho and said they did not want him. They said to me now you would not want him. I went to the state police and told them of this. One of them said, 'The Skip did they did not.'
Wend Han Abeel. She said
Han Abeel was a friend of
this time and again I have
told the police, but I don't
know, so I can't sleep but
think that you have gone
a day of waiting as riding
black beggars here in
Indianapolis, pleading. By
J. H. Perkins a negro
fortune teller who told
me two or three years ago, he
told me that I was going to get
myself killed or be sold.
Ella Williams told me that
I was telling you about
had me go with her to this fortune teller to
the name of J. H. Perkins.
The then lived in Dade County, near Miami, Fla. He told me Thad all the people who had me poisoned. He said I was dying. I went to a doctor and he told me I was dying. This J. H. Perkins he said he had been trying to get me for awhile and when she came and she said I was getting sick, I think she meant casting some kind of a block from one on me. There are two things Thad I would like for you to do for me.
One of them is to stop those human bats some way or another and find out for me for sure if I am myself or some body else

Signed

Ltrs. Ethel Lebell
1508 w. Ohio St.,
Indianapolis,
Ind.
June 17, 1936

Honorable William J. Birney,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

I have received your letter of June 2, 1936, transmitting a letter addressed to you under date of May 11, 1936 by Bertram Hopper of 112 West 11th Street, New York City. I have noted from your letter that Mr. Hopper claims to be in possession of information regarding the activities of the Black Legion and other alien forces. I regret to advise you that because of a complete absence of any indication of a violation of a Federal statute within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau on the part of members of the Black Legion, no investigation can be conducted by this Bureau into the operations of that organization. A careful review of Mr. Hopper's letter fails to disclose any evidence indicating a violation of any Federal statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction and accordingly, I am unable to take any action with reference to his letter. I would suggest to you that if Mr. Hopper possesses information concerning the illegal activities of aliens within the United States, he bring his information to the attention of the officers of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The letter from Mr. Hopper which accompanied your letter is herewith returned.

With expressions of my highest esteem and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #321435

[Stamp: Communications Section, Mailed, Jun 19, 1936]
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Chief, Division of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

A few days ago I was interviewed by Mr. Betram Hopper whose letter I am inclosing to you. He has advised me that he has in his possession secret information regarding the work of the Black Legion and other alien forces that are at the present time at work against President Franklin D. Roosevelt. I thought you would be rendering a commendable service if you would request one of your representatives in the City of New York to send for Mr. Hopper and see what information he has to give to you that might be utilized by your Department.

With every good and kind wish to you,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Handwritten notes on the document]
June 2, 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Chief, Division of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

A few days ago I was interviewed by Mr. Betram Hopper whose letter I am inclosing to you. He has advised me that he has in his possession secret information regarding the work of the Black Legion and other alien forces that are at the present time at work against President Franklin D. Roosevelt. I thought you would be rendering a commendable service if you would request one of your representatives in the City of New York to send for Mr. Hopper and see what information he has to give to you that might be utilized by your Department.

With every good and kind wish to you,

Very sincerely yours,

[Signature]

William F. Browich
112 West 61st Street,
New York City, N. Y.
May 21, 1926

Hon. William J.irovich,
14 C.D., New York, N. Y.

My Dear Congressman:

I am, no doubt, you will recall, Mr. Betram Hopper, the
man who had the courage to fight the Republican Organization
in the 14 C.D. in New York in 1926. I was a candidate in the Republican
primaries against the Hon. Nathan DeLano, and was defeated at
the primary election.

On the plea of Mr. Charles Dewey Hillies, I withdrew my
independent petition for Congress in the 14 C.D. in New York. I have
in my possession communications from the Hon. Ruth Pratt, Hon.
Richard Lawrence, Charles Dewey Hillies and other outstanding
Republican of that day. I believe you will tell me what a
noble thing I did in withdrawing my petition in the interest of
Party harmony. However, notwithstanding these compliments
messages, after your election in 1926, I was read out of the
Republican Party in New York County. I still have many friends
within the ranks of the G.O.P.

I supported Franklin D. Roosevelt when he was elected
President of the United States. I am an enrolled Democrat residing
at 112 West 61st Street, New York City, in the 17 C.D. of New York.
I do not belong to any political club. I am not interested in
politics. I am interested in good government. I am especially desirous of protecting the good name of my President,
the Hon. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, against the snipers. While
I am not in accord with everything the Administration is doing,
evertheless, when I know of wrong doings, I believe it my duty
to first, report these overacts to the proper Authorities. If
action is not taken within a reasonable period of time, then my
only alternative would be to look to the press for justice.

On May 22nd, last past, I reported certain matters per-
taining to Suffolk County to the Hon. Almon G. Rasquin, Collector
of Internal Revenue of the 1st District of New York. I also re-
ported this matter to the Hon. Leo Hickey, Federal District Attorney

618 398-98
Mr. Hickey turned me over to his first Assistant, Mr. O'Dougherty. I spent the entire day at the Brooklyn Federal Building. Finally Mr. O'Dougherty, suggested that I report to Mr. Walter Murphy, Special Agent of the F.B.I. Mr. Murphy referred me to the W.F.A. Bureau, at 641 Washington Street. I proceeded to 641 Washington Street, at about 4:30 P.M., on the day of May 22nd, 1935, and interviewed on the second floor of this building, Mr. O.D. Crockett, a Special Attaché of the W.F.A. Mr. Crockett listened attentively to my story and said he would hear from him again on the 25th of May. I did not hear from Mr. Crockett on the 25th of May, so I again called upon Mr. Crockett on May 27th, around 11 o'clock P.M. Mr. Crockett then stated he did not have jurisdiction in my matter, and turned me over to a Mr. Hoss, who, in turn, made an appointment for me with Mr. Thomas Cullen, Chief Investigator, of New York State, of all W.F.A. Projects. I visited Mr. Cullen's Office at 265 West 14th Street, New York, N.Y., at the 25th inst., around 12 noon. I was greeted very friendly by Mr. Cullen, who turned me over to an assistant by the name of Smith. Mr. Smith listened to what I had to say and promised to get in touch with me on Wednesday, May 27th, 1936, but he did not do so. So, about 2 P.M. on the day of May 27th, I called Mr. Smith, at Watkins 98181 and Smith told me that he could not do anything on my matter, as yet, because Mr. Cullen, the Chief of his Bureau, was in Albany, on business. However, he said I would hear from him without fail on Monday, June 1st.

My record with the Federal Government is one that I am proud of. I investigated the Reichstag S.D.A. Permit during 1923 or 1924. I presume the report of this Investigation is still on file in the old files of the Pro. T. A. & C. Bureau, at Washington, D. C. Dr. James Duran, former Prohibition Commissioner, well knows the type of Reports that Hopper rendered in connection with his duties. Former Attorney (Assistant) General, William Donovan, knows about Bertram Hopper and why the Bosses tried to take my position from me. I resigned from the Prohibition Unit in utter disgust sometime during the early or latter part of 1927.

I have performed various phases of investigative work for many years. I am versatile and understand machinery, construction work, farming, also the Civic Structure of my Government. I am handy as a Rigger and I can also sail a boat. I am generally useful from a Porter to an Executive. I am a World War Veteran and a Member of the American Legion of New York County. I also was elected as a Delegate to the First Legion Convention held in the...
Pennsylvania Hotel sometime during 1920 or 1921. I was elected as an alternate to the Republican State Convention in 1921. I was a former President of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Moriches, New York County, of Suffolk. I was a Charter Member of the National Chamber of Commerce. I am a 32nd degree Mason, also a former member of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Past Vice Commander and Executive Member of Greenwich Village Post No. 28 of the American Legion. I had charge of the outdoor meetings during the Harding Campaign of 1920 from the Battery to 11th Street, New York City. Associated with me was Mr. Edmund O'Sheil, a sympathizer with the Irish cause for freedom. My record of public achievement might seem cold and dull except:

- I do not seek a temporary appointment with Mr. Edgar Hoover's forces on the F.B.I. But Mr. O'Doughtery, Assistant D.A. of the Eastern District, suggested that I offer my services to my Country for a temporary period of ninety days. I agreed, I would be willing to accept such an appointment, provided, I was an honest effort would be made to clean up the rotten conditions existing today in Suffolk County, New York.

In 1924, I was squeezed out of business in Center Moriches, by sinister forces, which I believe are again operating in this Country. I consider my first service and duty as to my President and my Country. I love my Country and I am willing to ride to death, I have one flag, and it waves for Freedom, Free Religious Belief, and the protection of every race, regardless of the color or race. My lineage goes back to the days of Bowing Greene. My forebears were early Dutch Settlers, the Hopper, and Stuyvesant. My lineage is available at the New York Public Library, 42nd Street, Fifth Avenue, New York. I am an individual thinker. I don't carry me in their vest-pocket. My patriotism is not for sale. May I submit the following references as to my character, integrity, and general reliability:

Monseigneur Robert Keegan of Catholic Charities
Colonel Francis R. Stoddard, former State Supt. of
Insurance, N. Y.
Hon. Thomas F. McAndrews, Dearborn Apartments, West
55th St., N.Y.C.
Father Ryan, Blessed Sacrament Church, West 71st St.,
New York.
Father Delaney, St. Veronica's Church, West 14th St.,
New York.
Father Donlan, St. Paul's Church, Congress and Park St.,
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Major Henry Duran, now City Magistrate of New York.
Hon. William Cottrell, 3005 Fifth Avenue, New York.
Mr. John Edwards, President of the East End News Club, Center Moriches, N.Y.
Mr. Andrew Havens, Town Clerk, Center Moriches, N.Y.
Mr. Frank Baldwin, Member of the District 32 School Board of Center Moriches, N.Y.
Mr. Peter Drives, Proprietor of Center Moriches Candy Kitchen.

Mr. James, Secretary, Suffolk County, Riverhead, New York.

Mr. William, Proprietor of Center Moriches Garage, Center Moriches.
Mr. Willard, Proprietor of Center Moriches Garage, Center Moriches.
Mr. Jack Dayton, Proprietor of Center Moriches Garage, Center Moriches.
Mr. John Collins, Gas Station, Riverhead, N.Y.
Mr. Antone DiBenedetto, Fishing Village, L.I.
Mr. Jute D'Amato, East Quogue, L.I.

Seeger Refrigerator Company, 25th St., 8th Avenue, New York City.

New York and Queens Electric Light Company, Bridge Plaza, New York, N.Y.

Joseph Dell, Manager, New York.

The Hon. Jacob H. Miller, Justice of the Peace, East Moriches, N.Y.
Hon. Joseph Kelley, Justice of the Peace, Riverhead, L.I.
Theodore Sherry, South Jamesport, L.I.
Mr. James almonds, Maritime, L.I.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Bertram Hopper.
June 20, 1936

Mr. Paul R. Burke,
Secretary
Harvester Local #67
United Automobile Workers of America
Box 187
New Haven, Indiana

Dear Sirs:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 15, 1935, addressed to the Attorney General and referred to this Bureau, in which you request that an appropriate investigation be conducted in regard to the criminal activities on the part of the Black Legion.

For your information the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct any investigation in the premises. The activities of this organization appear to be purely local in nature and, therefore, solely within the jurisdiction of the appropriate local law enforcement officials.

Your courtesy in bringing this matter to my attention is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
June 15, 1936

Mr. Homer Cummings
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The members of Local 57 of the United Automobile Workers of America respectfully request that the Department of Justice enter into the investigation of the Black Legion.

From all the information we have received relative to this organization we believe it to be a menace to our present form of government and would like to see it stamped out completely.

Respectfully yours,

Paul R. Burlew, Sec.
Harvester Local #5, of the United Automobile Workers of America

Fort Wayne, Indiana
June 24, 1936.

Time - 3:55 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TANK
RE: Black Legion

Colonel Gates telephoned and stated that he had received an inquiry as to whether a Black Legion letter had been sent to Judge Hunsicker of Akron. I stated that I knew nothing about this. Colonel Gates stated that he had referred the request to the Post Office Department.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
June 20, 1936.

Dear Madam:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 16, 1936, furnishing information relative to certain suspicious activities on the part of your husband, to whom you indicate may be connected in some official capacity with the Black Legion, and requesting that appropriate action be taken by this Bureau relative to this organization.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws. In view of the absence of any indication that the activities of the Black Legion are in violation of any such Federal law, this Bureau is without authority to conduct any investigation in this case. The matter appears to be one solely for the consideration of the appropriate law enforcement officials in the State of Ohio.

However, your courtesy in referring this matter to me for my attention is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
JUL 2, 1936

Six months since your letter and I believe I have found out what it all means. The man brought me papers of the accounts of the Black Legion doing and as I read it, I understand many of the things he has told me in the past year. I ask him to let me join the B.L. too and he said he would rather see me dead. The said man who had gotten in innocent, would give all they possessed to be fast. That fit was all sick.
and to stay and at the same time keep driving. But for a few weeks he would not stand up to it much longer. I think they were pledged to stop at nothing even in the face reading newspapers account. I understand why he joined the National Auto Association and why he tried to get into other organizations. I know there is an awful force driving him. I begged him to do as you have done and tell all he knows but he says they are Jonahs, as they will all get the electric chair or life. Why can't the leaders of these unions be stopped? Are these the organizations we started? At one time I was an officer in the Brotherhood.
I have to think of how to got
entangled. Also a Black Friday
of beliefs from which he tells
me that he sees unlawful
acts done might after
might, and is forced to take
part in them in fear of his
life. He once told me of
"deceit in a car in another
City" with three other men
who said the driver tried
to get a certain man at
a street crossing but didn't
didn't quite complete the
incident."

I know from the appearance
of his shoes and clothes
that he spends much
triple in the woods and
believe that is where they
spent for orders. He says
With worse thinking, feeling, and dulling all through an end of town several times and then leave by the opposite directions. (He suspects every person in the house to being a man.) He says he does enjoy seeing some of those "Big Men" track down and show how yellow they are. Says he's going to find a new room again. As people in predicament no time to get to any place in time. A week ago he told me to tell a "brother" of mine to watch his step that he had passed him once. My brother has charge of all things and on inquiry I find he has found indispensable.
It appears that is what the
wrong idea of your
playing this business out in
itself to admit possession from
the police chief to carry a
revolver.

I believe these men were all
pledged to do everything even
murder, and from what I've
learned they are only a small
fraction of headed gangsters.

I told Mr. Hoover that
the crew has never under his
command and some of them
were always ready to look
after his interest that they
could not do anything necessary.

Mr. Hoover should send the
organization men and legal
forces to go in doing their unlawful
full work! And also ask me,
He said they may be transferred to Youngston or some place. I take it of that end would still work at the Republic, and come back and forth to work.

Sheep shearing trips were followed for a time, much could be learned about these terrible B.T. I think they know we have been watching them in why they are moving him.

I hope you will forgive me for taking so much of your valuable time. But in Goodname helped the country of these terrible Hooded Raccoons.

Mae
June 24, 1936

Post Office Auditor, in Charge
817 North Main Street
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Sirs,

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter under date of June 23, 1936, transmitting an envelope postmarked at Akron, Ohio, June 20, 1936, addressed to Judge Hunsicker, in connection with a domestic relations court case at Akron, Ohio, together with the enclosure, which consists of words cut out from a newspaper and pasted on brown paper reading as follows:

"Judge Oscar A. Hunsicker. This is to notify you that during the last two months we have every cause to feel aggrieved and outraged. You have neglected your duty as Judge in the case of Hoyes vs. Hoyes. We demand a new trial to be held June 24 at 3:30. 10 lives are threatened over failure in law. Let's see the other side of the case. Who witnessed the truth. Was there fraud. Check the records. Duties of attorneys and witnesses. We are forced to the law. Every American citizen duty to a fair trial. Final notice. The victim. Wife. Mrs. L. Hoyes. No alibi. Silent. June 25. Black Legion."

A review of this letter indicates that it does not fall within the provisions of the extortion statute. Under the jurisdiction of this bureau, and the letter and envelope are consequently being returned to you herewith.

I am also returning herewith the note from Judge Hunsicker to the Postmaster at Akron, Ohio, which was transmitted with your letter.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

[Address]

JUN 29 1936
Post Office Box 4907
Jacksonville, Florida
July 4, 1956

Mr. R. E. Jones
Post Office Inspector
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of June 22, 1956, with which you transmitted a communication addressed to me, Collector, Clyde Simpson, Jacksonville, Florida, and mailed on July 1, 1956, at Jacksonville, June 12, 1956.

This has been discussed with the office of the United States Attorney at Jacksonville and the opinion has been given that the mailing of the letter does not constitute a violation of the extortion statutes which could be successfully prosecuted. Accordingly, no investigation will be undertaken by this office.

Very truly yours,

R. E. Nathan
Special Agent in Charge.

[Enclosure]

[Enclosure]

[Enclosure]
July 3, 1936

Dear Dr. B. C. Morenzu,

65 South Street,
Stanford, Connecticut.

I have your letter of June 15, 1936 addressed to the Honorable Inaugural President, United States Senate, Washington, D.C., which letter has been referred to this Bureau for appropriate attention. It is noted you make inquiry as to whether an investigation is presently pending in regard to the activities of the "so-called Black Legion".

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted to investigating violations of specific Federal laws, and collecting evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. The facts contained in your communication, as well as in the enclosed circular, have been carefully noted, but inasmuch as the activities of the "Black Legion" do not appear to be in violation of any such Federal laws, I regret that this Bureau is without authority to conduct any investigation in the premises.

Your courtesy in this matter, however, is greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Communications Section
U.S. Department of Justice

[Stamp: Federal Bureau of Investigation]

Mailing Address:

[Stamp: New York City]

[Stamp: U.S. Department of Justice]
July 2, 1858

Dear Sir,

I am reply to your letter to me you said there had been "no crime done" all right. Now there has been "no crime done." On about 1930 this band of outlaws I'm now sadly harrassed by. Tied my son Ed and hanged him with 250 lbs. of lead in his carcass. He was the mark of banditage etc. Some years ago, I think before the world war a band was not the at Kagal ton, little town of us (this it was hushed up by).

I can remember the day we were from Napiet and they were...
A. F. Beymer and E. E. Wise is his partner in the sheep business. The two men own several stills. During the bootleg days they made young married people run those stills so if any body was caught when Turner would not have to take the "rap" now I believe those stills are running probably in the same building the whiskey store — Teton liquor store — is operated and not a rightMot of the theateral sign or to R. B. Turner is a brother of Governor Turn Governor of Iowa just a few years the now I have no doubt this band — who went to call them — there treated the young people — both boy and girl, same as they did my boys. Just before there was gasoline poisoning the irrigation ditch leading to my ending to kill the grass in the
Rev. E. B. Turner of Honolulu, brother of Mayor R. B. Turner and Mrs. A. F. Beymer, who is spending several months in the United States, and who will arrive here this week from an eastern trip, will deliver a lecture "The Paradise of the Pacific," Sunday evening at the Methodist church at 8 o'clock, it was announced Wednesday by Rev. George G. Roseberry.

Rev. Turner will illustrate his lecture with special moving pictures taken on the Islands. He will show some of the scenic places in and around Honolulu and will describe life on the islands. The public will be welcomed.
August 31, 1936

61-7598 -105

Special Agent in Charge,
Washington, D.D.

Dear Sir:

It is desired that an appropriate check be made through the War Department to determine whether there is in existence any record relative to the loss or theft of .45 calibre Colt Automatic Pistol bearing serial number 271410. This weapon is of the 1911 model.

The Bureau should be advised of the results of your inquiry.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
U. S. Department of Justice  
1448 Standard Building,  
Cleveland, Ohio  

July 31, 1936  

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D.C.  

Re: BLACK LEGION NIGHT RIDERS  
BULLET CLUB  
Miscellaneous - Confidential  

Dear Sir:  

In connection with the above captioned matter, please refer  
to the report of Special Agent C.E. Smith of this office, dated May  
24, 1935, and to the letter of this office dated June 1, 1935, forwarding  
to the Bureau a .45 Colt Automatic Pistol on which the identifying  
numbers were obliterated, which numbers were subsequently developed  
and restored in the Bureau Laboratory, as covered by Laboratory Report  
#61-2999-5, and be advised that Mr. George T. Scheid of Lima, Ohio,  
on behalf of Mr. , from whom the said pistol was secured, has  
directed two communications to this office requesting a return of  
the said pistol to Mr. .  

In the Bureau Laboratory the serial number on this pistol was  
found to be 251440 and the inscription indicating that the said pistol  
were the property of the United States was developed thereon, to wit,  
the inscription reading "United States Property".  

This office has advised Mr. Scheid that a communication is  
being directed to Mr. , with whom any future correspondence in connection with the said pistol will be had. Mr. Scheid in his letter indicates that he does not want to have to take the matter  
of the return of this pistol up with the authorities at Washington and  
suggests that the same be returned to Mr. forthwith.  

This office has directed a communication to Mr. at Lima, Ohio, a copy of which is attached hereto, advising him that  
in the event that he can produce bill of sale for this pistol, indicating a sale thereof either to himself or to the person from whom he  
purchased the said pistol, that appropriate consideration would be  
given to the matter of returning the same to him.  

Very truly yours,  

JFM/Jrl  
Enclosure (1)  

JFM/Irl  

Enclosure (1)  

RECORDED  
INDEXED  

AUG 28 1936  

J.P. MacFARLAND, Special Agent in Charge  

AUG 3 1936
1415 Standard Building,  
Cleveland, Ohio  

July 31, 1939  

Mr.  

Lima, Ohio  

Dear Sir:  

This office has received two communications from Mr.  

which you turned over to Special Agent C. S. Smith of this office at the request of Mr.  

This pistol was traced through appropriate Government channels and it was determined that the said pistol was the property of the United States and consequently is being retained by the Government.  

In the event that you have in your possession a bill of sale for this pistol, it is requested that you furnish this office with a copy thereof so that further consideration might be given to the matter of returning the pistol to you in the event that it was legitimately purchased by you from a person who was in lawful possession thereof. It will be necessary, however, before this pistol can be returned to you that the person from whom you purchased the same submit a bill of sale showing a purchase thereof.  

Very truly yours,  

J. P. MacFARLAND  
Special Agent in Charge  

FBI/1Ap  

cor. Bureau  

61-1398-105
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.
July 31, 1936.

Time - 8:55 A.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
Re: Black Legion.

Mr. connected with the Logge-Wiles Biscuit Company of Clarksburg, West Virginia, telephoned Mr. Foxworth and said he wanted to report that last night, he was approached by a business man out there to join the Black Legion. He said he was very much surprised at this invitation, and thought the Department of Justice should know about it.

Mr. Foxworth went to some length to explain the limitations imposed upon the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau, and told Mr. that while we appreciated the interest which prompted his bringing this matter to our attention, there was no active investigation which we could conduct. Mr. Foxworth suggested that the matter be referred to the appropriate local authorities.

Respectfully,

E. A. TAMM

RECORDED & INDEXED.

AUG 6 1936
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
August 7, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

This morning, Mr. Harry Colburn, chief investigator for the County Prosecuting Attorney Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit, Michigan, called me over the telephone and asked if I could come to Mr. McCrea's office this afternoon for the purpose of securing some information which they had in connection with the Black Legion which he thought might interest us and bring the situation within Federal jurisdiction. I anticipated that this was primarily for the purpose of making it possible for the newspapers to run headlines that a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had consulted with Mr. McCrea concerning the Black Legion and thus bring the Federal Government into it, and I therefore discreetly asked Mr. Colburn if he could come to my office with the facts that he had. He reluctantly agreed to do this and, upon calling at the Detroit Office, handed me three statements taken from [redacted] Cincinnati, Ohio, on August 6, 1936.

These statements are enclosed herewith, as given to me, as I did not desire to take the time now to have typewritten copies made in the Detroit Office. It is respectfully requested that they be photostated and the Detroit Office supplied with copies for its file.

It might be mentioned here that a few days ago, wired Mr. Duncan McCrea, the Prosecuting Attorney at Detroit, stating that he had some confidential important information concerning the Black Legion. As a result of this telegram, Mr. McCrea had his investigator, Mr. Colburn, call him over the long distance telephone at Cincinnati and arrange for his appearance in Detroit for the purpose of giving whatever facts he might have in his possession.

Mr. Colburn tells me that he felt the Government would be interested in Mr. [redacted] statement because of the mention of a gas bomb made by employees at the United States Arsenal at Edgewood, Maryland, and also the mention of the overthrow of the Government by force and violence.
According to Mr. Colburn and Mr. McCrea, who talked to me over the telephone, they have determined that there is an organization known as the Night Riders which is a sort of higher organization within the Black Legion, and it is possible that this is the organization referred to by [REDACTED] in his statements.

Mr. McCrea also told me over the telephone that his information was that Virgil Effinger at Lima, Ohio, had a scroll listing the names of the members of the Night Riders. Mr. Colburn, of course, wanted me to immediately arrange to have Effinger's house raided at Lima, Ohio, for the purpose of locating this scroll and the infernal machine mentioned by [REDACTED]. He stated that they could secure no cooperation from law enforcing agencies in Ohio because they were all members of the Black Legion.

I explained to Mr. Colburn that there was some doubt in my mind as to whether the facts presented indicated any violation of a law over which the Bureau had jurisdiction and that I would promptly forward the information to Washington for appropriate study and advice.

Mr. Colburn and Mr. McCrea are rather anxious to receive prompt word as to what action we might take and I would appreciate immediate advice from the Bureau so that I might put these men at ease.

Very truly yours,

H. H. Reinecke
Special Agent in Charge

HHR:AM
5 enclosures

AIR MAIL—SPECIAL DELIVERY
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

BLACK LEGION

PART # 2 of 3

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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August 12, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,

Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

With reference to your letter of August 7, 1936, transmitting copies of three statements taken from an unknown date of August 6, 1936 by Harry Colburn, investigator for County
Prosecuting Attorney McCred, pertaining to the alleged activities of the Black Legion, you are advised that copies of these statements have been forwarded to the Department with the request that I be advised what, if any, action is desired on the part of the Bureau.

In the absence of specific instructions, no investigation should be conducted by you in this matter.

I am returning herewith the original statements furnished with your letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

[Signature]

Enclosure #831249
Statement of, taken in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney by Chief Investigator, Harr Co\'burn, August 8, 1926 at 10:45 a.m. in the presence of Charley Spark, Edna L. Barker, stenographer.

BY MR. COLEBURN:
Q  What is your address, Mr.
A  Cincinnati, Ohio.

Q  Mr., I am Harry Co\'burn, chief investigator for the prosecuting attorney\'s office. This is Mr. Spark, one of our investigators and this is Miss Barker, a stenographer. I want to ask you some questions relative to your office of informant to this office in connection with the activities of the Black Legion and one Virgil Effinger, its organizer at Lima, Ohio. Would you care to tell me what you know about it and what your experiences have been in this connection, starting from the time you first met him, Mr. Effinger, just tell it in your own way and in continuity, if you can?

A  On July 6th of this year I wrote Virgil Effinger a letter addressed to Lima, Ohio, asking among other things for information relative to the organization known as the Black Legion of which I understood at the time he was one of its heads and an answer to that letter Mr. Effinger replied under date of July 10th with the effect that I should see him at his home, 1114 Harrison Avenue, in Lima, relative to same. I didn\'t immediately reply to the said letter and on July 16th I received a second letter from the said Effinger again asking me to come to Lima and have a personal interview with him in regard to the Black Legion. On July 28th I went to Lima, Ohio on the Gray Bus Lines under their ticket No. 82796 and arrived there at 12:30 the same afternoon. I immediately went to his home, Mr. Effinger as above at 1114 Harrison Avenue and for the
first time made the personal acquaintance of the said
Effinger. At this time I had a personal interview with him
in regard to the Black Legion. Effinger informed me that
before he could go into the affair in detail as I desired,
that I would first have to become a member of the organization
which I agreed to do and did so with him in his Ford V-8 to
some miles past Elyria, Ohio and was ushered into an old par
house at this place where they were holding one of their
meetings, to join the organization and took the oath of ob-
mission and was given a bullet, a symbol of membership in the
While I was at this meeting place I asked if it was correct
that, if there were any shooters or spies that ever came
so at the solicitation of Effinger a fellow named Crawford
then I understood had a semiautomatic on the Detroit Police
force brought forth a machine gun and told me that this was one of
their main preventative to keep anyone or spies from
approaching on their private property. After the obligation
and on the way back to Lima a Chevrolet sedan bearing a
Michigan license, it was a ten Chevrolet, passed and the car
in which I was riding we Effinger, Effinger noticed the
license right away, I took the obligation about twelve
o'clock, we stayed there until about one o'clock in the morning
that would be the 22nd, he said he was of the opinion that
occupants of this car were there to kidnap him and took him
back to Michigan authorities were the said authorities had
passed a standard reward of a thousand dollars payable to any
that would get him into the State of Michigan. He flashed his
headlights on and off three times and the car in front
under license No. ED 119 Ohio and the car in the rear
immediately stopped to see what he wanted. He acquainted the
occupants of these two cars with his suspicions and they
immediately set out to overtake this car from Michigan and
so a short ways down the road and at the point of drawn
guns and the display of badges these Black Legionnaires in
formal uniforms they were officers of the law looking for
bandidos in Michigan and were headed that way and they proce-
ded to search their personal baggage, rifle their pockets, go
through their personal papers and after satisfying themself
that they were not from the Michigan Law Authorities they per-
mitted them to proceed on their way. *Later at Effinger's
in Lima on this same day the question came up about killing
their own members and I asked him if it would not be better
if there had to be anybody gotten if it wouldn't be better
to get the real enemies fighting in opposition to the Black
Legion principles. He then told me that line of talk was up
his alley and that he showed me a square mechanism with
metal tube affair and that he claimed was invented by work-
at the United States Government poisonous gas factory at
Edgewood, Maryland. It had a time clock arrangement which
explained could be set for certain times such as a Jewish
National celebration - one thing was it would have to be in
the winter time when the windows of these Jewish synagogues
would be all closed so that the gas could not escape, and he
you can readily see that we can pretty well exterminate the
Jews at one click, it will only take a few hundred loyal men
this machine and a few of these machines to do this. He also
showed me a typed written list of what he said was their Jew
Synagogue in the United States and their location and menti-
on the fact that these machines would only have to be used in
centers where the Jewish people were largely congregated in
order to be effective.

While you were talking to Effinger you told me that the out-
side of the Detroit situation came up and that Effinger told you
they were out to get McCrea and that they were having affid
drew up by members in Detroit who were supposed to have seen Mr. McCrea take his oath and that he said to you if it was the last thing he ever did he would not take Blankety Blank so and so, is that correct?

A: Yes.

Q: Now then, you also said that he asked you to make out some sort of an affidavit, is that correct?

A: That is correct.

Q: Just what did he say to you in connection with the affidavit he wanted you to make out, did he say why it was so necessary?

A: He said it was essential to produce in Court evidence to the effect that McCrea was a member of the Black Legion to dispel McCrea's statement that he was not a member and said that he needed some affidavits from men of my type that he considered have weight and bearing in the Courts to verify McCrea's membership in said organization. I asked him if it could be a statement or just a signed statement, he said it would need to be sworn. I told him that brought up the matter of perjury of which I had a little knowledge and at this time I deferred the talking any further about this affidavit until out next closed meeting a week hence from this time.
Q: In your office or the headquarters of the company you work for, which do you prefer? (August 4, 1917, 2:30 p.m.)

A: Office, I believe. (On the 10th floor.)

Q: As a separate statement from the one which you made this morning, I should like to ask you a few questions regarding yourself and your own activities. Do you care to answer them?

A: Well, if I see no reason why I shouldn't, as long as it isn't extremely objectionable as to being personal.

Q: What is your profession or your means of earning a livelihood?

A: Well, my profession and means of earning a livelihood has been varied. I have been an organizer of things, or the Ku Klux and other organizations of a like nature. I have been in work as a Chair Store Manager; I have been in the apartment house business in California.

Q: What one, if any of those professions have you followed in recent years or months?

A: Apartment house business and management in California.

Q: Are you engaged in any other business at the present time in Cincinnati?

A: I am unemployed at the present time.

Q: What was your original home?

A: I am a native of Atlanta, Georgia.

Q: Are you married?

A: I am married.

Q: Do you have children?

A: No children.

Q: And your folks, that is to say your near relatives are all at Atlanta?

A: In Atlanta, Georgia.

Q: What relatives do you have in Atlanta, Georgia?
A: Motion pictures, various speeches and meetings, or rather at
decourages.
Q: Do you have any relatives in Los Angeles, California?
A: No relatives in the state of California.
Q: For your purpose in communicating with Dr. Effinger on the
Black Legion, to gain release, your organization activities if
the Black Legion not with your approval?
A: It was that was my purpose in contacting them.
Q: Because of being unemployed at the present time you felt that
you didn't release organization activities and thereby make a
living?
A: That is right, at the same time be using my experience to
advantage.
Q: And you only purpose in exposing what you know of Dr.
Effinger and the Black Legion and its activities was because you felt
that it is an organization that is dangerous and has no place
in the scheme of things in this country and that you want to
do your share in helping to eliminate this outfit?
A: It is, that is my entire purpose. I would like to keep the
name of the present members and those that might be members
of the Black Legion in being led into what I believe serious
personal trouble by being led by men like I am convinced this
said Virgil Effinger is and while he will protect himself
no doubt, he will cause other men that would be good citizens
otherwise to get into serious personal trouble and if, by stay
in this immediate territory I can further be of benefit to the
proper exposure of this organization, I will be glad to do so.
Q: Do you have any fear of any uprisings on the part of any memb
A: Not if I keep out of their back yards, away from where some
radicals or irresponsible people might feel the desire of the
leaders or expose their little un-American playhouse.
...out of the office of the Prosecuting Attorney of the United States, on August 31, 1936, at about 11:30 A.M., by E. H. Sanger, Investigator, in the presence of Investigator John Price of the United States Government.

Q. And that was developed by government employees?
A. Yes.

Q. Did he say whether or not those government employees who had developed this apparatus were members of the Black Legion?
A. No, he said that those inventors of this peculiar type of machine to exterminate the Jews was developed by employed of the government and not the Edgewood Poison gas factory by members of another organization who were not related to the Black Legion, it was a superior organization that the certain members of the Black Legion were picked after they done certain deeds to prove themselves worthy and was transformed to a higher type organization, that's what he told me.

Q. Did he mention who, name of this other organization?
A. No, I asked him for it, he said he would give me that at a later date.

Q. Then do you understand that even though they were members of a different type, or higher type of organization, that that organization a minor part of subsidiary of the Black Legion?
A. I took it that he meant that it was a more or less parent and subsidiary organization and that the Black Legion itself was a subsidiary of that organization.

Q. Did he propose to have control over those particular members in the United States government factory?
A. Through the executive offices in the other organization, I presume. He himself, from what he told me, is a member of that superior organization, radical organization.
A man to tell the candid truth, wants to improve the world, whether they are in a position to promote a better course of life all over the country.

Let us think together about the present condition of our country. Let us do it in a straight way, and let us think about the condition of the people we are living in. Let us think about a condition, of a state of mind, that is certain to be and will be a very great influence in the world.

Now, to cut to the chase, he said that they were the only dangerous ones, in this country, that the present condition of the country was being subverted by his deeds. His words must be taken with the greatest of care. He said there is no condition in this state.

This article...

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This article...
pro-Communist sentiment shrank through the international conference held in Cleveland, in 1934, and a number of other prominent men, along with others, he issued a call from this report that he was to be the focal point for the eventual subversion of the political identity and he was named several times and he criticized the Jews in that organization that it. He also gave a little booklet, a booklet on behalf of certain Catholic clergy and that the Catholic clergy and the Columbus Daily Press, the American political scene -- situation.

And be sure to particular case plan of action against the Catholic clergy.

This fall, he didn’t but a fellow riding in the V-O, Kettering V-O, and he saw Kettering, who suggested that this winter when the Negroes in the Pullman conduct all that it was his suggestion that he be killed, at least two Negroes in common with this winter to aid, go to there and talk to me. I said, yes, that will be fine.

And I understood the population of the Negroes in ten per cent. Negroes and I said will it be generally effective to do that and he said if the Negroes can do it you will find it will be a big thing, of course, the short, illiterate type, but it was my impression the Kettering’s main fight right now, he expects to use the Black Legion under Utica, against the Jews, that they are really the root of all of our American evils.

What about the Catholic situation? As far as I was concerned.

I mentioned the Catholics in regard to the political situation, but predominant within our present administration by Catholics, through Jim Farley and his behalf of Catholics, said that they are off into Catholic, Negroes and Jews were greater under this present administration than they were under Hoover’s administration and he called my attention to the fact that I was from the south and was, no doubt, a Democrat and the oath of obligation they ask you if you are willing to vote for political party that they deal more in sympathy with Black Legion principles, that is in the man I took, they asked me if I was willing to vote in the lynching. I told them I might be in certain cases where it involved the virtue of a womanhood, or on very serious like charge.
The fellow that gave me that part of the oath, he asked Effinger not to talk about it, he said that's not definite enough, Effinger said, yes, it covers it, he answered it sufficiently if under certain circumstances will take part in the lynching. Went on to say that the conditions in this country, in the United States, that they could eventually lead to similar conditions in other foreign countries, he named Egypt the ancient times there were 100% Caucasian -- white, until they got to importing the black slaves for the white people until they got to affiliating with them on sexual and social basis and brought about present conditions of Egypt. This country is getting to be just as hospitals all over the country white women giving birth to mulattoes all over this country, that he had evidence to that effect.

Q Did he say anything to you about some trouble that they anticipated in Cleveland, Ohio?

A He did.

Q Similar to that trouble which they were having in Detroit?

A He did.

Q What did he say about that?

A That started when I asked Effinger why the Legion members didn't burn or horsewhip the neg -- what was considered the real, enemies of the Legion instead of gentiles and his own members and he answered that it was the hardheaded men in charge of local organization, such as Harvey Davis in Detroit, permitted those conditions and also he was expecting the same, he had a man in charge at Cleveland who had also permitted similar conditions as those in Detroit, was expecting sooner or later that to be uncovered and would prove very embarrassing to the Black Legion organization. I inferred from his statement in this regard that the Black Legion had murdered and horsewhipped some of his members and some citizens in and around Cleveland just as they were accused of doing in Detroit.

Q Did Mr. Effinger tell you about any other law enforcement officials in Detroit, or vicinity, that they intended to get even with in addition to Mr. LeCroix?

A No, he didn't say any other official, he mentioned the fact that Dayton
Donn was crazy; it would be proven so and would be sent to the asylum soon after being put there that he would be murdered for his exposed Black Legion activities in Detroit. I told Mr. Steiner that a few minutes ago, I thought of it in the other room. Mr. Steiner thought it was not worth a chihuahua penny, just as soon as his little one was found and confined. I could not see that his life was worth a copper penny, that they would certainly get him.

Q. What was the original purpose of communicating with Mr. Steiner in regard to the Black Legion?

A. My sole and only purpose for communicating with Mr. Steiner was to ascertain whether or not it was a worthy American organization that would yield permanent good to America's institutions and traditions. Thought it possible that an individual Legion member had gotten out of hand and violated their obligation of membership and color and was acting contrary to its fundamental principles; teaching and if such traditions and ideals had been thoroughly American, it was my desire to prevent its activity anywhere that I might but have it under investigation and having investigated into its secrets and real intentions, the future actions, I was much thoroughly convinced that I wanted to have nothing to do with it whatsoever.

Q. Did Mr. Steiner explain to you the real purpose and the ultimate, why this order called the Black Legion?

A. Yes, he said that it was the idea back of the Black Legion to re-establish real American traditions as intended by our founding fathers, to had been trampled upon by those various alleged anarchy in America mentioned.

Q. Did he discuss any plans with you whereby their organization was in a proper manner that they planed eventually to take over the government?

A. No told me that it would be according to his ideal, it would be as a matter to establish a Fascist or Naziist dictatorship, he mentioned fact that Mussolini had only about one hundred thousand members that seized the government of Italy and that the present government of
under Adolf Hitler was started with two men and that by having some strategic situations in this country and by seizing strategic points he meant to do it would be very easy matter to establish the same dictatorship and also inferred that he would do it with the crown and dictatorship in his shoes when this did eventually take place. He inferred after he had seized the American government and became the dictator that they would have to have men under him capable of retaining this said title for him -- position, and that I would be well taken of in this and he said it was men just like you, Mr., that what it's all about and are not afraid to act when the time comes, we need with us in this move.

Q. Did he describe to you the manner in which they hoped to take over strategic points and control of the government when the right time?

A. Yes, it was his idea to have sufficient affiliations with various plants and the army and navy, and such like necessary subsidiaries or strong-arm forces in order to do this.

Q. Well, then he explained to you that the cause for the trouble in New York and the possibility of trouble in Cleveland was the responsibility of the few men in the organization who were allowing things to get away then they control and then in the next breath talked about those plans killing people of various denominations and creeds, didn't it seem like blowing hot and cold on his part?

A. It did, and I mentioned the fact to him and he explained it that the insurrection through and that this happening at Detroit would be a proving to be a big boomerang for them and from that point on they were going to see that those things were not permitted to happen again, the rank and file were not going to be permitted to know the real motives and activities back of the Black Legion, that was going to be a good lesson to them. He found out you couldn't trust too many men on the actual knowledge of what was taking place.

Q. Well, now, you say that you took your oath on the date mentioned in this statement in a little town not from from Lima?

A. Out from Elida.

Q. After returning from Elida and, by the way, that was the trip upon which our car was stopped, wasn't it?
Q. Where did you go from that place to Effinger's place?

A. We went from there to a little restaurant on the corner of Main, or the "Spot" which proved to be in reality a one where many of the Black Logicians got together, we had sandwiches and soft drinks from there we went to 1114 Harrison avenue, at him. Mr. -- the name.

Q. Did you, upon your arrival there, go into the basement of the house where Effinger maintains his office, and go to his desk, and take some notes? I don't know what you call it, Sir.

A. "God give us law" thing he had framed there, also referred to a on one side of his desk, showing Paul Revero allowing his early Otto followers, fellow Americans, of the impending danger and said that was an organization in this country called the Paul Revero, that I didn't see much about it, but they had the real American principles, was sure I would believe it and want to know more about it. I didn't realize this statement that he was also affiliated with some organization or otherwise.

Q. Was there any discussion as to what your activities in the organization might be?

A. Yes. It was plain and understood that I was to be in charge of a given territory, embracing the city of Cincinnati, Louisville, Kentucky, Indianapolis, Indiana and other cities and towns and that I would have control of said territory with only myself to account for. He would see that I got every assistance and a sufficient monetary return to enable me to live on a nice plan, not have to worry about my finances.

Q. Did he at any time disclose to you the territory in which the Illinois was operating at the present time?

A. I asked him as to their numerical strength and he answered by saying it was in many states, in some states under names other than the Illinois Logian, but he did not definitely give me any numbers as to number of actual territory in which they operated but let me believe that their membership was substantial, I should say they went well.
This time, to extend in the next chapter, the authority over not only certain territory of the United States but also over certain powers with governments and organizations that were struggling for control of the Black Legion and its affiliated organizations.

A man interested did he explain, would my drinking water with the principles of the Black Legion, which everybody was counseled with... 

Q. Did you ever plainly tell no that he advised Hitler and his Nazi acolytes against prosecution, due to the fact that they had done a week's job editing the activities of the Jews and also sentenced the first Nazi dictator Mussolini had for his high activities by taking over the non-Bolshevik, and instituting the open laws, segregation laws, and the rear of the white and colored races similar and proofing which he did, he told no Mussolini was establishing these... 

Q. Did he make any reference to any time of a man to the head of the organization? 

A. I asked the discussion if he had been told, or had been his father, and it is the head of the organization and he said... 

Q. Did he say at any time that he would not? 

A. He did not. 

Q. Nor did he affirm it? 

A. He did not. 

Q. Did he have any further communication with you concerning the matter? 

A. He did not. 

Q. So that from what you have told you, you had every reason to believe that he was the absolute head of the organization? 

A. I gained from his statement that he and other men in different localities were in complete charge of the Black Legion. I would say the I consider from his statement that it is composed and ruled now or led by what I would term a Board of Directors, several men that got together and agree on policy, routine, and split the spoils and control its activities.
Q. Did he -- strike that -- during his discussion with you, relating to the circuit situation, did he say anything about that their plans were, then to get 4, to boot these charges that are being made against the local authorities?

A. Yes, I've got to understand that little better, I'm sorry.

Q. Did he mention -- cross that out -- you say that Mr. Effinger told you about his plans to get 4, boot?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, did Mr. Effinger disclose to you any other plans they had in mind for the defense, or ultimate acquittal of the men now charged in the Detroit activities in Detroit?

A. Mr. Effinger told me it was his idea that Dayton Dean and Colonel David, the Black Legion, were expected to be convicted of the charges against them and he did not believe that any of the other accused would be convicted. Michigan -- it being a non-capital punishment state -- did not have a capital punishment law, and they would -- could not be hung or electrocuted and that when, that Dayton it was his idea that Dayton Dean would be tried insane and would be committed to an insane asylum, after which that he would be killed a loyal and devoted to the Black Legion for his exposing the condition in Detroit in reference to this case.

Q. Now, getting back to this timeclock mechanism, for the expulsion of 600, just where did you see that apparatus and, if possible, can you describe the mechanism and the approximate size of the device?

A. I saw this looting in Effinger's office, in the basement of his home, early morning hours, as previously mentioned, and would say from recalling: faculties of my memory, that the said apparatus would be approximately about a foot and a half wide, not a great deal, it was approximately, I would say ten -- wait a minute, it will be more than that (indicating length of stenographer's notebook) how much is that?

Q. That's about nine inches.

A. All right, I would say about eight inches wide and about ten inches height and was possessed of an apparently regular clock-like apparatus
that then, at a certain hour and put into operation, would cause expulsion of the ingredients, which was to be held in a channel-like arrangement adjoining the clock arrangement.

Q: Was there an opening in this container?
A: There was one little arrangement that looked up, it grew larger, it was larger at the top, it came up, but in getting there, there was a slight better, it moved toward two or a pipe that led from this gas chamber down to a box that led into a funnel-shaped pipe arrangement at the top. I presume, and he explained to me that the gas was to escape slowly through this arrangement when set off by the timer mechanism.

Q: Did he explain to you what type of gas would be used in this apparatus?
A: No, mentioned that a mustard gas composition had been perfected and so to be perfectly conversant on the matter of the latent wrinkle of poisonous gases.

Q: What did he say the action of this gas would be if released from this mechanism in a closed room or building?
A: Said it would spread over the closed area immediately and would exterminate anything, immediately exterminate anything within this closed area.

Q: Did he say how long a period of time it would take for this determination?
A: Nothing other than it would be instantaneous -- immediate in its action.

Q: Did he discuss ways and means of planting these mechanisms?
A: Well, he mentioned that one man could deposit this mechanism under the seat or pow and make an exit before the timer mechanism would function and would be well out of the way of its poisonous effects. He said it would only take a very small space and could be carried into a place with very little or any notice.

Q: Now, after you learned of Mr. Effinger's plans, and had taken your oath and saw none of the workings of the Black Legion, did you decide to conclude your arrangements with Mr. Effinger as to the taking over of the territory that he offered you?
A: Did I decide to conclude the arrangement?...
A: I think you have no further questions. We can proceed with the organization.

B: I have read the rules of operation. I would like to address the following points:

1. The need for a clear chain of command and authority.
2. The importance of maintaining accurate records and minutes.
3. The necessity of regular meetings for decision-making.

C: I have considered these points. I agree with the principles outlined.

D: You can proceed to the next meeting. Very important matters have been discussed.

E: For the record, you are to communicate with Mr. Smith, the president of the local chapter.

F: I understand. I will ensure that confidentiality is maintained and that the rules of operation are followed.

G: As a result of your briefing, Mr. Smith, you have been admitted to this office, and such actions will take effect.

H: Yes, I see.

I: What procedures need to be followed to ensure the proper handling of information?

J: None whatsoever, other than the return of any classified materials upon leaving. This said, trips are

K: So that the information that you have given me is both reliable and

L: On your part for a desire to proceed to legal the due and defending

M: Adequate which you so wholeheartedly

N: It has been thoroughly voluntary.

O: Is there anything further that you wish to add to this conversation?

P: Nothing. That is all that I am thinking of at the moment.
Dear Millie,

There were two faint bloodstains on the small attic bedroom. It was at 2:30 A.M. when one of the housemaids saw them on the door handle. The door was shut and a bloody scream drowned it out. The body was discovered in the attic. The two doormats were found. A bloody towel was found on the floor. The man was a friend of mine. He was murdered. His friends were his only friends. I'll come to see you on Friday. Mr. C.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

[Date]
It was a political murder, and we are sure of that and being in how many two and three put together seem to make sense and being at how the Black Legion had a leader here by the name of Augustus. You can see there is something very interesting to follow up. I did not wish anyone bad luck but hoped you would protect me in this secret that is now a year old. It might be well to keep my name in the book ground but you can get all you want to know. I believe from Sheriff Morrow of Clark County. Then if you looked will give you the name of
the case and can get the gang leader for you. You might like to know that Mr. Angwin's office has a telephone that has no charge of 10¢ for its use from Vancouver to Portland.

I know the names of all the Black Legion here in Clark Co.

Of course they are not for publication unless you would like to know. They are supposed to meet in the Court house at a Townsend Club and have made themselves leaders in it to the extent that freedom is about gone. Thank you for looking this up. Yours truly

Miss

Vancouver, Wash.
Bureau of Investigation
Dept. of Justice
Washington D.C.
To whom it may concern:

My Dear Gentlemen,

I am with great pain and fear that I am writing you that within Bucks County, Dublin Borough, Pennsylvania, there is an illegal organization so-called "Black Legion" being organized and leaders of this organization are dealing with one particular party named Lloyd Crout who is known as "Butch".

B.W.

AUG 14 1936

RECORDED
INDEXED

AUG 13 1936 1 P.M.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of carbon copy of your letter under date of August 8, 1936, to the Postmaster at Greenville, Kentucky, concerning a threatening letter addressed to Charles Edward Duncan, Greenville, Kentucky, and postmarked with a Railway Post Office stamp.

This letter reads as follows:

''You are on the spot.

If you know what's best for you get out of Greenville.

If your Dad Dies it's ok to come back for short while. Don't forget don't let Sept. 15th find you in Greenville, Ky. vinyl in the area.

P.S. The End is Death.

Don't take this for women writing.''

An examination of the above letter indicates that it does not constitute a violation of the Extortion Statute coming within the jurisdiction of this Bureau, and it is therefore returned to you here-with.

Very truly yours,

E. J. ONELLEY
Special Agent in Charge
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TANN

Mr. Black: Action

Mr. McMahon telephoned and asked me whether Mr. McGreer had sent me the evidence we have received. I advised him that it came to us from the office to which it was turned over by the County Attorney, and that as soon as we got it we instructed our office not to do anything until they got orders from Washington. He stated that he had talked with the District Attorney out there and that he was sending an affidavit to him, and told him to look into it in a quiet way. Mr. McMahon asked me if I thought there was any necessity for notifying Mr. McGreer, because if we did he would be liable to give it to the newspapers. I informed him that I did not think it necessary to do this as there is no reason for notifying him of any action.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
August 22, 1934

Mr. John Cooper,
897 Emerald Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your undated letter which was received at the Bureau on August 17, 1934, in which you request to be advised why the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not investigating the alleged activities of the Black Legion.

For your information, the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is restricted to the investigation of violations of certain specific Federal laws. Therefore, unless any individual or group of individuals violates one of the Federal statutes over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction, the Bureau is without authority to conduct an investigation.

Trusting that this answers your inquiry, I remain

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CO-Los Angeles
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,

Dear Mr. Hoover,

As a citizen and taxpayer, I would like to know why the Dept. of Justice does not go after the Black Legion. In all other cases of kidnapping, the department is only too active. The Black Legion is the most infamous band of criminals on race.

But why go on? You know the facts. Give us some action.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Postmark: Aug 25, 1935]

[Recorded and Indexed: 1935-08-25]
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TANN

RE: Black Legion.

Mr. Suydam telephoned and asked me whether I had received any evidence on the Black Legion Case in Detroit from Mr. McCrea. He advised me that McCrea had made a statement in New York about the case, and that the Attorney-General had sent him a telegram on May 28, 1936, but that up until a few days ago he had not submitted anything. I advised Mr. Suydam that we had submitted the material we had received to the Department for what, if any, action we should take, but that we refused to make any comment about it.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

August 12, 1936

I am attaching hereeto a photostatic copy of three statements in question and answer form purporting to have been made by [redacted] on August 6, 1936 to Harry Colburn, investigator, for County Prosecuting Attorney McCrea of Detroit, Michigan. It will be observed from these statements that [redacted] alleges he entered the Black Legion and associated himself with Virgil Effinger of Lima, Ohio that Effinger claims to have in his possession an infernal machine developed and perfected by employes of the United States Arsenal at Edgewood, Maryland. It will be further noted from these statements that Effinger claims the persons who perfected this instrument are members of some super-branch of the Black Legion evidently engaged in the Government's service.

The above statements were furnished to the Agent in Charge of the Bureau's Detroit Office by Harry Colburn, investigator for County Prosecuting Attorney McCrea of Detroit, Michigan, who requested that this Bureau initiate investigation in this matter because of the allegations that the gas bomb mentioned in the statements, was made by employes of the United States Arsenal at Edgewood, Maryland, and of the further mention of the plotted overtures of the Federal Government by force and violence.

It is respectfully requested that you advise me what, if any action you desire taken in this matter. I suggest that you may desire to refer copies of these statements to the War Department for appropriate attention and consideration by that agency.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #831213
August 1, 1936

[Redacted]

Records
Indexed
AUG 14 1936 A.M.
5-4-77 SENT EXPEDITED
FILE
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
610 Alonzo Ward Hotel Building
Aberdeen, South Dakota

August 17, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing herewith in cellophane an envelope addressed to Mr. M. A. H. Hardin, of the Malcolm News Agency, Aberdeen, S. Dak., which was mailed at Detroit, Mich., August 13, 1936; and the contents of said envelope, wrapped separately in cellophane, consisting of a picture of a hooded individual with a skull and crossbones headgear, black full robe, masked, carrying a revolver in one hand, and with a skull and crossbones imprinted over the heart on the robe; and with a large question mark over the figure.

Mr. Hardin is the son of Rabbi A. M. Hardin, is 17 years of age, and runs an agency for the redistribution of several newspapers and magazines in Aberdeen.

Mr. Hardin advises that both the envelope and the contents have been handled by various persons, and does not have the slightest idea of the purpose of his receiving this mail.

Same is furnished to the Bureau with the idea in mind that perhaps similar complaints have been received from other sources. Will you please advise whether that is the case, and what activity, if any, is being engaged in by the Bureau which may necessitate a lead for the Aberdeen Office in connection with the enclosed mail?

Very truly yours,

WERNER HANNI
Special Agent in Charge

REPORTED RECOMMEND
RECOMMEND
INDEXED
61-7377-115
SEP 24 1936

ENC/L

KRM

KRM

SEP 24 1936
June 7, 1936

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 17, 1936, with which you enclosed an envelope addressed to Mr. M. Hardin, in which was contained the picture of a hooded individual.

This will advise you that information of a similar type has been received by the Bureau from various sources. The Bureau does not desire your office to undertake any investigation with reference to these matters in the absence of specific Bureau instructions. Any information of this nature, however, coming to your attention should be forwarded to the Bureau promptly.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
August 17, 1936

61-7399-A

Special Agent in Charge,
Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 17, 1936, transmitting a picture of a hooded figure and accompanying envelope postmarked, "Detroit, Michigan, 3 August 13, 1936," for latent fingerprint examination in connection with the receipt of these specimens by Mr. H. Hardin of the Melcom News Agency, Aberdeen, South Dakota.

Please be advised that the material submitted has been examined but no latent fingerprints of value could be developed.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Single Fingerprint Report

Case: Receiving of anonymous picture of a hooded figure by Mr. N. Hardin.

Number: 61-7728-115

Specimens:

One picture of a hooded figure with a skull and crossbones headgear, black full robe, masked, carrying a revolver in one hand.

One envelope in which above picture was mailed to Mr. N. Hardin.

Examination requested by: Aberdeen

Date received: 8-22-36 12:00 P.M.

Examination requested: Fingerprint - Chemical Development

Result of examination: Examination by: Potter

To 8-27-36

unas 8-27-36

27 P
Department of Justice

Ocala, Fla.

AUG 31, 1935

Sentimental

Dear Sir,

I thought I might give some
information on the "Black Legion" of
Kentucky rights to tell to you. It
seems the membership consists mostly
of Negroes.

If AssistantBeta is to be
now used to question Eugene Brown,

of Williamsport, Ky., this Negro has
been in jail for the past three
months and I happen to hear him
mention and say happen to hear about the
"Legion" plans for this region—

Ask Mr. B. in your

P.W.
On my return, it may be some time before I can expect another chance of writing to you. — I trust you are still in good health and happy. — Allow me to express to you my thanks for your kind letter, and to assure you that it is a pleasure to hear from you.

With sincere regards,

[Signature]
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
August 28, 1936

Mr. [Name]
General Delivery
Tampa, Florida.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 15, 1936, in which you advised of certain alleged activities of the "Black Legion." It is noted that you desire this Bureau to conduct an investigation relative to this matter.

Please be advised that the jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is restricted to the investigation of specific federal laws. The contents of your communication have been carefully noted, but since there is no existing legislation which gives this Bureau investigative jurisdiction over the matters to which you refer, I regret that the Bureau is unable to give assistance to you in this regard.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
   BULLET CLUB;
   Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of August 17, 1936, bearing the above title, in which information was reported concerning the receipt of two letters by Albert Phillips, General Secretary and Treasurer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, and Dr. Z. T. Wirtzhafter, physician for the Brotherhood, you are advised that inasmuch as the communications received were signed "Black Legion", the facts were referred to the Department for a decision as to whether investigation was to be instituted. Upon receipt of advice from the Department, you will be promptly notified.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

DECLASSIFIED BY 6080
ON 9-30-77

[Signature]
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
1448 Standard Building
Cleveland, Ohio

August 17, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
    BULLET CLUB;
    Miscellaneous - Confidential

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated May 29, 1936, which letter states it is desired that absolutely no investigation be conducted into the activities of the Black Legion in the absence of specific authorization from the Director of the Bureau and that if information is furnished to this office which is believed or alleged to constitute a violation of a federal statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, no action should be taken thereon by this office other than to refer the facts immediately to the Bureau for transmittal to the Department for appropriate consideration.

On August 17th, 1936, Mr. H. C. Heiss, 906 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio, attorney for the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, came to this office and exhibited two letters which were received through the regular mail on August 15th by Albert Phillips, General Secretary and Treasurer for said Brotherhood, and Dr. Z. T. Wirtschafter, physician for this Brotherhood.

These letters, which are practically identical, are typewritten apparently by an amateur with no handwriting appearing thereon. They were both mailed at 5 p. m., August 14th at South Bend, Indiana, and directed to the above-mentioned persons at 418 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

The letter to Mr. Phillips reads as follows:

"Mr. Albert Phillips we demand that you arrange at once to have Alba E. Kelley T. B. allowance restored to him at once. And restore it from March 1936. If you don't we are going to take you for a ride, and you may never return."

"Signed Black Legion" AUG 25 1936

"Recorded 61-7398-11 AUG 1936"

"Classified" 6080 DECLASSIFIED ON 8-19-77

1936 1936

45
Attorney Heiss advises that Alba E. Kelley, mentioned in the letters, is a member of the Brotherhood and gives his address as Box 251, Monon, Indiana, which address is that of a funeral home, and that Kelley supposedly owns this house and reserves a room there for himself. Kelley is a former railroad worker and has at different periods received a sick benefit from the afore-mentioned Brotherhood at the rate of fifty dollars per month because of tubercular trouble, but this benefit was cut off by the Brotherhood as of March 1st, 1936.

In view of the fact that these two letters are signed Black Legion and because of the instructions received from the Bureau, as set forth in the first paragraph of this letter, it is respectfully requested that this office be advised by wire or teletype whether or not these apparent extortion cases should be investigated.

Very truly yours,

J. P. MAC FARLAND
Special Agent in Charge

RTR:h

cc: Indianapolis

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY
Mr. John Edgar Hoover, Cal.
U.S. Department of Justice.

Dear Sir,

I wrote you on June 18th, 1936. Your answer I received on June 27, 1936.

Claiming these people are not breaking Federal Laws.

This band of Black Legion, who used to parade around my house at night in black robes, making the tinkle of a cowbell, followed me to my son's place at Torrence, Calif. and threatened me their. Had a skull & bones & the radiator of their car, about 5 feet and cooked like grey rubber. They have stolen my money. Closington me in my own home. And since I have not received assistance from my writing you, they have increased their persecution. Continuous night and day. If this system of murder degrees is tolerable by Federal Law, then anything I do to retaliate should justify. I have never hurt anyone my life, and do not wish to hurt anyone.
break any law. I have prayed nightly years that this persecution might be stop. I have appealed to authority's. I have plead with members of the Black Legion. Knowing have helped in this duty dark; they just & me. They have to have a subject, to work on. If they had no subject there would be no work to it. So no matter how much pleading they would not try to help.

If I can get no help. I will destroy these persecutor machines. And I believe God will forgive me.

When I asked at the Sheriff office for the address of the Crime Institute. He laughed and said he did know of a Crime Institute. In the eyes of Creator I am no Criminal. And I know if these people knew the truth and in the feelings of my heart, they would st this murderous work. They are paralyzing my hands. I can write no more.

Hoping in some way I can be assisted stopping this Crime.

Yours,
To: John Edgar Hoover
National Crime Inst.
Washington, D.C.

Registered
No. 606.
I am sending you a report of places which I want you to investigate. The basements of these buildings contain the wires into the wall but this can be easily recognized. These wires are all around the neighborhood every house. As the barber, he has everything arranged, the roller curtain is pulled down. This difference between cities and radio wire can easily be seen. Notice on the North and South. Look through the basement because they got extra wire.

[Space for recording and indexing]
61-7398-121
Anchorage
Aug 31, 1935
Aug 30, 1936
All is well - modern equipment.
This man rides ours (and twelve o'clock is one of the Black Legions). Watch him closely. This army is very frequent, given its meetings. Will you please investigate. There is many people who belong to this Legion. I would like you to investigate. You will find many universities there.
SIR, SPRINGFIELD, IN REGARD TO MY TAKING OVER THE AFORESAID TERRITORY AND BECOMING ONE OF THE BLACK LEGION'S ORGANIZERS AND IF, AT THOSE, THE TRANSMISSION IS RECEIVED, OR THIS PERSONAL CONTACT IS MADE WITH YOU, FOR THE APOLOGIZING AND JUSTICE TO ALL CLASSES AND CREEDS I EXPOSE FORWARD, IMMEDIATELY FORWARD SAME TO THE OFFICE OF THE AUTHORITIES.

Q. IN THIS ADDRESS WHICH YOU GAVE IN CINCINNATI YOUR PERMANENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE?

A. IT IS FOR THE TIME BEING BUT IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD, PERMANENT AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IT IS NOT MY INTENTION IS TO CHANGE THIS ADDRESS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

Q. DO YOU KNOW DEFINITELY NOW WHERE YOU WILL BE LOCATED?

A. IT IS MY INTENTION TO RETURN TO CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA, MAY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WHERE I EXPECT TO VISIT WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

Q. DO THAT YOU WILL ULTIMATELY TAKE UP YOUR RESIDENCE AFTER A TEMPORARY VISIT IN ATLANTA, IN CALIFORNIA?

A. THAT'S RIGHT.

Q. LOS ANGELES?

A. YES SIR.

MR. CULBURN: THAT'LL BE ALL.
Dear Madam:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of August 4, 1936 in which you advise of an alleged murder, and that you are in possession of information as to the identity of the perpetrators of this act.

For your information, the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is limited to the investigation of violations of specific Federal Statutes. In the absence of any indications that the matter about which you complain constitutes the violation of any such Federal Statute, I regret that there is no action this Bureau can take in the premises.

It is noted from your communication that you state you are in possession of information relative to the Black Legion organization in your community. Please be advised that this Bureau, in the absence of authority under the existing statutes, is conducting no inquiry into the activities of the Black Legion, and consequently, any information which you have relative to this organization should be furnished to the local authorities.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Portland
Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT,
.45 calibre Colt automatic pistol,
Model 1911, #251440.
Theft of Government Property.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated August 27, 1936, Bureau file #51-7398.

Mr. E. L. Kahlert, Field Service, Ordnance Office, War Department, has no record of the Government ownership or loss of .45 calibre Colt automatic pistol, model 1911, #251440.

Mr. Kahlert will immediately circularize the United States Army Corps Areas and arsenals and Depots for possible information concerning the above described material, and you will be promptly advised of the result obtained. This circularization generally requires approximately one month's time, and until final word shall have been received from the War Department this case will be held pending by the Washington Field Office.

Very truly yours,

J. M. Keith
Special Agent in Charge.
Acknowledging receipt of your updated Letter

dated to this Bureau, I must advise you that none of
the matters mentioned in your communication within the
investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

For this reason it will be impossible for me to
authorize any affirmative action in the premises.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC: Pittsburgh
They tried to beat me with a toothbrush.
I was treated with unspeakable cruelty. Tied my hands, tied me up in
the lot. Sometimes burned my feet with candle flames, destroyed
my mail, took my letters out of mail
for. hid in the attic and&when
we tried to get help. But the police
are shielding them. Sometimes
they wear their robes, other times,
plain clothes.

Last Aug., a strange man
came to our house, said the man
named Shawky. Said he was a
State Police, and that he was one
of the men who killed my son.
He told me, the Chief of Police of Alton
sent him to tell me. If I told
what was going on, they wanted
that to happen or I'd bury
me in the woods. I told them I
would have them arrested. Instead
he just laughed, he turned a
"Hairy"acey with all the cows.
he laughed twice he called America
most perfect kidnapping screen, and
went away with it.

This gang in the court in Maine
and he is feared and despised by
all gangs and he is called "
Double-Crossed" Flatley. He said
he has murdered two many people
he couldn't count them. He's that
gang is called "Scarecrow."
The text mentions that one lived and passed to the Heavenly Home July 6.
My character may be investigated.

If you wish to send anyone here, please tell them to come in the afternoons or evenings.

If this is not in your work, will you please give this letter to the right person.

Respt.

[Illegible] Pa.
Mr. John L. Cooper,
257 Emerald Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter dated August 29, 1936, I must advise you that there is no information contained therein indicating a violation over which this Bureau has jurisdiction.

In keeping with my letter directed to you under date of August 22, 1936, you are again informed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U. S. Department of Justice, is undertaking no investigation of the Black Legion in view of the fact that the activities conducted by that organization are not of a type in which investigative jurisdiction is conferred by statute upon this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc-Los Angeles (with copies of incoming letter)
Thank you for your letter of August 22nd, in which you explained that the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, had no jurisdiction to investigate the Black Legion.

In your information, I would like to call to your attention, at least six federal acts which make it mandatory upon the Department of Justice to go after the Black Legion. These laws prohibited: 1. Mutilating; 2. Kidnapping; 3. Parading persons from one state to another; 4. Threatening communication between states; 5. Moving from one state to another to avoid prosecution for a felony or to avoid giving testimony; 6. Interference with Federal Relief Administration.

I sincerely request that the Department of Justice of its responsibility to investigate and prosecute the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,
Hon. Edgar Hoover, in Charge,

U.S. Dept. of Justice

Washington, D.C.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
Post Office Box 2118
Detroit - Michigan
September 5
1936

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

John A. Moritz, Chief Investigator, Attorney General's Department, Lansing, Michigan, called at this office at which time the following interview was had with Special Agent James D. Cunningham.

Mr. Moritz stated that he had been at Lima, Ohio, attempting to remove Virgil Effinger, leader of the Black Legion, to Detroit, Michigan, for trial. Mr. Moritz advised that there are warrants in the State of Michigan for this man for carrying explosives and criminal syndicalism.

Continuing, Mr. Moritz stated that after much effort the extradition papers had been signed by the Governor of Ohio and warrants issued directing Effinger's removal to the State of Michigan. These warrants were turned over to Sheriff R. Marshall, Allen County, Lima Ohio, for service. Mr. Moritz further advised that the Sheriff's Office and Police Department at Lima, Ohio, had refused to cooperate in this regard and although Effinger is readily available at that point, they will not serve the warrant or cause his removal to the State of Michigan. Mr. Moritz stated further that he feels that if an attempt were made to remove Effinger it would result in bloodshed as Lima, Ohio, apparently is the center of the Black Legion activities and armed resistance would be given to any attempt to remove this man.

Mr. Moritz was interested in ascertaining whether there was any Federal Statute under which the Federal Bureau of Investigation could assist his office in removing Subject to the State of Michigan for trial. He stated that he heard of a recently enacted Statute that would probably cover this situation.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Mr. Moritz was advised by Agent Cunningham that the Statute he had in mind in all probability was the Interstate Flight to Avoid Prosecution Statute and it was explained to him. [Signature]
only covers subjects fleeing the state of prosecution to avoid prosecution for certain specified felonies which were enumerated to him. It was further pointed out to him that the charges now pending in Detroit do not come within the specified felonies and further that apparently Effinger had not fled from Michigan to avoid prosecution as he is a resident of Ohio.

Mr. Moritz appeared satisfied with this explanation and stated that if he secured any additional information that made it appear that a Federal Statute was violated, he would communicate with this office.

Speaking generally, Mr. Moritz stated that he had information that the Black Legion had contemplated an armed rebellion on September 16, 1936, and that it appeared to him that this alone would be sufficient for the Government to take action. He was advised that this matter had already been referred to the Attorney General of the United States by Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Wayne County, Michigan, and the Honorable Mr. Cummings had stated that, in his opinion, the facts disclosed at that time did not constitute a Federal violation.

As previously instructed by the Bureau, this office will not take any action in this regard without prior instructions from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

Herold H. Reinecke
Special Agent in Charge
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TASH

Time -
10:10 A. M.

Upon the receipt of a copy of the teletype message from the St. Louis office to the Detroit office, dated September 1, 1936, with reference to a request made by a member of the Detroit Police Department for the cooperation of the St. Louis office in the removal of a member of the Black Legion from St. Louis to Detroit, I communicated with you by telephone.

In accordance with your instructions I communicated with Special Agent in Charge Newman at St. Louis on September 5, 1936 and made inquiry as to what his office was doing in this matter. Mr. Newman stated that he had not done anything other than what is disclosed by his teletype above referred to, that is, he made inquiry of the Detroit office whether this matter was within the jurisdiction of the Bureau.

He stated that Sergeant Charles Meehan of the Detroit Police Department who had been in St. Louis and requested the cooperation of the Bureau in this matter had returned to Detroit, but that his partner was still in St. Louis. Mr. Newman was instructed not to conduct any investigation in this matter without specific Bureau authority.

Time -
10:45 A. M.

I communicated by telephone with Special Agent J. D. Cunningham of the Detroit office in the absence of Agent in Charge Reinecke and he advised that Mr. John A. Moritz, Chief Investigator of the Attorney General's Office for the State of Michigan, had requested the assistance of the Detroit office in the removal of the reported leader of the Black Legion named Offener from Lima, Ohio. Mr. Cunningham advised that he told Mr. Moritz the particular charge on which the Michigan authorities were seeking to extradite
Memo for Mr. Tamm.

9/9/36.

Effinger was not within the unlawful flight statute and consequently no investigation could be conducted. He further stated that no investigation was being instituted with reference to the removal of the member of the Black Legion from St. Louis, Missouri, about whom the teletype message was sent. He was further instructed not to conduct any investigation in this matter without specific prior Bureau authority.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

J. W. Vincent.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following Teletype message to:

FBI DEPT OF JUSTICE ST LOUIS 0711 9-1-56 12:30 P.M. VEF

SAC DETROIT

PHONE. SERGEANT CHARLES MEEHAN DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS REQUESTED

COOPERATION THIS OFFICE IN SECURING REMOVAL TO DETROIT OF CLARENCE PRINCE

AGE THIRTY FIVE ALLEGED MEMBER OF BLACK LEGION NOW HELD FOR DETROIT POLICE

BY ST. LOUIS POLICE. MEEHAN HAS WARRANT ISSUED BY CIRCUIT COURT OF WAYNE

COUNTY, MICHIGAN AUGUST TWENTY FOUR NINETEEN THIRTY SIX CHARGING PRINCE

AND OTHERS ASSAULTED ONE GEORGE WASHER WITH A DANGEROUS WEAPON AT HIGHLAND

PARK, MICHIGAN MAY FIFTEENTH NINETEEN THIRTY THREE. MEEHAN HAS BEEN

ADVISED THAT DATE OF OFFENSE PRECLUDES ACTION UNDER UNLAWFUL FLIGHT

STATUTE. PRINCE NOT INVOLVED IN ANY KNOWN FEDERAL VIOLATION THIS DISTRICT.

ADVISE WHETHER ANY FEDERAL ACTION CAN BE UNDERTAKEN THERE WHICH WILL PERMIT

HIS REMOVAL.

END

cc Bureau

RECORDED

INDEXED

MEEHAN

61-7396-127

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Special Agent in Charge

Approved:

Sent

FILE

Per
61-7398-128 changed to
61-7560-2
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D. C.

Gentlemen:

Please note enclosed envelope and contents.

Not wishing to trouble you with unnecessary correspondence, I have delayed contacting you to see if anything would develop from above mentioned enclosure.

1. I do not believe the letter to be a "joke" from a friend, as I know no one in Detroit. And furthermore cannot think of any reason for anyone anywhere sending it.

2. The letter was addressed to a store where I formerly worked, and the Post Office employees knowing I had a box, placed the letter there, where I received it.

3. In my estimation, the organization in question is played up a little too strongly by the press; and although I must admit I'm a little worried, I'm not much afraid.

4. I'm 23 years of age, unmarried, and can take pretty good care of myself in case of any eventualities.

In sending this I hope it will be of some aid to you, and of no bother. I wish to offer my cooperation in the matter in any way you see fit. In the meantime I am standing by awaiting further developments, and advise from your office.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Date: 6/MAY/36]

[Additional hand-written notes on the right side of the page]
RECORDED    
Special Agent in Charge,    
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Sir:    

For your information only, there are attached hereunto photographic copies of a letter from Mr. [redacted] Laramie, Wyoming, dated September 6, 1936, together with photographic copies of "Black Legion" data which were forwarded to Mr. [redacted] by some unknown person.

You are instructed that no investigation or inquiry should be undertaken by you under any circumstances in this matter in the absence of prior specific Bureau authorization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,    
Director.

Enclosure #1047455

COMMUNICATIONS STATION MAILED
SEP 21 1936
Mr. [Name]

Laramie, Wyoming,

September 16, 1936

Dear Sir,

Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of September 8, 1936 and the enclosure(s) pertaining to the Black Legion.

The information furnished in your letter does not indicate a violation of any law over which this Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigations
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Please note enclosed envelope and contents.

Not wishing to trouble you with unnecessary correspondence, I have delayed contacting you to see if anything would develop from above mentioned enclosure.

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Sincerely,

[Signature]

SEP 22 1936

RECORDED
& INDIAN

61-7396-129

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
F. J. 1937 100

61-7396-129

SEP 22 1936

[Signature]
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
P. O. Drawer "V", Plaza Station, St. Louis, Missouri.

September 9, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This will confirm the telephone conversation of September 5, 1936 between Mr. John Vincent of the Bureau and the writer concerning the request of the Detroit, Mich. Police Department for the assistance of this Bureau in securing the removal from St. Louis to Detroit of Clarence Prince, an alleged member of the Black Legion, for whom the Detroit Police hold a warrant charging assault with a dangerous weapon.

As Mr. Vincent was advised, this office has taken no action whatever in this matter and in conformity with the Bureau's instructions no future action will be taken.

For the information of the Bureau and the Detroit office, this is to advise that on September 1, 1936 Chief of Detectives John J. Carroll, St. Louis Police Dept., contacted this office advising that assistance was desired by officers of the Detroit Police Dept. in removing from St. Louis to Detroit Clarence Prince, who was wanted in Detroit for assault with a dangerous weapon.

At the St. Louis Police Dept., Special Agent H. G. Wiltse of this office was introduced to Detective Sergt. Charles Meehan of the Detroit Police Dept., who accompanied Mr. Wiltse to the St. Louis Bureau office and informed Mr. Wiltse and the writer that indictment No. 18994 was returned by the Circuit Court of Wayne County, Mich. on August 24, 1936 against Clarence Prince, Henry Van Horn, Rudyrd K. Weilman, Whitney Fleming and Roy Hepner, charging that these persons acting in concert on May 15, 1933 at Highland Park, Mich. assaulted George C. Nasher with an iron bar, club, or other dangerous weapon, to-wit., a blackjack, with intent to inflict great bodily harm less than the crime of murder. Sergt. Meehan had in his possession a warrant for the arrest of Clarence Prince issued by the Circuit Court of Wayne County, Mich., on August 24, 1936, charging this offense.

Concerning the alleged activities of Prince and others, Sergt. Meehan advised that on or about June 1, 1936 Prince, along with a number of other persons, were arrested in Detroit for questioning in connection with the Poole murder which was allegedly committed by members of the Black Legion. At that time the police had no knowledge as to Prince be-
ing involved in the Black Legion crimes and at about 4:00 A. M. the day following his arrest he was allowed to go home, having first been instructed to return to the Police Department for questioning at 8:00 o'clock the same morning. Instead of returning Prince, upon going home, disposed of his furniture and other personal property and disappeared. Sergt. Meehan advised that after considerable investigation he had located Prince in St. Louis, Mo., through his brother who lives in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Sergt. Meehan advised that he is convinced that Prince is connected with several Black Legion murders and that he is guilty of the murder of James Belac in May, 1935 as the order to kill Belac must have been approved by Prince, who was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Black Legion organization.

Sergt. Meehan stated that the offense alleged in the indictment mentioned above is not the warrant upon which Prince will possibly be prosecuted, but that the Detroit Police Dept. is desirous of having him return to Detroit as it is believed he will be in a position to furnish valuable information concerning other crimes allegedly committed by the Black Legion. It is also Sergt. Meehan's belief that Prince can be convicted of murder in Detroit.

Sergt. Meehan stated that he had conversed with Prince since his arrest in St. Louis on August 31, 1935, but that he will not waive extradition and is unwilling to furnish any information of value. Sergt. Meehan requested the assistance of this office in securing authorization of federal prosecution of Prince under the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution statute in order that he might be returned to Detroit inasmuch as the trial of some of the Black Legion members is now under way there and that Prince might prove a valuable witness to the State at this time.

Sergt. Meehan was advised that inasmuch as the substance of the offense for which Prince was indicted occurred before the enactment of the statute forbidding Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution, Federal action in this regard could not be undertaken. Sergt. Meehan suggested that it might be possible for the U. S. Attorney at Detroit to institute some action against Prince which would permit his removal, and in view of this the teletype of September 1, 1936 was directed to the Detroit office. Immediately upon receipt of the Detroit telegram on September 1, 1936 Detective Lawrence Sheehy of the Detroit Police Department, who is working with Sergt. Meehan on this matter, was notified at the St. Louis Police Dept. that the U. S. Attorney at Detroit knew of no Federal law which would assist in the removal of Prince.

Following is the description of Prince, as shown by the records of the St. Louis police Department:

- 2 -
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>CLARENCE LEE PRINCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>31 (Born 2-16-05 in Hickman County, Ky.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height</td>
<td>6' 1&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complexion</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>Gray yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hair</td>
<td>Very light chestnut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teeth</td>
<td>Lower right out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residence</td>
<td>2328 Albion Place, St. Louis, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Number</td>
<td>St. Louis Police Dept. #42095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatives</td>
<td>Father - Elbert Prince, Hickman, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mother - Hattie Prince, same address.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wife - Lucille Prince, 2328 Albion Pl., St. Louis, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brother - Clyde Prince, 3140 Converse Ave., E. St. Louis, Ill.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As previously stated, in view of the Bureau instructions, no action whatever will be taken in this matter by this office.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

JAYC. NEWMAN,
Special Agent in Charge.
Mr. Edgar Hoover,
Director of the Division of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing to urge that your department undertake a very thoroughgoing investigation of the American activities of the Black Legion. Originating in the newspapers, they constitute a lawless organization tending to force workingmen to engage in lawless activity.

Killed many sort of violence and murder.

Sincerely,

John W. Wrenn
September 26, 1936.

Mrs. Ethel Abell,
1508 West Ohio Street,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Madam:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter dated September 17, 1936, I must advise you that the matters of which you complain do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. For this reason I will be unable to authorize any investigation in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

co-Indianapolis
Indianapolis, Ind.
Sep 17, 1936

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,

As I have been troubled
more with those night
voices than I can
express, I thought I would
write you more to tell
you, I was sitting in the
front room, and hearing
my voice, I got up and
went to the window and
there figured Elia Williams
and Mrs. J. I had not been
away 9-26-31.
a telling you a bout in my other letter that I wrote to you, and behind her was her husband Charlie Williams they both come Rushing in at me in a Threating way I saw I had to do some thing I did not have any weapon on me so I just:reared back like a soldier and defied them I told them I was not afraid of both of them and they said if I was not by theirs self they said there was a whole gong of theirs along with them right
Around the corner in the alley, Charlie Williams then asks me if I was running all over the neighborhood telling everybody that he had a big knife open and was after his family trying to kill them. I told him no, I only ask the woman named Miss Ada that is Edna Williams' sister in law if the little girls was over to my house. They had come to my house and cried and said that they was afraid. They was afraid that Charlie Williams was going to kill all of them, and they...
Williams Thad is one of the girls name, She girl did they took to raise said that Charlie Williams had a big knife and she was afraid that he would kill all of them. They said they was on their way to church to tell the preacher they were both crying when they were talking to me. They said they was afraid the word kill them all.

As I told you in my last letter I believe there are people fading against me and I think they lend people here.
To say things and then go away and say they did not say the things they said them selves. They have got people in other states that are plotting against me, I believe those gangsters are working all over the world, for a good many years they would send strangers around here to pestle me, I know I am finding out who all of them are, the names of some of them are Harry Abell, his full name Brewer Abell and other names of this I have no idea.
Their names, Ella Williams, Charlie Williams, at 1430 Auster St. Others at Effie Reep Spiritual Church. At 9; I think the number is 1630 Auster St., "White Spiritual Church," Holy Angels Spiritual Church, and Joseph Williams 1506 W. Ohio St., all of May Avron and Family. We live in the next block west of me on West Ohio St. and white Thods Fias at this second hand store at 1506 W. Ohio St., and the Beinse Family that lives at 209 Strong at Leon McSherry & his wife Bulah. Donovan McSherry.
Gerald Lesley & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Brown 1400 Block W, Ohio St. Ida Suite 1400 Block W, Ohio St. A Family
By the name of Coats
Another name Washburn
Another name Zike
Claude Mass & Family
They all live in 1400 Block W, Ohio St. And a good
Many more but no use
To try to name all of them
The Children of this neighborhood some of them
Of some of the families
That I have named it
Would be a good idea
To have some one to the
School some time
and examine all those girls from six years old to sixteen and see how many was wronged, and get them to tell who wronged them and how many different done wronged them and in whose house it took place, and put the lie proof on them to see if they were lying or telling the truth for children around here sure can lie the same as they can do any evil things. Then I did done if they would then examine all the boys as well both ends.
And see how many of them had been harmed and make them tell who did it and where. They give them to get them to and where it took place at. There are a lot of things going on in this end of the city it is a shame that they are getting by with it. It would be a good idea to ask the Reimer girls at 909 Boylme St. if their father ever made advances toward them, and their brother Bernard Reimer might be asked what she is doing climbing...
in Travels with different men and stopping me on the street, the other day I saw Bernard Reimer stop a man on the street and I heard the man tell him that she was not pulling out any thing. 'This May Williams, The little girl said, 'should be quiet and not be noisy.' They might ask her about her milk bottle. She is about 10 years old and they still put her to bed with a milk bottle. With a nipple or in it. They might ask her what she sleeps with and if she ever makes a mistake.
in the night when she
reached for her bottle, she
don't make sense that they
would put a 10 year old girl
to bed with a nursing
bottle, Mrs. Williams said
that may would sleep her
much better as long as
Charlie bought her punch
and give her money and
when she quite then may
would talk, may had got
a little tent in the back
yard she told me once
that she dow a negri
tion go out the back
yard and Williams told
me that Charlie had
second places made in
The basement under the house, they also tore the house down, making a hole in the floor yard. They might also ask me about her rupture, she told a good many different tales about it, how she got ruptured and why she had to wear a corset so long. They were even God-fearing, so they can use electricity without it running through the wire. They no longer have the corsets, and Charlie stays at home.
Home with the Light. Turned out it might be a good idea to wait some of them when they are out shopping also. And this Joseph & Edna Williams that lives next door to me at 600 W. 8th St. Joseph is a brother to Charlie Williams. They have three children. They are not old enough to go to school yet. The 2 older ones are old enough to work but still they put them to bed with their own bottles and around 10 or 12 o'clock I hear one of the children start to.
Crying and Coughing
and Joseph the Mother
will bring the Child to
the Window and Tell him
To Spit it Out. Spit it Out
I have heard the Mother
Trying to get one of the
Children to Erase a Cigarette.
They have also got coked
cigars fired down through
the roof. And got an entrance
to the attic from a Closet.
Closed, they had a old
man that she said was
a Cousin. To wander up
in a Chair in the yard
Every night. All Night.
For about 2 weeks. A
watching my House and
Trying to get in with me she said I might as well show this money as anybody else. When they saw I would have nothing to do with him they shut them up against me every few nights. Her sister, Stella Girdles, and her husband, comes there. Stella will be drunk and stagger around and defy the people in the neighborhood about something or other, Stella's other husband they say died mysteriously about a year ago and she married this man. He told her how she lived with her husband.
New head, and my whiles
said that Stella's first thoughts
haunted Stella and her husband
by pounding on the wall so
dad that Stella was talking
about suicide, there are social
halls that I think should
investigated besides the one
that I just mentioned and
are the names of some of the
others, Laura Donovan, she's a
married name but I don't
no what it is, the word,
laughter to call Donovan and
step children to his wife
Honoran went home with Laura. I did not think they had time to get home until Honoran yeled at me and told me that Laura had taken poison and asked me to go over there. I did not know where she lived, so she had her daughter Jane to go with me to direct me to where she lived, when I got there Laura was unconscious in a short time. The police came. I had been trying to
In the blue I had heard it was good to give anyone who had taken pains I took her arm off her as I did so something fell out of the pocket. It was a cigarette rolling in a nickel and a scrap of paper. The police asked me what they were and I gave them to the police. On the paper was scribbled Claude Dana. The name was not finished. It looked like she had not a last effort to write her half brother's name and wasn't able to finish it.
The woman we used to live next door to me where the Williams now live, and every time she got pregnant she would say that when it came she was going to kill it or take it to white river and throw it in and drown it, there was one of her babies died when they lived there, she said that old man still live at that time lived in that shed in the rear of her house had a entrance made to go to pass through her shed to get to the other buildings.
I're. I'm a little field down with out being seen by outside.

That Jim Isik is now dead, but another man lives in that shed. I don't think I'm going any better now from the way they deal around there.

There is also a shock across the street up the alley where they hang around drunk most of the time. Another death that might be snowed is a Rabbitty girl that was supposed to commit suicide, and another one is Glassie.
Raffinette. She is Ella will ing
that I sone her Telling you about
her daughte Ella Williams,
told me that she was with
her daughte Flossie Raffinette
the night before she died the
next day, she said Flossie's
husband sicked Flossie in
the side and that the neighbors
heard Flossie crying and beg
him to get a Doctor for her.
and that he would not do so
said she was send to the ho-
pital late and died, after her
death she had left two
And in honour under Thy
Go around in different
tread, & return a thing of
form, same money, by a new
Frannace money, by a new
be seen as go. go. go. go. go.
As good as go. I can build
a go. go. go. go. go. go. go.
the number present. paint med.
you cannot find out what the
head of the Hon. name money
In one, and some, and some,
and of the & brought, and got
the word, for another, for another, got
was an ear, & some, & some.
Perforce of saying good and
hope people and get them to
do and say most anything
that they want them to
like I told you in the other
letters Ella Williams bringing
those strangers men to my
house in the year of 1921 and
spending me, having me to
sign all of their papers
that I do not no what I was
signing, that was the year
that they hoped that man
There was one man who claimed to be a spiritualist. He said he was going to correct me and make me read my book. And one of my duties was to destroy a spirit that was attached to a person.

I tried to hear what they were saying and I heard them say, "We are the servants of the spirit, and we will destroy your spirit."
I didn't think too much about it. I thought they were just a lot of nuts, but that was way back in 1921, here it is now 1936, and I now know that it is a fact that there are a gang of human rats that are getting worse all the time. The longer they are left to go the worse they get. Crime is a pleasure to them. They thirst for blood. When they come in, [illegible] a Murder Gets on it and brag about it.
before my brother his name was Claude Foster died a strange man came to my house and told me he said well we have let him live and tortured him as long as we can now we are going to take him for a ride and it will be a one way ride. Pass him if he means they would bring him back dead and he said no that they did not intend to bring him back at all
he said the police sent him to tell me, he said it would just be a one-way ride. He said the police said that they were going to take him to the hospital and that they were going to kill him at the hospital. I did not know who they were talking to. One strange man came to my house and said he was Claude Foster and I told him he was not. He called Claude
our. Was my brother and I knew he was not Claude Foster, but he still claimed that was his name. So I thought moby there was more than one Claude Foster and moby that was his name. So later on another moby come to my house and started to talk about Claude Foster and called him a gangster, and I told him that Claude Foster was not a gangster. That he was
My brother, they said they was talking about the yard by that fence, so when they come and called him a gangster and said they was going to take him to the hospital and kill him, I did not no it. They was talking about my brother in about a month after the man come and told me that they was going to take him for a one way
side and Bill Kill. I got a telegram from Louisville.

By that told me my brother

Claude Foster was dead. I
did not no when I got there

if I would see my brother.

on this strange man by the

same name that they called

a kingfish. The man had

come and told me that they

was going to take him

for a ride and kill him.

Also said that they was

going to plant a hole.
Legulate on him to make folks like he was a slope pedder, when I got to Louisville, KY.
I had to go to the police station to find out where my brother lived at, so I think to myself well I will just tell the police all about this and let them investigate it, you see I had no idea that the police would be involved in a killing, so I ask the police about it and they said yes that was so they said they took evidence
To the hospital and waited in the next room until they killed him. They seemed to be much pleased about their part in the killing. They said they took him to Miller's funeral place and they would dead so they took him back to the hospital and told him killed again. Still I thought they must be talking about some one else besides my brother. I ask the police to take me to Miller's where
my brother was at my God. There was, Miller Confronted me with papers in her hand and demanded money from me for her part in the case. She said she would not let me see my brother until I paid her. I had an awful time but finally got to see him. And then they would not let us move him at first, and we had an awful time to induce them to let us move him so we could bury him.
That took place will be three years about the 14th of October. I do wish that you will do every thing you can to hasten his death and I will help in any way I can if there is any thing that I can do to help. You see there must be some Police in that Gang. Later on when I mentioned my Brother death to the Williams, Charlie Williams said was that him, was that the right one, I ask him what he meant to the...
remorse, and he said to that the Brother that lived in your House, I said yes; and he said, that's him all right. They got the right one all right. I tried to find out what he meant, but had no success, so I do think and I believe you will think the same. That it should be investigated. I have been praying every chance that it will be cleared up, and I will continue to pray to that effect, and I
Mrs. with my respect believe that the Lord will hear and answer my prayer. I think you should find out in what dog they do their killing. There was a man who said he was Henry Hutchins he told me that he killed a man while working at Kingsboro. He said he threw a bat on his head and killed him and at the hospital they called at spinal mummery, another man called him self Harris Abel he said he killed
my Brother, Claude, stab-
ing him in the neck with
a knife. Another cook is a
woman she confessed to me
that she mixed varnish
remover and wood alcohol
together and poisoned her
husband at the same
time. Charlie Payne & Bure
Hampshire was. I see none
her name at that time was
Sadie Hampshire, but I
thinks she is married again
another husband also met
a tragic death his name
was Porter. Yours Truly.

Mrs. Ethel Hibell
1608 W. Ohio St.
Indianapolis, Ind.
Mr. James A. Cooper,
1109 Summit Boulevard,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your undated postal card which was received at this Bureau on September 23, 1936, in which you request this Bureau to undertake an investigation as to the activities of the Black Legion.

I must advise you that the matter of which you complain does not come within the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, for which reason it will be impossible for me to authorize any affirmative action in the premises.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
I strongly urge investigation by your department of Black Legion activities, since I believe it is too big for one state to handle properly.

Respectfully yours,

James A. Cooper
1109 Sunnyside Blvd
Los Angeles
October 14, 1936.

Mrs. August Zeal,
1021 West 17th Street,
Muncie, Indiana.

Dear Madam:

Please be informed that the letter which you directed to Mr. W. H. Drake Lester of this Bureau, dated October 1, 1936, has been brought to my attention for appropriate consideration.

I must advise you that the matters of which you complain do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, for which reason it will be impossible for me to authorize any investigation in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Indianapolis
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice
506 Fletcher Trust Building
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 5, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: Mrs. August Teal and
Mrs. Magdalene Linnie Porter,
Muncie, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

Upon my arrival in Muncie, Indiana, on the afternoon of October 2, 1936 to fill a speaking engagement there, I found the enclosed letter awaiting me, which purports to be from one Mrs. August Teal, 1021 Seventeenth Street, Muncie, Indiana, and sets out alleged threats against and persecution of her friend, Mrs. Magdalene Linnie Porter.

These two women contacted me at the conclusion of my talk in Muncie upon the morning of October 3, 1936.

They stated substantially the same things contained in the enclosed letter, and I pointed out to them that the matters about which they complained did not constitute any Federal violation over which the Federal Bureau of Investigation had jurisdiction.

Both of these women were very unkempt in appearance and are apparently religious fanatics suffering from a persecution complex.

You might desire to acknowledge receipt of this letter to Mrs. Teal as a matter of record, stating that the matters contained therein do not constitute a violation over which the Bureau has investigative jurisdiction.

Very truly yours,

W. H. Drane Lester
Inspector,

Enclosure

OCT 15 '36
REORDER
INDEXED.
Major W. N. Drake Lester

Dear Sir,

I notice in the correspondence of the Muncie Press of your presence here as a
Judge, Hoover, G-man, and am sending a most earnest
sincere appeal to you for help in something a friend
and I was attempting to later send to Washington.
If all appeals to justice here in Muncie fail, I
am sure you should at least hear of it and re
port it to Mr. Hoover. We had even considered
trying to see President Roosevelt if possible.

We are, as no means and our mail so severely censored,
the P.O. here in Muncie we thought of getting an
appeal to you in person. There is a reign of terror
here in the S. west part of town sponsored by
Black Legion terrorists and one particular victim who is my
friend Mrs. Magdalene Louise Porter a highly intelligent
woman who had always lived as decent a life as she possible

Could with a bowdlerized race on the west side of town.

On 12th & Lampard St. were terrorized in a systematic
on 12th & Lampard St. Having everything stolen from
manner for nearly 18 yrs. having everything stolen from
openly & secretly by lies or force first her building materials
her finally her husband & house to
household goods & then finally her husband & house to

The house given her by (alas) lady decent false pictures showing her

The差不多 the house given her husband and a lower


127
Be careful when you belong to the Industrial Union. The company will try to destroy your union and your results. If you belong to the Industrial Union, you will be protected by the laws of the state. The company will try to destroy your union and your rights. If you belong to the Industrial Union, you will be protected by the laws of the state.

In the case of the strike in Chicago, the company tried to destroy the union and the workers. The company will try to destroy the union and the workers. If you belong to the Industrial Union, you will be protected by the laws of the state.

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Dear Porter,

I have written this to tell you of the danger we are in. We have been threatened by a man named Porter who lives near us. He has visited us and has threatened to kill us if we do not comply with his demands. He has asked us to leave our home and come to his. He has also threatened to kill Mrs. Porter if we do not comply.

We are in great fear and have asked for your help. We have asked for money to escape and have also asked for help to leave our home. We are in great need of your assistance.

Yours sincerely,
[Signature]
he evaded them, he was not pro-
fuse them with blindness and agonize
them. They are so revengeful and
have beaten several men to the
point of death or insanity.

members of their gang. Last
night they forced my screen
door in. They opened places about
my home windows, walls etc as
fast as I mend them. My
husband is exposed to them daily
and once after being in a closed
and was kept in hospital for
several days while the gang
terrorized Mrs. Porter's. They
are fact running my name now
by nefarious talk and doings,
but Mrs. Porter and I hold fast
to God's promise to rid this town
of this terrible gang of people.

Mrs.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. JOSEPH B. KENNAN
THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 8, 1930.

I have noted that many threatening communications containing demands for money are being forwarded and signed "The Black Legion". Inquiries conducted relative to such communications have in no instance indicated that the communications received were actually forwarded by the organization known as "The Black Legion" or by members thereof.

In the past it has been my practice to inform you in each instance of this kind that inquiries conducted were being limited to those involving the threatening communication, and that no inquiries were being conducted relative to "The Black Legion".

You are advised that in the event further communications bearing similar signatures are received, appropriate inquiries will be conducted to ascertain if there has been a violation of the Federal extortion statutes under which this Bureau conducts investigation, but that no inquiries will be conducted relative to "The Black Legion".

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Mr. James
American Falls, Idaho,

Dear Sir:

I sincerely appreciate the interest which prompted you in directing your letter to me dated October 9, 1936, with reference to the activities of the Black Legion, and with further reference to the illicit traffic in narcotics.

I regret to advise you that the matters referred to in your letter do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, for which reason it would be impossible for me to authorize any investigation in the premises.

In keeping with your request, however, you are advised that matters relating to illicit traffic in narcotics come within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau of Narcotics, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C. It is, therefore, suggested that you may desire to direct a letter to Honorable H. S. An fibers, Commissioner, Bureau of Narcotics, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
October 8, 1936.

Honorabe J. Edgar Hoover,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

This is being written to inquire whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, concerns itself with activities of the Black Legion or the illicit traffic in narcotics.

More than a year ago two organizers came to American Falls and formed a branch of the Black Legion. A dental surgeon, Dr. Hilding Beckstrom, a drug addict, was placed at the head of the local society.

Subsequently Dr. Beckstrom went to the apartment and attempted to assassinate him. He was apprehended with Dr. Beckstrom, and by the time the intruder was able to draw a .38-calibre automatic pistol from his pocket the assistant manager of the hotel arrived and prevented him from firing. Later Dr. Beckstrom was fined $25.00 for carrying a concealed weapon.

We have very good reason to believe that Beckstrom is interested in the sale of narcotics, with at least two more persons implicated. In the event that one of your investigators can be sent here we will furnish him with the names of men known to have joined the Black Legion; with the names of several drug addicts, and with evidence tending to show that drugs are being handled. We can furnish considerable information.

If your department does not investigate cases of this kind, will you please advise me as to the proper federal bureau with which to communicate?

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Circled 10/21/36
cc: Butler

RECORDED & INDEXED 7398 134

OCT 22 1936
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL McMAHON

October 14, 1936

I am in receipt of your memorandum of September 29, 1936 and have noted that all communications of a threatening nature received in the Department in the future, will be transmitted to this Bureau without unnecessary handling.

I am returning herewith the letter received in the Department from Mr. K. F. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C., dated September 16, 1936.

I am retaining the other enclosures forwarded with your memorandum.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure 1020079
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.
OFFICE

September 29, 1936

MEMORANDUM FOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, DIRECTOR,
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Transmitted herewith is a letter, dated September 16, 1936, from Chief Inspector E. P. Aldrich of the Post Office Department, inclosing three envelopes mailed at Detroit, Michigan and addressed to Mr. E. Jones, The City News Store, Charlottesville, Virginia; Mr. E. E. Sibert, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Mr. O. K. W. Howard, The Smoke Shop, Florence, South Carolina. Each of these envelopes contained an identical sheet, herewith attached, bearing a pictorial representation of a masked person posing in a manner now popularly construed to symbolize the "Black Legion".

While an examination of the envelopes and sheets in question fails to disclose a violation of any Federal law or laws, the same are being forwarded to you for consideration in connection with a recent telephone conversation had between Mr. Tamm of your Division, and Mr. Fish of this Division. This conversation concerned the possibility of routing all future threatening letters received in this Division from the Division of Records of the Department to your Division first for such finger printing purposes as may be deemed necessary before they are transmitted by you to this Division for consideration.

Mr. Tamm agreed to this procedure after it had been indicated to him that the suggestion which was made by Mr. Woll of this Division had received my approval, and that it was thought to be in line with the procedure suggested in your memorandum of August 28, last, to me concerning threatening letters received by Mr. William A. Koren, Niagara Falls, New York. As a result of this conversation, Mr. Mayhall of the Division of Records was instructed by Mr. Fish to transmit to your Division, without unnecessary handling, all future communications of a threatening nature received by the Department.

Incl. No. 785.
POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief Inspector
Washington

September 16, 1936.

The Honorable

The Attorney General,

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Attention of the Criminal Division.

Transmitted herewith are three envelopes mailed at Detroit, Michigan, addressed to Mr. E. Jones, The City News Store, Charlottesville, Virginia; Mr. E. Elberg, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Mr. O. K. Howard, The Smoke Shop, Florence, South Carolina. Each of these envelopes, which were all mailed on the same date and apparently at the same point, contains an identical sheet bearing a pictorial representation of a masked person in a pose that is now popularly construed to symbolize the "Black Legion". The addressees of these communications have complained to this Department regarding their receipt through the mails, but none of them could furnish any information as to the identity of the mailer.

The communications are not regarded as unmailable under the postal laws but with the thought that they may be of interest to your Department they are forwarded for such attention as may be deemed advisable.

Very truly yours,

For the Postmaster General,

/s/ K. P. Aldrich
Chief Inspector.

Inclosures.

P/S
Unknown

Chung

108 E. 17th St.

1963

E. M. R. M.
Mr. E. Jones
The City News Store
116 W. Main St.
Charlottesville, Va.
October 28, 1936

Mr. James H. Blissell,
City Editor,
The Lima News,
Lima, Ohio

Dear Mr. Blissell:

I have received your letter of October 21, 1936, referring to Virgil H. Effinger, alleged to be an officer of the Black Legion, and desire to advise you that this Bureau is not conducting any investigation at this time into the activities or organization of the Black Legion. For your information, the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted by law to the conducting of investigations of violations of specified Federal Statutes and the collecting of evidence in cases in which the United States is or may be a party in interest. In the absence of some indication of a violation of some Federal Statute within the Bureau's jurisdiction, the Bureau is without authority to conduct investigation in any situation and consequently has not conducted any investigation into the operations of the Black Legion and is not searching for Virgil H. Effinger.

May I suggest that the information in your possession pertaining to Virgil H. Effinger's whereabouts, be furnished to the state officers of Michigan for appropriate attention.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Edgar J. Hoover, Esq.,
Director, Bureau of Investigation,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Assuming the search for Virgil H. Effinger, Lima man reputed to be a commander of the Black Legion, is still an "active" FBI case, I am writing to inquire into two angles which you may or may not have probed and which may provide a clue as to his whereabouts.

My reporters understand payments have been continued to be paid on his automobile to The Colonial Finance Co., Lima, and that he is a recipient of a pension check monthly for service in the Spanish-American war. If this be true, especially the latter, and the checks have been cashed, a trail might be picked up through endorsements and charges of harboring brought. He should have received checks for September and October. I assume this information would be available to your office from the veterans' administr

Effinger is also reported to be a prodigal eater and we understand that the same large grocery orders are being delivered to his house as before his disappearance.

My writing you is because of the fact the city and county authorities seem to have reached a stalemate in whatever attempts they have made to locate Effinger.

I am enclosing one of the few known pictures of Effinger and which we were successful in obtaining in his "basement office" when the case first broke in Detroit.

Thanking you for anything you may be able to "crack" for us, and assuring you of our desire to work for the upholding of law and order, I am,

[Signature]

James M. Biswell
November 14, 1936.

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT
.45 Calibre Colt Automatic
Pistol, Model 1911, No. 251440
THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY.

Dear Sir:

The Washington Field Office has advised the Bureau
that Mr. E. L. Kahlert, Field Service, Ordnance Office, War
Department, has completed circularizing the nine Army Corps
Areas and the nine Ordnance arsenals and Depots for information
concerning the above described pistol, and as a result of this
circularization he was unable to locate any record relative to
the loss or theft of the above pistol.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice

Washington Field Office, Room 4244,
Washington, D. C.

October 29, 1936.

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT,
.45 calibre Colt Automatic Pistol,
Model 1911, #251440.
THIEF OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

Dear Sir:

Reference is again made to your letter dated August 27, 1936,
(Bureau File No. 61-7399) and to my letter addressed to you dated September
2, 1936.

Mr. E. L. Kahlert, Field Service, Ordnance Office, War Department,
has completed circularizing the nine Army Corps Areas and the nine Ordnance
Arsenals and Depots for information concerning the above described pistol,
and has advised that as a result of same he was unable to locate any record
referring to the loss or theft of that pistol.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

J. M. Keith,
Special Agent in Charge.

RPB:EE
52-956

[Handwritten note: Letter. Cleveland. 11/14/36]
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,
Government Detective;
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir;

According to many reports in this town, there is a very scandalous affair being carried on for the last two years at 2347 Robinwood Ave. There is a machine installed there on the third floor in which poisonous gases have been used. It is of the type that was used in the recent Italian-Ethiopian war. There are rumors that it has made many ill in the old west end.

There are a few cars with the same license numbers which have often been seen in front of this residence. For further information you might look up some Ohio numbers. Number 8364 C and 1444 C have been seen in front of this address many times. Also numbers 1566 A and 9540 B, have had passengers who were seen leaving the above address. It is considered something very secret.

Some say that it is a unit of the Black Legion, and many are of the opinion that it can kill a person instantly.

This case should command your immediate attention.

Very sincerely,

A local citizen.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Government Detective
Washington
D.C.
November 25, 1936.

Mr. Robert E. Moore,
Superintendent,
Identification Bureau,
Sheriff's Office,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

I wish to assure you of my appreciation of your letter of November 9, 1936, to which was attached data with reference to Thomas Cox and the abduction of Robert Paaland.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

CC - Detroit
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U.S. Department of Justice

1105 Mills Tower,
San Francisco, California
November 12, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

RE: BLACK LEGION

There are transmitted here-with copies of letters apparently written by one
San Francisco, California, which were sent to the Commanding General of the Presidio
of San Francisco, and also to the Division of Secret Service in San Francisco, concerning the "Black
Legion."

No active investigation in connection with this matter will be initiated, unless contrary instructions are received from the
Bureau.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Listerman

W. L. LISTERMAN,
Special Agent in Charge

WILL: MLA
Enc/2
November 24, 1936

U. S. M. Hilligan,
Inspector in Charge,
Post Office Department,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of November 24, 1936 in which you enclosed an anonymous threatening letter referred to your office by the Postmaster at Alexandria, Virginia.

I have carefully reviewed the contents of the letter and same fails to come within the purview of the Federal Statute dealing with extortion. Therefore, no action will be taken by this Bureau.

The enclosures transmitted with your letter of November 24, 1936 are returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

GUY HUTTEL,
Special Agent in Charge.

GRAMercy
ENC.

co-Bureau with enclosures

DEC 1, 1936

(Handwritten note: 61-7398-144)
United States Post Office

Alexandria, Va.
Nov. 23, 1936.

Inspector in Charge,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:

I am sending herewith a letter postmarked at Washington, D.C., Nov. 20, 8:30 p.m., 1936, addressed to Harry’s Market, 20 A Hume Ave., Alexandria, Va., which appears to be a threat, for your consideration.

Respectfully yours,

Postmaster.
We want you to get out and get out quick, if you do not we will blow your building up, or take you all for a little ride for nice little ride.

O black legion

envelope addressed: 201 Hume Ave.

Harry, Market 20A Hume Ave.

Alex, Va.
San Francisco, Calif.

November 1, 1936

Mr. Foster, Agent in Charge,
U. S. Secret Service,
San Francisco

Sir:

Thinking perhaps the U.S. Government may be making an investigation of the Black Legion, a subversive set and a menace to our democratic form of Gov't., I submit the names for possible investigation:

1) Mr. Ralph Croston, sometimes at Box 97, Castro Ave., Mt. View, Calif. (his aunt, Mrs. S. Thomas' place) and sometimes elsewhere in San Francisco, etc. (a former KKK member, etc.)

2) Mr. Bill Hall, croony of #1, sometimes at Box 97, Castro Ave., Mt. View, Calif.

3) Mrs. Myra Zimbick (an aunt of #1 to whom Mrs. S. Thomas was heard to say: "Well, I think the KKK is all right if they make them work." (Poole was a WPA worker and union men as you doubtless know have been attacked by the Black Legion).

Hatred of Jews; Cathédics (covertly) Negroes, etc., is strong amongst these elements — also an unwarranted desire to reform united with corruption.

Yours for the preservation of American democracy and general decency,

(signed)
 COPY

November 1, 1936

San Francisco, California

Gen. Simonds,
Commanding 9th Corps Area
Presiding of San Francisco

Sir:

It is understood the Black Legion is active in these parts and so, thinking the Army may wish to or actually be engaged in combating these potential, if not already in fact traitors to our government, and cruel torturers of innocent U. S. Citizens, I submit the following as suspects to be investigated:

(1) Mr. Ralph Croston (former KKK Member, last known to be at his aunt's place, Box 97, Castro Ave., Mt. View, Calif.)

(2) Mr. Bill Hall, (ohum, if not fellow member of Black Legion, of 1) Box 97, Castro Ave., Mt. View, Cal. (a native of the south)

(3) Mrs. Myra Zimbrick (aunt of 1) to whom Mrs. Thomas was heard to say recently: "Well, I think the KKK are all right if they make them work." (Chea. Poole, WPA worker was killed by Black Legion and union men have also been killed as you doubtless know.)

Yours for the preservation of American democracy and law,

(signed) [Signature]

Clifford
ATTENTION: TECHNICAL LABORATORY

November 27, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D.C.

Re: BLACK LEGION; NIGHT RIDERS;
BULLET CLUB;
Miscellaneous - Confidential

Dear Sir:

There are attached hereto two typewritten letters, one post-marked August 14, 1936, at 5:30 P.M., addressed to Dr. Albert Phillips, 418 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio, and reading:

"Dr. Albert Phillips we demand that you arrange at once to have Alba E. Kelley T.B. allowance restored to him at once. And restore it from March 1936. If you don't we are going to take you for a ride, and you may never return.

Signed Black Legion"

The other letter is postmarked August 14, 1936, at 5:00 P.M., addressed to Dr. Z.T. Wirschafter, 418 Keith Building, Cleveland, Ohio, and reads:

"Dr. Wirschafter we demand that you arrange at once to have Alba E. Kelley T.B. allowance restored to him at once. And have it restored to him from March first 1936. If you don't we are going to take you for a ride. And you may never return.

Signed Black Legion"

It is requested that the Technical Laboratory examine the attached letters and ascertain the make and style of typewriter used and such other information as will be of value in the investigation of this case. It is also requested that the letters be processed for fingerprints; in this connection it should be remembered that the attached letters were received by Dr. Phillips and Dr. Wirschafter on August 15, 1936.

very truly yours,

[Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

CES/1rl
Enclosures (2)

red - Indianapolis
Technical Lab.
FROM: Technical Laboratory

TO: Single Fingerprint Section

Case Number: 6

No latent fingerprints developed

Iodine prints developed on __________________________

Silver nitrate prints on __________________________

Identiscopic negatives attached hereto.

REMARKS:

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

________________________________________

E. P. Coffey

Examiner.
Laboratory Report

Case: Black Legion; Night Riders;
      Bullet Club;
      Miscellaneous-Confidential

Specimens: 61-7398-145
   1. One typewritten letter beginning "Mr. Albert Phillips**
   2. One envelope postmarked South Bend, Ind. 2 Aug 14, 1935 PM
   3. One typewritten letter beginning "Dr. Wirthschafter we**
   4. One envelope postmarked South Bend, Ind. 2 Aug 14, 1936 5 PM addressed to Dr. Z. T. Wirthschafter.

Examination requested by: Cleveland

Date received: 12-3-36 (9:00 AM ft) (12-4-36 9:00 A.M. chp)

Examination requested: Document-Fingerprint

Result of examination: Also letter developed

Examination by: Lovett
                Potter

cc-Indianapolis
December 15, 1936

Dear Sir:

With reference to Laboratory Report #112926, in connection with the above entitled case, there are transmitted herewith photographic copies of the following specimens which your office submitted for examination:

61-7398-145 Q1 through Q4

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #1065099
December 8, 1936.

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Black Legion; Night Riders;
Bullst Club;
Miscellaneous - Confidential.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau December 3, 1936.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure: S1106457
cc: Indianapolis

DEC 9 - 1936
Specimens:
Q1. One typewritten letter beginning: "Mr. Albert Phillips—".
Q2. One envelope postmarked, "South Bend, Indiana, 2, August 14, 1936, 5 p. m."
Q3. One typewritten letter beginning: "Dr. Mischrafter we—".
Q4. One envelope postmarked, "South Bend, Indiana, 2, August 14, 1936, 5 p. m." addressed to "Dr. Z. T. Mischrafter".

Examination requested by: Cleveland

Date received: 12-3-36

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Result of examination: Examination by: Lovett

From a comparison of the typewriting on the instant envelopes and enclosures designated as specimens 145 Q1 through Q4, the conclusion has been reached that they were all typewritten on the same machine.

Due to certain similarities of the letters of the typewriting on the questioned specimens, the conclusion has been reached that the original letters were typewritten on a typewriter equipped with Underwood Pica style type spaced ten letters to the inch. It is probable that this style of type was placed on Underwood machines subsequent to 1927. Also, this style of type was placed on both the Underwood standard and portable typewriters.

The sheet designated as 145 Q1 has a white linen finish, measures approximately 5x5.8", and was evidently torn from a tablet or bound pad as indicated by red wax or binding material at the top of the sheet. Also, this sheet was torn from a larger sheet to the approximate dimensions as given above. The envelope designated as specimen Q2 is plain white, has a smooth finish, and measures approximately 5x3.2". This envelope has a bond texture. The sheet designated as specimen Q3 has a linen finish, measures approximately 5x5", has a wave texture, and was probably torn from a tablet as evidenced by the presence of red binding material along the top edge. The envelope designated as specimen Q4 is plain white, has a smooth finish, and measures approximately 5x3.2". None of the above specimens contains a watermark.

RECORDED & INDEXED
DEC 16 1936
The original evidence was treated for the development of latent fingerprints but none was developed.

A photographic copy of the letters will be placed in the Laboratory's anonymous letter file for comparison purposes. In the event an identification is effected your office will be notified.

Photographic copies of the specimens submitted will be forwarded to your office within the next several days.

THE ORIGINAL EVIDENCE WHICH WAS SUBMITTED IS BEING RETAINED IN THE LABORATORY FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATIONS WHICH MAY BE DESIRED. SHOULD YOUR OFFICE DESIRE THIS ORIGINAL EVIDENCE FOR USE IN ANY SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS WHICH MAY DEVELOP THE BUREAU SHOULD BE NOTIFIED IN AMPLE TIME TO PERMIT TRANSMITTAL.

1-Bureau
1-Cleveland
1-Indianapolis
1-Laboratory
December 18, 1936

Mr. Hoover,

Quite some time ago, there was a piece in the paper about a colored man, being burned in his home. This crime was committed by the B.L. The man, who was in charge, was the man who was repeatedly named as the head of the B.L. in several states. He is middle age, squat, with a pouch. The

wore as old-fashioned "old

crown Derby hat, short suit, white shirt, white socks, bow

1936

index

Dec. 31 1936

from

166
The lad with him, at least five boys, the three night ago, I saw a other
sort of insane delight.
The house had a box-like
front of red brick. The little
barn built onto it, was
of wood and jutted out
at the right; one side
the entrance to the barn
and the other to the house.
One of the boys did some
thing in the corner of the
touse and barn, and then
they made a chain and
tip tied over to the other
corner, where a second
lad is still going on. Two
was all wood, and poor
in the first. There was
man, with a black
bell cap on his head
the lad, what looked to
a small balloon, mad
of strong canvas. On the
end was a drill, and
he was drifting a hot
in the back wall, and
after that releasing
some poison gas, or at
deadly humor, turni
This is only a few nights ago, so perhaps the poor man or women, has not even been found. On both nights there was no moon.
ASSAULTED FOUNDER
OF "LEgION" IS DEAD

Isaac (Peg Leg Stull) White, Held
as First Head of Detroit Cult

Is Victim of Pneumonia.

By the Associated Press.

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 21.—
Isaac (Peg Leg Stull) White, ar-
rested as the founder of the "Black
Legion of Michigan, died at a hos-
pital yesterday of complications
arising from lobar pneumonia.

White died without talking about
his activities in the Black Legion,
of which he was said to have been
the first brigadier general.

White was one of twenty-two al-
leged members of the Black Legion
indicted in Detroit several months
ago on charges of criminal syndi-
cates.

NEW YORK WORLD-TELEGRAM
Forwarded by New York Office

DEC 21 1936
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: In accordance with instructions contained in letter of reference, further investigation to be carried on in case entitled, UNKNOWN SUBJECTS: Dr. Z. T. Witschaefer; Albert Phillips, Victims, EXTORTION.

Bureau file No. 9-2242. Therefore, this case is being considered.

REFERENCE: Bureau letter dated December 24, 1936, Bureau file No. 9-2242.

DETAILS: Pending investigative activity in this matter is, in accordance with suggestion contained in reference letter, to be carried on in case entitled, UNKNOWN SUBJECTS: Dr. Z. T. Witschaefer; Albert Phillips - Victims, EXTORTION.

Therefore, this case is being considered.

CLOSED.
Mr. Paul E. Enstrom, Superintendent,
Lincoln County Schools,
Box 506,
North Platte, Nebraska.

Dear Mr. Enstrom:

In acknowledging your undated letter received here on January 4, 1937, I wish to advise you that this Bureau has no prepared pamphlets or other information with respect to the Black Legion.

Matters pertaining to the Black Legion do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, for which reason data of the type requested by you are not available.

I can only suggest that you might obtain the desired information from Mr. Fred W. Frahn, Superintendent of Police, Detroit, Michigan and Mr. Oscar G. Olander, Commissioner, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan.

The self-addressed, stamped envelope forwarded with your communication is being returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Department of Justice
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs:

Could you send immediately pamphlets and substantial information concerning the criminal disclosures of the workings of the "Black Legion" in the United States at large?

We would especially like to know the exposures of this organization in the state of Michigan.

If you could give us other references or other places where information could be procured we would appreciate it.

Yours Sincerely

P. E. Estes

To Sup't. Lincoln County, Neb.
To be used for Educational Purposes

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7398-149

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JAN 4 1937 P. M.
Mr. J. E. Hoover
Chief U.S. Bureau of Investigation.

Toledo Ohio
Jan 19, 1937

Dear Sir:

I am submitting this letter to you for you to think deeply before you go to far in your investigation of this Legion of Americans, or as the press will call it the "Black Legion." I am submitting this letter to you, to bring to your attention the principles of this Legion of Americans as I understand it. I am also sending you The Bloody Oath of the Knights Of Columbus, as printed from the Congressional Record, Sixty Second Congress, Third Session, (Vol. 49, No. 50. P.P. 5251-5287, February 15, 1915.)

The above you will find printed on the top of the oath. I want you to compare the oath you have of the Legion of Americans or as they call it The Black Legion, with the K of C oath, and think in your own mind which is the most dangerous to this great Republic of the United States of America.

Every Protestant Organization that has ever been formed, has been broken by direct or indirect means by some unqualified people, you know it is the same with some few organizations such as Masonic, Knights of Pythias, and Odd Fellows, a few others. Even now as you can see in their Oath, they are against anything that is Protestant & all Protestant people wherever they may be. No organization should be blamed for what some criminal that is a member's do. You take the trouble that was in Detroit Mich, If you will note who was in charge of the investigation, you can see if you are broad 

I think you are, and you can judge for yourself that they are just trying to break up another Protestant organization, that had its foundation Principles of Genuine Protestant American Citizens, that choose to keep their Republic as it was founded, Now in Toledo Ohio, Lucas County, who is at the instigator of the investigation, who is causing all this trouble about the organization of Legion of Americans or as called the Black Legion, It is a must of being called an American, Mr. Francis Murphy. I am asking you to give me any way to investigate Mr. Francis Murphy, and his League Against War. It is known that he was teaching Communism in the Recreation Room of the W.P.A. Drawing his Compensation from the United States Government.

I only hope that you will do all that is in your power for the Good American People, before it is too late. This man Mr. Lyman, Mr. (Buck) Deary is one of the most Patriotic Men in America to day, His Father was a Civil Veteran. He also has served in a Great American War, was also a Mounted Officer on the Pennsylvania Police Force, in Troop B stationed at Wyo, also on the Mounted Force of the City of Toledo Ohio, His Men tried in every possible to Reorganize this Legion in Ohio. He was Deposed and Disgraced for what he was doing, and try to help all men and put the organization on a more firm American foundation, with all the Just Principles that belong to all Free men transform by Almighty God to the Great Spirit of all mankind, wherever they may be. I am telling you and all the rest of the Protestant People, about the fact that he gets his Job back and in good standing, instead of destroying his good character and standing in this Community and the world. Mr. Murphy was lied to, He never had his life placed against him in his 19 year as a Police Officer of Toledo. I only hope that you won't be led by the Alien Minded People against his Great American Principles.

Respectfully Your's

Anonymous Communication
KEEP ENVELOPE ATTACHED
FEDERAL BUREAU

The letter is handwritten and appears to be a personal communication from an anonymous source, mentioning a previous letter with a return address in Toledo, Ohio, regarding the Black Legion and its comparison to the Knights of Columbus. The writer expresses concern over the influence and activities of the Black Legion and its members. The letter concludes with a request for action to investigate Mr. Francis Murphy and his League Against War, emphasizing the importance of upholding American values and principles.

THE FOLLOWING IS MY DECLARED PRINCIPLES. ALWAYS WERE AND ALWAYS SHALL BE.

I believe in Almighty God, the Great Spirit, who is the Creator and preserver of the Universe, and all that is in them is. And also in his Son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, and in the Holy Bible his revealed will for all mankind in this world. I believe in private judgment, and freedom of opinion, as established by Martin Luther in the beginning of the Reformation, and carried on by the Protestant people the world over. This intelligence establishes good government and the perpetuity of good government wherever it may be established. All public schools are very essential to the safety and good government of any state or nation. That any person or persons, disloyal to our form of representative government, or our public schools, should be severely dealt with by the bar of justice, that the forcing of any citizen in the exercise of his constitutional rights, under the guise of political, spiritual, or religious authority, should be punished by the supreme bar of justice of this great Republic of the United States of America, with the severest punishment that can deal out to them. I believe it is the born duty of every citizen of the United States of America, to defend our declaration of independence, our constitution, and the bar of justice, and all our institutions keeping them clean of all corrupt influences, and against all assailants, whether by word of mouth, or propaganda, or with arms from within or without. That our heart of freedom may be passed on to our posterity unimpaired. The way our forefathers intended it to remain. I shall always cherish the memories of the noble men of all ages, and of whatever country that have fought for and caused to be established, civil, and religious liberty, with the freedom of thought and action to any people. The names of these great and noble men are an inspiration and untiring vigilance in upholding these institutions. That were purchased by the blood and treasure of our forefathers in this great land of freedom. The constitution of these United States of America, and our declaration of independence, and our bar of justice, is what I uphold and teach to any one inside of any organization, and the just principles therein taught. I have no secret principles, or no hidden aims, it is all on the surface, open and broad. God Almighty the Great Spirit, in purity and justice, for the Universal Life of every man, woman, and child, of Almighty God this great spirit wherever it may be. To propagate these principles all the peoples of this United States of America, should be united by a solemn oath of honor, friendship, truth, righteousness, virtue, industry, and patriotism. That our heritage of freedom may not be taken away by such false doctrines as communists, bolshevism, nazism, facism, or any other kind of lies from within or without. The people of this country have ruled themselves for over 150 years and are well able to continue that duty. Till Gabriel blows his horn, all the people must shoulder to shoulder, with the ballot or otherwise, if necessary. To uphold our constitution, declaration of independence, and our great bar of justice, which gives us freedom of thought and action. This we should be never taken away from our people in this United States of America. I shall fight for the above principles at any time it should become necessary.

We in this country are bound by birth to uphold these principles in our state of any organization whatsoever.

Respectfully submitted to all the people of this Republic of the United States of America.

United Spanish War Veteran.

Egbert Camp # 10
Los Angeles, California
January 19, 1937

S. D. Alger, Special Agent in Charge, United States Treasury Department, Los Angeles, California.

I am authorized to reply to your letter of January 14, 1937, in which you advised that the Los Angeles Police Department, at the request of Mr. Harry C. Warner, has offered to give assistance in the case of the motion picture "Black Legion," which it was alleged was copyrighted in violation of the copyright laws.

In my conversation with Mr. Matthews he recalled that at the time the motion picture was in production and on an occasion when I was at the Warner Bros. Studio at Burbank, the director of the picture, Mr. May, had stated that a number of people had protested against the production of the picture and had written to Mr. Warner suggesting that he might obtain the services of Mr. May, stating that Mr. May might be displeased at the film being produced. It is possible that Mr. May might have obtained the services of Mr. Warner for this reason.

I shall try to obtain any information along the line of the above that would be of assistance.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Harris
Special Agent in Charge
February 10, 1937

Mr. Robert F. Jones,
Prosecuting Attorney,
Allen County,
1000 Lima Trust Building,
Lima, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am in receipt of your letter of January 28, 1937, requesting the aid of this Bureau in apprehending Virgil K. Effinger, who is wanted at Detroit, Michigan, on a charge of criminal syndicalism. It is noted that Effinger is apparently hiding out at Lima and may be receiving protection from local officials.

Please be advised that the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, is restricted to the investigation of violations of specific Federal laws. As the facts set forth in your letter do not appear to relate to any violation of a Federal law coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, I regret that no active investigation can be made in this matter. I shall be pleased, however, to place a wanted notice in the Identification files of this Bureau so that you will be notified in case any information concerning Effinger is received. If such action is desired, it is respectfully requested that you furnish the full name of Effinger, his description, and his photograph and a copy of his fingerprints if available.

Assuring you of my desire to cooperate with you in all matters of mutual interest, I am

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
January 28, 1937

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am concerned with the apprehension of Virgil S. Effinger, who is wanted on a charge of Criminal Syndicalism in Detroit, Michigan. He has been extradited and a warrant issued by the Governor of the State of Ohio to the Sheriff of Allen County and he has not been apprehended since the warrant was issued in August.

There is a great amount of rumor in this vicinity that members of the police department and high city officials are members of the Black Legion. For this reason rumors prevail that Effinger is hid in the city of Lima and reports come to this office from reputable sources that he has been seen on the city streets. It is needless to discuss the effect upon respect of the people of Lima for the police department with this sort of stigma attached to them.

Mrs. [Received redacted] leased a home to him several years ago which is now vacant, and a letter came to Effinger at that address and she has possession of the letter. I have not taken this matter up with the local postal inspector, hoping that your department could be of some help to us in locating him. She will hold the letter, per my instructions, and if you decide that it will be of any probative value and that you can help in this matter I will forward it to you.

Let me say again I sincerely request that you help locate Virgil S. Effinger because of the widespread effect upon law enforce-ment in this community failure to locate him has. This is a situation which you can readily see county officials cannot cope with and the membership of the Black Legion is reputed to be so large in this section that one cannot hazard a guess as to whom might be depended upon.

Yours very truly,

Robert Jones
Prosecuting Attorney
Allen County, Ohio
Mr. Don Y. Fisyer,
Box 57,
Gary, New York.

Dear Mr. Fisyer:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of February 2, 1937 with reference to an advertisement appearing in a column of the "Yanktown Morning Post" relative to the Black Legion.

Please be advised that the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau is limited to certain specific Federal offenses, and the matter referred to in your letter does not come within the jurisdiction of this Bureau.

Thanking you for your interest in the Bureau,

I am,

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Buffalo

(Copy of advertisement attached)
MR. J. EDGAR HOOVER. CHIEF DEPT. JUSTICE.
WASHINGTON.
D.C.
The Want Ads Serve

Automotive

Classified Advertising
Received Until 9 P.M.

1924 Chev. Coach, radio, hot water heater, electric fan, good rubber, cash price $200. 25 McDaniel after 7 P.M.


EXCEPTIONAL USED CAR BUYS WITH GUARANTEED MILEAGE

36 Plymouth Tudor, 7,000 miles
34 Airflow 6 C. Sedan, 12,000 miles
34 Plymouth Del. Sedan 15,000
33 Chrysler Sedan, 18,000 miles
32 Pontiac Coach, 2,000 miles
32 Plymouth Coupe, R. S.
32 Ford Del. Coach
32 Dodge 6 Pass. Coupe
31 Ford Coach
30 Ford Coupe

Many more light cheap cars will good transportation

GLENN NEWHOUSE,
CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH
SHERMAN, N. Y.
PHONE 82-A

SAFETY TESTED USED CARS

1926 OLDSMOBILE 4 COUPE
1926 OLDSMOBILE 2 COACH
1926 CHEVROLET 2 SEDAN
1926 CHEVROLET COACH
1926 FORD DELUXE SEDAN
1926 Plymouth COUPE
1926 FORD DELUXE COUPE
1926 FORD DELUXE SEDAN
1926 OLDSMOBILE 2 SEDAN
1926 PLYMOUTH COUPE
1926 OLDSMOBILE COUPE
1926 CHEVROLET COUPE DELUXE
1925 ESSEX COACH
1925 REO SEDAN

TRUCKS

1924 DODGE DELUXE PANEL
1921 FORD A, EDWARD DELIVERY
1921 CHEVROLET 1 1/2 TON CHASSIS AND CAB
1925 INTERNATIONAL PICKUP

Easy Terms Easy Payments

NEW ENGLAND BUILDING

OLDENMOBILE SALES & SERVICE
FORD REPAIRS
G. M. C. TRUCKS
COVERED WAGON CAMP

Washington at Tenth St.
Phone 477

Auto Accessories 3A
AUTO GLASS installed at lower prices

Business Service

Dressmaking, Millinery, 50A
FUR COLLARS RESTYLED by expert furrier, Landy Bros. Phone 2747.

Employment

Help Wanted—Female. 22
GIRL wanted for part time housework, and living on South side preferred. References required. Write Box T-70 Jamestown Post.

WANTED: All women and girls interested in their future to learn mysteries and powers of the Black Legion. Do not remain in ignorance. See Committee 116 E. 3d St. Sunday 1 P.M.

WANTED—Competent young lady with at least several years experience as bookkeeper in an industrial establishment, as assistant bookkeeper. If you truly reply give full particulars, covering previous employment, salary and age.

WANTED: Experienced beauty operator with following in first class shop. W. E. 57 Jamestown Post.

WANTED—Girl or woman for general housework. Stay nights. 272 S. Main St. Address Z-70 Jamestown Post.

WIDOWER wishes middled-aged or older Christian lady as housekeeper. Good Address. X-70 Jamestown Post.

Help Wanted—Male

EXPERIENCED salesman, local work. Leads furnish 75% of salary; must be able earn $400 monthly. Phone 56-864 evenings.

I WILL select men to train for Electric Refrigerator and Conditioning positions. No experience necessary. Write Miss McCon- nell, Electric Refrigeration Box R-70 Jamestown Post.


WANTED—Red blooded men to learn mysteries and powers of Black Legion! Don't remain in ignorance! See Committee 116 E. 3d St. Sunday 1 P.M.

WANTED—Middle-aged man for farm, single, reliable, good, and willing. Address. N-70 Jamestown Post.

WANTED—Man, with car, between the ages 25-40 years. Applicant will be tried and the collection and sales division of our business under personal training and direction of experienced manager. Drawing account against sales commission also collecting commission paid while learning. Position temporary. Apply 325 No. Main, Mr. Walsh or Mr. Clymer.

WANTED—Licensed pharmacist for full time job. Write D-70

Live Stock

Horses, Cattle, Vehicles

1923 YEARLING-Hereford. Trueman, Phone Panama 29. J. S.

EXPRESS LOAD OF ILL HORSES ON SALE THIS WEEK. FROM KENNEDY-ELLINGTON ROAD. HEAD OF AS GOOD THICK CHUNKS AND BIG HOUSES AS YOU HAVE SEEN IN MANY A DAY. I BOUGHT THESE HORSES MYSELF, DIRECT FROM FARMERS IN FULTON AND NOX COUNTY IN ILL. THIS LOAD IS A PAIR OF REAL DARK DAPPLED GREY GELDINGS THAT WOULD SUIT THE MOST CRITIC. ONE 1 PR. FROST WHITE GELDINGS, WT. 2,400 LBS, SOME SINGLE, MARES IN FOAL AND SOME MATCHED TRAMS OF MARES. 1 FLASHY COLORED PAIR OF THICK ROAM GELDINGS WITH BLAZE FACES AND WHITE MARKINGS, AND 1 BLACK AND WHITE SPOTTED GELDING. ALL HORSES WEIGH FROM 1,400 TO 1,600 LBS EACH. THEY NEVER SAW THE STOCK YARD AND THEY MUST SATISFY. F. H. ANDER- SON, KENNEDY, N. Y. PH. 22-F.

Poultry and Supplies

COAL, oil and electric brooders, batteries of all kinds. Lakeside Poultry Erich, Lakewood Ph. 3731. GOOD FEEDS and FONN Cwts low price. Buy these from Anderson Milker Co., 1372 E. 2d

LAYENA CHECKERS will help you get more eggs at the same price. Just Feed & Supply, Ph. 84-322

POULTRY EQUIPMENT—Deere egg production. Use of proper poultry equipment. Falconer Milling Co., Falconer, N. Y.

Merchandise

Articles for Sale

1925 BUYS and sells and exchanges household and office furniture, machinery, electric motors, selling, and store fixtures, etc. Surplus and Salvage Co., 760 Second St., near Winnar. Ph. 3763

FOR SALE—Heavy double work harness, A-1 condition. Inq. 27 Carlisle St.

FOR SALE—Dent Grove germ, on good ground. Marvin Hawley, Freewater, N. Y.

NEW and NEW household goods. Living room suites 189.00 up. Folding beds and kitchen ranges. Other household goods. At bargain prices. Lobbeck's, 18 Harri-
COPY OF ADVERTISEMENT APPEARING IN February 2, 1937
ISSUE OF JAMESTOWN MORNING POST IN "HELP WANTED - MALE"
COLUMN.

WANTED—Red blooded men to learn mysteries and powers
of Black Legion. Learn now! Don't remain in ignorance!
See Committee 116 E. 3d St. Sunday 1 P.M.
Feb 2nd, 37

Mrs. Mr. Edgar Hoover, Chief Dept. Justice.

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing a part of the Morning Post, a daily paper of Jamestown, N.Y. and while looking over the Male help want column, I noticed the enclosed ad, which I marked around with ink, I have read some not so long ago about the black legions activities and I did not think it sounded so good, so I thought maybe they were trying to get new members, of course it may all be legitimate but I just thought I would mail you this ad, in case that you did want to investigate their doings. This ad, was in today's issue Feb 2nd.

RECORDED & INDEXED

Yours Resp.

Bow E. Fisher
Former Constable
Black Legion Probed by La Follette Group

DETROIT, April 21 (By International News Service) — The La Follette Civil Liberties Committee is investigating the origin of the Black Legion, it was learned today after the Senate investigators came here to probe labor espionage tactics in automobile plants.

The committee's agents, it was determined, also were seeking to uncover instances where the civil liberties statutes had been violated by the black-robed night riders.

Disclosure of the Laffollette committee had turned its searchlight into activities of the clan when two investigators of the committee appeared at police headquarters and discussed the background of the terrorist cult with detectives who had worked on the case.

5 GUILTY OF PLOT.

Disclosure of the probe was coincident with the trial in Circuit Court of five alleged members of the Black Legion. Judge John J. Maher today found the five guilty of conspiring to break up a political campaign meeting conducted by Maurice Sugar, labor attorney, in 1936.

Sugar since has become the attorney for the United Automobile Workers Union.

At that time, however, the Black Legion had pledged its members through a "blood oath" to fight Communism, and it was charged the five Black Legionnaires convicted today had tried to break up the rally because they believed Sugar was a Communist.

FACE 1 TO 5 YEARS.

Those convicted of the plot against Sugar were Arthur Lupp, reputed former Michigan commander of the Black Legion; Wilbur Robinson, Roy Hepner, Alvis Clark and Leslie Black. The latter was a former Common Pleas Court clerk.

Judge Maher said he would pass sentence next week. The convicted men face sentences of from one to five years in jail.

The La Follette committee's sudden interest in the Black Legion also recalled that some members of the night riders had once worked in automobile plants, and that the Legion had been active in recruiting members from among auto workers.

NEW YORK EVENING JOURNAL
Forwarded by New York Office
APR 21 1937
Mr. Leland Simpson,
A. E. Howe School,
Howe, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 19, 1937. I regret to advise you that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not in a position to furnish you with any data concerning the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,
For the Director,

Harold Nathan,
Assistant Director.

CC - Indianapolis
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Dept. of Justice
Washington D.C.

Dear Sirs:

A few months ago a certain group of men calling themselves the Black Legion were exterminated. I wonder if you would send me all available information on this subject.

Respectfully yours,

Leland Simpson

Leland L. Simpson

Recorded & Indexed

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FEB 12 1937
A.M.
1:00
ATTY. GENERAL
OFFICE OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ONE TWO FIVE THREE
FILE
NINE GUILTY IN BLACK LEGION MURDER PLOT

Detroit, March 2 (U.P.)—Nine members of the terrorist Black Legion were found guilty today of conspiring to murder Arthur L. Kingsley, Highland Park publisher, during 1933 and 1934.

Records Judge John V. Brennan acquitted seven other members of the hooded order.

Judge Brennan sitting as both judge and jury in the trial, found the following guilty: Arthur L. Linn, Brigadier General of the Black Legion; N. Ray Markman, former Highland Park Mayor; Roy Benner, Colonel in the Black Legion; Alex Clark, Frank Howard; Rudyard Kipling, Wellman, William

NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Forwarded by New York Office
MAR 3 - 1937

NOT RECORDED
February 10, 1937

Mr. J. P. MacFarland,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
U. S. Department of Justice,
444 5th Avenue Building,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Re: Unknown Subjects: Doctor Z. T. Wirthshafter; Albert Phillips - Victims; Extortion.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above-entitled matter and received in the Bureau February 1, 1937.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover,
Director

Enclosure: #1053824

cc - Indianapolis

REGISTERED MAIL
Laboratory Report

February 19, 1937

Case: 53-5845-0

Unknown Subjects: Doctor E. T., Wirschatzer, Albert Phillips

Victim: Extortion

Specimen: One sheet typewritten letter typed on a typewriter in the possession of A. L. Gordon, KS. Two sheets typewritten letter typed on a typewriter in the possession of C. B. Worley, KS. One sheet typewritten letter typed on a typewriter in the possession of the Station Agent of the Monon Railroad Station, Monon, Indiana. Two mimeographed sheets in the handwriting of Alba B. Kelly.

Examination requested by: Cleveland

Date received: 2/2/37

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination: Examination by: Pickering

The two extortion letters to Doctor E. T., Wirschatzer and Albert Phillips were not written on any one of these three typewriters.

The sheets of paper listed as 14 differ in texture from the two extortion letters.

The original evidence listed as specimens 9-5845-0 11, 12, 13 and 14 is being returned herewith, photographic copies having been made for the supplementation of the laboratory's files.

- Bureau (1 - 61-7398)
- Cleveland
- Laboratory (1 - 61-7398) RECORDED
- Indianapolis

INDEXED:

FEB. 28, 1937

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
March 9, 1937

Hon. Walter Johnson
Post Office Inspector in Charge
New Post Office Building
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

I am returning herewith the letter and envelope which you forwarded with your letter of March 4, 1937, and which was addressed to Mr. Herman Behrke, East Franklin Street, Portage, Wisconsin.

Inasmuch as this letter does not contain any demand for money, same does not fall under the jurisdiction of this Bureau and no investigation is being conducted thereof.

Very truly yours,

D. H. Ladd
Special Agent in Charge
Mr. Herman Behnke,
East Franklin Street,
Portage, Wisc.
Black Legion Div. No. 7.

Feb, 28, 1937.

Mr. Herman Behnke,
Portage, Wis.

Dear Sir-

Maybe you don't know what the Black Legion is. Well you are hearing of them and from them - NOW.

For your information we wish to inform you that there are one hundred and twenty-one members of our order in your city. They recently requested some outside members to come into the city and obtain the consensus of public opinion regarding the manner in which you have been damaging your premises by digging a hole in the front and other ways in which you have failed to be a good citizen.

The committee quietly and secretly questioned six hundred and ninety-four taxpayers, all of whom agreed that you should be driven out of town and made to stay out unless you keep your premises in far better condition than you have hence-to-fore.

They found that you are guilty of violating four city ordinances:
1. You continue to permit noxious weeds to grow on your premises.
2. You fail to keep your sidewalks free from snow after each storm.
3. You have rented your two stall brick garage for industrial purposes violating City Zoning Ordinance.
4. You have dug and maintained an unsightly hole in the front of your premises without consent of the Fire Chief.

The Black Legion hereby notifies you to fill that hole, work to start not later than April 5th 1937. To sod the entire front of your property and to keep the entire lawn mowed same as other respectable people. To order your garage tenant to remove immediately all trash outside the building and keep the ground around it neat and free from junk.

Should you fail to comply with this demand on or before April 5th and have the hole properly filled not later than May 1st, the Black Legion will then use its own discretion as to the kind of punishment to administer be it fitting a man of your type.

Remember dynamite is cheap.

Black Legion Committee of Thirteen.
March 5, 1937.

61-798 -157

Mr. Robert F. Jones,
Prosecuting Attorney,
Allen County,
1008 Lima Trust Building,
Lima, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Jones:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated
February 26, 1937, enclosing two pictures of Virgil T. Effinger.

As stated in my letter of February 10, 1937, the
investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted, and I
regret that the Bureau is unable to comply with your request to
publish a wanted notice for Effinger.

If you will furnish a complete description of Effinger,
a wanted notice will be placed in the files of the Identification
Division of this Bureau, and you will then be advised should any
information be received concerning his whereabouts.

Very truly yours,
For the Director,

Harold Nathan,
Assistant Director.

MAR 5 - 1937
C.P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
J. Edgar Hoover, Director,
Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I enclose two pictures of Virgil Affinger. The small print of his face is a half-tone proof of a cut. The photograph was not available. This picture was used in 1932 when Affinger ran for Sheriff. The other picture is the last picture that was taken of Affinger in the basement of his home.

Under separate cover I am sending two dyes or casts of newspaper pictures, one used in the campaign of 1934 and the other one is a side view. I do not know the date that this last picture was taken.

I hope that you can use this material to circularize a "wanted" card for Affinger.

Yours very truly,

Prosecuting Attorney
Allen County, Ohio
J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
EMH: NCL
April 16, 1937
61-7998-158

Miss Marjorie Hoffmann,
River Vale Road,
Westwood, New Jersey,

Dear Miss Hoffmann:

In answer to your communication dated April 12, 1937, I must advise that I do not have available for distribution the information which you request. I am pleased, however, to enclose copies of the following Bureau publications which you may find of value:

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation
- The Selection and Training of Personnel
- Criminal Identification and the Functions of the Identification Division
- The Technical Laboratory
- Uniform Crime Reports, Volume 7, No. 4
- Uniform Crime Reports, Volume 8, No. 4
- National Crime

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
April 12, 1937

John Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Dear Mr. Hoover,

As a student in sociology I am greatly interested in your work in combating crime in our country. I have been greatly interested in the Black Legion gang.

Will you kindly send me information about them? Hoping you will approve this letter, I am

Sincerely,

(Miss) Manonica Hoffmann

[Handwritten date: 4-16-37]
June 28, 1937

Special Agent in Charge,
Cleveland, Ohio.

RE: Unknown Subjects;
Doctor Z. T. Wirtschaftler, Albert
Phillips - Victim; Extortion.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report
covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office
in connection with the above entitled matter and received in
the Bureau June 8, 1937.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]
John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure: #1005149

cc: Indianapolis
Examination requested by:

Date received:

Examination requested:

Result of examination:

It has been concluded that the letters listed on the attached sheet were written with an L. C. Smith typewriter equipped with #2 Max type, the letters being spaced ten to the inch. This style of type was common between January, 1924 and July, 1933.

This is not the same typewriter as that used to write the letters previously received by Doctor Wirthschafter and Albert Phillips and is identified with any of the other typewriter specimens which have been previously submitted to the Laboratory.

Specimen C1 measures approximately 5 x 7½, having been torn across top and bottom. The paper bears a linear finish and has no watermark. Specimen C2 measures approximately 9 1/2 x 6 1/2”, is of plain white envelope, C3 measures approximately 9 1/2 x 6 1/2”, is of plain white envelope, C4 is similar to C2. These envelopes are similar to the envelopes of letters previously received.

The letters and envelopes were treated for latent fingerprints and were developed.

Photographic copies of the evidence submitted are being sent herewith.

Photographic copies of the submitted specimens will be placed in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's fingerprint file for comparison purposes and if an identity is made your office will be notified.
Specimens: 9-2212-161

81. Typewritten letter beginning "Mr. I. T. Wirscheafter this is su---"

82. Envelope postmarked "Indianapolis, Indiana, 4, May 31, 1937, 7:30 P.M.", addressed to Mr. I. T. Wirscheafter.

83. Typewritten letter beginning "Mr. Albert Phillips this is su---"


Fingerprints of the following for elimination:

Harlan A. Kellogg
Martin H. Leppert
Roy D. Powers
George J. Oehler
William W. Kelley
Jr. D. Bollinger
George W. Hawley

Charles S. McCarthy
Harold G. Heise
Frank B. Reede
Louis D. Hudson
F. W. Leist
Clarence Casey

2-Bureau (1 for 61-7398)
1-Cleveland
1-Indianapolis
2-Laboratory (1 for 61-7398)
MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL BRIEN McMAHON

I am in receipt of a letter dated July 1, 1937, directed to the Attorney General, "Attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation," by Mr. X. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Washington, D.C., with which he transmitted an undated letter received by the Post Office Department from Norman G. Clay, Soldier, 'Kentucky, together with a threatening communication, dated June 31, 1937, received by Clay through the United States mails.

I am transmitting to you, herewith, copies of the letter, directed to the Post Office Department by Clay, together with photostatic copies of the threatening letter received by him and the envelope in which this letter was contained.

It is requested that you advise whether this is a matter coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau, or whether the same should be handled by the Post Office Department.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure #A-10723
June 21, 1932

Vagabond Clay
Black Legion gives you 10 days to straighten up in. Don't get drunk on the cow money or we will get 10 bushels and whip you each member of the Black Legion. And be sure to pull them Damn boots off.

Black Legion
Ring Tabbedder
P.S. and we'll kill Mickey
July 1, 1937.

The Honorable
The Attorney General.

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

Attention of the
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

There is transmitted herewith for such attention as you may deem advisable a letter from Mr. Norman G. Clay, Soldier, Kentucky, together with one he received threatening to inflict bodily punishment.

Very truly yours,

For the Postmaster General,

[Signature]

Chief Inspector

Inclosures.

RECORDED
INDEXED

61-7398-159X
Mr. Robert Clay
S. L. Beale
3-4
7–30–37

Orig. of know-letter returned to Mr. Clay as for his request.

Protest attached.
Dear Sir:

I am sending you a letter that was mailed to me at Goldin. Would love to have this investigated as soon as possible by the proper place. That done this.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

PS. Please send letter and envelope to you.

RECORDS SEARCHED
CR. INV. SECTION
UNIDENTIFIED
July 30, 1937.

Mr. Norman O. Clay,
Soldier,
Kentucky.

Dear Mr. Clay,

Under date of July 1, 1937 Mr. E. P. Aldrich, Chief Inspector, Post Office Department, Washington, D. C., referred to me your undated letter, together with a threatening communication, postmarked Soldier, Kentucky, June 28, 1937, received by you.

This threatening communication was referred to the Criminal Division of the United States Department of Justice and I am now in receipt of advice indicating that an examination of the threatening communication in question fails to disclose a violation of any Federal Law or Laws. In view of this, I regret that this Bureau will be unable to conduct an investigation into this matter.

I am returning to you herewith the threatening communication, together with the envelope in which it was contained.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Department of Justice
Washington

July 20, 1937.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER.

I am in receipt of your memorandum of July 12, 1937, transmitting copies of a letter addressed to the Chief Inspector of the Post Office Department in this city by one Norman G. Clay, Soldier, Kentucky, together with photostatic copies of alleged threatening letters addressed to him by the Black Legion and dated June 21, 1937.

You request to be advised whether or not this is a matter coming within the investigative jurisdiction of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or whether the same should be handled by the Post Office Department.

You are advised that an examination of the threatening communication in question fails to disclose a violation of any Federal law or laws.

Briem McMahon
Assistant Attorney General.
August 16, 1937

Special Agent in Charge,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Re: "Unknown Subjects;
Doctor Z. T. Wirtschafter,
Albert Phillips — Victims;
Extortion.

Dear Sir,

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau August 9, 1937.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

Enclosure:

co-Cleveland
Laboratory Report
August 16, 1937

Case: Subject: Doctor Z. T. Wirschafter; Albert Phillips - Victims; Extortion.

Specimen: Two sheets of paper containing sample typewriting from Underwood standard typewriter #661628-14.

Examination requested by: Indianapolis

Date received: 6-6-37

Examination requested: Document

Result of examination:

It has been concluded that the Underwood typewriter #661628-14 was used to write the letters to Mr. Phillips and Doctor Wirschafter submitted by the Cleveland Field Division in connection with the case, Black Legion; Night Riders; Bullet Club; Miscellaneous; Confidential, under cover letter dated November 27, 1936, Bureau file #61-7398. These specimens bear the serial #1401 through 04.

The extortion letters to Mr. Phillips and Doctor Wirschafter submitted by the Cleveland Field Division in connection with the case of Unknown Subjects; Doctor Z. T. Wirschafter; Albert Phillips - Victims; Extortion, transmitted under cover letter dated June 5, 1937 were not written with this typewriter.

It is noted that in all of the letters in question the writer used the small letter "2" instead of "l" for the figure "1".
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

Mrs. [blurred] and [blurred], residents of Minnesota, were referred to my office and neither could speak English very well.

I gathered from their conversation that Eli Babich, [blurred], had been killed on October 24, 1923, in the Guthrie Mines near Duluth, Minnesota and that they were both of the opinion he had been murdered by members of the "Black Legion" and that subsequent to 1924 one Amil Babich, who is not a relative of [blurred], had assumed the name of Eli Babich, who had been killed, and was presently a leader in the "Black Legion".

Both of these persons advised that they had never been threatened by members of the "Black Legion" in any manner but that they were afraid they would be threatened or even killed by these persons at some future date because of the fact that they had information the "Black Legion" had murdered Eli Babich.

I informed Mrs. [blurred] of the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau and explained to her that the crime of murder was one within the jurisdiction of each individual state and that any information she had relative to a murder case should be given to the appropriate local authorities.

RECORDED & INDEXED 6/73/18 16

After learning that the Federal Government did not have jurisdiction over murder cases, Mrs. [blurred] advised that the "Black Legion" was planning on murdering President Roosevelt when he visited Minnesota in 1938 and that this Legion had sent a girl, whose last name is Madunich and who is a sister of a girl whose first name is Margaret and who works for the International Institute, Duluth, Minnesota, to Washington for the purpose of ascertaining inside information concerning the Government of the United States and to ascertain if President Roosevelt

[Signature]
was actually planning on visiting Minnesota during 1938.

I have prepared a letter to the Secret Service Division of
the Treasury Department, informing that Division of the information Mrs.
submitted relative to threats on the life of the President.
Mr. Frank J. Wilson, Chief,
Secret Service Division,
Treasury Department,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

For your information and any attention which you deem appropriate, I wish to advise that on August 13, 1937, Mrs. [redacted] of Duluth, Minnesota, called at this bureau and advised that the "Black Legion" of Duluth, Minnesota, which is headed by one Ali Babich, is planning on murdering President Roosevelt upon his visit to Minnesota during the year 1938.

They also advised that a young girl whose last name is Naunich and who is a sister of a girl whose first name is Margaret and who is employed by the International Institute, Duluth, Minnesota, had been sent to Washington, D. C., by the "Black Legion" to ascertain the inside workings of the United States Government and to determine if President Roosevelt is planning on making a trip to Minnesota during the year 1938.

Neither of these persons had any definite information to offer as to where they had obtained the foregoing, although it was learned that Ali Babich had been killed in 1925 and that these persons believed he had been murdered by the "Black Legion".

Very truly yours,

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

Sir:

We are in receipt of and thank you for your letter of August 18, transmitting for appropriate attention information given your Bureau, August 13, by Mrs. [Redacted] of Duluth, Minnesota, to the effect that the "Black Legion" of Duluth, headed by one Amil Bebich, is planning to murder the President upon his visit to Minnesota during the year 1938, and that they have sent a young girl named Madunich to this city to obtain information in furtherance of their scheme.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Acting Chief, Secret Service

wst/rss

RECORDED & INDEXED

61-7348-162

FBI III, BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 21 1937

ATTORNEY GENERAL
1500 Biscayne Building,
Miami, Florida, Fl
August 28, 1937

Mr. Herbert B. Phillips,
United States Attorney,
Tampa, Florida

Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter of the 26th instant, enclosing a Black Legion warning which was turned over to you by Mrs. Mary S. H. Mero, 105 East Constant Street, Tampa, Florida, which she found in her mail box at her residence.

The matter does not appear to be one for investigation by this Bureau.

Very truly yours,

R. L. Shivers
Special Agent in Charge.

RLS: EEX
00 Bureau 
INDEXED

121-7398-162X
October 6, 1937

Dear Mr.,

I have received your undated letter transmitting a letter dated September 26, 1937, together with photographs, which you asked me to forward to Special Agent B. A. Collier of this Bureau.

A copy of this letter has been referred to me for acknowledgment. I wish to inform you that as you were previously advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation is restricted by Congressional enactment to the investigation of cases in which there is an indication of a violation of specified Federal laws and as the complaint of your mother is not a matter within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau no action can be taken concerning the same.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.
Dear Sir:

I am who was in your office with on Aug. 13. We were very glad that you remembered us and sent that almighty to our house. As you told us we went to our District Attorney, but I think he cannot help us. In the 16 years was in this country, she didn’t meet a person whom she could talk to and have them understand her cause. As you can see, I have written out:

[Redacted]

I heard Emil Babich, cousin Joe Babich, say she wanted.
The company had found a way to cut costs and increase efficiency, but the impact on the employees was not always positive. Overworked staff struggled to meet deadlines, and the atmosphere in the office was often tense. Despite these challenges, the company continued to grow, and its products gained a reputation for quality and reliability.
the negroes would do as the legion wanted. The negroes wanted to be dressed up and have nice hair but the legion wanted to tip the country over. Negroes didn't know what was to happen ahead for 15 years as did Emile legion.

Potkalinga, Bonica Kupa Jugoslavia

His father's name Alojz Babich, and mother's name Mara Babich married name Mara Milanovich.

went and sent Emile father & mother same instead of putting reason they chant to kill my tip father is because they killed his brother Tom to hide Brino Stanic
born in Sanski Most, Bosnia, Yugoslavia.

10th child - Blage Stojanovich and another Vito Stojanovich maiden name Vtra Sijak.
Trivo Stanevic is hiding in Dubilin and is waiting name of killed in 1919 and in 1922.

Trivo Stanevic with several members drew money belonging to him from a bank.

He says that Emil's cousin Joe was in one of the offices in the Federal Bureau of Investigation Bldg. and saw Emil's picture and said - Yes that's the one and his killed show but Emil is alive and Joe meant.
Emil is

varring another man's name too. He is

Mihajla Babich

Pristina, Kosovo, Serbia

You killed Mihajla in

1956 when Yugoslavia wouldn't accept

Joe Babich made the

order that Mihajla should be killed at

Cason Lake, Minnesota in 1926. Joe

Babich fooled Yugoslavia one way

and the United States the other way.

When Joe Babich was at one of your

offices he wrote the name different be

sides the name Stige Lund. But

that man is in Yugoslavia and

doesn't know a thing about it. When

Joe was at one of the offices he was

crying - he was able to cry because
So just thought of the things he did. And he had to go to one of the offices because the legion sent him. When he came back to Pittsburgh, he said he could do buy an American for a stick of gum. He received all the money from the lodge insurance which the men the legion killed had. Joe went from town to town in Yugoslavia and found out the names of the mothers and fathers the dead men had, and the United States will send the increased money, money from the banks the men had, three thousand dollars to whom Joe sent the names of mothers and fathers of the men the legion killed. Although Joe says they died to he can get the money. Now I don't think he got it yet. When the United States sends the money, watch for your watch, and you may write him. I saw that men that you've looked for and after heard that they're dead are alive and they've got citizenship papers.
registered at the United States Postoffice. This is
including only Serbian and Croations what I
mean the ones my mother knew. I'm not
cure if it goes to the Postoffice but I think it
goes there. Heard Joe Babel
laughing and saying to the other men that
there alive in the post office place, they got
their citizen papers and dead at the Federal
Bureau of investigation says that nothing would make the country
more safe than by having everyone finger print
takers. Take a look at Emil Dubik has
his citizenship papers written here and
said to take the signature Joe Dubik
put down where he said that Emil was
dead and compare the writing with his in
Fegiopolis. Joe went under another
name so I put just find the one who talked
difficult about Emil. Am sending some of
pictures and a picture of a bad past
Sincerely,
When you send us the answer and your correct address, we'll send some larger pictures.
I was the only son in the family. He and the sisters both married. Daka Đrljača and...
Yoko S. lived both living in same place as was born. There's a Steven Baldy living in the same town in which was born, his no relative and he's a member of the legion. He went when he fixed things up.
March 21, 1938

Mr. Robert F. Anderson,
810 College Street,
Beloit, Wisconsin.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

In Mr. Hoover's absence from the city I want to acknowledge your letter of March 16, 1938, in which you request information on the "Black Legion" for use in the preparation of your work in sociology.

It is indeed regretted that this Bureau does not have available any data on this topic; however, it is suggested that the Superintendent of the Detroit Police Department might be able to furnish you with the information you desire.

I am enclosing several booklets of this Bureau dealing with the activities of our Special Agents which I thought might be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

For the Director,

Harold Nathan,
Assistant Director.

Enclosure

PBI
NCR, Vol. 5, No. 4
Part of Youth in Law Enforce.
Public Duty in Law Enforce.
Dear Mr. Hoover;

I am a major in Sociology at Beloit College and have elected to write a life history of some criminal case from the sociological point of view. The subject of which I would like some information is the "BLACK LEGION". I live in Detroit and know Judge Scallon so probably will be able to get a few interesting sidelights on the case, but am not able to get first hand information on this subject. Any and all information you can give will be very much appreciated. Thanking you for anything you can do for me on this subject, I am,

Sincerely yours

Robert F. Anderson
810 College St.
Beloit, Wisconsin
Mr. Edgar Horic,
I want you to please write to me if you will answer this question.
Do there a law against people being mentioned

Peoples being mentioned

What do they call the Black Legim?
Do you men work much
I am building a new mission church here, in Cool Camps.
Am a missionary.
Tragedy has come to my oldest brother, and I do
desire your answer.
Thanking you.
Miss Delma Stoudt
Dillonvale, Ohio
June 11th, 1938 P.O. Box 734
Miss Della Stoudenmier
Post Office Box 734
Millikin, Ohio

Dear Miss Stoudenmier:

This will acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated June 11, 1938.

I regret to advise you that it is not within the province of this Bureau to furnish advice on legal matters, in consequence of which it will be impossible for me to advise you concerning the inquiry contained in your letter.

This will inform you, however, that this Bureau is undertaking no investigation with reference to the Black Legion.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - Cincinnati
Mr. Harold Saltzer  
1 Castle Avenue  
Spring Valley, New York

Dear Mr. Saltzer:

With reference to your letter of August 9, 1938, I regret to advise you that all matters contained in the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are of a confidential nature, for which reason it will be impossible for me to furnish advice with regard to the question contained in your letter.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

CC - New York City
The Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

Would you please inform me if there is such an organization as, THE BLACK LEGION, and if so, is it in United States.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

RECORDED

INDEXED
August 6, 1938

Mr. Joseph Todd
940 Hopkins Street
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Todd:

From the information contained in your letter of August 13, 1938, and the enclosure attached thereto, I am unable to observe that there is any violation of a Federal Statute coming within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau.

For this reason it will be impossible for me to authorize any investigation in the premises.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC - Cincinnati
Mr. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed, you will find a clipping from a local newspaper concerning a band of terrorists known as the "Night Riders of Ohio."

We believe that the actions displayed by this group are contrary to the fundamental principles of the Constitution of the United States.
We, as citizens of the United States, feel that we are
obliged to the protection of the
Federal Government against
anarchism and terrorism; and
we sincerely hope that you
will give this organization a
thorough investigation.

Respectfully yours,

Joseph Todd
940 Hopkins St
Cincinnati, Ohio
Cross Is Burned—
at Sharonville

Negroes Warned to Stay Out of Sharon Woods.

A sign reading: "Negroes, beware! Stay in your place. Keep out of Sharon Woods. Danger ahead," and signed by the "Night Riders of Ohio, 800 strong," was found at the base of an 18-foot fiery cross by Deputy Sheriff Edwin Nolting on Wyscarver Road, south of Sharonville, Friday night.

Replicas of rifles were found around the bottom of the cross. Sharonville firemen extinguished the blaze after it had been viewed by occupants of several hundred automobiles.

The office of Sheriff George A. Lutz is investigating the burning of the cross.

A. M. Husted, head of the park police, said that every effort would be made to prevent any outbreak of violence within the park area.

Husted said that Negro card sharps recently had fledged picketers, using a marked deck. They were arrested.

The burning of the cross attracted the attention of hundreds of persons in Sharonville, and those riding in automobiles.
Mr. William P. Kinsella
C/O Mr. William Taylor
Hillsdale, Michigan

Dear Mr. Kinsella:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter dated September 23, 1938, together with the enclosures attached thereto, I must advise you that the matters to which you refer do not come within the investigative jurisdiction of this Bureau. For this reason it will be impossible for the Bureau to undertake any investigation in this matter.

Very truly yours,
For the Director

Harold Nathan
Assistant Director

CC - Detroit
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Sir

I am a victim of the Black Leaguer, a conspiracy against me by a gang of labor leaders of the Street Car Union of Chicago. William Labor and Lorance Blan turned a gun of outlaw Police and gangsters on me; they tried to kill me on my car out in Englin on Grand Av. They turned all the people out. On me they told them I broke up homes to cover up these atem murder. I caught two of them. I told the judge it was only a drunken fight. I was afraid to prosecute them.
they turned Dutch Anderson
Yerg Chapman
Young Clifton the Black Jack
Mike the killer. He ran
a saloon near Western
and Division St.
Captain Kealey of Lake St
station took me out of
my house and put me
in the Intention Hospital.
I was there two days.
the first night two men
com on. Study at twelve
o'clock they choked a man
with a wet towel. The
next night they put
me in the mother room
the same two men.
where going to kill me.
i sat up in bed all
night the night nurse
come in about four.
At night I heard her say it is
he ready they put her up
and keep quite
that it was awake and
sitting up.

The next day my wife
and brother come and
got me out the head
man of the place wasn't
going to let me out.

My wife started crying
the man said not until you
let him out here dig it up
you crying for you put
him out here dig it up

My wife told him no
I didn't the man said
what is this get him out
of here and let me out
they turned all my people
against me and told them

It was crazy they put
gangsters after my wife
and got her away from me
and broke my home up. I was living at North Ave near the North YW Car Barns where I worked.

How I got in this awful thing was taking some cartoons down to Mr. Mooney, the editor of the Chicago Examiners, a motorman by the name of Dinnie Long asked me if he could go with me. I told him yes when we got down there he wanted to write a policemen up in the paper. Mr. Mooney told him to get out. I said you might get me in this the next night. They tried to kill my son my car pay in Esagen.

I left Chicago and went to Payne Ohio to People by the name of Haley that is
lived with her. I was
sixteen years old on a farm
they followed me out there
and turned every one
against me and told them
I was crazy. I left the
and went to Woodburn,
Indiana. I worked for
Amos Schlauch on a farm
they turned every one against
the three and told them
I was crazy. I left there
and went to Fort Wayne.
I got a job in the
General Electric in the carpenters
shop. I worked there four
years I got a job cartoning
on a labor paper called
the worker. Mrs. Lizzie Bell
the Editor. They turned the
Machine Gun Kelley gang
on me. I cleaned but I
got a job on a farm.
near Angola, Indiana with Mr. Zimmerman I worked all summer for him. Then I went to Jackson, Michigan. I got a room with two old people by the name of Burgess, neither one was able to work they were living on the city. I started to sign paint, I took them off the city and was taking care of them. One day Van Dusen a detective on the Jackson Police force a Chicago policeman and another man came out to the house and told Mr. and Mrs. Burgess they were going to put me in the crazy house. When I got home from
Mr. Burgess told me that I was taking care of them and not to take me away that I wasn't away. They told them to tell me to keep quite and quit sign painting and they would let me live in Jackson.

Mr. Burgess told me to go ahead and sign paint. That they would stand by me they put a garnster up to buy the house to get us out of the neighborhood Mr. Burgess lived there 35 years I didn't want them to sell it I seen what they were doing to get them in a major hodd that no one new them so they could
her heart out of a baker
drawn, I went my where
something going on when
I seen him, when I got
home Mrs. Burgess told me
that women come out and
told her that Mrs. Burgess
wanted to see us before
he died. That night he did
he was well and nothing
the matter with him.
Two days after he died Doctor
Vaugh told a friend from
in to tell me if I didn't
get out of Jackson he
would kill me from the
discretion my friend gave me
I new hint when I seen
him he come in there and
sowed me up.

then they got Mrs. Burgess
over in a house on
Lancing ave an was
A street car conductor by the name of McNickels and his wife lived there. Machine gun Kelly and his gang were all in those when I got home from work. She was sitting by the stove all doped up. She said they told her to tell me it won't be long now. I was working for the Coca-Cola Co. The next day I went in the office. I guess I was crying. Mr. Well the Marjagoes asked me what was the matter. I told him there was a gang of criminals out in the house on Lancangar and they were abusing Mrs. Burgess.
he said say that Mr. Burgess is using dope to him tell a dope fiene the minute I see none then I told him about that gang out in that house
he said sill fix that he note a letter to United states attorney general in Detroit Witch three days after they come down.
The Jackson Police Tipped Machine gun Kelley and his gun off they all cleared out 248 quckels and his wife and left there furnin then they come over to the house and turn her on the floor and abused her she told me when i got home from work the Jackson Police and Sheriff miss in formed the government men
They turned her brother against me and got him to kick me out. Then they broke her home up. I got a room two doors from the Coca Cola too. The second night it was there Lieutenant Brownie and Machine gun Kelley gang tried to take me out of the house. I was in bed my room was at the top of the stairs. My door was open. I heard him say to Mrs. Simons the lady I roomed with I was going up and get that gelly. She told him I was all right and wouldn't let him take me out. There was a big car around in the alley with gangsters in it. I got another room on Taylor St.
With people by the name of Carbie they come
there and turned them on
me then i left there and
get a room at Mr. Moore's
across from the Coca Cola
This Burgess come to me
crying and said she had
no home and wanted me
to let her come and take
care of her i told her
to keep away from me that
the union gangsters would
\nope her (and get her to
call the Police on me)
like they did i told her
the only way i could take
care of her was to marry
her she said all right
then the union gangsters
started to worked on
her i got a place on
railroad st they chased me
out of there i got a room on blackstone st
the second night it was there the scout car police
and machine gun kelley gan tried to take me
out of there this is the place where i seen his
wife the next day i got another room i went back
to get my close kelley was wife
followed me out to the
curb and that tall
light hair killer that
got after me in fort wayn
and i went back to
my wife the next day i
got another place north
of town thru the welfare
i dont no the name of the
street or the mans name
i was just there a week
they put him up to dope her
I couldn't put no signs to paint so I ran out of money. They had me colnig i had no money to get another place so I cleared out and left my wife i don't now what become of her. She was in the hands of the gangsters and bless his I got a job on a farm near Osses at Mr. Haskins. Machine gun Kelly followed me out there they came around the house 2 nights Sunday Mr. Haskins and his wife went to church they were gone about 10 minutes when machine gun Inspector Kelly drove in he had his little girl in his arms for protection i told him to get out he said he was coming back to get me.
well ( ) Edgar Hoover got them
Doctor Vaughan
Madam Katherine porter teller
Mrs. Snyder
Labor leaders at the head of the street car union of Jackson and Chief Phelps
all arrested for the murder of Mr. William Burgess

I want sheriff Linsell and all the sheriffs under him ever Police under Phelps
Capt. William Hansen of the Michigan State Police and all the men under him all
arrested for conspiracy and working with
Machine gun Inspector Kelley
of Chicago Police force
To murder me and every Labor leaders in Jackson
and for that I may make to the Secretary General in Detroit, Michigan, I can prove every thing I have told you. I ask you to give me a chance and break up this treble thing the Black League and night-Raiders.

William B. Kinsella
Hillsdale Michigan
I am working for William Taylor on a farm 3 miles north west of Hillsdale Michigan.
January 21, 1939

61-7399

Special Agent in Charge
Cleveland, Ohio

To: Black Legion

Dear Sir:

On June 6, 1935 there was received in the Laboratory one .45 caliber Colt automatic pistol upon which the serial #261440 was successfully restored as reported in Laboratory Report 34607. At that time this weapon was placed in the Laboratory's collection of firearms, but as it is no longer desired it is requested that the Laboratory be advised as to whether there is any reason why this gun may not be permanently disposed of.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECORDED & INDEXED 61-7399-1697

JAN 21 1939
January 25, 1936

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: BLACK LEGION

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated January 21, 1936 (Bureau file 61-7398), requesting information as to whether there is any reason for not disposing of .45 calibre Colt automatic pistol, serial number 251440.

A review of the Cleveland office file in the above entitled case reflects that on May 21, 1935 the aforementioned automatic pistol was delivered by [obscured] Ohio, to Special Agent C. E. Smith, at which time the serial number had been obliterated. The file further reflects that the War Department had been circularized and no record of this gun having been stolen was located.

On July 8, 1936 the Cleveland office received a communication, and again on July 27, 1936, from one [obscured] of Lima, Ohio, which communications were written on behalf of [obscured] endeavoring to have this gun returned to him, and on July 31, 1936 Mr. [obscured] was advised that unless he had a bill of sale showing that he had legitimately purchased this gun, it would not be returned to him. By letter dated August 13, 1936 Mr. [obscured] advised that he had purchased this gun from a former officer in the Black Legion and did not get a bill of sale or even a receipt.

From the foregoing this office can see no reason why this pistol should not be permanently disposed of.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

INDEXED

62-3

Special Agent in Charge
May 9, 1939

Mr. Vert:

411 East Columbus Drive
Tampa, Florida

Dear Mr. Vert:

Please be advised that the Federal Bureau
of Investigation has no jurisdiction over the matters
referred to in your letter of April 29, 1939.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc-Miami

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
United States

Have received

of us

have notified local
authorities, but no results
given. Would like to know
what steps to take?

Letters received were written
with typewriter, pictures were
drawn with crayons, etc. It
was a Whitesfield North Carolinian
concern.

Black Legion has given us
to the
30th of May to leave town. Ten
people had received letters. All
involved are United States
citizens, voters, and prominent
Americans. Answer at once by
letter, telegram, or wire.
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: BLACK LEGION, NIGHT RIDERS,
BULLET CLUB -- MISCELLANEOUS
CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Sir:

On February 9, 1940, Mr. ROBERT LARKIN, reporter for the Cleveland Press newspaper, personally called at this office and furnished acting Special Agent in Charge Frank L. Grubbs with a copy of a letter dated February 5, 1940, which letter was apparently sent by W. H. HAGEN, editor of the Lima News of Lima, Ohio, to DICK MAHER of the Cleveland Press. The letter reads as follows:

"Every once in a while a member of the profession calls on another for a little help. Such is the case.

We are being sued by Mr. Bert Effinger, alleged Black Legion Commander, for a $250,000 note on a charge of criminal libel because of stories we printed.

Some years ago the F.B.I. chief in Cleveland investigated the Black Legion and at that time was given a Legion robe and a gun by one of the ex-members of the Legion.

I want to get in touch with the F.B.I. man and thought your federal beat man could help me out, or else check the office and see what file they have on Effinger and the Legion. Strange as it may seem I believe the Fed's name was Smith and he was in charge of the Cleveland office about 1934 to 1936."
Anything you can do along this line will be appreciated as we want to build up a good defense against Effinger and give him the licking of his life."

Acting Special Agent in Charge Frank L. Grubbs advised Mr. Larkin that it would be impossible to give him any information concerning this or any other matter, as authority for release of such information must of necessity come from the Bureau in Washington.

The attention of the Bureau is directed to the third and fourth paragraphs of the above-quoted letter, wherein Editor Hagen states he believes the "Fed's" name who investigated the Black Legion was Smith, and that the investigating agent obtained a gun and Legion robe from an ex-member.

In connection with the above, attention is directed to the report of Special Agent Clyde E. Smith dated May 24, 1935, in the above case which reflects that Agent Smith is apparently the individual referred to by Editor Hagen, it also being noted on page six of reference report that one [redacted] an ex-Black Legion member, advised that Department of Justice agent by the name of Smith was to be initiated into the order.

With reference to the gun and robe, it will be noted that a .45 caliber automatic pistol, the number of which was subsequently ascertained to be 251,440 by the technical laboratory as well as the fact that it was Government property, was obtained. However, the robe was apparently obtained by J. F. Cordrey, post office inspector at Lima, Ohio, and forwarded to his inspector-in-charge at Cincinnati, as reflected by an inclosure transmitted to the Cleveland office under date of April 22, 1935, by the Bureau.

For the further information of the Bureau, [redacted] an ex-member of the Legion who furnished information to this office as reflected by the reference report of Agent
Director

February 9, 1940

Smith, and one O. L. RYD, whose name appears on page twelve of reference report and is listed as a member of the Legion, were at the time of instant investigation employed by the Lima News.

Very truly yours,

W. L. Listerman

W. L. Listerman
Special Agent in Charge
May 29, 1940

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Rs: KERWIN-WESTBAY
NPA Graduate
Police Department
Lima, Ohio

Dear Sir:

While in Lima, Ohio, recently Special Agent C. E. Kleinauf of this office had occasion to contact Chief of Police J. G. GOODWIN in connection with a case involving VIRGIL H. EFFINGER who was formerly connected with the Black Legion. Agent Kleinauf, upon making inquiry of Chief GOODWIN as to any knowledge he might have of EFFINGER, was asked by GOODWIN, "Why don't you ask WESTBAY about the Black Legion?" Agent Kleinauf inquired of GOODWIN what he meant by that remark, whereupon he advised that it had been reported to him by several individuals that WESTBAY was a former lieutenant in the Black Legion and had been quite active in this organization at the time it was flourishing in Lima, Ohio. Agent Kleinauf inquired of GOODWIN if he had any information which would substantiate this report, and he advised that he did not, but that the information had come to him from quite a reliable source.

In connection with the above information it should be kept in mind that at the time Chief GOODWIN furnished this information he and WESTBAY were rival candidates for the position of chief of police, the appointment later falling to Chief GOODWIN. However, at the time he furnished this information Chief GOODWIN did not indicate that he was furnishing it because of any dislike or rivalry between him and WESTBAY, that it was quite a well-known fact around Lima and he thought it should be called to the attention of the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

W. L. Listerman
Special Agent in Charge

United States Department of Justice

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

July 20, 1940

Mr. [Redacted]
Tiffin, Ohio

Dear Mr. Young:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated July 2, 1940.

Your courtesy and interest in bringing this information to my attention are indeed appreciated. You may be assured your letter is being made a matter of official record for appropriate attention.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director
To the Bureau of Federal Investigation

I have a "tip" for you, in case any situation I am slouching about this part of Ohio.

Mr. Reed, a small, shrewd man of this city, unrecently employed in the Home Restaurant, (where he still takes meals and goes) is at present an active spy for the Black Legion (very strong in Findlay, Carey, Nueyrus, Tiffin, etc.) He was aiding in the plot against O. A. Scarfo of Findlay, Ohio. A direct tip assures us of this, plus our own suspicions. He said he knew where stolen goods may be bought cheaply in Toledo. He was said to have been implicated in white slavery three months ago. He is said by several to have peddled dope and was making mysterious trips out of town, often, while working here. He made those trips as late as April. It is a tea cup reader which we believe is only a "racket" to cover him being in "queer" places, if foule rooms at 77 N. Monroe St., Tiffin, at pres. He formerly roomed at a questionable place and admitted of Lewd intoxicated women coming there. He is quite shrewd and requesting...
He has boasted of his crime, but big
mouth, and I hope he will suffer for his conspiracy. He has boasted of the
stolen goods sold cheaply, before Mr. Dearfos
and others. If he were watched a bit
its might lead to some discoveries. He is
also quite a drinker and gambler.

Respectfully,

Tiffin, Ohio

(P.S. No reply necessary)
Dear Dr. A. E.,

Graduate School of Transportation

United States Postal Service

3 cents

Jul 08 1944 OHIO

[Signature]
There will be another meeting tomorrow night of this group, and the expected crowd will be about 50 men from all over the State. They are being very active now in the Shops, on organizing, and are doing quite well at it, but are being careful to keep their membership as quiet as possible, until they really get under way.

On the so-called Black Legion matter, I find that Spolanski has been trying to talk to several men in regards to it, and they have apparently given him some information that lead him to believe they were very active again, but I find that most of these were old members, and as stated before, they are radicals in this direction. The men supposed to be connected with the rehashed outfit, are as follows:

Tom Vose, old stand by and pal of Nat Sanley, picked up during last clean-up.
Clarence Prince, former member.
Art Lutt.
Simon Patton, " Known as 'Red' and a bad actor.
Raddy Wellman, " a number I 'Screwball'.

Wellman was explained to me in just the language used above, and is not credited with too much brains. Do not hear much of their activities anywhere, but Spolanski says they are quite active again, and meet frequently.

From Windsor Ont., learn that Tim Buck, is doing a great deal of successful organizing, under the name of the Workers Union, both Hungarian and Ukrainian. He is avoiding the name of 'Communist', as much as possible for the present time, but the above two units meet every Thursday night, on Drouillard Rd. in East Windsor, and they are apparently having some pretty good sized meetings, as well as a lot of Social functions that are very well attended, and have quite a number from Detroit Present also.

They are very careful with their speeches in public, but are all for Tim Buck, and his principles. Most of the meetings are in the Ukrainian Hall.

Immerman, mentioned before, as the man in charge of plant protect for the Army Air Corp., started out by calling in some men that Immelman, who were Red sympathizers, and started out as if he was going to do something about it, but all of a sudden he stopped, and has permitted a committee man to be elected, a big colored man by the name of Bernes, who is one of the most rabid Reds in the Plant.

Machetti is also moving forward in the Committee direction, and it looks like the Reds are going to hold sway out there again in spite of the election recently that defeated their power at that time.

Immerman had plenty of proof of the fact, Dwight Warren, was causing plenty of trouble out there, and also stirring up the Negroes to trouble he did nothing about it.
Dear Mr. Phantom,

I am writing to inform you of some recent developments regarding the matter we previously discussed. I have reason to believe that the information you provided is not entirely accurate. Upon further investigation, it appears that the circumstances surrounding the incident are more complex than initially thought.

I suggest that we arrange a meeting to discuss these new findings in detail. I believe that a face-to-face conversation will be more effective in clarifying the situation.

Please let me know if this suits your schedule. I am available at your convenience.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

56018

[Date]
Dear Mrs. Thompson:

Your letter postmarked August 4, 1942, has been received in the absence of Mr. Hoover. Its contents will be called to the Director's attention upon his return.

Sincerely yours,

Helen P. Candy  
Secretary
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Washington
D.C.
Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Washingon, D. C.  

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I know you're a terribly busy man right now but please take time to give this a second thought.

First of all, more than anything else I would adore an autographed photo of you. I admire you almost as much as Mr. President.

Second, rumors here that have gone on for months say that there is a club affair of "hate sympathizers" called the Black Legion located at Ferndale California. This little town is approx. 10 miles south west of Eureka California. Of course it's only rumors, but it's been going on so long there must be some truth in it. Could the FBI at San Francisco investigate it anyway? I do hope this does help catch those "wops" (yes, they are all Itailians).

Please don't forget the picture if you're not too busy.

Very Sincerely yours,

/s Mrs. [Redacted]
September 15, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

RE: BLACK LEGION;
INTERNAL SECURITY - I.

Dear Sir:

For your information and possible assistance in conducting an investigation of the above captioned organization there are transmitted two copies of a letter received by the Bureau from Mr. [redacted] Box [redacted] Fortuna, California.

It is desired that a preliminary investigation be conducted to ascertain if the above captioned organization actually exists and if it is engaged in activities detrimental to the internal security of the United States.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

[Enclosure]
August 25, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
San Francisco, California

[Handwritten address]

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter received at the
Bureau from [redacted] and it is desired that you have
an Agent interview the person as soon as possible to obtain full
information concerning the [redacted] in [redacted]. Incidental to this inquiry your office should
ascertain the identity, background and reputation of the
above named individual. This matter should be given your
prompt attention and your reply should be furnished the
Bureau by air mail special delivery letter.

Very truly yours,

John [Handwritten name]

Director [Handwritten name]
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

San Francisco, California
September 14, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: [Redacted]

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letters from the Director dated August 25, 1942 and September 8, 1942 respecting investigation in the above entitled matter.

It is to be noted that this matter is being given immediate attention by this office and that an Air Mail, Special Delivery letter will be forwarded by September 24, 1942.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper, Jr.
Special Agent in Charge
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Rs: MRS.
c/o MRS.
Post Office
Fortuna, California
RESEARCH

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letters dated August 25, 1942 and
September 8, 1942 requesting that the above individual be interviewed for
full information concerning the Black Legion at Ferndale, California. It
was further requested that the identity, background and reputation of the
above named individual be ascertained.

On September 17, 1942, MRS. [Redacted] Fortuna, California advised that all her information in the matter had been
received through her mother, MRS. [Redacted] of the same address.

MRS. [Redacted] recalled that shortly after the war broke
out in December, one of her boarders, a RALPH LA COSTA, had told her that
earlier in the fall of 1941 he had been invited to join a "secret organi-
sation" in Ferndale; that the organization consisted mostly of Portuguese
and that it had "something to do with the war." She further recalled that
LA COSTA had been asked why he had not "turned the matter in", and had replied
that if the organization was as dangerous as he thought it was, he would
be afraid to say anything about them. The name Black Legion had not been used
by him and MRS. [Redacted] could not recall how it had come into the picture.

MRS. [Redacted] said that she had not seen LA COSTA since May, but
believed him to be in the Merchant Marine. She could give no information
as to what individuals were involved in the solicitations for membership,
nor did she know any of LA COSTA'S associates in the Ferndale area. A
picture of LA COSTA together with names of some of his Fortuna associates
were given to interviewing agents.

A discreet investigation will be instituted respecting activities
of Portuguese in the Ferndale area, although it is to be noted that a
previous inquiry as to possible activity among the Portuguese in that area
was made of the City Marshal at Ferndale with negative results.
WHO BACKS THE BLACK LEGION?

☆ WHO ARE THE BLACK LEGIONAIRES?
☆ WHAT IS THEIR OBJECT?

How can we stamp them out?

These and many other points will be discussed by good speakers!

On FRIDAY 7.30 pm
JULY 31st

BEWICK AND SHOEMAKER

Auspices: Ward 19 Branch, Communist Party

NOT RECORDED

61-7398-

July 3, 1943

I talked to Kimball Flaccus on the telephone. He introduced his friend, Ensign Conklin who is the person mentioned in his letter. He heads the E.O. Orientation Unit of the Educational Section of the Navy.

He came in and talked to me about what he knows of the Ku Klux Klan in Detroit. He has no information as to where it is. His background is:

1. Born, Wyandotte, Michigan
2. School, Wayne University
3. Worked summers 1934-1936 on a printers press. Was told at that time that it would be a "poor idea" to join the Klan
4. Was advised by his father not to join.

He believes there are about 200 to 300 members of the Klan in Wyandotte, that it is a fertile field for miscreants of a good or bad type and from his observation he saw no connection with Detroit operations. He tells them a lame lie about he has no late information. He is just anxious to be helpful and tells that he could get information if we wanted him to.

He brought the attached material from Lt. Flaccus which is of no particular usefulness to us, I think.

P. H. C.

The whole business might be referred to the F.B.I. for as it is worth of the A.G. is not interested.
Director, FBI

RE: BLACK LEGION
SECURITY MATTER - I
Bureau File 94-4-5929

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated 9/15/42, enclosing information from a Mrs. [redacted], Fortuna, California, that an organization, possibly subversive, known as the BLACK LEGION, was located at Ferndale, California.

An officer of the California Highway Patrol interviewed Mrs. [redacted] at which time she stated that the name BLACK LEGION was a figment of her imagination, and that she had not heard anyone else call the alleged group by that name. It is noted that Mrs. [redacted] was unable to furnish any further information regarding the group other than that her information had come from a RALPH LA COSTA, who had said that "He was asked to join a society by three men from Ferndale, but that he was afraid to join the society." (Name or type of society not known.) Attempts to locate Mr. LA COSTA have been negative.

A continuous investigation by the California Highway Patrol in the vicinity of Ferndale, California, reflected that although there had been people gathering occasionally at various homes in Ferndale in 1942, there did not seem to be nearly as many gatherings in 1943. The opinion was rendered by informants of the Highway Patrol that these might have been card parties, or just plain social gatherings.

HERBERT MAHNS, Minister of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Ferndale, informed the California Highway Patrol that the members of the church have an insurance plan which is called the "AL Insurance Company" or "Associated Lutheran Insurance Company". There is a meeting of this insurance group held every quarter. The meetings are held at the homes of members the first Tuesday after the 15th of the first month of every quarter. The names of various people, who informants stated gathered together occasionally, were presented to Mr. MAHNS, and he said that nearly all of these people belonged to the St. Mark's Lutheran Church and attended these insurance meetings. It is noted that if there were any people meeting as a group which could possibly be identified as being similar to the alleged subversive group known as the BLACK LEGION these people would be the most...
logical contenders for that title.

Inasmuch as a thorough investigation of instant report has failed to reflect that there is any organization known as the BLACK LEGION and further that no such type of organization is known to be engaged in subversive activities in or about the Ferndale, California, area, this case is being closed.

Very truly yours,

N. J. L. Pieper
Special Agent in Charge

PES:ER
62-1491
SAY JONES JOINED
THE BLACK LEGION

Witnesses Tell Senators That
They Helped Induct Him
Ohioan Denies Charge

WASHINGTON, July 7 (AP)—
Two members of the Black Legion were today that Representative
Robert F. Jones, Republican of
Ohio, joined the hooded organiza-
tion at a flashlight ceremony in
1938, but Mr. Jones denied that he
had and six character witnesses
lauded him as a fair and tolerant
man.

The conflicting testimony came
at the Senate subcommittee hear-
ing on President Truman’s nomination
of Mr. Jones to be a member of the
Federal Communications Com-
mmission.

One of the self-described Black
Legion members was Frank A.
Barber, police chief of Beaver Dam,
Ohio. He testified that he was
committed to a hospital for the
insane for sixty-one days in 1922, but
he said that this was the result
of a frame-up. He acknowledged
also that he once was jailed for
"shooting a guy" in Hammond, Ind.

The other witness who said that
Mr. Jones became a member of the
legion was Glenn E. Webb of Lima,
Ohio. He testified that he (the
witness) in 1942 forged nineteen
payroll checks totaling $653.86.

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he Washington Morning Post

Black Legion Conduit in Depression Recall !

Truman Checking on Deserting Democrats

By Drew Pearson

Last We Forget—Some Congressmen seem apathetic about my allegation that their colleague, Representative Robert E. Jones (R., Ohio), was once a member of the Black Legion. Perhaps they have forgotten depression days when the Black Legion was to the KKK what a cobra is to a garter snake.

(Representative Jones denied emphatically Tuesday that he was ever a member of the Black Legion—Editor's Note.)

Black Legion started after Ku Klux Klan got smoked out by too much publicity but proved it was a good money maker... Dr. William Shepherd, Bellaire, Ohio, health commissioner, explains about the legion's origin as follows: "I was exalted caydepop of KKK but withdrew when Grand Dragon Colescott objected to my wearing a black robe. So I organized a 'black guard' in Ohio. Pretty soon the darn thing grew by leaps and bounds," continued Dr. Shepherd. "Everybody round here wanted to be one of my black employees and started organizing black groups. You have to have mystery in a fraternal thing to keep it alive. The folks eat up it.

Came the Depression. With jobs scarce, the Black Legion got out of hand. Many labor unions joined and escorted small businessmen before early night meetings to threaten them with fires or bodily harm if they discharged men joining the Black Legion was one way to keep your job... In Detroit, however, industrialists were accused of using the Black Legion as vigilantes to combat organized labor... Heart and Ohio's Black Legion was Lima, home of Representative Jones, now nominated to the all-important Federal Communications Commission... Also living in Lima is former National Commander Virgil E. Effinger, who signed an affidavit in 1938 naming Jones as a Black Legionnaire. Another legislator, Glenn E. Webb, then on the Black Legion initiating crew, swears Jones knelt before him on a farm outside Lima, took the oath of membership, and he was told the legion was riding the crest.

Organized Intolerance—Say New York World-Telegram has described it: "The Black Legion's crimes are part of a larger picture of intolerance in America. They are cut from the same picture as anti-Red foreys into campuses, vigilante lynching mobs, antilabor terrorism and other manifesta- tions of special-interest racketeering wrapped up in the garb of patriotism."

Do Farmers Strike?

Farm Bureau President Ed O'Neal, long one of the smoothest lobbyists at the Capitol, was almost, but not quite, set back on his heels last week by young Representative Walter Huber of Akron, Ohio, during O'Neal's testimony before the Joint Congressional Committee on the Economic Report.

"The District Line" by Bill Gold is being suspended during Bill's vacation.

"I say we believe in collective bargaining; sure we do," O'Neal replied.

Here Committee Chairman Senator Bob Taft, jumped in apprehensively to protest: "There is nothing in this bill (the Taft-Hartley bill) that makes any man work for anything that he does not agree to work for, except that he continues to work for 60 days after his contract ends."

"The Government sets up the wages for which he should work," said Huber.

"No," Taft replied, "there is only a 60-day period in there where the whole nation is affected by an industry. He has to continue the status quo for 60 days..." O'Neal then spoke of the long hours worked by farmers, and their anger about "how the other fellow works."

"Well," replied Huber, "I represent three rural counties and I have the highest opinion in the world for farmers and industry. But I also found some farmers who worked part time in our factories in addition to taking care of their own work."

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RECON... INDEXED JUL 15 1947

Washington Post
Page 1

JUL 3 1947
A dispatch in The Star from Lima, Ohio, last night quoted a former minion of the Jones organization as saying that Jones ever was a member. It read as follows:

"Mr. Jones, who is now in the White House, with the appointment of Ray C. Wethered to the commission,

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Pearson Repeats Black Legion Charge Against Jones in Letter to Sen. White

Drew Pearson, Washington columnist and broadcaster, yesterday sent to Senator Wallace H. White, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, a letter protesting the confirmation of Representative Robert E. Jones (D., Ohio) as a member of the Federal Communications Commission.

In testimony before the committee last Friday, Pearson alleged that the Congressman was a member of the Black Legion. The Ohioan promptly branded the charge as a lie.

In his letter to Senator White, Pearson repeated the allegation he made to the committee and submitted in support of it an affidavit signed by one Virgil H. Effinger. In a sworn statement, Effinger, a resident of Lima, Ohio, alleged that he was present at a meeting where Representative Jones took an oath as an applicant for membership in a secret society to which Pearson accused the Congressman of belonging. Pearson also asserted
Rep. Jones Calls Pearson a Liar

Columnist Testifies
FCC Nominee Is
'Possibly' Klausman

By the United Press

Representative Robert E. Jones (R., Ohio) yesterday denounced as "un-Legion," he continued, "nothing mitigated lies" charges by columnist in his public or private life which he had made that he was ever anything but a member of the Black Legion and a member in that type of organization, possibly of the Ku Klux Klan.

The hearing exchange high-ighted a Senate Commerce sub-committee's hearing on Jones's nomination to succeed Ray C. Hart, (R., Ind.) that some of his information had come from Francis Wakefield, a Lima Democrat whom

Jones expressed "doubt" that Jones, as an FCC member, would give him his associates a fair hearing on their application for a Baltimore radio station license. He said he based the statement on "evidence" from Jones' own Lima, Ohio, district.

Alleges Link With Smith
Jones, he said, "has been personally identified with one of the most anti-Semitic, Fascist-inclined figures in this country—namely, Gerald L. K. Smith.

Furthermore, he said, while he had no personal knowledge that Jones was a Klansman, his information was that the Congressmen's father in the early 20s had introduced his son to others as "the youngest member of the Ku Klux Klan."

I regret to make the even more serious charge that the evidence I have received... is that he was a member of an equally bigoted organization — anti-Catholic and anti-Jewish — namely, the Black Legion." Jones sat quietly in the back of the hearing room listening to Pearson's testimony. When Chairman Owen Brewster (R., Me.) offered him time to prepare an answer, Jones said he was ready now.

"Unmitigated" Lies
As soon as he had taken his oath, he snapped:
"I brand these statements as unmitigated lies."
He added that he had never been a member of the Klan and that whether, far from being a Klansman, actually was persecuted by its members because he refused to join.

Pearson Suggests "Answer"

But Pearson had had what he thought might be part of the answer. He recalled, under prompting, by Brewster, that he reported in a recent column that Wakefield's nomination for reappointment and substituted his name instead.

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MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

LURKING

There is transmitted, attached hereto, a photo-copied copy of a newspaper clipping entitled "Riders Lash St. Clairsville Man," together with a photo-copied copy of a newspaper clipping entitled "Proof County Has Night Rider Organization Reported in Hands of Prosecuting Attorney."

This matter is being referred to you for your information and such instructions as you may care to issue in the premises.

Very truly yours,

Director.

Enc. 524557
PROOF COUNTY HAS NIGHT RIDER ORGANIZATION REPORTED IN HANDS OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEE

Files of correspondence, letters and other statements that proved the existence of a Night Rider organization in Belmont county will be introduced to the grand jury convening Tuesday, according to a statement made today by Prosecutor George C. McKelvey in connection with the attack by nine robed persons on Lawrence Van Horn of St. Clairsville near the Hutchinson school house north of the county seat Wednesday night.

The evidence came to the prosecutor by mail yesterday. Its source was not indicated by the markings on the envelope. The prosecutor, after examining the contents, locked the envelope in a safe for later use and refused to discuss what it contained. Included were pictures and authorization issued by a Columbus detective agency and badges worn by Klan members.

Photos of Alleged Leaders
Letters written by a Bellaire physician and which are said to indicate that a Night Rider organization existed in Bellaire, Morristown, Noffs and Key districts a few years ago are included as are photographs of the physician and a woman residing near St. Clairsville, both in Klan regalia. The physician is reputed to have been the head of the Ku Klux Klan in the county and woman is said to have been similarly honored by the members of her sex allied with the organization.

Various Ohio towns, including Newark, Zanesville and Youngstown are mentioned in the documents that McKelvey says will be before the grand jury in its investigation of the killing of Van Horn.

In the grand jury investigation and evidence to show where the remains of Van Horn were Wednesday night is to be presented by the prosecutor. The case will be investigated by the Belmont county grand jury, not the first of the kind in recent years. Only last April a man and a woman were killed in the county.

Sheriff Moore's investigation
Sheriff Ford Moore, who has had a part in questioning persons connected with the investigation, denies such activity and telephoned yesterday by the office of a statement that one of the persons whose connection with the events of last Wednesday was being investigated had left town.

Women In Party?
Sheriff Moore said he would investigate the possibility that women were members of the party that killed Van Horn. Names of two women were mentioned as likely to be present.

At Morristown a colored resident was questioned. A woman, said to be in a car, was stopped in the town and put on a train for Southfield while a girl said that her father was the head of a tarring party which dazed wood and in the girl's absence on the train.

Woodfield Man Kidnapped
At Woodfield, near Liedingham, a Negro was kidnapped and his home burned.

The United States mail today arrived in the hands of Prosecutor George McKelvey of Belmont county, a package of evidence in connection with the Night Rider activity in Belmont county. The package was sent from New York.

The package contains a letter of the prosecutor's office at St. Clairsville, more than double the size expected.

It purports to show that a Night Riders organization existed in Belmont county and that its former members may have had a hand in the killing of Van Horn.

Prosecutor McKelvey today denied the former members had a hand in the killing of Van Horn and the letter was sent to the office of the county attorney in St. Clairsville by a Columbus detective agency. The letter is the first of its kind to be sent to the prosecutor.

One report, which had gained some strength, and which had been circulating in the county, was that Van Horn was killed by a man who had been arrested for the murder of another Negro in the county.

One of the men who was killed was a Negro and the letter was sent to the office of the county attorney in St. Clairsville by a Columbus detective agency. The letter is the first of its kind to be sent to the prosecutor.

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s of Whipped Rebel Arn

DRAGGED FROM
AUTO, WHIPPED
PAINTER SAYS

Lawrence Van Horn Tells
Authorities of Man-
handling Near
Maynard
ATTACKERS HOODED,
TELLS AUTHORITIES

Lawrence Van Horn, 33, St. Clair-
vile painter, today reported to coun-
ty authorities that he was stopped
in his automobile on the Maynard
road, two miles west of St. Clair-
vile, last night at 2 o'clock by a
band of hooded "Night Riders,"
dragged to a nearby school house
and severely whipped before being
released.

The victim appeared at the office
of Justice of the Peace C. E. Brad-
field today at noon and told him the
story of the attack. He exhibited
bruises and flesh wounds on the
back to substantiate his statements
that he had been beaten with whips.
He said he believed he recognized
one of his assailants and asked that
a warrant be sworn out for his ar-
rest, but was advised to make a
further investigation into the affair
before causing any arrests.

Version of Attack
According to Van Horn's version
of the attack, he was riding in his
machine with a friend and they were
on their way to Maynard to get "a
drink." He said the car was about
half way to Maynard and traveling
along at a moderate speed in the
dark when he saw nine men, wearing
black robes, step out into the road.
He brought the machine to an
abrupt halt and one of the hooded
men approached and ordered him out
of the car, he said.

Van Horn said the "Night Riders"
did not molest his friend, but merely
ordered him "to go on." He was
forced to accompany his black-robed
captors across a field to a little
school house, the location of which
he was unable to determine in the
darkness. The victim said he was
taken inside the school house, thrown
on the floor and subjected to a
severe beating with fists and whips.
His coat and shirt were torn off his
back, he claims.

Second Attack
Last night's incident was followed
by an attack upon Van Horn this
morning at 7 o'clock in front of the
post office at St. Clairville. He was
approached by a man, whose identity
has not been learned, and the latter
is reported to have made some ac-
cusation, which VanHorn resented.
A fist fight developed and the prin-
cipals were engaged in a hot
hand-to-hand encounter when Mar-
shall Don Hardisty arrived on the
scene and separated them.

VanHorn lives on Marietta st., St.
Clairville, and is a painter by oc-
cupation. He was married but his
wife died several years ago. He is
the father of one son.
The Department of Justice
Washington,
D.C.
ENTLED August 23, 1940

RECEIVED
8/23/40 11621

Mr. Lloyd Paradise
A. P. D. 2
Lake Orion, Michigan

Dear Mr. Paradise:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated August 8, 1940.

It was indeed kind of you to bring this information to my attention, and your courtesy and interest in so doing are sincerely appreciated. Should you obtain any further information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, please feel free to communicate directly with Mr. J. E. Bugas, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, 911 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc: Detroit
(With copies of incoming)
Dr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover,

After reading your excellent articles in the Detroit Sunday News, "This Week Magazine," with much interest, and the President's message to the federal-state conference on law enforcement problems arising from the preparedness program, my mind reverted to some clippings.

I am enclosing these clippings; they propose to deal with anti-fifth column activities in Oakland County and in Michigan, which seem to be headed by our Oakland County prosecutor, Charles Wilson, and our former governor, Wilbur Brucker.

This leadership seems rather strange to me as both these men are alleged to have had connections with the Black Legion. Also, Irving Unger, an incorporator of the American Citizens League, is known to me as a Coughlin Catholic.

Wilson was elected to the prosecutor's office, it is alleged, by the underworld rat, of whom you speak in one of your articles, together with some unscrupulous business men. I was told by several Democrats that they were ashamed to have him on their ticket but would do nothing about it.

Before the investigation of the Black Legion began in Wayne County, Wilbur Brucker had been a speaker at a Black Legion meeting reported in the Detroit News. I recall having read the account of Brucker addressing such a meeting in Findlater Hall, Detroit. Being a Mason in principle and not just a member of some lodge, I was shocked at the use of that hall for such a meeting, because I had a lodge in Findlater Hall, which belonged to a Masonic lodge of the same name; but I learned later that it had been taken over by some bank insurance company.

Brucker was also Michigan head of a group known as the Constitutional Protective League, discussed in a letter which I am enclosing.

In my opinion one of the biggest jobs for you will be to fumig the odor from some of these patriotic groups.

Luciani

With kind regards and best wishes, I am, yours for more democracy and less hypocrisy in our social and economic life.

Sincerely your friend,

Lloyd Paradise

Executive Assistant
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

94-4-8762

RECORDED & INDEXED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 12. 1940

Aug 27, 1940
L. Paradise
Dearborn, Michigan

Dear Sir:-

This league (Constitutional Protective League) was incorporated in New York in 1934, ostensibly to defend the constitution of the U.S. and of the 48 states against "subversive influence", but actually according to its opponents, to fight the New Deal. In this state ex-Gov. Brucker has been a leader in it; one of its directors is Ernest Rush of Dearborn. There are a number of other associations of similar names, all fighting the present administration and its policies.

Very truly yours,

THE DETROIT NEWS
Answers
Wilson War en Saboteurs

Says 4 Alien Groups Are Active in Oakland

FORTIAC, May 31—Citizens of Oakland County were advised to be watchful of fifth column activities in a statement issued today by Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson, secretary of the new formed American Citizens Defense League, which has statewide membership.

"It is the determination of the league," Wilson said, "that at every possible point where a saboteur may be at work, there is a responsible American citizen watching. This league is not formed for the purpose of witch-hunting or persecuting persons of foreign birth. It is intended as a guard against treachery."

"It is my hope the citizens of this community will volunteer their services. Here is an opportunity to serve at home against the element which undoubtedly contributed to the overthrow of nations abroad."

"Oakland County industries are vital to our armament program. There must be no hitch if we are thrown suddenly on a war footing. Already local officers and state police have discovered evidence of so-called fifth column activities. In Oakland County these undoubtedly would threaten production in our plants in the time of war."

"This office has before it reports that at least four pro-Nazi and Communist organizations have headquarters in Oakland County. We know that subversive elements have been attempting to influence the attitude of citizens of this community. America can fight an enemy attacking from without. Watchful citizens at home can take care of those who would attack our vital industries from within."

Hunt Fifth Column, Oakland Is Urged

FORTIAC, June 27—Calling on residents of Oakland County to rise in a hunt for fifth columnists in the municipality’s vital industries, Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson, secretary of the newly formed American Citizens Defense League, declared Thursday that at least four Nazi and Communist groups had headquarters in the county.

"These persons will undoubtedly threaten production in our plants in time of war and desensitise our people when loyalty should overshadow all else," Wilson said.

Plan Corporation

LENGING, Mich., June 30—(AP)—Earl K. Sanger, Joseph A. Baldwin, of Detroit, today that he and other organizers of the American Citizens Defense League would file articles of incorporation this week as a non-profit organization. Among the league’s objectives is the unmasking of fifth column activities in the United States.

Following incorporation, Baldwin said, the league will name a board of trustees and then name county executive committees to act on membership applications. He said other incorporators were Irving Ullman, Detroit; Prosecutor Charles L. Wilson of Pontiac; Dr. Stewart M. Arthur, Mt. Pleasant, and Dr. F. W. Bradshaw, Lansing.

Baldwin, author of numerous bills designed to combat subversive activities, said one purpose of the league would be "to propagate and support legislation designed to uncover and eliminate secret camps and military organizations of foreign allegiance."

The league, he said, will cooperate with all law enforcement agencies and all civic and fraternal organizations.
You ask us to shed blood for our country; we proudly shall.

But why, in Heaven's name, shall our enemies be permitted to disseminate poisonous propaganda in this country while we may have to sacrifice our lives, our jobs, our homes.

In the name of God and Humanity we ask you to crush this traitorous scum... now...

The following pro-nazi, pro-fascist, names and organizations, and many others, are traitors to our country.

Nationalist Newsletter  
Charles Hudson  
Gerald E. Winrod  
William Dudley Pelley  
Father Coughlin  
The Black Legion  
Joseph C. Williams  

Etc.  

Enact Legislation making the Preaching of Racial Hatred a Federal offence.

I urge you and I urge all America to act now.

[Signature]
July 1, 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MS. FABC
MR. LADD

This morning Mr. Drew Pearson, Columnist, called to see me and left with me the attached photostatic copies of affidavits made by Virgil E. Effinger, Glenn D. Webb and Frank Harber concerning the initiation into the Black Legion of Congressman Robert F. Jones of Lima, Ohio, who has recently been nominated by the President for a position on the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. Pearson stated that he thought that eventually there might be referred to the Department for investigation a matter of perjury in that Congressman Jones had testified under oath, concerning his nomination to the FCC, that he had never been a member of the Black Legion.

I think it might be well to transmit to the Attorney General at once copies of these affidavits, advising him that they have been left with the Bureau by Mr. Pearson.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Attachment (with Mr. Tolson's copy)

[Photostatic copies enclosed]
This is Herbert Ethridge, being first duly sworn, says that he was personally present at a meeting of the Black Legion when Robert F. Jones, of Lima, Ohio, took the oath required to be taken by all applicants for membership in said organization.

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 1st day of October, A.D., 1933.

[Signature]

Notary Public, Allen County, Ohio
State of Ohio

County of Allen, ss.

I, Glenn E. Webb, hereby being duly sworn, swear on oath that I initiated Robert F. Jones into the Black Legion on the Tapscott Farm, east of Lima, Ohio. Robert Jones knelted before me where I could see him face to face - with a gun at his back, according to our ritual, as he accepted the oath of obligation. The ceremony took place around 1935.

(Signed) GLENN E. WEBB

Sworn to before me and in my presence this 28th day of June, 1947.

/s/ Leon N. Stone
Notary Public for the State of Ohio
I, Frank Barber, administered the preliminary obligation to Robert F. Jones prior to his joining the Patriotic Legion of America, commonly known as the Black Legion. I remember that the ceremony took place in the woods on Tapscott Farm about two miles from the city of Lima, Ohio. I believe it was the year 1934 as nearly as I can remember. I definitely remember it was before Robert Jones became county attorney because it was the Patriotic Legion of America which helped place him in that office.

June 30 (s) Frank Barber

Witnessed by Joseph B. Emmons and Jack Anderson

Notarized by Leon N. Stone
State of Ohio,  Affidavit
Allen County, ss.

Virgil Herbert Effinger, being first duly sworn, says that he was personally present at a meeting of the Black Legion when Robert F. Jones, of Lima, Ohio, took the oath required to be taken by all applicants for membership in said organization.

(s) Virgil H. Effinger

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence this 1st day of October, A.D., 1938.

(s) Pauline M. Pool
Notary Public, Allen County, Ohio

PAULINE M. POOL
Notary Public, Allen County, Ohio
My commission expires, Nov. 3, 1939
Memorandum regarding Robert F. Jones and the Black Legion

Witness Frank Barber is Chief of Police in a small town outside Lima.

Witness Glenn E. Webb, something of a professional joiner, and who has belonged to various organizations in the past, is now prominent in the United Automobile Workers.

Witness Virgil H. Effinger, former head of the Black Legion, is now quite old. On Friday, June 27, he was questioned by the editor of the Lima News, who is very pro-Jones, as to whether Jones was ever a member of the Black Legion. Effinger replied in the negative. But on Saturday, June 28, Effinger was told that Drew Pearson had possession of an affidavit signed by him, that Jones was a member of the Black Legion. He was then asked whether he had ever signed such an affidavit. His reply, quoted by the Lima News was, "I don't know. I'm getting too old to remember those things now."

Effinger's affidavit is reported to have been signed in front of his attorney, Clarence Miller, who can doubtless testify to its veracity. Since the notary public, Pauline Pool, signed the affidavit in 1938, obviously she could not remember the hundreds of affidavits she has notarized. However, if a photostat of the original copy were shown her (original copy now on file with Senator White, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee), doubtless she will recognize her own signature.
Detroit, Michigan
20, 1944

England controls all the Mediterranean ports.

Stalin controls a vast land Empire, going up through the Balkans, Poland, Finland, Estonia, Roumania, Latvia, and part of Germany.

We believe Germany is broken up in the map as we remember a description of it.

There is something about China in it but we can't remember it.

The "invasion" money is reported to have Roosevelt's and Churchill's picture on it.

It is definitely known that the money was printed in Washington, D. C. and is stored there.

DEGualle has warned the French against this money, saying that it will "despoil" them of their possessions.

DEGualle was scheduled to send 600 officers with American forces which invaded France. He sulked in his tent and finally consented to send 2. He stayed in Normandy long enough to have his picture taken as the "Savior" of France and then retired to let the English and Americans win his country back for him. Not before issuing a warning against accepting "invasion" money, however.

Two negroes and a Jew have bought Blossom Heath which is a famous gambling joint in St. Clair Shores, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. This is a large place, many miles from where any negro lives and planked right down in the middle of a nice settlement of white people. To get to it they have to pass thru the exclusive Grosse Pointe section. The city fathers are stalling on issuing a license and the attorneys for the negroes have tried to make them and force them to issue a bar and restaurant license. They will have to eventually issue same.

A group of negroes are reported to be negotiating to buy some boat club in Detroit or Grosse Pointe.

This situation has the makings of a race riot for St. Clair Shores has a large number of members of the Ku Klux Klan and 'Black Legion' living there. They are mostly employed at Hudson Motor and Packard factories which have long been known as strongholds of the Klan and Black Legion.
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD
re: PEARSON AND ALLEN BROADCAST
7:30 P.M., June 27, 1943

Home front fighting is Japanese inspired by propaganda. Dies to allow negro leaders to air grievances. "Fighting on the home front--
Last week the United States of America, especially in Detroit, approached some of the internal strife which featured the great republic of France before she fell asunder. Now I can reveal that when Winston Churchill was in Washington, one problem which concerned him and President Roosevelt most was the manner in which Japan had gained favor with the Filipino people and with the Hayleys and the Siamese. Very cleverly the Japs have preached that this is a white man's war and that today the Japs are out to protect the colored races. This propaganda, President Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill found, has made very serious headway. Then last week in Detroit a gang of hotbloods, inspired by the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan, did their country a great injustice and played into the hands of these Jap propagandists. When the wounded sat in crowded hospitals waiting for treatment, white and black-chatted and exchanged cigarettes together, showing that basically they had no bitterness but were stirred up by some un-American influence. Congressman Martin Dies, who comes from the South, informs us that he intends to give negro leaders a chance to tell their grievance to his committee and to ferret out whatever un-American influence it was that inspired these unpatriotic riots. . . ."

There is no basis or substantiation from any source in regard to these allegations. The FBI is not conducting an investigation regarding this matter, but a memorandum has been submitted to the Attorney General submitting all the facts. However, it is believed that the War Department has placed credence in these reports and is taking action. Captain Takane, also known as Major Takahashi, from internment to Detroit for questioning. This individual was placed in the penitentiary from 1939 to 1942 for illegal entry into the United States and on exit from incarceration was picked up by Bureau Agents and has been interned since.

Lewis to be indicted under new anti-strike legislation next October if strike occurs then, Pearson said. "I can reveal that the Justice Department has been studying moves to indict Lewis. They found no legal means of doing so under existing law last week. Under the new anti-strike legislation, Lewis could be indicted and it will be if there is another strike in October. . . ."

France, knowing that democracy are to win war, will restore the monarchy and hide behind regal robes. Pearson stated, thereby--dictator Franco of Spain has decided to restore the monarchy in Spain for only one reason--he knows
that the democracies are going to win this war and that his 'pals', Hitler and Mussolini, are finished. The restoration of the monarchy will give Franco a chance to hide behind regal robes. The State Department career clique, as usual, is helping him.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Rush (S. Glick)
June 19, 1936.

Mr. A. H. Johnson,
Caitus Regional Office #6,
1015 Transportation Building,
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sirs:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 6, 1936, furnishing information relative to the organization Caitus, of which you are a member of the advisory board.

For your information, the jurisdiction of this Bureau is restricted by legislative enactment to conducting investigations in matters relevant to the violation of specific Federal laws. The contents of your communication and the attached circular entitled "Caitus" have been carefully noted, but under the existing policies of this Bureau, I must advise you that I am unable to endorse or pass upon the legality or propriety of your organization.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,
Director.

cc Detroit
Do It Immediately

Do it known that, prompted by the recent outbreaks of Black Legionism in this territory, which is only a small part of the reactionist-nativist fanatic spirit and secret activity reported from every part of the United States; and fearing that our activity in this and adjoining territory; the activity of the CAITUS in a larger sense, will be met by the above secret organizations by denouncing us to the authorities; and in every other way tried to be arrested and stamped out; upon legal advice we are taking these steps to protect ourselves and our legally permissible enrollment of prospects for membership in the CAITUS, by submitting to the above named two governmental agencies, as follows:

1. The above Regional Office No. 6 operates in Southeastern Michigan, northwestern Ohio and northeastern Indiana.

2. Said operations in the said Region are in the hands of Ernest E. Zideck, until recently and for nine years employee of the General Motors; native Czech, German upbringing, naturalized at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the year 1914 (vis: in February, 1914). Zideck has had engineering training in Germany; has had a thorough academic education; he is known in this country by his literary contributions to technical publications, Sheet Metal Worker of New York, American Artista of Chicago, and others. Also, under the name of Ernest E. Zideck his original Czech name, he wrote for years in Czech publicat in this country. Also, in the years 1920-22 he was Instructor New York City with the Federal Board. He was instrumental in effecting the Slavic unity on the Pacific Coast alluded-to in attached printed matter.

3. We are submitting PRINTED MATTER approved by us and used by the above Detroit Office. Said printed matter will be mail it intra Postal inspection.

4. The rules for solicitors of Enrollments in the CAITUS

RECORDED & INDEXED
2-43899

COPIES DELETED
270 OCT 14 1904
and the not valid for a voluntary contribution.

In the printed instructions have attached. The officers in the attention by the De

5.- Advertising in newspapers, mail to solicitors, agents, all is governed by the same printed instructions.

6.- Stipulated 10% of fees, collected from contributors to affect their organization into the C A I T U S, is being put in trust by B.E. Zideck. Same applies or, will apply, to offices established in Toledo, Flint and other places.

7.- B.E. Zideck is responsible to the authorities for his appointees, aids, agents and other such help engaging in the collection of fees for enrollment in the C A I T U S. He is responsible, in his District embracing the above named territory, for the 10% of fees being deposited to the credit of the Advisory Board of the C A I T U S. He is responsible to the Advisory Board alone for strict accounting and results.

8.- By the use of Enrollment Cards in triplicate, as here submitted, the middle portion being received and kept by the Executive Secretary of the Board for execution of proper Membership Certificate; and by strict adherence to the rules as published in the printed letter; no believe that any false or fraudulent collections of fees under the name of C A I T U S are also mismanagement of the stipulated proceedings have been guarded against; and there shall be no reason for interference by either the Postal Authorities or the Department of Justice.

9.- There have been, and are, apprehensions as to that the Twenty Million Strong Alliance, composed largely of the Foreign-Born, might do once united and organized. Such apprehensions, if proceeding from trouble, are wholly unfounded. The Alliance is for PROTECTION, political, social, actual, but shows no collaborate that Jews and Catholics, Nordics and Latins and Slavics and the conglomeration of the other element might be united into a politically and economically divergent force from the established belief and order. he is a dreamer.

10.- On the contrary, the Alliance will, by its very constitute support the established Order, and it is by means of Educati through the uniform English language publications that the Alliance will be led on to more progressive, more liberal beliefs and tendencies. That, we hope, is much more preferable to the Twenty Million becoming a party in the hands of the ul radicalist tendency, of which there is evidence enough.
No. 1324

Request for Enrollment in the Caitus

Name

Address

Wife, Children

Address and Mail to:

JOSEPH TRANSPORTATION BLDG., DETROIT, MICH.

No. 1324

CAITUS

Enrollment Certificate
(Preliminary) Embracing the Undersigned


No: 62-48239-1
CAITUS CREDENTIALS

Issued to

Address

1140 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

For CAITUS Organization Work
in the Territory of

South East District

City of Detroit, Michigan.

Caitus Organization Department

Region No.

Signed:

MEMBER ADVISORY BOARD

Regional Office Stamp:

CAITUS

REG. OFFICE NO.
TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Recent events are the order of the day, all trying to arrest the progressive movement inaugurated by the Conservative, Intellectual, or Advanced Labor Movement, led by the Churches, and in particular in the New Deal. They are opposing to it with violence, hatred and fanaticism to prevent it from being passed. The purpose of the Nation has proceeded to Italy, Austria, and Germany. They calculate that, if the nation promised nothing, it would not support the dictatorship of the Mob. They will be able to convince the intimidated people of the need of a Dictatorship in the United States.

In Germany, the attackable human material in the country would be the Jew, the Catholic, the advanced Labor Unionist, the honest intellectual, and, principally, the FOREIGN-BORN. It is expected that the Mob, once incited and let loose, would hit the least dangerous and the most profitable to loot, the Jewish stores and concentrate on the destruction of the businesses, establishments, homes of the GERMANS, the Scandinavians, the Poles, the Latin, and the Greeks, the Slavs and the number of other nationalities and foreign language groups in our midst. Progressively, there would be other victims.

ONLY A TWENTY MILLION STRONG ALLIANCE of all the above attackable human material in the United States is able to hold back the reactionary forces introducing here the Hitler tactics and in the ensuing riots and bloodshed and destruction fasten a fanatical tyrannical rule over the American people. Only such a strong Alliance, equipped and prepared for whatever trouble, will warn the Mob to stay away. Only such an Alliance, its constituents aiding and protecting each other, its management in hands of wide-awake, fearless, quick acting men and women, will be fit to face whatever disturbances and mob psychology are developing in this country, and PREVENT here a repetition of what is happening in Europe.

effect, present in the position here, which would be as in Italy, a scare-mongering mob, and death ( ).

Such an Alliance is in formation now. Organizing the attackable material of the country, the Church leadership, Progressive and Labor Unionists, and the Foreign-Born and their families, too many to name here. The organizing work is being conducted by an ADVISORY BOARD composed of a number of intellectuals, a number of the advanced leaders of the Foreign-born, a number of men and women, representative of the entire United States, of the Jew, the Catholic, and the advanced Labor Unionists.

Facing obstacles put in the way by the reactionaries; especially so when these fanatics saw the Twenty Million strong foreign-language citizenry in this country being organized against their Hitlerite plans; the ADVISORY BOARD has instructed its members and delegates conducting the organizing work in different parts of the country to have this document and instructions printed for use by the organizers, their aids or agents.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ORGANIZERS

1. The name of the Alliance is CAITUS, meaning: Contra-fascist Alliance in the United States.

2. Persons engaged in the Enrollment of Members for the Alliance must display a Card bearing this authorized version of WHY AND WHAT FOR we organize. Each person approached for enrollment must be apprised of these contents.

3. Organizers, their aids and agents are authorized to collect a fee from persons enrolled. One Dollar from individuals and Two Dollars for the entire family, making the
The enrollment of a voluntary act and the payment of the fee a voluntary contribution towards carrying on the organization work.

The organization is provided with cards printed in two places, each of C Card having 3 parts, each such part being numbered identically. After filling out all 3 parts as directed, and signed, the organizer cuts one part and leaves two parts in the hands of the enrolled member. The organizer forwards his portion of the Enrollment Card, together with 40% of the fee collected, to the office by which employed (Regional Office). The enrolled member retains the portion of the Card marked "Enrollment Certificate" and forwards the other portion to the Regional Office. These directions must be strictly complied with to insure unobstructed organization work.

5. When a sufficient number of members in any one neighborhood or, of any one idi- cal language is enrolled, the Regional Office proceeds to organize them into Neighborhood and Language Groups, each such Group sending two delegates to the Regional Unit, by which the Groups are governed thereafter. Each Regional Unit will send two delegates to the National Convention of the CAITUS, to be held in Chicago, in January, 1937.
On the Pacific Coast were living, scattered here and there, small groups of Poles, Russians, Serbians, Bulgarians, Czechoslovaks, Ukrainians, Croatians and Slovenes. Separated one from the other, nourished on old-country hatreds, one of the other, these groups had little interest, and no voice, in the affairs of their community, State, or this, their adopted country. They were slighted, discriminated against, with no protection from whatever source. They, in their nationalistic and narrow minded isolation, were practically zero in citizenship, in social, cultural and other values of American life. They furnished, in that state of mind and social regard, a pliable human material into the hands of any demagogue who came along.

That has been changed. The seeming impossible has been accomplished. The Pole was made to forget his hating the Russian, the Croat the Serbian, this fellow the Bulgarian, etc., etc., and vice versa. Today these nationalities are all united, with a common English language newspaper, "The Slavic News", at Los Angeles, a common Auditorium nearby, a common human, civic and cultural bond making them strong, respected and protected.

Along the above lines, CAITUS is proceeding now to organize all the foreign-born and their families, citizens of the United States. The almost impossible is being done. Jews and Catholics, Germans and Poles, Scandinavians and Slavics, Latins, Greeks, all the other foreign-born or foreign language elements in our midst are being enrolled for membership in the CAITUS, the twenty-million strong Alliance for Mutual Aid and Protection, which shall, by means of a nation-wide, common newspaper, printed in English, and by other educational and informatory means, lead on its readers and members and make of them an integral part of American life, but also a part of that life that will not, mutely and unprotected, submit to discrimination; to victimization, respectively in whatever reactionary or mob psychology disorders or upheavals are developing in this country.

If someone donated twenty million dollars to be used in organizing the above elements along the lines outlined, the money would be squandered, its disbursers would become bosses, the Alliance if ever accomplished by that money being spent, would be subject to graft, money squabbles, dictatorial influence and disunion in the very start.

That is why CAITUS accepts no money from whatever source, but lets each prospective member contribute voluntarily, One Dollar toward the organization work, enrollment of members primarily being done. Strict accounting is essential. Sixty per cent of the dollar contributed goes to the organizing or enrolling force. Thirty per cent is allotted to Regional Offices employing organizers and facilitating their work. And only ten per cent of the dollar paid in is reserved for the CAITUS Treasury, by which shall be financed a National Convention of Delegates planned for January, 1937, and such other activities of the CAITUS as shall be determined by the said Convention.

Accordingly, each of the several Regional Offices of the Caitus, conducting Membership Enrollment Work, is responsible for ten per cent of all the fees so paid.

The Advisory Board of the Caitus is composed of individuals, men and women, scattered all over the country. A member of the Advisory Board inaugurates and supervises Regional Office activities. Regional Office Managers, when so appointed by the said Board Member, are put under Bond for the Ten per cent of Fees and for strict conduct of the Enrollment Work, as stipulated.
DEAR MR. GOODE

JUN 2, 1936

Washington, D.C.

RECORDED & INDEXED

[ handwriting details]

[ handwriting details]

[ handwriting details]

[ handwriting details]

[ handwriting details]

[ handwriting details]

[ handwriting details]

[ handwriting details]

[ handwriting details]
and I stood the cabinet by my head,
of the moon and every quarter
in the sky. I saw a dark cloud
at the door, over the frame
of my head, behold three
young men, joined by bounds of age.
I invited them in,
and when they got to see
the light from the pierglass
they said: The sight is
so grand, that each had a sleep
fully shrouded with a shawl.
I brought a high led,
and wore a small arbor;
black, in black, and white,
the most satisfying of all, I departed the following day. I continued my journey on foot, as I could not ride. I arrived in the evening, and my calculations were correct. They were the most significant, but nobody could enlighten me. I thought perhaps it was a black hand, but I learned that only men出席od by talismans were able to do this. It was my fortune to obtain some reward. I was unable to determine who my talismans were, or what was given to them in return. I have been able to distinguish one person would have deserved...
...money might have a force that would overcome all our efforts against the force. I have...
WEATHER

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA—Fair tonight and Sunday, with overcast near coast in morning; no change in temperature.

FROM NEWSBOYS THREE CENTS

16 FANATICS HELD AFTER MAN SLAIN

Weird Moral Code Based On K.K.K. Exposed In Detroit

DETROIT,  (U.P.)--The black legion, 16 of whose members are threatened with murder charges from the death of a victim of a “night ride” has had scores of victims, police believed today. Preliminary investigation revealed an organization held together by weird oaths and terrorism and pledged to upholding a fanatical moral code and to enforcing a vindictive conception of “Americanism.”

Authorities promised to file murder charges against 9 of the 16 today. They took part, police said, in the execution of Charles A. Poole, 32, a WPA worker who had been charged and convicted by the legion of beating his wife. He was found in the edge of a roadside ditch and shot by Danton Dean, 36, who confessed firing the shots, police said.

Police began an investigation of relatives and friends of the 16 men, believing they would not only find more members of the secret, night-riding society but victims of its moral crusade. Detectives believed almost all its past victims had been tied to trees in lonely woods and flogged.

Most of the victims, police believed, were charged with unfaithfulness to wives, of selling girls and other moral blu...
The Legion undoubtedly had taken a sudden interest in its members. Inspector Henry L. Navarro, commander of the police homicide bureau, said, "Just how many, we can't say at this time."

Navarro believed the victims of the Legion had been taken largely from those who had lived in the neighborhood for years and who were not known to the men. He and his investigators already had determined that Pooles was an innocent of the charge for which the men were arrested. And he believed that the Legion had 60 members, and he ordered the arrest of the other 44.

Urban Lipps, 32, one of the men held, was the most communicative. He admitted having been present in the execution of Poole, but said he had participated in no other "jobs." He had been a member for six months, he said, and he understood the Legion had "taken care" of a number of "rats."

Describes Ritual

Lipps described to police the ritual of initiation. After he had been accepted as worthy of membership (protestant and white), he was taken to a secret meeting place. The members of the Legion surrounded him, dressed in flowing black robes, masked, the white stain of their skull and cross-bone insignia, on breasts and cocked hats, glittering in the poor light.

At a command, he knelt. A Legionnaire pressed a pistol against his heart and he was told to raise his right hand and take the oath. Police were not immediately able to learn the exact wording of the oath, but Lipps said he was told to guard the secrets of the Legion with his life, that he understood he would be killed if he betrayed it in any way.

Lipps estimated, police said, that one of the requirements of membership in the black legion was membership in the Ku Klux Klan, which still survives, a weak shadow of its strength a decade ago. Lipps understood that the Legion had chapters in all parts of the country and hundreds of members, but he knew no details of the national organization. The national commander, he said, had the title of major general but he did not know his name or his headquarters.
Dear Sir:

Port Huron, Michigan, was introduced to Special Agent Francis F. Parker, Resident Agent at Port Huron, by Captain DANIEL L. O'LEARY of the Port Huron Police Department.

He is forty-four years of age, having been born in 1900, and is a life-long resident of Port Huron. He was formerly a member of the Black Legion in Port Huron and advised he joined this organization only because in the beginning he thought it was a Republican group. He attended three meetings, but during the course of those meetings he advised he met a great deal of the men and has furnished Agent Parker a list of those men which has been incorporated in the files of the Detroit Field Office.

He advised he is willing to give information at any time whatsoever relative to the Black Legion and other subversive groups in and around Port Huron and he is being designated as a confidential national defense informant inasmuch as he has requested that under no circumstances should his name be made public.

He is a member of the American Legion but is in Port Huron every weekend. He does not desire reimbursement for information and advised he will give this information for the reason that he is a good citizen. His membership in the Black Legion was in 1936.

Very truly yours,

R. A. Guerin, SAC
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Re: JOHN BAINWORM, et al;
ROY FITCOCK - VICTIM;
KIDNAPPING; MURDER ON
THE HIGH SEAS.

Dear Sir

During the interview with DAITON BEAN regarding
instant case, BEAN persisted in furnishing all information he
could with reference to Black Legion activities along other lines,
and in the course of the questioning advised that HENRY A.
FICKENT, Commissioner of Police, Detroit, Michigan, was taken into
the Black Legion and the oath administered to him by Colonel ROY
HUNGER.

BEAN stated that FICKENT was seen at meetings by
him, and that after the various hearings in regard to prosecutions
for murders committed by members of the Legion, several Inspectors
in the Detroit Police Department were raised to the position of
Assistant Chief of Police, due to their knowledge of FICKENT's
relationship with the Legion.

BEAN also advised that the following individuals
were members of the Black Legion in this district, to his know-
ledge:

- L. EDGAR SHARP, Judge of Common Pleas
  Court, Detroit, Michigan
- LEOALD S. LEONARD, Captain, Michigan
  State Police, Detroit, Michigan
- PHILIP REDIVIS, former candidate for
  Mayor in Detroit
- HARRY TOY, recent candidate for Governor
  in Michigan
- FRANK D. MITCHELL, Governor-elect of
  Michigan

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVAISED BY ROUTING
SHIP(S) OF DETAIL
DATE

CLASSIFIED 2-7-28

RECEIVED &
INDEXED 6-18-28
JOHN GILLESPIE, well-known politician, Detroit, Michigan
DUNCAN McCHEA, Wayne County Prosecutor, Detroit, Michigan
IRA ALBRECHT, politician, Detroit, Michigan

DAYTON DEAN stated that he was certain all of the above-named individuals were members of the Black Legion in 1936. He advised that he had seen DUNCAN McCHEA at a Black Legion meeting which took place in a farmer's field one and one-half miles north of Oxford, Michigan; that McCHEA took the oath of the Black Legion before IRA ALBRECHT; and that ALBRECHT was taken into the Legion at a meeting held in a field near John H and Eighteen or Nineteen Mile Road, at which meeting he (Dean) also was present.

During the questioning, DEAN appeared to have no ill feeling toward anyone except the members of the Legion who caused him to become a member and to get into his present predicament. He stated that he did not blame any of these men individually, but that he held his grievance particularly against BERT EFFINGER, who sent out the men to organize the Michigan District.

It will be noted from the report submitted in this case that EFFINGER resides at Lima, Ohio, and is reported to have been at the head of the Black Legion in the area covering the northeastern part of the United States from Illinois to the Atlantic Ocean.

It is apparent from the investigation conducted to date by Special Agent H. A. Loughran of this office that, in all probability, the only persons who definitely know of the place where ROY STICKO was murdered are the members of the party alone at the time.

In accordance with Bureau letter dated August 12, 1938, the leads set forth in the report of Special Agent H. A. Loughran, dated December 6, 1938, at Detroit, Michigan, will be covered in the near future, unless otherwise advised by the Bureau.

Very truly yours

HAL
VK/wnm

John C. Hughes
Special Agent in Charge
Office Memorandum

TO: The Director
FROM: D. R. Ladd
SUBJECT: JOSEPH B. EMONS
        GLENN E. WEBB

DATE: June 30, 1939

Pursuant to your telephonic instructions to Special Agent R. Lawrence last evening, there is attached a memorandum containing a summary of information concerning Joseph B. Emons and Glenn E. Webb. This memorandum contains information in the Bureau files and that contained in the files of the Cleveland Field Division, as well as that furnished by the Resident Agent covering Lima, Ohio, based upon his personal knowledge of the situation in Lima.

In connection with your request for photostatic copies of previous correspondence between you and Congressman Robert Jones in 1937 concerning Virgil E. Effinger, allegedly head of the Black Legion in Lima, Ohio, these copies are being prepared and will be furnished to you under a separate memorandum.

ATTACHED.

Director's Notation.

Attached.

Copies furnished Jones.

Indexed.

Received.

[Signature]

[Signature]
By teletype dated June 30, 1947, the Cleveland Field Division furnished the following information, part of which appeared in their files and part of which was furnished as personal knowledge of the Resident Agent covering Lima, Ohio:

Joseph B. Emmons presently resides at 789 Holly Street, Lima, Ohio. He was formerly married to Jean W. Emmons, but is presently divorced. He is a native of Lima and was previously employed by the Gro-Cord Rubber Company in Lima prior to becoming an organizer in the CIO labor field. He is presently Executive Secretary of the Lima Regional Industrial Council-CIO with headquarters at 112 East Elm Street. Emmons returned to Lima about 1944 after having served a considerable period of time in the United Rubber Workers of America-CIO in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Akron, Ohio, areas.

Glenn E. Webb is a native of Lima and presently resides at 510 Jefferson Street, Lima. He was previously married to Ellen C. Webb and has at least two children as a result of this marriage. However, he was divorced during the past year and is presently married to Wixine Hempken, a girl some twenty years his junior. Webb was employed for a number of years as inspector in the Westinghouse Electrical Plant in Lima. He recently became a member of the Executive Board of Local 724, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America-CIO and has served as President of the Lima local.

The indices of the Cleveland Office failed to reflect any Communist activity on the part of either Emmons or Webb. However, sources of information available to the Cleveland Office advise that both Webb and Emmons have been termed by some Lima citizens as "fellow travelers" based on their stand on labor and racial matters.

The Cleveland Office further advised that according to recent newspaper articles, columnist Drew Pearson in testifying before the Senate Interstate Commerce Sub-Committee alleged that he had certain documents proving that Congressman Robert F. Jones, Ohio Republican Representative in Congress from the 4th Congressional District, Lima, Ohio, was a member of the Black Legion, which was a "disgrunted branch of the KKK" and operated in Ohio in 1935. The Black Legion allegedly was organized and administered by Virgil H. "Bert" Effinger.

Effinger, an electrical contractor, presently resides at 111 4 Harrison Avenue, Lima. In the middle 30's he was arrested in Lima and extradited to

[Handwritten notes and signatures]
Detroit, Michigan, to stand trial on charges of murder allegedly committed along with other acts of violence by the Black Legion. Numerous influential citizens and public officials including the present mayor, Chief of Police and Sheriff of Allen County, all from Lima, and others in the surrounding territory are alleged to have been members of the organization. Congressman Jones, who was Prosecuting Attorney for Allen County at that time, was allegedly vigorous in his activity in making Effinger available for extradition.

Drew Pearson allegedly has an affidavit from Effinger alleging that Jones was inducted into and took the oath in the Black Legion under his, Effinger's, direction. Effinger, according to a recent article in the "Lima News", a local newspaper, refuted Pearson's claim.

Pearson also allegedly has an affidavit of Glenn E. Webb which he obtained through the efforts of Joseph E. Emmons which alleges that Webb made Jones a member of the Black Legion at a different meeting, time and place than that alleged in Effinger's affidavit.

Emmons and Webb are regarded in Lima as being antagonistic toward Jones possibly as a result of Jones' reported anti-labor record in Congress. Both individuals have actively denounced Jones through local press and radio releases. According to Lima press information, there is possible doubt as to the validity of Webb's affidavit inasmuch as no previous indication of Webb's affiliation with the Black Legion has been reported. Another press informant of the Cleveland office has stated that he expects to be able to advise that office soon if Webb was known by Effinger as a member of the Black Legion and whether Webb could have been in a position to induct Congressman Jones into the secret organization as alleged in the affidavit.

Sources available to the Cleveland Office advise that the present charges against Jones by the above-mentioned labor leaders have not heretofore been brought against him during Jones' political career. In Lima certain locals of the Food, Tobacco and Agricultural-CIO have withdrawn from the national organization, alleging Communist domination. Emmons in his capacity as Executive Secretary of the Lima Regional Industrial Council, in order to combat these dissident elements, has obtained the legal services of a Lima attorney, one Elmer McClain, known to the Cleveland Office as Executive Secretary, Agricultural Committee, National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Lima, Ohio.

On April 3, 1944, Jacob Kroll, Director, National Political Action Committee, 218 Railway Clerks Building, Cincinnati, Ohio, addressed a letter to Emmons in which he pointed out that the committees should call on their Congressmen and Senators urging them to extend the OPA without bans on subsidies, freezing wages or crippling amendments of any kind, as reflected by a review of the Bureau files.

The files further reflect that on May 12, 1944, Emmons addressed a letter to Kroll in which he discussed the nominations in local politics and discussed purely union activities.
On June 2 and June 13, 1944, letters were written by Joe Emmons as Field Representative, CIO Political Action Committee, Region V, United Rubber Workers of America-CIO, Akron, Ohio, to all rubber locals in Region V, exhorting the members of those locals to work toward the reelection of the late President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

On June 29, 1944, Joseph Emmons as Field Representative of the Political Action Committee addressed a letter to S. H. Dalrymple, General President, United Rubber Workers of America, 503 United Building, Akron, Ohio, concerning the political action of Local 85, URWA, at Lima, Ohio, and pointing out that the full and active participation of that local in political action was needed as "this city is within the 4th Congressional District—one of the most reactionary in the State."

On July 5, 1944, Emmons wrote a letter as Field Representative of the CIO Political Action Committee to Jack Kroll, concerning the delinquencies of some of the local organizations and his actions to overcome these delinquencies.

The Bureau files further reflect that Joe Emmons, 789 Holly Street, Lima, Ohio-URWA was listed in July, 1944, as union representative working in Region V on political action work.

The Bureau files also reflect that Joseph B. Emmons was employed as an organizer by Local 22, United Tobacco Workers Union-CIO, Winston Salem, North Carolina, during September, 1946. This union was active in the Reynolds Tobacco Company in Winston Salem.

The files further reflect that at Lima, Ohio, the Official Annual Labor Directory-CIO disclosed Joseph B. Emmons, 789 Holly Street, Lima, Ohio, Local 85, URWA, was Executive Secretary of the Lima Regional Industrial Union Council in March, 1946.

The only references in Bureau files concerning Glenn E. Webb indicate that the "UE News" of May 5, 1945, listed Glenn E. Webb as President of Local 724 and "UE News" of May 9, 1946, listed the same information. A notation was made, however, that no Communist infiltration within this local has been reported. One "Glen Webb, Lima, Ohio, present FERA" (Federal Emergency Relief Association) "paymaster," is named in a list of officers and members of the Black Legion which was furnished by Messrs. Carter, Pratt, Urfer and Scheid. These individuals were allegedly former members of the Black Legion and were interviewed by Bureau Agents in connection with the investigation of the Black Legion in 1935.
June 4, 1936

J. E. Hamilton, 615 Fuller Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated May 30, 1936, inclosing copies of the editorials entitled "Paroles and Gangsters" and "The Black Legion," which appeared in recent issues of the St. Paul Pioneer Press. I read these editorials with a great deal of interest and want to sincerely thank you for your thoughtfulness in calling them to my attention.

I also want to thank you for your interest in suggesting that cartoons be widely exhibited visualizing the phrase, "Yellow Fats," as pertaining to criminals, as a step in crime prevention. I am indeed interested in this suggestion and shall give it consideration.

With best wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover, Director.
Mr. Edgar Hoover,
Department of Justice,
Washington.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am sure you will be glad to read this editorial from the Pioneer Press of this week, though doubtless you have a clipping service.

Will you permit me a suggestion? You have coined the phrase, "Yellow rats" to designate our criminals. Why not do something to visualize your phrase and thus bring it home to school boys and school girls of the nation and to the adults as well?

Have our best men draft a cartoon to bring this phrase home to all. Portray a slinking rat with the information that rats destroy one billion dollars worth yearly, followed by the words, "We cannot help it." Then portray a two legged rat who destroys fifteen billion yearly, and the words, "He can help it", or must be made to help it.

This might even be painted in colors, taking care to give the two legged rat a yellow motif in the coloring.

Place these when reproduced in schools, and Sunday schools and anywhere that people congregate, stations, bus depots.

Would it not sink in, that phrase of yours, and be copied all over the world?

I cannot help thinking about all this, and this is about all I can do to help your splendid work.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]

Add: 4-36

6-1-36

RECORDED & INDEXED

JUN 20 1936

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JUN 1 1936 P.M.
AROLES AND GANGSTERS

Between J. Edgar Hoover's criticisms of parole systems and the National Probation Association's defense of them, there is no real conflict. Both are correct.

A large number of the criminals with whom the G-men deal have at one time or another been released from prison on parole. Mr. Hoover has given dramatic point to this fact by showing that every one of his men who has been killed on duty was shot by a paroled convict. In short, the gangster or professional criminal is almost without exception a public enemy who is and can be of no use to society, who never should be released, and who gets his parole either through corruption of officials, politics or just plain stupidity. Mr. Hoover is absolutely correct in his belief that parole and the professional criminal cannot be made to mix without evil results.

Where the parole system fails it is usually for good reason. In the first place, it is frequently regarded as a form of clemency, whereas it is really a method of prolonging social control over the majority of offenders who are redeemable and potentially good citizens. Secondly, adequate parole personnel and machinery are often lacking.

Only fourteen states have created agencies to deal specifically with parole—many states delegate parole to the governor or board of pardons. Only five states and the Federal government have full-time salaried parole boards. Only eight states, including Minnesota, have substantial numbers of field agents working under central supervision; a majority of the states have fewer than none or none at all.

In view of the circumstances the administration in many states becomes a contest of misconceptions. The G-men are not hardened criminals, and the G-man is not a bum. The idea that the G-men have never been in the house of correction is simply a misconception. It is just like saying that all dogs are friendly or that all men are good. There are men who are good and there are men who are bad. There are dogs who are friendly and there are dogs who are vicious. There are people who are honest and there are people who are dishonest.

But where parole is intelligently organized and administered, the mistakes are few and those that occur are offset by far by the social benefits of its wise use for the larger majority of prisoners. A prisoner is selected for parole not to diminish his sentence but because he is judged fit for a better form of custody. Instead of being held within a prison, he is held under control and supervision as a returned member to society. It is a continuation of the ultimate purpose behind prison policy, the reconstruction of a human being, and under circumstances which contribute most surely for the success of the policy.

But an inadequate parole system is worse than none at all, and amounts to a breakdown in social defense against crime. Selection must be wise and supervision thorough. When parole selects habitual criminals, or when it allows paroled prisoners to go free, it becomes a menace. For the class of criminals of whom Mr. Hoover speaks the only sensible prison policy is to put them under lock and key and keep them there.

The Probation Association is talking about successful parole systems and Mr. Hoover about the unsuccessful ones. For each there is a reason.
Double Week End Traffic.

With Memorial Day falling on Saturday, there will be a doubled holiday at the end of this week. The prospect is that the exodus from the city will be more than doubled by the opportunity for a trip instead of just a Sunday afternoon pleasure ride. In consequence, traffic on highways radiating from St. Paul will be tremendously increased and the hazard for both motorists and pedestrians will reach maximum on Sunday afternoon when the departures of the two days will be united in one great traffic stream hurrying back to the city.

In view of this condition, Superintendent Wettersgren of the Traffic Squad sensibly suggests that motorists wishing to avoid the dangers due to congested highways start their return trips earlier than usual. This will tend to reduce the jam that steadily increases in density after mid-afternoon and becomes especially hazardous at nightfall.

An ordinary week end averages twice as...
Office Memorandum

TO: Director, FBI
FROM: SAC, San Francisco, California
DATE: 6-23-44

SUBJECT: JUVENILE DELINQUENCY MATTERS — RESEARCH

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated March 10, 1944 making reference to an item appearing in the "Redwood Journal" of February 14, 1944 captioned "Juveniles in Outbreaks of Major Proportions; Damage Considerable." The article indicates that a tide of juvenile vandalism had the police department about submerged during the past week with the result that half a dozen youngsters were called in by Chief LAMPORT for questioning.

On June 14, 1944 Special Agent [redacted] of this office contacted Chief of Police LAMPORT at Ukiah, California, and ascertained the following information regarding the above-referred-to item:

On February 10, 1944 the Ukiah Police Department received a telephone call from a member of the Ukiah High School faculty to the effect that two youths had broken several windows in the Ukiah Grammar School and had soaped many of the windows at the school, having then gone to the home of the faculty member and maliciously damaged the hedges in front of his home and destroyed several expensive flower-pots which had been placed on the front porch. After this faculty member had called the first time, he again called the police department and informed them that he had received a telephone call from an individual, apparently a youth, who called him several vile names and then hung up.

The following evening this faculty member received a note, partly in writing and partly hand-printed, which was delivered under the front door of his home, in which he was again called vile names and threatened. This note was signed "The Black Legion." It was not available for examination, it having been destroyed, according to Chief LAMPORT.

In addition to the above episode, Chief LAMPORT advised that several windows in private homes had been broken by these boys, as well as the windows of many cars parked on the streets of Ukiah, California, having been soaped.

After conducting a preliminary investigation, Chief LAMPORT brought in for questioning [redacted] age 16, and [redacted] age 15, both students at the Ukiah High School, who admitted these offenses. When questioned by Chief LAMPORT, they could not give any reason for their activity, and when brought before the Juvenile Court, they were placed on probation for an indefinite period of time and ordered to pay for all damages they caused.

According to the Chief, both these boys come from good homes and have never been involved in any trouble before.

COPIES DESTROYED 4-5-1964
RECORDED & INDEXED 11-JUN-72
Director, FBI, from SAC, San Francisco, California  

6-23-44

Re: JUVENILE DELINQUENCY MATTERS - RESEARCH

who resides with his mother and his stepfather, his own father being dead, and the family maintains a good reputation in the community. He also comes from a good home and resides with his parents; however, LAMPORT advised that at one time the father drank heavily, although in the past few years he has improved in this connection to a great extent.

Because of the fact that Chief LAMPORT considers the activities of these boys to be juvenile "larks," no further effort was made to obtain more information concerning the family background.

Relative to the same item in the "Redwood Journal," Chief LAMPORT advised that on February 12, 1944 his office arrested two youths, one age 9, and one age 10, for malicious mischief. At 6:15 pm on February 12, 1944 the above-named youths, all residents of Ukiah, California, broke ten large windows and all show cases and electrical fixtures in a gasoline station on the outskirts of Ukiah which had been closed for the duration. The damage caused by the boys was estimated at $165 by authorities.

When questioned, the boys were unable to give any reason for their actions and were not taken before the juvenile authorities, because of the fact that their parents agreed to pay the owner of the gasoline station which was damaged $165.

According to Chief LAMPORT, the boy lives with his family at Ukiah, California, and has never been in trouble before. His family reportedly has a good reputation in the town.

who resides with his mother, has been in trouble on prior occasions for malicious acts, and his mother possesses a poor reputation and drinks very heavily. She is employed in a restaurant and bar in Ukiah that caters to a low-grade trade and is on the streets late at night, so that the boy does not receive the proper home life.

Chief LAMPORT informed that he had just received notification from the United States Army that [illegible] brother is a "straggler," being AWOL, and that the Army requested the Police Department to apprehend him should he appear in the vicinity of Ukiah, California.
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Re: William Dudley Pelley and the Silver Shirts.

Reference is made to the memorandum for the Director in the above entitled matter dated September 25, 1936, in which it is shown that Roy Zachary not long ago approached one William Lohrer, of Seattle, Washington, with the intention of purchasing certain arms and ammunition for the Silver Shirts and the Silver Legion. The Daily Worker for September 24, 1936, carries a news item under Seattle, Washington date line for September 24th, alleging that the Fascists are arming for a pogrom on the Jews in this city. The item goes on to state that it has been revealed attempts have been made to purchase one hundred rifles, three hundred pistols and several thousand rounds of ammunition by a representative of William Dudley Pelley's Silver Shirts. The item states that Roy Zachary, Christian Party State Organizer, tried to purchase arms from William Lohrer's Sport Shop, 4316 University Way. It is also alleged that Zachary had a permit with the signature of Chief of Police William H. Sears and admitted that the guns were to be used by Pelley's private Fascist army in an immense pogrom being planned by the combined forces of the Black Legion, the James True Associates and the Silver Shirts.

The item states that Chief of Police Sears denied he had issued a permit and branded it a forgery. Sears stated "If Zachary has a permit bearing my name, it's a forgery. I have issued no pistol permit since I've been in office. I intend to investigate this affair thoroughly, and if he has a permit, I will prosecute him to the full extent of the law."

Respectfully,

E. A. Tamm

62-28600-65

OCT 15 P.M.
Re: Flight Stamps

Examination requested by: Philadelphia (10.0)

Date of reference communication: 1-22-44

Examination requested: Dec. 7

Result of Examination:

QC searched NSF lettering acts and Al F. Rubber Stamps.

Specimens submitted for examination.

Type not suff. comparable for identification.

Type found to be similar to type of rubber stamp acts

1. Louis Melvind Co., San Fran. & Chicago, catalogue of printing
   Rubber Stamps: "2023" (Neue Gothic)
   N.W. 15th to 16th Ave. at Kilian
   #5748 Rubber Stamps

2. Armin-Newton Co., Portland, Ore. & Supplement T-83

3. Superior Type Co., Chicago, San Fran. - Wholesale catalogue
   "Veni - Line Type" #8512 (6510 Upper Case also)

4. Eagle Stamp Works, Chicago, 161 North Franklin St.
   Catalogue for Oct. 1936.
   #610 Rubber Stamps 100-300 300-2
Re: Night Airmore
Security Matter

Examination requested by: Philadelphia (100-0)
Date of reference communication: 4-22-44
Examination requested:
Result of Examination: No Latents

Search of 12 g 100-300 300-1 in rubber stamps and lettering sets a ALF and Nation on reverse side of paper. Searched in 1 specimen by ALF-W tent.

Specimens submitted for examination

2 - No watermarks
Length 7.5
Weight 547-548

2 - 6.52
Length 6.52
Weight 3.3446 g
Opacity 0.97-0.98
Thickness 0.0046-0.00
RECORDED:
5-6-44, 9:30 AM

Re: NIGHT RIDERS
Security Matters

Examination requested by: Philadelphia (100-0)
Date of reference communication: 4-22-44 Let
Examination requested: Document - fingerprint
Result of Examination: no Latent

"Night Riders" child in printed indices used in anon.
Communication and refers to an organization type.
Specimen submitted for examination

Q1 One window envelope, bng no postmark or return address.
Q2 One piece of white paper bng printing bng "The Ni-ght Riders Ride Again!"
94-4114 was a "night Rider" in an arm postal
and fire work party, Mamas 5/30-6/3, 1941,
June 4, 1941.
44-176 - upon a band of night riding floggers
operating around Brunswick, N.C.

(F-1548) own letter rec. 7/1/42 of J. J. Lofschle victim
who said "night Rider (Elven, S. Carolina)

94-2242 was of word "night Rider"
62-18103 "night Rider matter" Western District of
Kentucky.

44-164 "night Rider" Organization, N.C.
44-166 N.C. night Rider organization /flogging incident
Chief appointed vigilantes.
61-7398
A few years ago, Bristol was hearing about a certain band called the NIGHT RIDERS.

So beware! for they ride again!
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON D.C.

ELR: JC

To: SAC, Philadelphia

May 25, 1944

There follows the report of the FBI Laboratory on the examination of evidence received from your office on May 5, 1944.

John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re: Night Riders Security Matter

Examination requested by: Philadelphia

Reference: Letter 4-27-44

Examination requested: Document - fingerprint

Q1 One window envelope bearing no postmark or return address.
Q2 One piece of white paper bearing printing beginning "The Night Riders Ride Again!"

Result of Examination:

The printed material on Q2 was searched against material of a similar nature in the File of Writings pertaining to National Security and the Anonymous Letter File, but nothing of significance was noted. An appropriate copy of Q2 will be added to these files for future reference.

Communications

Phila. Laboratory

MAY 25 1944 P.M.

(continued on next page)
reference file reflects that the style and design of the letters on Q2 are similar in style and design to comparable letters listed in rubber stamp catalogues of the following companies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STYLE NUMBER</th>
<th>COMPANY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2023 (News Gothic type)</td>
<td>Louis Relind Company with offices located at San Francisco and Chicago.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5148</td>
<td>Irwin Hodgson Company N.W. 15th to 16th Avenue at Clise, Portland, Oregon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8510 Upper Case Letters (Vari-line type)</td>
<td>Superior Type Company with offices located at Chicago and San Francisco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8512 Lower Case Letters (Vari-line type)</td>
<td>Eagle Stamp Works, 162 North Franklin Street, Chicago, Illinois.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inasmuch as the catalogues available of the companies listed above show only a limited number of the letters of the alphabet, it is not possible to state that all of the letters on Q2 conform in style and design to any of the above listed styles.

It is further pointed out that the letters on Q2 are also limited.

Q1 and Q2 were chemically treated for the development of latent fingerprints, but none of value was developed.

Q1 is a plain white bond window envelope 6.50 inches in length and 3.63 inches in width.

Q2 is a plain sheet of white paper 7.50 inches in length and 5.47 inches in width. Specimens Q1 and Q2 bear no watermark.

The physical measurements of Q1 and Q2 have been taken and recorded in the Laboratory.

A check was made in the Bureau indices on the term "Nighth Riders" and it was reflected that several anonymous letters have come to the attention of the Bureau which have used this term. It is further noted that the term "Nighth Riders" has been given to certain organizations which have operated in such states as South Carolina, West Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. These organizations appear to have been
self-appointed vigilante committees which have indulged in some instances in the beating of their victims.

This information is set forth in accordance with your request and is not intended in any way to indicate that a similar organization is responsible for the preparation of the printed text on Q2.

Specimens Q1 and Q2 are being retained in the files of the Laboratory. Photographic copies are being forwarded herewith.
RECORDED:
5-6-44  9:30 A.M.

Re:  NIGHT RIDERS
Security Matters

Examination requested by: Philadelphia (100-0)
Date of reference communication: 4-22-44  Let
Examination requested: Document - fingerprint
Result of Examination:
Examination by: Rollins
LATENT
Knowles

Specimens submitted for examination

1. One window envelope brg no postmark or return address.
2. One piece of white paper brg printing brg "The Night Riders Ride Again!..."

Submitted to 4-20-44
Examination by Lab.

S.A. 5-12-44
TO: Director, FBI
FROM: SAQ, Philadelphia
SUBJECT: NIGHT RIDERS
SECURITY MATTER

Dr. JULIUS SOBEL, an osteopath with offices and residence at 214 Jefferson Avenue, Bristol, Pennsylvania, personally delivered the enclosed note to this office and explained that the note was found on his doorstep at approximately 8:30 p.m. on April 16, 1944.

Dr. SOBEL was not suspicious of any persons who may have placed this note on his doorstep and advised that he could recall no disgruntled patients and no persons with German sympathies in his vicinity who may have placed the note at his door. He stated, however, that during 1943, he was president of the Jewish Synagogue in Bristol, Pennsylvania, and stated that in view of this fact, some German sympathizer may have left the note in order to frighten him.

There is no information in the indices of this office relative to "Night Riders."

Enclosed note is being forwarded to you for inclusion in the Anonymous Letter file or such other disposition that you deem advisable.

It is requested that this office be advised if any pertinent information is contained in the files of the Bureau relative to "The Night Riders."

ENCLOSURE

SLG: mjj
100-0
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Post Office Box 1587
Charlotte, North Carolina

February 23, 1937

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to Bureau letter of February 19, 1937, advising that on February 12, 1937, there appeared an article in the "New York Sun" to the effect that Federal Agents have been asked to investigate a band of night riders and that Solicitor John J. Burney stated that evidence had been sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Charlotte, North Carolina, please be informed that John J. Burney is State Circuit Solicitor in Wilmington, North Carolina, and to date no information or communication has been received from Mr. Burney in the Charlotte Field Division or by any agent assigned here.

During my absence on February 12, 1937, there appeared an Associated Press dispatch in the Charlotte, North Carolina, "News," dated at Wilmington, North Carolina, February 12th, stating in effect the same as the item referred to in the "New York Sun" of the same date.

As you have been previously informed, these night rider activities and floggings have been current in several counties in Eastern North Carolina for the past eight or ten months. If any information is furnished the Charlotte Field Division pertaining to these activities, it will be immediately brought to the Bureau's attention and no action whatsoever will be taken by the Charlotte Division in the absence of specific Bureau instructions.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

GILLOVED
7-109

RECORDED & INDEXED

C. V. Lowdon
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Post Office Box 9115
Detroit - Michigan
May 20, 1930

Dear Sir,

On May 7, 1930, Captain J. A. H. MACON, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, called at this office, stating that he had just received information that members of the Black Legion who were responsible for the death of Roy Fitwick in August, 1928, had killed him while on a launch on route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island, which is Canadian property, located in the Detroit River about two and one-half miles from the mainland of the United States. The launch, according to Captain MACON, is registered at Wyandotte, Michigan.

Captain MACON advised that it was his understanding that the Detroit River was considered the high seas as far as Federal jurisdiction is concerned, and that if this crime, as alleged, did occur as claimed, this would constitute a violation over which this Bureau would have jurisdiction. He stated that the crimes committed by members of the Black Legion were so ruthless that his organization was in hopes that we would be able to investigate the matter and bring possible institute prosecution in Federal Court.

I informed Captain MACON that this office had conducted an investigation in connection with Black Legion activities, but since this had not been a matter coming within our jurisdiction, he stated that he had discussed the matter with Commissioner ALLEN of the Michigan State Police, and that if at all possible, they would like us to take up the matter and they would render every assistance possible. I gave him all hope whatever, but in answer to his request advised that I would let him know whether it would be possible for this Bureau to conduct any investigation.

Captain MACON, who conducted an extensive investigation in connection with Black Legion activities, stated that LUTON, a member of the Black Legion, who was convicted in 1926 for killing Fitwick, had admitted and for which he was sentenced to serve life imprisonment. In the Michigan State Prison, Jackson, Michigan, he recently informed him that on the night he killed Fitwick, he (LEON) and other members of the Black Legion met...
on Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. At the same time he was
detailed to kill POOLE, ARTHUR WELLMAN, JOHN VANNUCCHI, JOHN
VINCENT, THOMAS CRAIG and one man were detailed to kill RON
PITCOCK.

According to Captain MARCON, PITCOCK, who was a member
of the Black Legion, had married a Catholic woman, and because he
would not leave this woman after becoming a member of the Black
Legion, the members of the Legion threatened him with bodily harm.
As a matter of fact, on one occasion he was taken out of his home
by members of the Legion and severely beaten, and at that time
warned that he would be killed if he did not leave his wife.

Captain MARCON further advised that upon being detailed
to kill PITCOCK, ARTHUR WELLMAN and the others mentioned went to
his home and awaited his return. At that time, PITCOCK was out for
an automobile ride with his brother and upon arriving home, WELLMAN
and the others took him out of bed and carried him to a launch which
they had docked at Wyandotte. At that time PITCOCK was dressed in
night clothes and was not permitted to take any other personal
effects with him.

En route to Fighting Island, WELLMAN and the others
choked PITCOCK with a wire which they fastened around his neck,
and he was dead before they took him out of the boat on to the
island, where he was later found by Officer SCHMIDT of the Wyandotte
Police Department and other officers who investigated the
case. When found, PITCOCK was hanging to a rafter in an old
deserted shack on the island. Although the floor of the shack was
covered with coal ashes, the victim's bare feet were clean, indi-
cating that he had been carried into the place and then hung to
the rafter.

Regarding the evidence which might be available to
prove in part at least that PITCOCK had been killed on the launch
while in the Detroit River, Captain MARCON stated that he felt
sure that JOSEPH VINCENT, a member of the murder party, who is now
about sixty-five years of age, would confess if confronted by
LENN. The latter also advanced this idea, and stated he would be
willing to confront all of these men in the hope of getting them
to confess this murder. WELLMAN, VINCENT, VANNUCCHI, CRAIG and
LENN, according to Captain MARCON, are serving terms of years in
the Michigan state Prison at Jackson.
In an effort to ascertain the Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River, a hypothetical case was presented to Assistant United States Attorney JOHN V. BABCOCK, Detroit, Michigan, embodying the facts set forth herein. MR. BABCOCK stated that in his opinion there would be no doubt but what a person who had committed these acts would be guilty of kidnapping under the Federal Kidnapping Statute.

MR. BABCOCK further stated that off-hand he did not know the extent of Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River, and that it would be necessary for him to look up a considerable amount of law on that point. He further stated that it was rather difficult to look up law on suppositions cases, and would not give any definite opinion until he had looked up the cases on the point of jurisdiction on the Detroit River.

In view of the fact that the Bureau has conducted no investigation into the activities of the Black Legion, it was not deemed advisable to advise the United States Attorney's office of the facts given by Captain MARKON, inasmuch as publicity might ensue.

The Bureau is, therefore, respectfully requested to advise this office in the premises, in order that Captain MARKON may be informed of the Bureau's position in this matter.

Very truly yours

Jay C. Newman
Special Agent in Charge
June 16, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

Mr. John F. Dumas

The Detroit, Michigan, division of this Bureau advises that Captain Ira H. Harmon, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, has furnished information to that office concerning the alleged murder of one Roy Pitcock on or about September, 1936, by members of the Black Legion. Information furnished by Captain Harmon indicates his informants have stated that Pitcock was killed on a launch while same was on the Detroit River, a route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island, the latter being Canadian property located on the Detroit River, about two and a half miles distant from the mainland of the United States. The launch, according to Captain Harmon, was registered at Wyandotte, Michigan.

Captain Harmon advised further that one Dayton Dean, a member of the Black Legion, who was convicted in 1936 for killing Charles A. Poole in connection with the activities of the Black Legion, being sentenced to serve life imprisonment in the Michigan State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan, recently informed him that on the night of Poole's death he, Dean, and other members of the Legion met at Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, at which time Dean was detailed to kill Poole, and Arthur Follman, John Tinnerman, John Vincent, Thomas Craig, and another party by the name of Lee were detailed to kill Roy Pitcock, the latter's death having allegedly been ordered because Pitcock refused to abandon his Catholic wife upon orders from the Black Legion of which he was a member.

Dean furnished additional information, according to Captain Harmon, that the persons detailed to kill Pitcock upon the night in question went to Pitcock's home and there awaited his return, at which time they took him to a launch which they had previously docked at Wyandotte, Michigan, placing him in the launch and proceeding thence to Fighting Island, that, on route to Fighting Island, Follman and the others mentioned above choked Pitcock with a wire they had fashioned around his neck. According to Dean, Pitcock was then thrown from the launch at Fighting Island, his body being subsequently found on the island by Officer Schwartz of the Wyandotte Police Department and other officers of that department who investigated the case. The body of Pitcock, at the time of its discovery by the police was found hanged.
ing from the rafters of an old, deserted shack on the island end, although the floor of the shack was covered with coal ashes, the victim's bare feet were clean, indicating he had been carried into the place and then swung from the rafters.

With reference to the evidence which might be available to prove, in part, that Pitcock was killed on the launch while in the Detroit River, Captain Harmon has advised he feels sure one John Vincent, allegedly a member of the murder party and now about 65 years of age, would confess if he were confronted by Dean, who has stated he is willing to confront all of the alleged members of such murder party for the purpose of assisting in obtaining confessions from them. Bellman, Vincent, Vanoveren, Craig, and Lee are all, according to Captain Harmon, now serving terms of years in the Michigan State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan.

Captain Harmon was advised by the Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau's Detroit office that this Bureau has conducted no investigation in connection with Black Legion activities, inasmuch as no evidence indicating federal violations within the Bureau's jurisdiction has previously been developed, and, while the Special Agent in Charge furnished no indication to Captain Harmon that this Bureau will conduct an investigation in connection with the above allegations, he did advise that officer that should further information be furnished him as to whether the Bureau will conduct such an investigation.

In view of the fact that this Bureau is not conducting any investigation with regard to the activities of the Black Legion, it is requested that you advise concerning the wishes of the Department with regard to an inquiry in this matter. In this connection, it will be appreciated if you will furnish an opinion as to whether the above allegations, if true, would constitute a murder or the high seas, and whether these acts would come within the provisions of the Federal Enabling Statutes.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Department of Justice
Washington

July 3, 1936

Reference is made to your memorandum of June 16 concerning the alleged murder of one, [illegible], on or about September, 1935, by members of the Black Legion.

It is suggested that this matter be taken up with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, and the Bureau be guided by his advice with reference to any further investigation.

[Signature]
Joseph B. Keenan
The Assistant to the Attorney General
Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter dated May 20, 1936, containing information furnished you by Captain D. E. Barson, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, to the effect that he has information indicating that certain members of the Black Legion who were responsible for the death of Roy Pitcock in about September, 1936, killed this party while on a launch on route from Ypsilanti, Michigan, to Fighting Island, which is Canadian property, located in the Detroit river.

Please be advised that the information contained in your letter has been presented to the Department for an opinion as to whether any investigation or aid can be conducted therein by this Bureau, and the Department has advised by memorandum dated July 5, 1936, that this matter should be taken up with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, whereon this Bureau should be guided by the advice of the latter official with reference to any investigation.

You are accordingly instructed to discuss the facts of this matter with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, with regard to the opinion of that official as to whether or not a Federal violation will fall within the investigative jurisdiction of the Bureau in involved. In this connection, it is requested that efforts be made to obtain from the United States Attorney a definite opinion as to what, if any, Federal violation is indicated in connection with the facts as originally furnished your office by Captain Barson, and further that an effort be made to obtain from the United States Attorney the nature of the investigation desired in case such official indicates that investigation by Agents of your office is necessary.

The Bureau desires to be advised concerning the results of your interview with the United States Attorney with regard to this matter, and in the event no indicates that investigation is necessary, the Bureau should be advised concerning same fact as well as with regard to the nature of the contemplated investigation before any investigation whatever is undertaken by your Division.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

JUL 25 1936

[Signature]

Phil. W. Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Past Office Box 2116
Detroit - Michigan
August 5, 1936

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated July 25, 1936, (Bureau file 45-1133) in which it is instructed that the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, be furnished with the facts concerning the alleged murder of W. P. STETTER about September 1936 while enroute from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Southside Island, which is Canadian property, located in the Detroit River.

The information furnished this division by Capt. R. C. HARCOCK, chief of detectives, Michigan State police, East Lansing, Michigan, which was set forth in my letter to you dated May 20, 1936, was thoroughly discussed with Assistant United States Attorney JOHN S. BABCOCK who was Acting United States Attorney in the absence of Mr. JOHN C. LEHR, United States Attorney.

Mr. BABCOCK stated that, from these facts, it was his opinion that an investigation should be conducted by this Bureau to establish a violation of the kidnapping act and to establish a violation of murder on the high seas. In this discussion Mr. BABCOCK stated that Title 18, Section 593 of the United States Code states that the place of injury is deemed to be the place of murder and that, from the facts, apparently the injury was committed "on the launch enroute to Southside Island in the Detroit River." Mr. BABCOCK stated, therefore, that the murder was made on the Detroit River. Mr. BABCOCK stated that before any intensive investigation is conducted, it is the desire of the United States Attorney's office that the jurisdiction of the United States be established and, secondly, that Mr. E. A. P. give a written statement concerning the information which he furnished Captain BABCOCK to an agent of this Bureau. Mr. BABCOCK stated that when the jurisdiction has been established and a statement has been procured, he would authorize a prosecution, not only for violation of the federal kidnapping but for murder on the high seas.
In discussing the violation of the kidnapping act, it was pointed out that, since the information by George H. Morgan indicated that when D.E.A.N. arrived at the island, "we were dead," there might be a question as to whether the kidnapping act would apply since the act may have been dead at the time the international boundary line was crossed. Mr. Babcock stated that there would be no technical point there as to whether the transportation of a dead body across the international boundary line would constitute the transportation of an individual, as mentioned in the kidnapping act. However, Mr. Babcock stated that he believed that the indictment should be in two counts, one charging murder and the other charging kidnapping. The question of whether such an act was a violation of the kidnapping act would be one for the judge to instruct the jury.

Consequently, Mr. Babcock desires the following investigation to be conducted:

(1) Establish the jurisdiction of the United States in this case, either
   a) That the launch upon which D.E.A.N. was
      alleged to have been killed at the time
      the injury was inflicted was within the
      admiralty and maritime jurisdiction of
      the United States and out of the juris-
      diction of the State of Michigan, and
      that the launch belonged to a citizen
      of the United States, or whole or in
      part to the United States, or to any
      corporation created by or under the
      laws of the United States, or any state,
      territory or district thereof, or
   b) That the launch was registered, licensed
      or enrolled under the laws of the United
      States.

(2) Agents of this Bureau obtain a statement from D.E.A.N. Morgan,
    containing the information furnished by George H. Morgan regard-
    ing the murder.

It will be noted that the jurisdiction of the United States can be established either under (a) or (b) of point one. If attempting to establish that the launch was out of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan, the time the injury was in-
flisted, it will, of course, be necessary to obtain any agree-
ments that may exist as to the jurisdiction on the Detroit
River. In the event it can be established that the launch was
enrolled under, registered or licensed under the laws of the
United States, Mr. SABOCH advised that it will not be neces-
sary to establish that the launch at the time the injury was
inflicted was out of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan
although it must be shown that at the time the injury was in-
flicted, the launch was on a voyage on the Detroit River.

In accordance with the letter of reference, the
information is being furnished the bureau concerning the dis-
Aussion had with Mr. SABOCH, and no investigation is being
conducted at this time pending advice from the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

JULY 8, 1946
Special Agent in Charge
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

On May 7, 1938, Captain Ira H. Marion, Chief of Detectives, Michigan State Police, informed the Detroit Field Division that Roy Pitcock was murdered by John Tolman, John Vincent, Thomas Craig, and one Lee, during September, 1936, on a motor launch, while en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to fighting fields in the Detroit River, which is Canadian property. All of these individuals were members of the Black Legion at Detroit, Michigan. Captain Marion obtained his information from Dayton Lea, also a member of the Black Legion, who is now serving a life sentence for the murder of Charles A. Poole, who was a member of the Black Legion. All of the above mentioned individuals are now serving time at the Michigan State Prison, Jackson, Michigan.

Captain Marion brought this case to the attention of the Detroit Field Division because of the fact that Pitcock was murdered outside the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan, and he was of the opinion that prosecution could be had in the Federal courts.

The above facts were submitted to Honorable Joseph B. Keenan, the Assistant to the Attorney General, by memorandum dated June 16, 1938, and in reply thereto by memorandum of July 5, 1938, he informed that the matter should be taken up with the United States Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, and that the Bureau should be guided by his advice with reference to any further investigation.

The facts of the case were presented to Mr. John M. Patcker, Assistant United States Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, who is of the opinion that the facts set forth above positively constitute a murder on the high seas and also a violation of the Shipping Statutes. He requested the Detroit Field Division to conduct an investigation to ascertain the jurisdiction of the United States and also to obtain a statement from Dayton Lea containing the information that Dean furnished Captain Marion.
In accordance with Bureau instructions, the Detroit Field Division is conducting no further investigation in this matter, pending advice from the Bureau. It will be recalled the Black Legion was investigated by the Detroit Police Department after information was obtained of several murders and assaults committed by this organization.

Respectfully,

P. L. Foxworth
August 12, 1930

Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of August 5, 1930, concerning the alleged murder of Roy Pitcock about September, 1930, while en route from Ypsilanti, Michigan, to Fighting Island located in the Detroit River, and in which you outline the investigative procedure which is contemplated by your office as requested by Assistant United States Attorney John V. Babcock.

The Bureau desires that you conduct investigation as outlined in your letter for the purpose of determining whether there is any violation of a Federal statute involved in connection with the alleged murder of Roy Pitcock. In the event the United States Attorney determines from this investigation that there has been a violation of the Racketeering Act or Murder on the High Seas, it is desired that a thorough investigation be made with a view of prosecuting the persons involved.

You should keep the Bureau regularly advised as to the progress of this investigation and as to any pertinent developments.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

October 27, 1936

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated August 17, 1936, which referred to previous correspondence had with your Division concerning the alleged murder of Roy Pitcock about September 1936, while en route from Wyandotte, Michigan, to Fighting Island located in the Detroit River. It is noted that you were requested in reference letter to conduct an appropriate investigation with regard to this matter in accordance with the previous request by Assistant United States Attorney John V. Babcock, Detroit, Michigan.

The Bureau's file with regard to the above matter fails to reflect the receipt of information from your office concerning the investigation to date, and it is desired that you advise immediately concerning the action taken by your Division in connection with the investigation of this matter. The Bureau desires that the necessary investigation with regard to this case be handled as promptly as possible, in order that same may be completed at the earliest possible date, and as you have been previously instructed the Bureau should be kept promptly and fully advised as to the results of the investigations in question.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
November 16, 1936

Special Agent in Charge
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sirs:

Reference is made to previous correspondence had with you concerning the alleged murder of Roy Pitcock about September, 1934, while on route from Bayonne, Michigan, to Fighting Island located in the Detroit River, it being noted that you have been requested to conduct an appropriate investigation with regard to this matter in accordance with the previous request by Assistant United States Attorney John V. Babcock, Detroit, Michigan.

It is further noted that you were requested in Bureau letter dated October 27, 1936, to furnish prompt information concerning the action taken by your Division in connection with the investigation of this matter, as reply having been received from your office to date.

You have been previously informed that the Bureau desires the necessary investigation in this matter handled expeditiously in order that same may be completed at the earliest possible date, in which connection you were instructed to keep the Bureau promptly and fully advised with regard to all developments in connection with instant investigation.

To the above you are directed to furnish the Bureau with an appropriate report within ten days from the receipt of this letter, setting forth in detail the results of the investigation and all developments with regard to this matter to date.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

John Edgar Hoover
Director
To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

December 2, 1939

Transmit the following message to: DETECT

WILLIE: Max Pitcock, victims' brother in high seas kidnapping. Submit immediately report requested herein letter dated November 27th.

Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  

Detroit, Michigan  
December 12, 1938

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Re: JOH.K.M., et al;  
No. 193652 - 7-36

Dear Sir:

During the interview with LEONARD, we found he had some information he could furnish in regard to Black Legion activities along other lines, etc. In the course of the questioning, it was learned that LEONARD was the Commissioner of Police, Detroit, Michigan, was taken into the Black Legion, and the oath administered to him by Colonel K.K.  

KING stated that "KING was seen at meetings by him, and had after the various hearings in regard to prosecutions for injuries committed by members of the Legion, several inspectors in the Detroit Police Department were raised to the position of Assistant Chief of Police, due to their knowledge of KING's relationship with the Legion.  

KING also advised that the following individuals are members of the Black Legion in this district, to his knowledge:

1. MOORE, Judge of Common Pleas  
Court, Detroit, Michigan.  
2. ALLAN, certain, Michigan State Police, Detroit, Michigan.  
3. CLINTON, former candidate for  
   Governor of Michigan.  
4. UNKNOWN, former candidate for  
   Governor of Michigan.
Personal and Confidential
Letter to Director from
U.S. Detroit

December 12, 1932

John J. HILL, well-known politician,
Detroit, Michigan

Ml. W. McCrea, Wayne County Prosecutor,
Detroit, Michigan

Mr. W. McLELLAN, politician, Detroit, Michigan

Mr. H. M. LEEH, stated that he was certain all of the above-named individuals were members of the Black Legion in 1925. He advised that he had seen LUCEA McCREA at a Black Legion meeting which took place in a farmer's field one and one-half miles north of Oxford, Michigan; that McCREA took the oath of the Black Legion before HAE LEEH; and that McCREA was taken into the Legion at a meeting held in a field near John H. and eighteen or nineteen miles road, at which meeting he (Dean) also was present.

During the questioning, LEEH appeared to have no ill feeling toward anyone except the members of the Legion who caused him to become a member and to get into its present predicament. He stated that he did not blame any of these men individually, but that he held his resistance particularly against HAE LEEH, who sent out the men to organize the Michigan District.

It will be noted from the report submitted to this case that McCREA resides at Lima, Ohio, and is reported to have been at the head of the Black Legion in the area covering the north-eastern part of the United States from Illinois to the Atlantic Ocean.

It is apparent from the investigation conducted to date by special agent A. C. Loughran of this office that, in all probability, the only persons who definitely know of the place where McCREA was murdered are the members of the party who were there at the time.

In accordance with Bureau letter dated August 18, 1932, the lead in the report of special agent in A. Loughran, dated September 6, 1932, at Detroit, Michigan, will be given to the near future, unless otherwise advised by the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

John Hill,

Special Agent in Charge
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

DAYTON DEAN, No. 460101, State Prison of Southern Michigan, Jackson, Michigan, serving a life sentence for a Black Legion murder, in a signed statement implicated above subjects in the kidnapping and murder of ROY FITCOCK on the night of May 12, 1936, when he was taken from his home in Wyandotte, Michigan, and subsequently was found dead on Fighting Island, in the Detroit River, on the Canadian side of the international boundary. Information received that subject was transported by boat and killed by strangulation across Detroit River. Boat used and actual place of attack and death not as yet ascertained.

Letter to the Bureau from the Detroit Office dated May 20, 1936.


Letter to the Bureau from the Detroit Office dated August 8, 1936.

Bureau letter to the Detroit Office dated August 12, 1936.
Detroit File 495-46

DETAILS:

From a memorandum in the file of instant case it was revealed that on May 7, 1936, IRA H. MASON, Captain, Michigan State Police, East Lansing, Michigan, called at the Detroit Bureau Office and stated that he had just received information that members of the Black Legion were responsible for the death of ROY PITCOCK, about September, 1936, and that he had been killed while on a launch enroute from Wyandotte, Michigan to Fighting Island, which is Canadian property located in the Detroit River about two and one-half miles from the mainland of the United States; that the launch was reported to have been registered at Wyandotte, Michigan, although the name thereof was not known.

Captain MASON further stated that DAYTON DEAN, a member of the Black Legion convicted in 1936 for the killing of CHARLES A. POOLE, which murder DEAN had admitted and for which he was serving a life imprisonment sentence in the Michigan State Prison at Jackson, Michigan, and recently informed him that on the night he killed POOLE, he, DEAN, and other members of the Black Legion met on Jefferson Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, and at the same time J. J. was detailed to kill POOLE, ARTHUR WILKINSON, JOHN VANDERBROEK, JOHN WYCKOFF, THOMAS CRAIG, and one LEE were detailed to kill ROY PITCOCK. PITCOCK was killed because he had refused to leave his wife and had been a member of the Black Legion, while his wife was Catholic.

Captain MASON further advised that upon being detailed to kill PITCOCK, WILKINSON and the others above mentioned, went to his home and awaited his return; that upon his arrival home they took him out of bed and carried him to a launch, which they had docked at Wyandotte; that he was dressed only in his night clothes and he was not permitted to take any other personal effects with him; that enroute to Fighting Island, on the boat, WILKINSON and the others strapped PITCOCK with a wire, which they fastened around his neck, and he was dead before they took him out of the boat onto the island, where he was later found by Officer SCHMIDT of the Wyandotte, Michigan Police Department and other officers who investigated the case; that they found him hanging to a rafter in an old deserted shack on the island, and that although the floor of the shack was covered with dead ash, the victim's bare feet were visible, indicating that he had been carried into the place and then hung to the rafter. Captain MASON told me that JOSH TUCKER reportedly a member of the murder party, was about sixty-five years of age; would confound to the murder, if confronted by DEAN. DEAN had also advanced this idea and stated that he would be willing to
confront all of these men in the hope of getting them to confess. All of the above were reported by Captain BURTON to be serving terms of years at the Michigan State Prison, Jackson, Michigan.

Under date of May 30, 1932, this office forwarded the above information to the Bureau, after JOHN W. BARDOCK, Assistant United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan, had been consulted regarding a hypothetical case concerning Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River. Mr. BARDOCK had advised that, in his opinion, there would be no doubt but that a person who had committed these acts could be guilty of kidnapping under the Federal Kidnapping Statute. Mr. BARDOCK had advised that he did not know the extent of Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River, and it would be necessary for him to look up a considerable amount of law on that question; that he would not look up the law until the definite facts on some particular case were presented to him. The Bureau was respectfully requested to advise this office in the premises.

Under date of July 20, 1932, the Bureau advised that the information received had been presented to the Department for an opinion as to whether any investigation should be conducted therein by this Bureau, and the Department had advised that the matter should be taken up with the United States Attorney at Detroit, Michigan. This office should be guided by his advice. The Bureau requested that the United States Attorney state a definite opinion as to what, if any, Federal violation was indicated in connection with the above facts. The Bureau also requested to be advised of whatever investigation was contemplated by this office prior to the undertaking thereof.

Under date of August 5, 1932, the Detroit Office advised the Bureau of an interview with Assistant United States Attorney JOHN W. BARDOCK, who was Acting United States Attorney in the absence of Mr. JOHN C. LEE, by Special Agent E. L. RICHMOND. Mr. BARDOCK advised Special Agent RICHMOND that from the facts presented, it was his opinion that an investigation should be conducted by this Bureau to establish a violation of the Kidnapping Act and to establish a violation for Murder on the High Seas. He further stated that Title 12, Section 563, United States Code, states that the place of injury is deemed to be the place of murder, and that, from the facts, apparently the injury was committed while the launch was enroute to Fighting Island, in the Detroit River. Therefore, the murder took place on the Detroit River, and before any extensive investigation was conducted, it was the desire of the United States Attorney's office that the jurisdiction of the United
DETROIT PLEA 44-46

States he first established, and secondly, that DAVIS DEAN gave a
written statement, concerning the information he had furnished
Captain BACCH, to an Agent of this Bureau. MR. BACCH advised
that if jurisdiction were established and a statement procured, he
would authorize prosecution, not only for violation of the Federal
Kidnapping Statute, but for murder on the High Seas.

MR. BACCH stated that instant offense may not
have been a violation of the Federal Kidnapping Statute, insomuch as
PITCOCK may have been killed at the time of the crossing of the
international boundary line, and it would be a technical point as
to whether the transportation of a dead body across the international
boundary line would constitute the kidnapping of an individual. MR.
BACCH stated that he believed that the indictment should be in two
counts, one charging murder and the other charging kidnapping, and the
question of whether such an act was a violation of the Kidnapping act
would be one for the judge to instruct the jury.

MR. BACCH requested that investigation be con-
ducted to establish the jurisdiction of the United States in this
case and to prove either:

(a) That the launch upon which PITCOCK was
alleged to have been killed at the
time the injury was inflicted was within
the admiralty and maritime jurisdiction
of the United States and out of the
jurisdiction of the State of Michigan,
and that the launch belonged to a
citizen of the United States, or whole
or in part to the United States, or to
any corporation created by or under the
laws of the United States, or any State,
territory or district thereof, or

(b) That the launch was registered, licensed,
or enrolled under the laws of the United
States.

He also requested that Agents of this Bureau obtain from DAVIS DEAN
a statement concerning the information furnished by Captain BACCH
regarding the murder.

He further stated that in attempting to establish
that the launch was out of the jurisdiction of the State of Michigan
at the time the injury was inflicted, it would be necessary to
obtain any agreements which may exist as to the jurisdiction on the Detroit River, but that in the event the launch was enrolled under, registered, or licensed under the laws of the United States, it would not be necessary to establish that the launch was outside of the jurisdiction of the state of Michigan at the time of the injury. Although it must be established that it was on a voyage on the Detroit River.

Under date of August 13, 1938, the Bureau requested that the office conduct investigation as outlined in the above letter regarding the alleged murder of Mr. FRANK, and that if any violation were established in regard to either of the offenses that a thorough investigation be made with a view of prosecuting the persons involved.

State Prison of Southern Michigan, Jackson, Michigan, advised that DAYTON DEAN was serving a life sentence at that institution under number 82101. Through arrangements made with Deputy W. ROBERT MOORE, DAYTON DEAN was interviewed in a private office adjacent to the deputy's office, and after a discussion with him of the facts involved in instant case, he furnished the following signed statement, which is being made a part of the file of the Detroit Office.

State Prison of Southern Michigan, Jackson, Michigan, September 20, 1938

I, Dayton Dean, state that I wish to make the following voluntary statement to E. L. Loughran, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Dept. of Justice, without any threats or promise of reward.

About May 12, 1938, I was a member of the Black Legion in Detroit, Mich. On the above night I attended a group meeting called at the Masonic Temple at 95 Lafayette and Worcester, Detroit, Mich. The men I recall being at this meeting were Harvey Davis, Colonel of the Legion; Jack Barmera, a Lieutenant Colonel; Lieutenant Colonel Blackhall; Ervin Lee, his Adjutant; John Mitchell, Louis Munsen, Albert Strong, Virgil Munsen, John Munsen, Thomas Davis, Marion Davis, Ervin Strong; I was myself, Johnson, Michael, Ting, my name was of course Paul Munsen, and a man they called the White or Bad Michigan (known to Police Department official in Detroit, Mich.), and about 60 or 60 men in all, the names of the
others not being recalled to me except Caesar Whiteside. Of the above group Davis, Baldwin, Lee, Lips, Johnson, Washington and myself went out to Calley Road. The others above named were supposed to have gone out with us as far as I knew but Davis said when we got there that they must have got lost. At the Masonic Hall I saw a man in the hall that had a 50 to 60 foot rope and some means and robbed but this was not taken by Davis or our crowd. Davis was in charge of our group, Hamersman was a cook, Colonel and was in charge of the group, above named, that failed to show up. About four hours later we met in front of the Carman Inn on Fort Street, West, Detroit, between Clark and Livernois — that is Hamersman's name until Hamersman met Davis and the group of us that had been with him. They had arrived before we had and had been there before we got there. Davis said that if they had done anything they had done wrong and that they would have been. They asked Davis if he had gone through with it all right and he said he had. In the other group was Craig, Stevens, Raines, and possibly Mitchell. They had apparently dropped off Hamersman as Davis had asked if Hamersman had taken care of all the things and he was told by Craig or Stevens that he had. I did not know what they were talking about at the time and then I saw the papers a few days later when they found the body of Pitcock on Fighting Island. I recounted Davis saying said they had a man down at Livoncia that they had to take care of. He had been talking about getting ahead of the mayor of Buxton, Mr. Veazie, that he had to take care of. They had been talking about getting this man that was in the mayor's office that he had to take care of — that they had to be taken care of. If I read the article in Pitcock's murder in the True or Official Detective Magazine in January or February, 1937 which was an anonymous article — this article was written by someone who was a member of the Legion and coupled with what I had heard and seen I feel as though it is very authentic.

The Legion was organized by the members like the United States Army and the information came from the higher officials so that when it came down the line it never went below the Captain — this was as to such things as murders that were to be done by the members and the members did not know what they were to do until they got to the place where the act was to be done. As I was a private at that time I did not have the information.
Detroit File 448-46

what they had been ordered to do on May 16, 1934, but I had previously been on the staff of the State of Michigan for the Black Legion and acted as a major so that I am completely aware of what had happened in the past and how they operated. When our group headed for Galley Island on May 16, 1934, we went out there for the purpose of doing away with Charles Peake who was shot that night by our group. I have read the above 6 pages including this page and have signed the other 6 pages as well as this page as the facts related above are true.

/s/ Dayton J. Rea

Witnesses:

L. A. Loughran, Special Agent /s/
FBI US Dept of Justice
911 Federal Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

Jack Colleen, Trooper /s/
Jackson Police, Michigan State Police

DEAN stated he was certain that ARTHUR KELLMAN had no connection with Insane case and that he had never advised anyone that KELLMAN was so connected.

DEAN stated during the above interview that he did not realize what he was being called for and that he had considerably more information in notes he had made about the time of his trial, but these notes were in his room and if Agent could subsequently interview him, and also possibly interview FRED JULLY, /56977/, Jackson Prison, with whom he had talked a great deal regarding the Black Legion since his incarceration, he thought he might be able to add substantially to what he had already stated. However, in addition to the statement he furnished the following information:

That FRED EFFINGER, whose true name he stated was EVANS F. EFFINGER, and who resided at Lima, Ohio, was the head of the Black Legion in the northeastern part of the United States, from Illinois to the Atlantic coast; that EFFINGER was reported to work under one THOMAS O'MEARA, reported as recently living somewhere in Pennsylvania; that EFFINGER worked under the
Detroit File dated

and was one of the leaders of the Black Legion in the entire United States, whose name was not known to DEAN or ever heard by him, but was in reported to live some place in the South. The Legion was divided into fourteen corps areas built upon the same plan as the United States Army. The original plan of the Black Legion was to get in as many influential men as possible and to obtain information involving any criminal activities on their part, to be used as a threat and held over their heads to control them, and when sufficiently organized to take over the Government of the United States. The original date set for the taking over of the Government was September 14, 1921.

DEAN stated that he recalled that HENRY KYDGER had addressed a local group of Black Legion members in the Detroit area, and that he told them that it had only taken thirty thousand Russians to overthrow the government of the Czar. DEAN advised that at the time of that talk he stated they had between fifteen thousand and twenty thousand members, although DEAN stated he believed that was the height of the membership of the organization, and that after all of the publicity in Detroit, its real purpose became known and its membership decreased.

However, he stated he had received information that the Black Legion was at present reorganizing under different names such as The Free Press, The Century Club, The Patriotic League of America, The Republican Club, and The Wolverine Republican Club.

DEAN stated he was certain that during the short time the Legion operated in the State of Michigan the members committed between thirty and forty murders in the Detroit District. He mentioned the names of several prominent individuals as members of the Legion, stating he had seen them at meetings and could definitely prove who had sworn them in. The names of such persons were being submitted under separate cover to the F.B.I.

DEAN further stated that JACOB HEEFNER and CHARLOTTE MILES of the Detroit, Michigan Police Department had a list of all the members of the Legion in Detroit that they had worked on the case for a long time; and that he considered both of them as thoroughly reliable to interview.

In addition to the information furnished during the first interview, DEAN, upon retracing events, subsequently advised that he had recalled with the help of his records that on the night of the ROGUE murder HARRISON LAMBERT, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Black Legion in the Twelfth Regiment, and SEYMOUR KINGS, a major in
the same regiment, WILSON HARRISON, a Colonel in the Michigan area, 
JOHN VINCENZ, OTTO KASSELL, an adjutant under JOHN HARRISON, who 
and others mentioned above were stationed in Michigan, and LIONEL POLK, and 
and ALFRED BLACKMAN had also been at the above referred to meeting; that subsequently in the January or February, 1897 
issue of the True Detective Magazine there had been an article on 
the PITTOCK murder by an anonymous writer and whoever wrote 
that article had to be one of the parties that was present at the 
time PITTOCK was murdered; that I?, IRAN, felt quite certain that 
OTTO KASSELL wrote this article. So believed that out of the 
above group, including the Subject already enumerated, that 
ALFRED BLACKMAN or VINCENT HARRISON would be the two easiest men to 
break and obtain a confession from.

IRAN stated that LEO BELLARDI, a detective on 
the Enroute, Michigan Police Department, who had been taken into 
the Black Legion through machine gun tactics, had always detected 
the Legion, and that he would probably be a reliable informant. 
He ascertained who owned the launch that was used in instant murder, 
that he also had a list of all the members of the Black Legion in 
Enroute and Ypsilanti, Michigan.

IRAN stated that he was quite certain that the 
'boat man' in the trip to Fighting Island belonged to a member of 
the Black Legion. He further stated that he had recalled since 
his first interview that one of the men in the party on the way 
out to Colby Road had made the remark, "The boys down there will 
take care of the matter"; that after he had heard of the body of 
PITTOCK being found he immediately connected this remark up with 
the case, as there had been some previous conversation which 
followed, but which he could not recall.

Regarding 

of the Ypsilanti, 
Michigan Police Department, IRAN stated he might be reliable, 
although his partner, with whom he was almost constantly with, 
was a member of the Black Legion as was LEONARD, chief of the 
Police Department. IRAN further recalled that on the way out from 
Enroute Hall he heard LEW and LEW's remark that they had thought 
the boys should get JOHN HITCHES and one of the jobs so that they 
could move something on him. If he were elected to the office he 
was running for, and IRAN believed that HITCHES probably drove 
the car they mentioned and would have to be placed in 
PITTOCK'S house. However, as the two parties did not have together, 
IRAN was unable to recall why he had this recollection.
DAYTON REEVES and REED GULLEY, above-mentioned, were interviewed together subsequently, and GULLEY advised that he resided at 640 First Street, Escora, Michigan; that he expected to be paroled about November 1, 1938; and that REEVES and himself had agreed to do all that they could to break up the Black Legion, as they both felt they had been definitely framed and were made the goats in the case. He stated that he joined the Legion with an automatic revolver stuck in his back by one of the Legion members, and was told to take the oath or he would be shot; that he had kept in touch with Major VERNON of Escora, Michigan in regard to everything he did in the Legion; and that he continued to follow out orders received as a result of Mayor VOSSDEW's suggestion that he do so and keep him informed. He stated that once he went out the night that he accompanied the crowd, upon which his case was based and upon which he was convicted and sent to the State Penitentiary, he had called Mayor VOSSDEW prior to going, and that he was convicted subsequently because somebody found out about his contacts with VOSSDEW and pushed the prosecution against him; that the members of the Black Legion were stronger than Mayor VOSSDEW and as a result he was convicted. He stated that after his release from the Penitentiary he would do anything he could to help the Bureau in the solution of instant case if he were called upon to do so; and that he did not care for any remuneration as a result of anything he was able to accomplish.

He stated on a preliminary history to the Legion that HAROLD LAKEW, a major in the Black Legion, was the organizer at Escora and Escora, Michigan; that prior to the time that LAKEW was the organizer, one CHARLES KNOX, a leader in the organizational work had been in charge around that district; and that KNOX was in charge of organization at the time of the FITZGERALL murder. He advised that it is his impression that both men were probably in on this, although it will be noted that GULLEY was not at the Mccall's Mill on the night of the killing related by REEVES, as that his seclusion would only be inferential. ED ROBERTS, a Black Legion member formerly residing in Escora, Michigan, who is now reported to be in Phoenix, Michigan, was also believed to have been along with the murder party in instant case.

REED GULLEY stated that there were at least twenty to twenty-five boats where bodies were kept on the waterfront at Escora and Escora, Michigan and he had no idea whose boat was used on the occasion of the murder.

He further advised that one HENRY ROACH, who had
been employed by the Wyandotte Oil and Fat Company, Wyandotte, Michigan, and was employed there at the same time as was JULUY, who was assigned to the manufacture of a gas of a highly explosive nature developed from the soybean oil; and that this man was thoroughly familiar with the explosive nature of the gas and also with the fact that a slight amount of heat was all that was necessary to set it off. He stated that this party was working about sixty feet above the floor level at the above company, as he recalled, along in February, 1936; that an explosion occurred where he was working and he landed about six feet from JULUY on the floor below. He was reported to have just a blow torch to the pipes where the explosive gas was carried in order to thaw out a solidified mass. JULUY stated he was absolutely certain that BRANCH never would have committed an act of this kind, and that his death was caused by a deliberate explosion of some nature executed by members of the Black Legion, who were very active in the plant, and that BRANCH was actually killed because he had been taken in on the proposed murder of NOT PITTOCK and had threatened to talk. JULUY further stated he was quite certain that several members of the Black Legion around Wyandotte and Dearborn, Michigan, had boats.

Captain IRA M. NAIWOW, Detective Bureau, Michigan State Police, was subsequently interviewed at the Detroit Bureau Office and advised that Miss NOT PITTOCK had been a housekeeper for a Captain on the Detroit, Michigan Police Department, until she met NOT PITTOCK. She told him of her past history and how he accepted her and married her. The Black Legion, of whom PITTOCK was a member subsequently found out about Miss PITTOCK'S derogatory past life and told PITTOCK that he would have to leave his wife. We refused and the members of the Legion took his cut and beat him on his back and released him, telling him that he would have to leave her, and threatening to kill him if he did not. Therefore, after he persistently refused to do so, his body was found on Fighting Island.
Captains MARCH stated he believed the boat used in the murder was owned by a man who had fallen off a schooner in Wyandotte, Michigan, at the time of an explosion in the place where he was working, and he believed this party had been along on the right of the PITCOCK murder. Captains MARCH stated that PITCOCK's body was found by the Canadian Provincial Police and taken to the Canadian shore, so that any survivor's property would probably be found at Windsor, Ontario. He stated that the Detroit Police Department was told to have the name of the man who owned the boat used in the PITCOCK murder, and was believed to have other information of value, but he did not feel the man would cooperate, as his partner, who was a member of the Black Legion and would probably be afraid to reveal the information he had.

Captains MARCH was questioned as to whether NAYLON had advised him that ARTHUR NEILAN was connected with instant case. He stated he was not certain as to whether NEILAN had connected NEILAN with this case, or with one of the other murders committed in the Michigan area. He suggested that Agent interview Detective Lieutenant WILLIAM HARDING of the Michigan State Police, who worked on the case and was much more familiar with the facts than was he.

Lieutenant WILLIAM HARDING, Detective Bureau, Michigan State Police, subsequently contacted the writer at the Detroit Bureau Office and stated he had never heard of ARTHUR NEILAN being mixed up in the PITCOCK murder; that he believed that Captains MARCH had become confused in regard to another murder at the time he furnished the original information. He stated further that about 1930 or about that time the Black Legion was responsible for the hanging on the Nine Mile Road, in Macomb County, of another individual, whose name he did not know. He did not know that DARTON NEILAN was present at this hanging. He stated that after the hanging a certain group of the members buried the individual; that KEN should be questioned as to whom these latter members were, as he believed that they had a lot of information regarding the murder of ROY PITCOCK.

Lieutenant HARDING further was under the impression that any member of the Police Department at Wyandotte, Michigan, would be of very little help in instant case; that he had attempted on several occasions to obtain information from practically all the members of the Police department, including \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ regarding the murder in which the Black Legion was believed to
Detroit File 442-45

He stated that VINCENIT FITZMAURICE, the Prosecuting Attorney of Ingham County, Michigan, had a vast amount of information regarding crimes committed by the Black Legion and that he would cooperate thoroughly with the Bureau in this case. He stated he did not know, however, if FITZMAURICE had any information regarding the PARDOO murder. He stated that the Sheriff and every Deputy employed by him in Ingham County were members of the Black Legion, as was a man named TRUERY, the Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. He felt that FITZMAURICE, Chief of Police and Mr. Clemons, Michigan, was probably reliable.

Lieutenant NANCE further advised that ART BRAMSTAWER, a patrolman attached to the Fort Precinct located at Fort and Green Streets, Detroit, Michigan, was a graduate of the Michigan State Police School, that he believed he would cooperate with the Bureau in regard to instant cases, and that he was acquainted with practically everyone in Wyandotte and Dearborn, Michigan. He further stated that one WALTER FISH, a former Sergeant on the Police, Michigan Police Department, and also a former member of the Black Legion, admitted to him on one occasion that he had attended a hanging in Ohio. However, when NANCE attempted to get this information from him before some other witnesses, he denied he had ever made the statement. He believes that FISH was a colonel in the Legion and that through that ranking would probably have information regarding the PHOOE murder and as to who was detested to it; that at the present time FISH was believed to be around Kalamazoo, Michigan; that he had "demon religion" and belonged to some special church in that section. He thought that FISH should be located and questioned.

Lieutenant NANCE further stated that there were a lot of high class men who were taken into the Legion, and who after joining it never had anything more to do with it. A few others, of what he considers a very high type, had also been taken into the Legion and taken to a few meetings by force before they realized that they had become involved in it. He further stated that members of the Black Legion were of two types; one of the lower mental class, who were required to take the oath of allegiance to the Legion involving the overthrow of the United States Government, and the higher type group, who were not to know the real purpose for which the Legion was organized. He stated he felt quite certain from information he had that even certain members of his own organization had been turned in, but that they had not known the real purpose of the organization, and had never attended any of the meetings. Lieutenant NANCE stated that STANLEY FITZMAURICE, former Chief of Police of the Great Lakes
Detroit File AM-44

Steel Company, Detroit, Michigan, had a great deal of information regarding the Legion's activities in that neighborhood, and might have some information regarding the FITZKO murder; that this man was presently not employed by the Great Lakes Steel Company and he did not know where he might be located. Another person he believed reliable was one FRANCIS HENRY, who resided at either Wyandotte, Trenton, or River Rouge, Michigan, and whose father was the former Chief of Police at Trenton. Lieutenant HAGAN stated that this party might be cautious as to what information be furnished if interviewed by a stranger and if any trouble were had in getting him to talk about the Black Legion, arrangements should be made to have Lieutenant HAGAN accompany the Ace on the next interview.

Lieutenant HAGAN further advised that the Black Legion is being presently reorganized under various names, the only one of which he was personally acquainted with being The Patriotic League of America; that in Michigan the man at the head of the organization was one RAY KREID, reportedly located at Jackson, Michigan; and that he had admitted he was working under RAY KREID in Lima, Ohio.

Under date of October 3, 1936, the Blue Streak of The Detroit News carried a headline entitled: "Black Legion Sentences Killed; Court Grants Re-Trials for Nine of the Reputed Members Convicted Eighteen Months Ago for Plotting to Kill Arthur E. Lodh, Higland Park Publisher." The nine men who were sentenced are RAY KREID, serving two to five years; ARTHUR V. LIPP, senior, serving two to five years; ALVIN CLARK, serving two to five years; FRANK ROSS, RICHARD KIRK G. WILKINSON, M. A. Y. MACKLAND, WILLIAM POSTER, MATTHEW JONES, and EUGENE LANE, all out on bond. The article stated that LIPP was the former head of the Black Legion in Michigan, and that MACKLAND was the former Mayor of Highland Park, Michigan.

Police Department, were interviewed and advised from their records that HENKES, MITCHELL, CRAIG, MORRIS and STEVENS were all serving time in institutions in the State of Michigan; that HENKES, CRAIG and STEVENS were serving time at the State Penitentiary at Jackson, Michigan; and that they believed that VIOLETT MORRIS was serving time at the Detroit House of Correction. Their records showed that OTTO HANICKI had resided at
November 6, 1913

24557

Respectfully filed

946-45

16093

Dear Sirs:

I reside at 16093 E. 8th Street, Detroit, Michigan, while active in the Black Legion in this State, but that after the trials of the other individuals he was believed to have returned to his home at Saint Paul, Minnesota, where he probably can be presently located. They further stated that CHARLES KIER, Lieutenant Colonel in the Black Legion was reported to reside at 19 West Claywood, Ypsilanti, Michigan.

The above Detectives advised that they had a list of all known members of the Black Legion in Ypsilanti and Ypsilanti, Michigan, and furnished Agent with the following names which made up this list:

The following are the members of the Black Legion of Ypsilanti, Michigan:

JAMES ALLEN, EARL AUGSTADT (State Prison, Jackson, Michigan); FRED ALLISON, DON BENDER, 782 West Jefferson, THOMAS CULVER, 36 Bell Street (at the State Prison, Jackson, Michigan), CHARLES COOPER, 67 Cottage, ARM COOPER, same address, EMILE BOUGHTON (now at Pontiac, Michigan, believes to be connected with the Yellow Press Company), EVER CHAMBERlain (employed by the Ford Motor Company), WM. DAVID, ROBERT B. HADLEY, 6480 Fifth Street, RICH FLEISCHER, Alexis Avenue, JAMES HARRIS, 6468 West Jefferson, MYRON HAMMER (present Mayor of Ypsilanti), PAUL KOCAL, Alexis Avenue, HAROLD LARSEN, 73 Broadway, EDGAR LAWTON, same address, ED LAMBERT, Senior, same address (father of HAROLD and EDGAR), GEORGE LAMBERT, Charlotte Street, LEON MOORE, MAN HABIBI, THOMAS MARMETH, AL HAMER, "THE LAMBERTS," AL HAMER, JAMES WALTERS (The Detroit Bureau of Correction), MARVIN MARKIN, 520 West Mott Street, ROBERT MERRICK, Police Department, WILLIAM MURPHY, Broadway, PAUL LAM, 36 Redwood, RUSSELL PERRY, 32 Union, R. C. PENNY, same address, DON RICHARD, Poplar Road, - - STEPHENS, first name not known, 3778 Pearl, JAMES STUART, Ninth Street, GEORGE THOMPSON, Senior, ALICE STREET, GEORGE THOMPSON, Junior, same address; HILL HAMMARSHILL, 4640 West Jefferson, VOLK (an old official and school teacher), JOHN WATE, 6434 Harwell, CHARLES WOODS, BIL WILSON, Alexis Avenue.

The following are the members of the Black Legion at Ypsilanti, Michigan:

J. W. ALLEN, CLAYTON BILLEH, Telegraph Road, HAZEL ROLFE (deceased), W. H. BIRD, CLAYTON BILLEH, IANSON (no first name given), Police Commissioner, Ypsilanti, PARKINSON, RICHARD BILLET, Sibley Road, RICHARD BILLET.
The records of the

The above officers stated that they had never

'contrived' although they had never been

of the treasury.

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

☑ Deleted under exemption(s) 67D with no segregable material available for release to you.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

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

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

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

☐ For your information:

☑ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 45-1133-8 pages 17-24
In an attempt to ascertain the jurisdiction of the Federal Government on the Detroit River, and also the names of registered boat owners on the Detroit River, W. T. KEEL, local Inspector, Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, United States Department of Commerce, 636 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed and suggested that SHERMAN MOORE, United States Lake Survey, War Department, Room 636, Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, be interviewed in this regard. Mr. KEEL, however, advised regarding the核查 of boats that his office had a record of twelve thousand names, all of persons who were employed on boats in this district; that these records contained the fingerprints, descriptions, handwriting and photograph of every individual so employed on any American vessel; that his office, under the General Record Section in Washington, D.C., maintained a complete list of all persons employed on American vessels registered in the United States, and containing the above fingerprints, photographs, descriptions and handwriting. He stated, however, that it would be unusual for a person to be registered there who was the owner of a boat and suggested that Agent contact the United States Customs Service, who had a registration of all boats on the Detroit River, his office being located in the Custom House Building, Larned and Griswold Streets, Detroit, Michigan.

SHERMAN MOORE, Engineer in charge of surveying work and engineering on the Detroit River, United States Lake Survey, War Department, 636 Federal Building, Detroit, Michigan, was interviewed and furnished the writer with a copy of the Detroit River, showing the international boundary line as running on the American side of Fighting Island, along the line of the main channel running on the American side of Fighting Island, although there is also a channel on the Canadian side on the opposite side of Fighting Island. This map shows that the shore line of the State of Michigan varies somewhat as to the shore line of Fighting Island, there being a variance of between two and three miles between the two points at various points from the Michigan shore. The boundary line, according to Mr. MOORE, as shown on the map is accurately drawn in conformity with the treaty between the United States and the Dominion of Canada. Mr. MOORE stated that MR. HANSMANN, chief photographer generally makes the charts and can certify to their accuracy.

It will be noted that the map referred to above was issued by the United States Lake Survey for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that these maps are a confidential source of information.
Detroit File 445-44

Mr. MCMANUS stated that to the best of his knowledge the State of Michigan had absolutely no jurisdiction whatsoever on the Detroit River; that the Federal Government had sole jurisdiction on the Detroit River on the American side of the international boundary line. He stated that the case of the United States vs Chandler - Dummer Water Power Company, which went to the Supreme Court of the United States, involving a civil case, took up this question.

The records of the State Prisons of Southern Michigan, Jackson, Michigan showed that at the present time JOHN BANGSHAW, #4000, JOHN VICKERT, #45567, THOMAS CRAIG, #36049, MINNIE HUS, #60100, PAUL EDWARDS, #50046, HARLEY DAVIS, #49072, EDGAR BALDWIN, #59094, ALBERT STEVENS, #59094, and RALF ANDERSON, #59094, are all serving time at that institution at the present time and that they are all known to have been connected with Black Legion activities, as shown on the records.

The facts developed above to date were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney JOHN W. MCMANUS, who stated he would recommend further investigation to determine where the actual murder of FITZCOCK took place, and that this would probably eventually involve the interviewing of the alleged members of the party, who murdered FITZCOCK. However, as the Bureau had requested a report at this date, undeveloped leads are being set out regarding further investigation. No undeveloped lead at the present time is being set out for the St. Paul Office at Puhl, Minnesota, to interview OTTO NASSEL, the lead in this office will be covered in the near future unless information is received from the Bureau to the contrary. A separate letter is being written to the Bureau, requesting advice as to additional investigation.

DEVELOPED LEADS:

THE DETROIT OFFICE AT WINDSOR, ONTARIO, CANADA, will ascertain whatever information is available at the Coroner's Office, and at the office of the Provincial Police regarding FITZCOCK'S death, and will interview police officers who worked on this case for any information of value they may have, so any facts surrounding the murder, where it was committed, where the body was found, and in what condition, and who was responsible for the crime, will conduct any additional investigation in this section which is deemed advisable.

IF POSSIBLE, MICHIGAN, will interview to determine if he has any information regarding Leland only, particularly as to whose boat he used in the transportation of FITZCOCK to fighting Island.
DETROIT FILE 745-46

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN, will interview

privately to ascertain from him whatever information he may have
regarding instant murder, and also to determine whose boat was used
in the commission thereof. It should be borne in mind that
he reported to know the boat that was used, but that he may not be
cooperative, as his partner, is known to be a
member of the Black Legion.

AT TRAUTON, MICHIGAN, will ascertain the present address
of
who is reported to be either at Trauton, Ely, or River Ely, 
and will question this party regarding any information he has
with regard to instant case.

AT HURON, MICHIGAN, will attempt to locate

who is reported to have been well informed regarding Black Legion
activities at the time of the instant murder, and will question
this person regarding information in his possession as to who was
involved in the murder, and attempt to obtain from him, if possible,
the persons name whose boat was used in the transportation. It
will be noted that this person has been reported as possibly being
evasive during questioning, and that he did advise Lieutenant
HARTING of the Michigan State Police, that he witnessed a murder
committed by the Black Legion members in Ohio.

AT JACOBA, MICHIGAN, will reinterview DAVID DENNIS, with

a copy of the True Detective Magazine of January or February, 1937
to see if he can recall any further details regarding instant case
and will question him as to how the members of the Black Legion
were where present at the time the man was killed in the Miller
field used in Macomb County about 1936, as these persons are

supposed to have information on instant case. It will be noted that
DAVID DENNIS, during the last interview suggested that a copy of the above
magazine, if procured and presented to him, might help him in
solving up facts, which were at present somewhat hazy in his memory.

AT JACOBIA, MICHIGAN, will thereafter interview "ROBBY"

DAVIS, EDGAR BATES, ALVIN LAW, GEORGE LIPPS, and question them as

to the names of the men who were in automobile party in the night
of the instant murder, and who are apparently the murderers of BRY
PERCOCO. Will thereafter interview VIRGIL MURPHY first, in an
attempt to obtain from him a confession regarding instant murder,
and will thereafter interview other subjects involved in this case.

THE DETECTIVE OFFICE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN will check the
records of the Identification Bureau, Wayne County Sheriff's

-71
Detroit File 465-08

Office to obtain whatever information is available regarding VIRGIL
MORGAN, ALBERT STEVENS, THOMAS CRAIG, OTTO EASCHERL, CHARLES KIND,
HARRY LARSEN and JAMES E. SACHERL, and will ascertain if there
are parties shown to the Identification Bureau by the names of
JOHNSON and FORBES, who were connected with the Black Legion, as
mentioned by DEAN, as being possibly parties involved in the murder
of TROCK, and will obtain similar information regarding these
persons.

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN, in the United States Customs
Offices, Customs Building, Larned and Griswold Streets, and will
ascertain if any of the persons shown to be members of the Black
Legion at Ayamotte and Ecorse, Michigan, are shown to be owners of
a boat on the Detroit River, and will thereafter set out leads to
check on any individual found to so own a boat, to determine
whether or not this individual owned the boat that was used in
instant case.

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN at the Fort Precinct of the Detroit,
Michigan Police Department, Fort and Green Streets, will interview

for any information he may have regarding instant
case.
December 16, 1934

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION.

Transmit the following message to: SAG DETROIT

SUBJ: ROY PYTODGE, VICTIM; SEARCH OF HIS HOME; EXAMINATION. SUBMIT WITHIN FIVE DAYS REPORT REQUESTED IN BUREAU FILE DATED DECEMBER SECOND.

HOOVER.
Detroit, Michigan
December 19, 1938

Dear Director,

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: HARRY A. LOCHNER
SPECIAL AGENT

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau Letter dated December 19, 1938, addressed to Special Agent HARRY A. LOCHNER, directing him to proceed to New York City for assignment.

In this connection, please be advised that Agent LOCHNER is presently handling the investigation of the case entitled, "JOHN HAMPTON, et al.; ROY PITCOCK, Victor - ESTATE AND SMUGGLING ON THE HIGH SEAS," which is a rather involved matter concerning the activities of the "Black Legions." Due to the fact that he has the matter well in hand, the interests of the Bureau would probably best be served by having him continue this investigation. It is believed that he can complete this work, and other pending matters assigned to him, by approximately January 1, 1939.

Accordingly, unless the Bureau instructs to the contrary, Agent LOCHNER will not depart for New York City until or about that date.

Very truly yours,

John S. Bogue
Special Agent in Charge

Authorized

New York City
December 20, 1978

Mr. J. B. Douglas
Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Douglas:

The Bureau is in receipt of the report of Special Agent E. A. Loughran, dated December 6, 1978, at Detroit, Michigan, with regard to the above entitled matter.

Your attention is directed to the information concerning Bureau instructions in connection with this investigation set out in the second and third paragraphs on page 3 and the second paragraph on page 5 of this report. Unless as the above information is of a purely administrative nature, the Bureau is entirely unable to understand the reason for same being included in an investigative report, a copy of which was furnished the United States Attorney. For your information and guidance, information of this nature should not be included in investigative reports, and if instances arise in connection with which you desire to acknowledge receipt of Bureau instructions of this kind, same should be handled by letter.

Your attention is also directed to the information set forth on page 29 and the first paragraph on page 30 of reference report concerning Inquiry conducted by the Investigating Agent with regard to the matter of establishing the facts of Federal jurisdiction on the Detroit River. You may instruct that the question of jurisdiction on the Detroit River is entirely within the province of the United States Attorney, and the Bureau is unable to understand why your Division should assert any interest or regard to this question of jurisdiction. Inquiry tending to establish that the boat upon which the crime was allegedly committed belonged to Americans or was registered under the laws of the United States is of course a thorough investigation which your Division should undertake to establish Federal jurisdiction with regard to crimes committed upon the Detroit River, in a jurisdiction of the United States Attorney.
The Bureau desires to direct your attention to the fact that the investigation of this matter was originally initiated as a result of information furnished your division by Capt. Ed. A. Shurtleff of the Michigan State Police in an effort that Capt. Hoens had obtained definite information from Dayton Jones that the Pike tour was called on a motor launch on the Detroit River and was taken thereafter to Fighting Islands, which is located in Canada. According to the information set forth in your letter dated August 9, 1930, Assistant United States Attorney John F. Scovell, Detroit, Michigan, requested an investigation concerning the facts related by Capt. Shurtleff, in which connection he requested that a Bureau agent obtain from Dayton Jones a written statement setting forth information allegedly furnished by Jones to Capt. Hoens. Mr. Scovell indicating that a federal prosecution could be authorized if a violation is discovered. The Bureau authorized an investigation upon the above basis, and the sworn statement obtained from Dayton Jones and quoted in reference report has been carefully reviewed, it being noted that this statement fails to substantiate in any way the information originally furnished by Capt. Hoens. It is noted that Dayton Jones did not relate any facts whatsoever with regard to a murder on a Detroit river or a federal idling, and from the information set forth in his statement, it appears that he probably does not possess information of value in connection with this matter, inasmuch as apparently speaks entirely upon rumors and subsequent detective story articles for his theory concerning the Pike tour murder, although the reference report fails to definitely indicate his theory concerning this matter.

In view of the apparent discrepancy between the information originally furnished your office by Capt. Hoens and the facts actually furnished by Dayton Jones himself to a Bureau Agent, it would certainly appear that Capt. Hoens should have been questioned concerning the original source of his information and subsequently interviewed following the interview with Dayton Jones, although reference report fails to indicate that attempts of any kind were made at this time to obtain from Capt. Hoens the real source of the information originally related by him to the Detroit office. It is noted, when subsequently interviewed, that Capt. Hoens referred the investigating agent to various Michigan State Police officers, indicating that he, Hoens, does not possess detailed information of value concerning this matter.

The Bureau notes that following the interview with Dayton Jones, an investigation was undertaken which obviously leads toward a general investigation of similar性质 activities and alleged murders thereof in an effort to establish this possibility. If Pike tour may have been murdered in such fashion as to constitute a violation within the Bureau's jurisdiction.

You are advised that the Bureau most certainly does not advise that your office conduct a general investigation with regard to alleged Black Hawk activities and murders merely upon the possibility that such murders
The Bureau desires to be promptly and fully advised concerning the results of this discussion with the United States Attorney.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director
Reference is made to Bureau letter dated December 28, 1938, in regard to the report of Special Agent H. A. Loughran dated December 6, 1938, at Detroit, Michigan, in connection with the above-entitled matter.

Please be advised that investigation was conducted by this office in the above-entitled case as to the jurisdiction of the Federal Government on the Detroit River at the request of Mr. John H. Pitcock, Assistant United States Attorney, Detroit, Michigan, as set forth in the last paragraph on page 4 of reference report.

With reference to page 3 of the Bureau letter regarding the failure of Assistant United States Attorney Babcock to set forth the basis for requesting further investigation, the Bureau's attention is called to the third paragraph on page 26 of reference report showing that the request of Mr. Babcock is based on his desire to determine where the murder of Pitcock actually took place. It will be noted that during the interview with Mr. Babcock by Special Agent Loughran it was not possible to obtain an opinion from him as to whether the Federal Government has exclusive jurisdiction on the Detroit River within the International Boundary Line although he was last interviewed particularly regarding this point and he stated that the Bureau should first ascertain where the crime was committed.

With reference to the variance reported between the statements of Captain Ira Blankman of the Michigan State Police and Dayton-Teena, it does not appear from a review of the file that any variance exists as to the main substance of the information furnished. Captain Blankman had to obtain some of the information...
(Letter to the Bureau from SAC Detroit
Dated January 3, 1939)

furnished from other sources than Dayton Dean. These sources are
available to the Bureau and are being checked through undeveloped
leads set out in reference report.

Captain Harman has stated that Pitcock was taken from
his home in his night clothes, strangled on the way to Fighting
Island in a launch and that his body was hung in an old shack on
the island. This was apparently a deduction borne out by the
fact that the information in the Coroner's report in the possess-
ion of Captain Harman shows that Pitcock's feet were clean while
the floor of the shack he was found in was covered with ashes.
Of course, part of the above information apparently came from the
Pitcock family.

Dayton Dean on the other hand states that he met the
group of Black Legion members at the Lyric Temple at West Lafayette and Waterman Streets in Detroit; that he rode, mases
and a rope at the meeting place which were taken along by his
enemy but that after murdering Charles Poole his group proceeded
to the German Inn on West Fort Street in Detroit where Dean definitely
recalls meeting Thomas Craig, Albert Stevens, Virgil Morrow and
possibly John C. Mitchell. He further recalls that these men worked
under Kneenman and that from certain remarks made by that group
together with the director of the body of Pitcock, who had previously
been threatened by the Black Legion, he knew that this group had
murdered Pitcock. Dean's reference to the detective magazine story
was only to help him to further refresh his memory.

The information that Dean has furnished is, of course,
only circumstantial and the only direct evidence of murder is
probably in the facts that can only be related by the murderers
themselves.

When the facts developed in the investigation, as set
forth in reference report, were presented to Assistant United
States Attorney John V. Pitcock at Detroit he was of the opinion
that there was sufficient evidence to indicate that Pitcock had
been murdered and to warrant further investigation to develop
further:

1. Pitcock had been kidnaped and taken across the
   International Boundary Line and murdered
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FILE #</th>
<th>PAGES AVAILABLE</th>
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<td>61-7398 SUBA</td>
<td>202</td>
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILES CONTAINED IN THIS PART
COLUMBUS, Aug. 28 (International News Service).—Gov. Martin L. Davey today signed the formal papers for the extradition to Michigan of Virgil H. (Bert) Effinger, of Lima, accused Black Legion commander.

The Executive gave his approval to two requisitions presented by Michigan authorities for the extradition of Effinger to answer charges growing out of the Black Legion investigation at Detroit.

Effinger, who disappeared Tuesday while his extradition hearing was in progress, still was missing today, but authorities were inclined to believe he would give himself up to Allen County authorities at Lima.

His attorney, Clarence Miller, had announced earlier that Effinger would appear in event Davey approved the extradition and would immediately start proceedings for a writ of habeas corpus.
Fugitive From Cult Hearing Sought

Reputed Chief of Black Legion at Large; Hunt Pushed

COLUMBUS, O., Aug. 26 (U.P.)—Virgil H. Effinger, reputed Black Legion national commander sought on fugitive warrants, remained at large tonight more than a day after his flight during a recess in his extradition hearing.

Michigan authorities, seeking the electrical contractor charged in Detroit with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs, learned that Effinger returned secretly to his home in Lima yesterday and arranged for distribution of Black Legion handbills.

As Ohio city and State police searched for Effinger today, Gov. Martin L. Davey postponed his decision on releasing him to Michigan in order to study the case further. It was indicated he might rule Friday.

DETROIT, Aug. 25 (I.N.S.)—Arthur Lupp, sr., reputed commander of the Black Legion in Michigan, and two of his alleged henchmen surrendered to police today. They had been sought since a one-man grand jury indicted them and 19 others on charges of criminal syndicalism last week. Surrendering with Lupp were Wilbur Robinson, alleged "brigadier general," and Frank Howard.
4 STATES HUNT FUGITIVE CHIEF OF BLACK KLAN

Ohio Delays Extradition of Effinger but Seems Favorable

3 LEADERS GIVE UP ON DETROIT CHARGES

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 26 (AP).—Amid strong indications that approval of Michigan authorities' request for his extradition to face charges of criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs would be recommended, police of four States watched highways and trains today for Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger.

Meantime, Governor Martin L. Davey decided to take the request under advisement for a few days. Effinger, described by Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea as the national commander of the hooded and robed Black Legion, had dropped completely out of sight during a recess of yesterday's extradition hearing.

**Lima Police Criticized**

His wife told Lima police early today he was in Columbus and Franklin County (Columbus). Deputy Sheriff E. D. Van Horn and Arthur Popiel, a Detroit investigator, left Lima immediately for the capital. She refused to say where he might be, but they said they would try the address of a relative.

However, a Michigan official, voicing criticism of the police of Effinger's home town of Lima, Ohio, for failing to arrest him, said he probably had gone to Pennsylvania or Illinois to stay with friends.

The official, Assistant Attorney General Guy W. Jensen, asked State police of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois to watch for him and pick him up as a fugitive from justice on separate warrants sworn out here and in Lima.

**Three Surrender in Detroit**

DETROIT, Aug. 26 (AP).—Arthur F. Lupp Sr., admitted State organizer for the Black Legion; Wilbur Robinson, a brigadier general in the hooded order, and N. Ray Markland surrendered today to answer a charge of criminal syndicalism.

Markland, former Mayor of suburban Highland Park, and Lupp were charged with conspiring to kill Martin H. Zink, Highland Park Commissioner, and Arthur L. Kingsley, publisher of the community newspaper there, as well as with syndicalism.

Markland's surrender left all twenty-two defendants in the syndicalism case accounted for except Virgil F. Effinger, Lima, Ohio, contractor who is a fugitive, and Isaac (Pegleg) White, former Detroit policeman.

**Accused Man Held Sane**

A commission appointed to inquire into the sanity of Harvey Davis, Black Legion colonel accused of leading the group charged with kidnapping and killing Charles A. Poole last May 2, reported today that Davis is sane and able to stand trial.

The trial of Davis and eleven others in the Poole case is scheduled to start in Circuit Court next Monday.
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The trial of Davis and eleven others in the Poole case is scheduled to start in Circuit Court next Monday.
Black Legion Head,

Turned in by Wife,

Sought in 4 States

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 26 (AP) — Amid strong indications that approval of Michigan authorities' request for his extradition to face charges of criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs would be recommended, police of four States watched highways and trains today for stocky, cigar-smoking Virgil P. (Bert) Effinger.

Effinger, described by Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C. McCreas as the national commander of the hooded and robed Black Legion, dropped completely out of sight during a recess of yesterday's extradition hearing.

His wife told Lima police early today he was in Columbus and two officers left Lima immediately for the capital. A Michigan official, voicing criticism of the police of Effinger's home town of Lima for failing to arrest him, said he probably had gone to Pennsylvania or Illinois to stay with friends.
BLACK LEGION 'CHIEF' S UDDENLY VANISHES

Lima, Ohio, Man Is Sought by Police of 4 States After Quitting an Extradition Hearing.

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 23 (AP)—A four-State police search for Virgil F. Effinger began tonight on the heels of his disappearance from an extradition hearing.

Effinger, a Lima (Ohio) electrical contractor, named by Duncan C. McRea, Detroit prosecutor, as national commander of the mysterious Black Legion, walked out of the hearing just as Franklin County deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

The deputies had a warrant for him, granted to the Michigan authorities by the Columbus Municipal Court.

The State highway patrol immediately broadcast a general alarm calling for his arrest “as a fugitive from justice.” Guy W. Jensen, Assistant Attorney General of Michigan, disclosed that he had asked State police of Indiana, Illinois and Pennsylvania also to be on the lookout for Effinger.

“He has friends in Illinois and Pennsylvania,” Mr. Jensen said. “And I believe he’s gone to one or the other State.”

Late today Charles Lesure, secretary to Governor Davey, indicated strongly that he would recommend approval of the Michigan request for Effinger’s extradition. At Effinger’s home at Lima information was given both that he was there and later that he was not. Lima police stationed a squad near the home.
POLICE HUNT OHIO BLACK LEGION CHIEF EFFINGER IS SOUGHT ON 2 WARRANTS

Lima Man Disappears From Extradition Hearing as Detroit Gains Ground in Removal Fight.

STATE PATROL MOVES TO CATCH 'FUGITIVE'

Ohioan Accused on Basis of Michigan Bill Charging Bomb Possession.

BULLETIN.
LIMA, O., Aug. 26 (Wednesday).—(AP)—Mrs. Virgil F. Effinger told police early today her husband, who disappeared during an extradition hearing yesterday in Columbus, was in Columbus and two policemen left immediately for there.
COLUMBUS, O., AUG. 25—(AP)—The State Highway Patrol tonight broadcast a general alarm for the arrest of Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, named by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCreas of Detroit as national commander of the hooded Black Legion.

The broadcast followed by a few hours Effinger’s disappearance from an apparently unfavorable extradition hearing just as Franklin County (Columbus) deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities, who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

Highway patrol radio headquarters said the broadcast, calling for Effinger’s arrest “as a fugitive from justice,” was made on request of sheriff’s deputies.

Obtain Two Warrants.

Michigan officials, here for the extradition hearing, obtained the warrant in Columbus Municipal Court as Charles S. Leasure, secretary to Gov. Martin L. Davey, overruled numerous technical objections of Effinger’s counsel to the Detroit extradition papers and then indicated strongly that he would recommend approval of the Michigan requisition.

The governor’s office announced shortly afterward that a formal decision would be made tomorrow.

Deputy Alfred Farrell of Detroit meanwhile went to Effinger’s home city of Lima and swore out before the Municipal Court there a similar “fugitive from justice” warrant.

This second warrant was turned over to Lima police.

A squad of policemen was dispatched immediately to Effinger’s home, with orders to remain there until Effinger appeared. The squad still was waiting there just before midnight.

Effinger’s absence from the hearing here was noted after a recess.

At the hour-long first session, which began at noon, he sat and fanned himself with his straw hat while his attorney, Clarence C. Miller of Lima, argued against extradition.

He conferred frequently with his lawyers as they tried unsuccessfully to delay the hearing until they could procure alibi witnesses in the portly Effinger’s behalf.

When the hearing was resumed, however, Effinger did not return to the Superior Criminals room.

Search Columbus Hotels.

Franklin County (Columbus) sheriff’s office attaches, directed by Deputy Henry Keely, waited in the State House corridors to serve on Effinger the Columbus Municipal Court warrant, charging him as a fugitive wanted on a criminal syndicalism indictment in Detroit.

When Effinger had not appeared an hour after the hearing was resumed, they made an intensive search of the State House and Columbus hotels but could not find the Lima contractor, once an unsuccessful candidate for sheriff in his home county.

John A. Ricca, assistant Detroit prosecutor, said the Columbus warrant was designed to expedite Effinger’s removal to Detroit if the extradition warrant is granted by the governor.
Black Legion's Leader
Hunted by Ohio Police

Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 25 (AP)—
The State highway patrol broadcast a general alarm tonight for the arrest of Virgil F. (Bert) Edinger, named by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, of Detroit, as national commander of the hooded Black Legion.

The broadcast followed by a few hours Edinger's disappearance from an apparently unfavorable extradition hearing last as Franklin County deputies sought to detain him for Michigan authorities, who have charged him with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.
BLACK KLAN HEAD
Sought in Ohio

Michigan Authorities Ask Gov. Davey to Arrest and Return Alleged Leader

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Aug. 24.—Michigan authorities arrived today seeking to extradite Virgil F. Effinger of Lima, Ohio, named by Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Detroit as national commander of the Black Legion.

Guy W. Jensen, Assistant Michigan Attorney General, and John H. Ricca, Assistant Detroit Prosecutor, headed a half-dozen investigators to Lima to present requisition papers to Governor Davey. Effinger is charged with criminal syndicalism and possession of bombs.

Effinger, one of twenty-two indicted last week on the basis of affidavits describing a plot to stage an uprising September 16 and overthrow the Government, has denied the charges. He said he would fight extradition.

New Indictments Sought

DETROIT, Aug. 24.—Additional indictments of members of the sinister Black Legion impeded today while detectives pressed a hunt for eight of twenty-two persons named last Friday on charges of criminal syndicalism.

Thirteen of those indicted by Circuit Judge James E. Cherry, who sat as a one-man Grand Jury, were in custody and aides of the Attorney-General were in Columbus, Ohio, to obtain an order for extradition from Lima, Ohio, of Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, named in affidavits as national commander of the secret society.

Named by Dean

An affidavit by Dayton Dean, confessed Black Legion triggerman in the killing of Charles A. Poole, which first exposed the activities of the terrorists, named Effinger as leader of a proposed plot to seize arsenals and Government buildings with an armed uprising September 16.

Effinger, an electrical contractor at Lima, has termed the charges nonsense and said he would oppose efforts to extradite him to Michigan. Lima police have declined to detain Effinger until warrants are approved by Governor Davey of Ohio.

New York P

AUG 24 1936
Effinger Sought

COLUMBUS, O.—A formal request for the extradition of Virgil H. "Percy" Effinger of Lima, reputed head of the Black Legion, to face criminal charges in Michigan, was made to Gov. Martin L. Davey today. Michigan officials brought the extradition papers to Davey's office and conferred with his secretary in charge of extradition matters.
CULT LEADER ASKED OF OHIO

COLUMBUS, Aug. 24 (By International News Service) — Gov. Martin L. Davey today was formally requested by five Michigan officials to permit extradition to that State of Virgil H. "Bert" Effinger, of Lima, alleged tri-State leader of the Black Legion.

The formal request, filed at Davey's office, asked that he permit Effinger's return to Detroit to face a warrant charging him with carrying explosives and an indictment accusing him of violation of Michigan's criminal syndicalism law in connection with an alleged Black Legion plot to overthrow the Government.

Charles W. Leasure, Davey's secretary, said he had been informed Effinger will fight the extradition proceedings.
Step on It

INDICATIONS that the Black Legion still survives recent publicity persist in spite of the indignation the discovery of several murders has aroused. Last week, for example, an Ohio police chief arrested a man charged with being the Legion's leader. If these stories have any foundation in fact, it is time that more drastic action be taken than has yet been attempted. And facilities for such action are ready at hand in the shape of various laws enacted to combat kidnapping and gang crimes. It should not be difficult to discover a ground on which the federal government could intervene. And if the G-men took a hand in the proceedings they, with the support of the federal courts, would have full power to act in cases where there is ground for suspecting that local officers have been identified with the Legion.

The Black Legion is a completely subversive organization. On the confession of its members it has lived on violence, not excepting murder. The quicker it is broken up the quicker unreasoning, deluded Americans will be protected from a poison deliberately being planted in prejudiced minds.
LEGION URGES PROBE OF RED FORCES IN U.S.

Starnes-Reynolds Bill to Plug Immigration Leaks Backed; Unit Candidates Named

Vigorously reaffirming their staunch opposition to communism, District American Legionnaires in the second night of their convention at the Mayflower Hotel asked a study be made of subversive forces at work in this country.

Resolutions asking for a committee of three Legionnaires to draw up an explanatory document to be printed for distribution after its approval by the executive committee were passed by the body.

Probe Needed

The resolutions stated "there is a great need of a source of information on communism, fascism, nazism and government by dictatorship in relation to our American ideals."

In other resolutions the Legion condemned the Black Legion, Black Shirts and other "utterly reprehensible" organizations, pledged support to the Starnes-Reynolds bill covering deficiencies in immigration laws, reaffirmed their stand on mob violence and lynching, asked repeal of the famous "marriage clause" and asked for establishment of a veterans' hospital for women who served in the World War.

Study Secret Groups

A special committee was authorized to study the activities of secret organizations "who use methods of brutality, mutilation, kidnapping and murder to attain their un-American principles."

The legion also urged that compensation pay to widows of World War veterans be extended to those whose disabilities were 10 per cent. At present payments are made to widows of those who suffered 30 per cent disability.

They also voiced approval of the establishment of a Civil Service Court of Appeals.

Name Candidates

Delegates also named candidates for offices in the District Department, as a prelude to a hotly contested election tonight. Jack O'Connell, of the Vincent Costello Post, and Horace W. Lineburg, of the Police Post, were named candidates for the position of commander.

First vice commander will be either John B. Haney or Ray L. Zwinglas, while the candidates for national executive committee are James O'Connor Roberts and James J. Malloy, retiring commander.

Opposes Reds

One of the anti-red resolutions read:

"Whereas communism is still a factor in American life, the Legion repeats and renews its absolute opposition to communism and other forms of subversiveism, and to all agencies that support or disseminate its doctrines."

The resolution supporting the Starnes-Reynolds bill stated:

"Whereas millions of aliens are literally in this country and hundreds of thousands of them are on relief and are being supported by us to the detriment of citizens, we endorse the Starnes-Reynolds bill introduced at the last session which covers the deficiencies and evils of our immigration laws."

The "Black Legion" resolution stated secret orders of its kind "strike at foundations of American principles and imperial law and order."
MORE BLACK LEGION REVELATIONS

Latest and most shocking of the Black Legion revelations is the confession of Dayton Dean, its trigger man, that members of an outing shot a Negro war veteran to death near Pinckney, Mich., May 25 "just for the hell of it."

For sheer bloodthirsty depravity and viciousness it would be hard to equal Dean's story of how Black Legion members on a week-end party with their wives lured their victim, Silas Coleman, out into the country and then shot him to death for their entertainment.

It is just such abnormal sadism and pathological lust for blood and torture that mark the activities of Fascists in other countries. Their appearance in this country, in connection with a fairly widespread organization, is a challenge to decent Americans.

The new Dean confession calls attention to the soft-pedaling of the Black Legion investigation in Michigan. Six murders have been proven against this organization. Eight others are attributed to it. In addition it is held responsible in six floggings and in several cases of bombing and arson.

Grave questions are raised by the fact that three of the six murders definitely laid at the doorstep of the Black Legion, those of Jack Marchuk, Jack Bielak and Roy C. Pidcock, were murders of men active in organizing labor, notably in the automobile plants.

How high does the trail of these murders reach? How much have Michigan investigators learned? How many prominent business men or politicians are involved? These questions demand an answer and if Michigan investigators cannot answer them, Federal investigators should.

Here certainly is a job for the G-Men.
'Bible Burner' Shot To Death by Wife
Black Legion Linked to Latest Tragedy Under Probe

DETROIT, July 29 (N.S.). The Black Legion was linked with another death probe today after Mrs. Emma Lugenbell, 26, former restaurant owner of Toronto, confessions shooting her husband to death, declaring her mate scoffed at religion, burned her Bible and once branded her across the chest with a hot poker. She told police:

"I believe he was a member of the Black Legion. He used to belong to the Ku Klux Klan and he had been attending a meeting some place in a field every two weeks."

It was the Black Legion which decreed the death of Charles A. Poole, Works Progress Administration worker, on spurious reports he beat his wife. In this case Mrs. Lugenbell declared her husband, Frank, 48, was the wife beater. She said:

"I shot him three times in our confectionery store Saturday afternoon after he beat me and blackened one eye. My mind was a blank after that. I remember seeing him put the gun away. Then it was in my hands, and I was pulling the trigger."
It Need Not Happen Here

To the Editor of New York Post:

Sir—Recent news reports indicate that Attorney General Cummings has refused the request of Michigan authorities to investigate the activities of the "Black Legion" in that State. The Attorney General has refused to turn his G-men to this task for the reported reason "lack of Federal jurisdiction."

We trust that Mr. Cummings will not think us presumptuous in calling to his attention the following pertinent Federal statute:

"Section 51. U. S. C. A. (Criminal Code, Section 18).—Conspiracy to injure persons in exercise of civil rights. If two or more persons conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate any citizen in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, or because of his having so exercised the same, or if two or more persons go in disguise on the highway, or on the premises of another, with intent to prevent or hinder his free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege so secured, they shall be fined not more than $5,000 and imprisoned not more than ten years, and shall, moreover, be thereafter ineligible to any office, or place of honor, profit, or trust created by the Constitution or laws of the United States. (R. S. Section 5556; March 4, 1863, c. 321, Section 18, 35 Stat. 1092.)"

Fortified by legal opinion we believe that the Attorney General has ample authority and reason to use his justly famed Bureau of Investigation to ferret out Fascist hoodlums as well as kidnappers.

In fact, the former seem to us a more potent threat to American law and order than a dozen Al Capones.

READER.
Probe of Black Legion Is Urged
by International Labor Defense.

NEW YORK, July 9 (AP)—The International Labor Defense disclosed today that it has petitioned United States Attorney General Homer S. Cummings to order a Department of Justice investigation into terrorist activities of the Black Legion.

The International Labor Defense, in a letter to Cummings, contended that the Government could prosecute under Federal statutes against night riding, kidnapping, threatening communications, flight from the State to avoid prosecution for a felony, interference with the Federal Relief Administration, and fraudulently obtaining Federal aid.
TREASONABLE BOASTS

For several years one George W. Christians of Chattanooga has been mailing red-inked letters denouncing men of prominence, exhibiting racial and religious intolerance and threatening to use force to institute his ideas as to how the government should be run.

Now this self-annointed leader of the "Red Revolutionary Society of the White Shirt Crusaders" is openly boasting advocacy of violence and asserting that eventually his organization will "embrace all but 5 per cent of the Nation's population."

The last ridiculous brag is of no significance save in its insult to American intelligence. The first repeats more brazenly what the author has said many times in the literature he has broadcast. Possibly it is because that literature is stupidly bombastic and moronic in tone, the writer has so far escaped official notice. Yet there is in it the stuff of which Black Legion murders are concocted and which, in any other country, long ago would have held its author answerable to charges of treason and conspiracy.
LET'S HOPE STATE LINE WAS CROSSED

It is not yet known whether or not the Columbus county band of terrorists has invaded federal law and until that question is settled District Attorney Carr's proposal to enlist service of federal investigators to root out Black Legion hoodlum in eastern North Carolina must remain as a gesture. And it is a reflection on the law enforcement agencies of Columbus county or of the State of North Carolina that a federal investigation is so much as suggested. But on the theory that an honest confession is good for the soul, frank North Carolinians may as well admit now that the chances are 100 to 1 that neither local nor state authorities will get far in stifling mob-rule that has lifted its head in Columbus county. When something is said about federal legislation to curb mob-rule and mob-lynching there are always those ready to jump up and object on the grounds that it involves invasion of states' rights. But when time comes for local and state authorities to move against mobsters and terrorists, those defenders of states' rights keep quiet while perfunctory probes, investigations and grand jury deliberations proceed toward an uncertain end.

So, it might be a good break for all concerned save the terrorists if it develops that a state line was crossed. Then we could save our faces from surrender of states' rights and at same time probably get somewhere in burning out a decayed spot in our Tar Heel law and order armor.
CO-OPERATION Among Police

J. Edgar Hoover revealed recently in a newspaper statement and also in a magazine article that the federal department of justice had not received the proper support and co-operation from certain city or local authorities in rounding up "public rats" who were known thugs, gangsters, kidnappers and killers.

Now comes the revelation in Detroit that TWO YEARS ago the federal department of justice agents and Mayor Hackett of Highland Park were informed of the "murder ring" known as the Black Legion—and that Mayor Hackett and Arthur Kingsley, Highland Park newspaper publisher, were marked for death by the Black Legion, an infamous organization that foisted itself on this and other states for political supremacy by terrorizing those who stood in the way.

Every true American owes it to himself and his country to uphold law and order—and why there should be jealousy—or worse—between local, state and federal law enforcement officers is a conundrum to the average taxpayer who pays his good money to see that laws ARE enforced.
HOODED NIGHT RIDERS FLOG FIVE WOMEN

Mother of Girl on Trial Shows
Red Cross Branded on Head;
Man, 3 Daughters Beaten

WHITEVILLE, N. C., June 29
(U.P.)—Columbus county authorities, unable to learn the identity of a gang of night raiders from the six victims, all residents of this area and among them four women, a 14-year-old girl and a 65-year-old man, have rearrested a man considered an important witness in the case.

The prisoner, Pink King, was reportedly held in jail at Wilmington, near here.

**Freed of Assault**

Information about the masked raiders, who whisked through the countryside, was obtained at King's trial here on charges of criminally assaulting the 14-year-old girl victim of the mob. The girl's mother, forced to remove her hat, showed the court her clipped hair and a brand mark, which she said the mob marked her with after flogging her and the girl, a mental deficient.

Authorities rearrested King on another charge after he was acquitted of attacking the girl.

**Gang of 18 Men**

The theory that the night raiders, known to have included from 11 to 18 men, who were dressed in white sheets and wore masks over their faces, acted because of religious motives was given after victims of the raids revealed the assaults followed charges of alleged immoral conduct or reputed whisky selling. Questioning at the trial revealed the girl and her mother had been taken from their cottage by a gang of men, who whipped the two and then warned them to "mend your ways, go to Sunday school and be good women."

The other women flogging victims were daughters of a 65-year-old farmer, who authorities had accused of immoral conduct.
Young Boy Watches as Mother Is Slain

'Black Legion' Scrawled on Mirror in Lipstick After Brutal Murder of Chicago Woman

CHICAGO—A sleepy young boy ran into a hotel lobby here early today and sobbed out that a Negro or black-masked white man had beat his mother to death and then scrawled "Black Legion" in lipstick on a mirror.

The victim was Mrs. Florence Castle, pretty 25-year-old divorcée and night club hostess. Her son, James, 7, awoke in their dimly-lighted hotel room to see the intruder "hitting mother about the ears" with a brick.

The boy's dim recollections, stammered between tears, were followed eagerly by police anxious to learn whether the hooded Michigan terrorist organization really had perpetrated the crime.

The killing occurred in a hotel frequented by "show people." James' father, James Thompson, was said to live in Boston. Her second husband, known as Bud Castle, was reported in Los Angeles.

James said the slayer tried to soothe him by saying, "Don't worry. I'll take you to Los Angeles in the morning."

WASH. HEWS
Jun 29, 1935
BLACK LEGION EXPOSE
MEETING ANNOUNCED

Retired Seattle Advertising Man
Reveals Plans for Public
Session July 22.

SEATTLE, June 27.—N. P. Atkinson, retired advertising man, today announced a public meeting the night of July 22, to expose what he said is the Pacific Northwest spread of the Black Legion, secret order recently discovered in Michigan.

Atkinson said he represents the committee on the significance of the Black Legion idea, and said the "idea" is being carried on by a group which urges members to carry firearms.

"They are active now, meeting in neighboring guilds. The movement should be stamped out before it dominates the community," Atkinson said.
Another Black Legion!

BLACKMAILERS

Now that J. Edgar Hoover and his G-men have made kidnapping unprofitable and unhealthy for the underworld, wouldn't it be a good idea for them to turn their attention to the Black Legion of Blackmailers?

The only difference between Blackmail and Kidnapping is that the Blackmailer holds the victim's REPUTATION for ransom instead of his person.

One crime is just as despicable as the other.

Stamping out this Black Brotherhood of human leeches should be the next task for the G-men!
COLUMBUS, Ohio, June 24

Proof of "Black Cult"
Sought by Gov. Davey

(L.N.S.)—Gov. Martin L. Davey today called upon Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecutor, to submit any "official information" he may have concerning alleged "Black Legion" crimes in Ohio.

The governor's action was in reply to a letter from McCrea urging thorough investigation of Black Legion activities in Ohio, which McCrea described as the "hotbed of the Black Legion."

WASH. TIMES


Human Side of the News

By Edwin C. Hill
The Globe Trotter of Hearst Metrotone News

This Black Legion which has been uncovered in the Midwest is nothing new in American life. It seems that in every generation we must have a group of self-righteous individuals who feel that they are above the law and that it is their duty to see that their neighbors live according to the way they would point out for them. They may start off with the purest of motives, but always they wind up as criminal, murderous gangs.

The Black Legion recalls to me the black hand which for fifty-five years disfigured the wall of a cell in the jail at Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania. The mark was left by a convicted member of the Black Legion of his day, an organization of cut-throats and terrorists which went by the name of the Molly Maguires.

A MINER.

The man was a miner, and the story went that as he was being dragged from his cell to the gallows, he wrenched his right hand free, rubbed it on the floor with coal dust and slapped it high on the wall, saying, "That mark is the handprint of an innocent man. It never can be washed away." It wasn't for more than half a century. Then, in 1921, Sheriff Robert L. Bowman grew tired of the legend of the curious who would come to the jail to look on the hand in the cell of the Molly Maguire. "We'll have no more of the hand," said the sheriff, and with a penknife he cut out the plaster.

The Molly Maguires brought racketeering to the United States. They followed the same methods as the "mobs," such as Al Capone's, which have graced our own day. They began as a philanthropic society among the Irish miners in the Pennsylvania anthracite fields.

They got their name from a secret band which was organized in Ireland in 1843 among the lower class of tenant farmers for the purpose of preventing eviction and of terrorizing the
SPRUNG THE TRAP.

Thereupon, McParland sprung the trap, rather he sprung eleven traps, for that was the number of the ringleaders of the Molly Maguires who went to the gallows in the space of a year. Forty-five others went to prison, and the Molly Maguires were no more. James McParland was the J. Edgar Hoover of the 1870's. His work in Pennsylvania alone would have given him a place second to none in our detective annals. Yet he was to duplicate it in Idaho in 1906 when he broke up the reign of thuggery and assassination instituted by the “Inner Circle” of the Western Federation of Miners, which came to an end when McParland convicted Harry Orchard of the murder of ex-Gov. Steenberg and got Orchard to implicate the miners' officials in 25 other murders.

McParland used the same tactics as in Pennsylvania and broke up this gang of terrorists whose chief weapon was dynamite, with which they had killed 13 men at one clip by blowing up the railroad station at Independence, Colo.

Agents of absentee landlords. The nickname came from their practice of disguising themselves as women.

The Pennsylvania Molly Maguires were notorious for twenty years for their outrages on English, Welsh and German mine owners.

They became dominant in the labor circles in the anthracite fields and in political circles as well. Assault and murder were commonplace, the mine bosses were terrorized, the police were helpless and it was worth a man's life to walk the streets of Mauch Chunk, Scranton or Wilkes-Barre after dark.

TRAILS SUSPECTS.

At last Franklin B. Gown, president of the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad and Coal and Iron Company, determined to call in the Pinkertons, and they sent to him a young Irishman who had been running a saloon in Chicago until Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over the lantern to destroy the saloon and the rest of the city by fire. His name was James McParland.

He went into the anthracite fields in 1873 under the name of James McKenna. In the three years that followed, McParland lived in the expectation that each succeeding minute would be the last for him on this earth. He began his detective work as a miner, but soon learned that the big guns of the Molly Maguires either were holding political jobs or running saloons, and not working in the pits.

An old saloonkeeper himself, McParland wormed his way into the confidence of Pat Dormer, a Molly, who kept a saloon in Mauch Chunk.

Slowly and carefully, for the least false step meant his life, McParland edged into the high council of the Mollyes until he was made their secretary. The twenty-year campaign of terrorism came to a climax in 1875 with the murder of a policeman and a mine boss.
'Black Cult' Loots Norfolk Church

Tabernacle Stolen by Hooded Mob; Altar Linens Ruined

NORFOLK, Va., June 19—Revealing the background of the Black Legion in all its viciousness, members of that "hooded klan" today invaded Sacred Heart Catholic Church and stole the most sacred object of Roman Catholic worship—a 400-pound tabernacle and its contents.

In ceasing away the tabernacle and a solid gold ciborium containing 300 particles of the sacred host, the Black Legion's marauders ripped apart the altar and left it in a shambles.

The altar linen, blessed and carefully guarded through the years, was strewn over the floor as the "klan's" crew of vandals accomplished its work.

Police, who laid the theft at the door of the Black Legion, expressed the belief that the thieves gained entrance to the church by smashing a rear window.

As word of the looting circulated through the city, leaders of all religious groups offered assistance in the search for the marauders.
Red Baiting Held Dangerous Pastime by Dr. Chaffee

New Hysteria Wave Might Be Laughed Off, If Its Consequences Were Not So Serious, Says Presbyterian Editor

By DR. EDMUND B. CHAFFEE
Editor, Presbyterian Tribune

One of the most curious and sinister effects of the depression has been the revival of red baiting. This indoor and outdoor sport is probably an inevitable accompaniment of hard times. It will be recalled that this phenomenon appeared in this country soon after the Great War when our economic system went into reverse. It was then that we had the "Palmer Raids" by the Justice Department when hundreds of suspected radicals were suddenly thrown into prison although it later developed that there was a dearth of evidence to justify such action.

So today we have a great chain of papers feeding their readers day after day with dreadful stories of radicals and Communists. We have flabby officers in various communities raiding meetings and locking up speakers on the suspicion that they may be reds. In fact, it begins to appear as if we were in for another of these waves of hysteria. We use the term "hysteria" advisedly for there is nothing in sober reason to justify this fear. It is a matter of the emotions. It is a reflex of economic insecurity.

SHOW LITTLE STRENGTH

If we look at this matter calmly and try to see the facts which are open to anyone who will take the trouble to ask a few questions, we find that the Communist Party in the United States is in plain fact pitifully weak. It has much less than 50,000 members. Even if we count with them every type of Marxist, Socialist, Socialist Labor, I. W. W. and all of the 15 or 20 groups taking that general position, there would not be 150,000 in all this land. If to that we add all those who are affiliated in other organizations, defense leagues, etc., still the total would be only a few hundred thousand, a small fraction of 1 per cent of our population. When the statement is made that there are 3,000,000 reds in the United States, one suspects that the statistician responsible for this figure must have counted all Harvard alumni, American Indians and all small men who wave a red flag.

However, it is not those who make such statements actually hinting an intention of using these terms with any degree of accuracy. They are throwing red mud and a red for them is anyone who is not 100 per cent for things as they are. In fact, the red scare has become in all lands the favorite way of blocking reform. If one doesn't like a particular man or group there is no more effective way of discrediting him or them than by pinning the red label. It is this way that the advocates of the child labor amendment have been pilloried; this device too has been used for the purpose of discounting the co-operative movement.

Even those who have been sincere believers in the present economic system and have sought to save it by reforming it have had the red epithet thrown at them.

MISLEADS THE WEAK

We might ignore all this were it not for the fact that many a kindly but ignorant man takes it all seriously. He proceeds to act upon the information that" The Black Legion in Detroit and its imitators shows the final consequences of such loose talking. Not a few well-meaning but misguided folk actually take seriously such a curiosity as Mrs. Dilling's Red Network and consider it their patriotic duty to keep all listed in that document from being heard from in any platform. From belief in such fantastic documents it is but a step to belief in the "Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion." From that the descent is rapid so that even in this land of public school education and tolerance documents are being circulated calling upon Christians to get their 45s to prevent the Jews from ruling the world.

Red baiting is a dangerous pastime. It destroys its victims; it just as truly makes a hell of life for those who give themselves to its fear and cruelty. And for every red destroyed by such methods a dozen others are made.
Q. K. Black Legion Probe

The Senate Judiciary Committee today approved the Benson resolution calling for an investigation of the Black Legion.
SENATE APPROVES BLACK LEGION PROBE

By a unanimous vote the Senate Judiciary Committee today approved a joint resolution calling for a sweeping investigation of the Black Legion and other un-American activities of terrorist groups.
Liberals Urge F. D. to Back U. S. Probe of Black Legion

Declaring the real leaders of the Black Legion have not yet been exposed, 30 prominent liberals appealed to President Roosevelt today to urge enactment of the Benson-Dickstein Resolution for a congressional investigation of the terrorist group.


POLITICIANS INVOLVED

They are members of a special committee on the Black Legion formed by the American Civil Liberties Union.

This letter said:

"Disclosures of Black Legion activities in Michigan and neighboring states indicate that these hooded terrorists have secretly armed for a campaign of murders, floggings, bombings and arson, directed against minority racial, religious and political groups.

"Most sinister aspect of the Black Legion is its connection with men in political office... Public interest demands a thorough exposure of the Black Legion, its sources of funds, its connections and its leadership. The present investigations... are aimed only at discovering evidence of crime. Much more is involved..."

"May we urge you, Mr. President, to use your influence to insure the passage of the resolution by the present Congress?"

The resolution introduced jointly by Sen. Benson (R-L. Minn.) and Rep. Dickstein (D., N. Y.) provides for a committee of four senators and four representatives to investigate the Black Legion and other organizations "spreading similar un-American propaganda of religious, racial, or subversive political prejudices." The committee would be empowered to call on the various Government departments for assistance and would have full powers of subpoena.

DETROIT — James E. Baker, employee of the suburban city of Pontiac, today was sentenced to 30 days in jail for giving evasive answers at a grand jury investigation of charges that the Pontiac police force is honeycombed with Black Legionnaires.

Fifteen alleged Black Legion members, charged with plotting the death of a village president and a newspaper publisher, were held for trial today at the conclusion of their examination.

Recorder's Judge John P. Scaline said he had found sufficient evidence to hold 12 of the men in connection with the death plot against Arthur L. Ringsley, Highland Park publisher, and three others in connection with a plan to get William W. Voitze, Escrow president.

Both intended victims were political enemies of the vigilantes. The court ordered present bail of the 15, double sureties on $25,000 each, to be continued pending the trial, date for which was not set.
G-MEN, STAND BY

If the published oath of the so-called Black Legion is authentic, kidnapping was not outside the realm of crime to which the deluded members of the new Klan bound themselves. Just at present the Michigan state officials are investigating a murder charge against a group of 12 who were bound by the "blood oath." If the state inquiry reveals kidnapping conspiracies, the G-men ought to step into the picture at once.

It's safe to predict that with G-men on their trail, the promoters of the Black Legion would soon be rounded up and their power over their fanatic followers broken.
INDIANAPOLIS NEWS
May 27, 1936

Colored People Seek Lynch Law
NEW YORK, May 27 (A.P.)—The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has telegraphed President Roosevelt, asking him to insist that the Van-Nuys anti-lynching resolution be reported out of a congressional committee.

It quoted J. Edgar Hoover as admitting the bureau of investigation was unable to join in investigating reports of "lynchings and other mobs activities of the Black Legion in Michigan because no federal law authorized him to act."

The telegram said no objection could be raised to the demand by the most violent partisans" because there is neither sectional nor race issue in the Black Legion situation."
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Do We Need More G-Men?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT by J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that the G-Men would not intervene in Michigan’s “Black Legion” cleanup, was based upon the fact that up to that time the “Black Legionnaires” had not been known to violate federal laws.

Farther than that, it is wise, we believe, to adhere to definite limits to the activities of the G-Men.

Their service to the nation has been remarkable. Since they have exterminated all of the “yellow rats” on the Bureau’s list, there has been some agitation for extension of the activities of the G-Men. On the other hand, there has been heard, in individual instances, the protest that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was a menace to state’s rights.

Both views, we believe, are in error.

The G-Men have handled, with eminent success, crime problems which state and local authorities were powerless to handle—notably kidnapping. There was every reason for the federal government to take a hand in the types of crime which local law enforcement agencies could not handle alone. It is ridiculous to assume that this constituted invasion of state’s rights.

There is a practical reason, however, for not wanting the federal crime-fighting agency to take in too much territory. The reason is that a decrease in efficiency would almost inevitably ensue. Concentration has been one of the keynotes of the success of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to date. If a great number of cases demanded the attention of G-Men, their effectiveness in handling each would, naturally, be decreased.

There is another way, and a much better way, to meet the problem, and that is through the adoption of F. B. I. standards of efficiency and methods by state and local law-enforcement agencies.

Instead of envying J. Edgar Hoover, as some police officials do, the heads of state and local crime-fighting units should copy after him. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has sponsored police training courses in several major cities. This activity could be carried on until all police organizations were versed in the methods of the G-Men.

The present need of America is not so much for more G-Men, but more state and local officers as well trained and as efficient as G-Men.

LOUISVILLE HERALD-POST
8/27/36
MAN ATTACKED
FOR REFUSING
TO JOIN BAND

Victim Tells of Being Interviewed by U. S.
Justice Agent

THREATS REVEALED

Man Attacked, Then Freed
After Given Warning
Not to Talk

By The United Press

LIMA, O., May 27 — William M.
Smith, 55, weather-beaten farmer,
described today how he had been
beaten unconscious, held prisoner
in corn crib, and threatened with
death by the Black Legion.

He incurred the enmity of the
secret organization, Mr. Smith
said, because he refused to join
after attending a meeting. He said
he had talked with a Department
of Justice operative and was told by
the G-Man that "at the proper
time" he would be called upon to
tell of his experience in court.

He and a young relative had been
cutting corn, Mr. Smith said, on
Sept 29, 1934. After the day's work
was done, the relative suggested
they take an auto ride. They picked
up two neighbors and drove to a
farm home 16 miles away.

"It was raining hard as we turned
into a long lane," he said. "We
drove back off the road about a
half mile.

"Two fellows dressed up like the
devil himself walked up to the car.
Each of them had a flashlight in
one hand and a gun in the other.
I knew right then that was no place
to be and I would have taken off
through the field if it hadn't been
raining so hard —

"The fellow I was with said to one
of the fellows, 'You bully that
man,' and he let us pass,'" Mr. Smith
continued.

"I said I'd just as soon sit in the
car and wait. The longer I sat
there the colder I got, but pretty soon
I spied my relative in a little shed.
I ran over there but he had gone
by the time I got there. I sat down
on a box. They had 12 recruits lined
up and a man I knew was filling
out cards for them.

"They counted the men and the
cards and found out I didn't have
one. This friend walked up and
asked, 'What's your name?' I said,'You
know what my name is. This is a lot
of tomfoolery.'

"Those other recruits was too
dumb to say anything. Their
teeth was chipped together like
a hog eating charcoal.

"He filled out the card and they
marched us into a big barn. There
was about 200 of them in the barn,
all decked out in that paraphernalia.

"The chief gashabo, a great big
fellow with a heavy voice, was hol-
tering about the Democrats and the
Republicans. He said, 'the damn
Democrats and the damn Republicans
have been running this country
long enough. We're going to
take over the Government and run
it ourselves.'

"He lined us up and told us what
a fine organization it was and then
said if any of you is a Catholic you
better get out of here quick.

"I said I was no Catholic but I
was ready to leave. He said 'why'
and I said, 'if it's such a good or-
ganization, what do you have to
meet in the middle of the night
for?'

"He said because they were out-
laws; they were just like the old
guerrilla bands. I said, 'Well, I'm no
outlaw.'

"He hollered, 'Why you yellow
........... I'll mash your brains
out with this gun.' I said, 'Maybe
you will in here with all these fellows
on your side but you won't out-
side,' and I started shoving to get
out.

"Just as I got to the door one fel-
low jumped on my back. I swung
around and one of them hit me on
the head and another hit me on the
back of the head. The next thing I
knew they were carrying me out
through the rain.

"They carried me to a corn crib
and laid me down. Two of them,
both carrying pistols, sat down on
the floor to watch me. That was
about 12:30. Long about 2 a.m. a
fellow came up to the crib and ask-
ed me if I wanted to reconsider. I
said, 'Hell no.'

"Well about 4:30 one of them
came up and said I could go. I got
out and two of them marched
longside of me poking guns in my
sides. One of them said, 'if you ever
tell what happened here tonight,
you'll die within 24 hours.'

Mr. Smith said he told officers
what had happened the next
day and that two days later,
two men threatened him with:

"You told and you're going to
die.

Six weeks later, he said, a De-
partment of Justice agent came to
see him.
SUSPECTS 'LEGION' THREAT

Representative Hoffman (R., Mich.)
- Says He Got Warning Letter.

By the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, May 27.—Representative Hoffman (R., Mich.) said today he had received a threatening letter from what "might be the Black Legion."

"It was r't signed," asserted the Congressman, "but it suggested that I had a green plot two by six waiting for me back in Michigan."

Hoffman said he regarded it as a "crank" letter, but would gladly turn it over to authorities if they thought it might pertain to the hooded organization."
Black Legion Inquiry
By Congress Advocated

Dickstein Would See if It Has ‘International Connections’

WASHINGTON, May 25 (UP)—Representative Samuel Dickstein, Democrat, New York, tonight urged a Congressional investigation of the "un-American" Black Legion to "ascertain its real purpose and whether it has any international connections."

Mr. Dickstein said the Black Legion, whose terroristic activities were revealed in Michigan, and similar organizations should be "thoroughly investigated in order that the American people may know whether or not they are in fact the American ends of European subversive organizations."

The New York Representative is chairman of the House Immigration Committee and was vice-chairman of a special committee which conducted a short investigation into "un-American" activities last year. He said that inquiry was not complete because of limited funds.

He added that it would be "interesting to ascertain" if there was any connection between the Black Legion and a Colorado group known as the "Black Shirts" which came to the attention of the investigators last year.

| Mr. Nathan   | Mr. Tolan     |
| Mr. Baughman | Chief Clerk   |
| Mr. Clegh    | Mr. Coffey    |
| Mr. Edwards  | Mr. Eggn      |
| Mr. Foxworth | Mr. Harbo     |
| Mr. Joseph   | Mr. Keib     |
| Mr. Lester   | Mr. Quin     |
| Mr. Schier   | Mr. Tamin    |
| Mr. Tracy    | Miss Gandy   |
Ohio Sheriff Asked G-Men's Aid
In Black Legion Probe, He Avers

Lima, Ohio—(P)—Disclosure that an unwilling candidate for Black Legion membership and testimony before the Department of Justice was the basis for the request to the G-men to investigate the beating of a leader of the vigilantes who claimed control of relief jobs extended today ramification of the secret order whose members have been named in murder, flogging and kidnapping charges.

While authorities in Detroit and other Michigan cities reopened inquiries into every unsolved crime of violence there for the past several years, Sheriff W. E. Kelley, of Auglaize County, Ohio, reported that he had asked the Justice Department last September to investigate the beating and intimidation of William Smith, 55-year-old Waynesfield, Ohio, farmer who refused to join the society.

Sheriff Kelley said he never had received a reply from the Department of Justice, so considered at the time that the federal agents had not regarded the matter as worth going into.

To Smith's story of assault and threats of death when he refused to be initiated into the Black Legion, was added the disclosure that a witness before an Ohio State Senate committee last summer had named V. F. Effinger of Lima as head of the night riders and said Effinger claimed to be able to control jobs in relief offices.

Mr. Kehren
Mr. Telson
Mr. Hammons
Chief Index
Mr. Hines
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Eason
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Marboe
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Smith
Mr. Eccot
Mr. Hawley
Mr. S. H.
Mr. Ferron
Mr. Terry
Miss Gardner

925 Broad St. Natl' Bank Building
Trenton, N.J.
PASTOR'S GENERAL CUMMINGS SAWT AND PAUL HARRELL RECEIVED NO REQUEST FOR A FEDERAL INVESTIGATION OF THE BLACK LEAGUE ACTIVITY.
CHURCH 'FIRED BY 'REFORMER'

WILMINGTON, Del., May 27. (TNS)—Touched off by a self-styled and apparently demented 'reformer,' a $20,000 fire today swept through the Sacred Heart Catholic Church here.

Firemen found the following warning, scrawled in crayon, on the church's main altar:

"With the compliments of the reformer—notice."

Police officials squelched rumors the "reformer" was a member of the Black Legion, terrorist cult under investigation in Detroit.

Authorities said there has been no evidence of Black Legion activities in this area.

The fire was started in a pile of rubbish in the church basement. It spread rapidly through to the first floor, burning several pews and scorching the mail room before it was put out.
COYOTES

COYOTES are known to western ranchmen as skulking creatures of the night. They look something like wolves, but they have the hearts of alley dogs. The most cowardly of American beasts, they always hunt and attack in packs, and they always pick their prey from among the defenseless. They contrive to yap-yap in loud, shrill chorus, thus making people who do not know their ways believe that a small band of them is a veritable horde. Their blood brothers among the bipeds are such fauna as the authorities of Michigan have turned up, members of the so-called "Black Legion."

America knows this nocturnal breed of robed and hooded skulker, just as the western rancher knows the coyote. They have a sinister and fearsome ritual, but they are not brave men. They hunt in packs, make the appearance of power by means of threats, incendiarism and ritual killings, attack only minority groups.

America must exterminate such organizations as the "Black Legion" in the same ruthless way that ranchers exterminate coyotes.
HOUSE-HMINE
Urges Inquiry Of Black Legion

Investigation to Determine Possible European Link Asked by Dickstein.

Representative Samuel Dickstein (Democrat), of New York, last night urged a Congressional investigation of the "un-American" Black Legion to "ascertain its real purpose and whether it has any international connections."

Dickstein said the Black Legion, whose terrorist activities were revealed in Michigan, and similar organizations should be "thoroughly investigated, in order that the American people may know whether or not they are in fact the American ends of European subservient organizations."

The New York Representative is chairman of the House Immigration Committee and was vice chairman of a special committee which conducted a short investigation into "un-American" activities last year.

He said that inquiry was not complete because of limited funds. He added it would be interesting to ascertain if there was any connection between the Black Legion and a group known as the "Black Shirts" which came to the attention of the investigators last year as operating in Colorado.

Five More Arrested.

Detroit, May 29 (AP)—Every unsolved crime of violence in southern Michigan during the last few years was under renewed investigation tonight as State and county authorities pressed their war to root out the Black Legion, hooded vigilante society whose members have been named in murder, kidnapping and burglary warrants.

A promise by Attorney General David H. Crowley to call grand juries in each county in which such crimes could be traced to the black-robed night riders spurred the investigations of violence and terrorism in at least five southern Michigan counties.

Tires of incendiary and undetermined origin also were under investigation.

While these activities were being pushed, another batch of warrants was sworn out at Jackson, Mich., against reputed members of the secret terror organization. They numbered 25 and charged kidnapping and assault. They were followed immediately by the arrest of five men accused of being ring leaders of a mob of night riders who stripped and hanged Harper Smith, of Norwell, Michigan.

Evidence of the order seeking to withdraw.
UNMASKED BY THE POLICE—Members of the Black Legion, terrorist organization, are lined up here before the bar of circuit court at Detroit. "Col." Harvey Davis (in vest at right) is charged with being one of the actual killers of Charles Poole, relief worker slain in Black Legion ritual executions, according to police.
No. 1—Harvey Davis, Black Legion "colonel," shown being photographed for the Detroit police records after 12 members of the vigilantes had been charged with slaying Charles A. Poole.

No. 2—Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Detroit, after records of the legion showed a membership card with his signature on it. McCrea said he might have signed the card unwittingly during his election campaign, but added, "Before I get through there will be no suspicion I joined."

No. 3—Harry W. Smith of Koveell, Mich., a witness before the Jackson, Mich., grand jury, who said he was forced and swiped after May 5.

No. 4—Russell H. Holmes of Michigan Center, also a witness.

No. 5—Floyd J. Reithmiller, guard at South Michigan called before the jury. Prosecutor Owen Dudley charged all 385 guards at the prison had been sought a bers because they had weapons. Copyright, A. P. Wire
MOOREA, Detroit, 6-21-38

Moorea complained that he had requested Federal help from Harold McPherson, head of the Detroit office of the Federal Bureau of Identification, but had received no response.

Moorea said that he had not been advised by his superiors to cease his investigation and added, "I cannot comment at this time."

9-1-38
RESOLUTION ON BLACK LEGION

The resolution was referred to the Rules Committee.

Provide for complete control of the Post Office and Justice.

ADD: Black Legion Resolution.

This resolution calls for an inquiry into the extent, character, and resources of the Black Legion, primarily but also for investigation of numerous other organizations.

Specifically named are the Blackshirts, Y.W.C.A., and Christian Party. The Toynbee Society, the Robert Edwards Edmonson Organization, and other groups which spread fraudulent propaganda and racist activities in the United States.

B. 61-7398-A
Demands War on Terrorists
Rep. Dickstein Calls for U. S. Action

WASHINGTON, May 26—Rep. Samuel Dickstein (Dem.), New York, chairman of the House Immigration Committee, today demanded investigation by the Justice and Postoffice departments of reports that "terrorists" are seeking to "destroy" Jews and Catholics.

Dickstein said that if Postmaster Gen. James A. Farley and Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are unable to take proper steps, he will appeal for Congressional action.

Meanwhile, Rep. Charles Kramer (Dem.), California, charged that the mails were being used to distribute propaganda to foment "anti-Jewish" hatred, and asserted that he also had complained to the Postoffice Department.

If the departments decline to make the investigation, Dickstein said he would seek to reopen hearings this summer and fall by the House committee investigating un-American activities. Kramer is a member of that committee.

Dickstein told the Department of Justice that since the House inquiry concluded last January, there had been evidence that "foreign elements" were distributing subversive propaganda, some among Government employees.

"It is urgent that these matters be investigated immediately in an effort to discover who is financing these drives," Dickstein wrote. "If you believe you do not have the authority to make the proper investigation, I shall call on Congress for further power for your organization to crush this menace."

Kramer said most of the literature which he wanted investigated was mailed from the Pacific coast.
JUSTICE KERNOCHAN and the associate justices of Special Sessions in Manhattan have freed the two women arrested in a raid on their studio where they were charged with the high crime of conducting duplicate contract bridge games.

Justice Kernochan, who has played contract bridge with President Roosevelt among others, was convinced that the game is one of skill and not gambling. The prosecuting attorney admitted that he could find no one to uphold the latter contention. It seems a pity that the police cannot find more important work to do before they begin a crusade against contract bridge.

ONE of the most striking statements made by Thomas I. Parkinson in his admirable address before the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce yesterday was a reference to the Mormon Church, which he said was preparing to take care of its people when Federal funds are exhausted.

Realizing that the present relief expenditures cannot go on indefinitely, the wise Mormon leaders are taking steps now to forestall the inevitable crisis that will come when Government relief is cut down. The Mormons are a remarkable people and they know that it took hard work to make their valley "blossom like the rose."

A another five-to-four Supreme Court decision on an issue involving States' rights adds to the confusion over what the Federal Government can and cannot do to help solve grave national problems. This time Chief Justice Hughes joined the liberal minority.

The majority ruled that the law passed in 1934 to permit cities and other subdivisions of States to reduce their indebtedness through Federal bankruptcy courts as a violation of States' rights. It is still constitutional, however, for the Federal Government to lend or give States, cities and counties funds to help stave off default on their indebtedness.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS would have rejoiced in the achievement of young Leslie Pelletier, an educated astronomer, who has just discovered his fifth comet through an old six-inch telescope in a cow pasture in Delphos, Ohio.

Adams, one of the greatest of American minds, felt that astronomy was the subject best suited to arouse an interest in science in the new union. In 1842 there was not an observatory in the United States but a society was formed in Cincinnati to start one and John Quincy Adams, after serving as President and later as a Representative, agreed to journey from Massachusetts to Ohio to lay the cornerstone. He was 77 at the time and the strenuous journey brought on the illness that killed him. But he made many speeches on the trip and to the last helped to spread knowledge.

THE oath of the Black Legion reads like something out of the dark ages. Members were required to swear allegiance to the order which put it above all other considerations of life or death, and the purpose, as described by one of the "chaplains," was "to tear down, lay waste, despoil and kill our enemies." Other choice bits of demonology are revealed in the papers of the organization accused of conducting wholesale murders.

It seems terrible that such things could happen in Michigan, but the same day's news carried the charge of one of the vice ring's victims in New York that girls who betrayed their overlords had their feet and bodies burned and their tongues put in a frame.
Black Legion Must Go, Says County Prosecutor

Duncan McCrea Says Members Claim Organization Is National in Scope

By DUNCAN C. MCCREA
Wayne County (Mich.) Prosecutor

DEtroit—The Black Legion must be broken if half the stories told by its members to my office are true.

I have asked for a conference between the state police, Justice Department officials, and authorities from Indiana and Ohio to break up the black-hooded band, which its members claim is national in scope and includes persons of high and low degree.

The spreading inquiry was the outgrowth of the comparatively obscure killing of Charles Poole, shot in cold blood on the night of May 12.

Staggering Facts

Facts disclosed since that date stagger the modern American mind. The organization appears to be a throwback to the whipping post, mountain feuds, night riders or the Spanish Inquisition. It has no place in American life.

The Legion is strongly anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic and stands for its own particular brand of Americanism that smacks of lynching. It is a dangerous institution.

Figures Uncertain

We have no way of determining the exact membership of the organization. Those arrested say there are 1,000 in Wayne County alone, while estimates by investigators run as high as 150,000 for the state. We have no way of determining the extent of the band in other states.

The investigation has taxed my office to the utmost. We not only are busy checking up on stories that are pouring in, but we must check up and re-check the stories of the men held. We have been occupied organizing the murder case against 13 men held.

The Black Legion has no place in America today. It must go.

Ballston Klan Aide Disavows Black Legion

No Connection Between Two, Says Federal Employee, Withholding Name

An official of the Ballston, Va., Klub Klan, one of the largest in the state, today said in his opinion that there was no connection between that organization and the Detroit Black Legion, now reaping notoriety in the headlines.

"We believe in law and order," the official, who asked that his name be withheld, said, "and we wouldn't tolerate such violence as reported from Detroit."

The official, who is a Federal employee, said he believed the Michigan vigilante organization had been given the name of KKKK to discredit the Klan.

"It's an old story. We've had to contend with it before in Indiana and Louisiana when outlawing was blamed on the Klan by outside influences that tried to put black marks on our organization. In both cases, however, later investigations proved that the Klan had nothing to do with the violence," the official declared.

The Ballston Klan official was skeptical of the reported subversive activities of the Detroit group.

"Every unsolved crime on the police records is being blamed on them now," he said, "but I'm of the opinion most of it is propaganda and it will turn out to be false."

The Arlington County man said there was a Klan organization in Detroit but he didn't know of its activities.

The Ballston Klan will meet Thursday night at which time the activities of the Detroit group may be discussed.
DETROIT POLICEMEN decked out in the hooded regalia of the Black Legion found along with weapons in raided homes of members of the organization blamed for at least one murder and suspected of others. The heavy leather whip was taken from the house of "Brigadier General" Ray Ernest, a State prison guard. International News Photo.
TERRORISTIC BLACK LEGION'S GRIM ARSENAL

Assassination Its 'Cure' for 'Evil'

FIREARMS and regalia found in the headquarters of the hooded Black Legion of Detroit. Sixteen members of the weird cult are accused of having killed Charles A. Poole whose bullet-pierced body was found in a roadside ditch. They are said to have accused Poole, a former PWA worker, of having beaten his wife. This charge was apparently baseless. The authorities lay attempts to dominate a Michigan town election by threat to the legion. International News Photos.
'BLACK LEGION' DEFENDED BY OHIO LEADER

Killing Deplored By Effinger; Says Principles 'Most Lofty'

LIMA, Ohio, May 26 (I.N.S.).—After eluding newspapermen for 24 hours, V. H. Effinger, 54-year-old salesman pictured by Michigan authorities as leader of the Black Legion in Ohio, Michigan and Indiana, today defended as "most lofty" the principles of the hooded society and denied any knowledge of the murder of a Detroit WPA worker charged to several of its members.

Effinger claimed the Black Legion has six million members but refused to reveal his connection with the organization or to amplify his typewritten formal statement which read:

"The Black Legion is a strictly American organization. It is a secret society dedicated to the most lofty principles and stands for the highest form of American progress.

DEPLORES KILLING

"I know nothing whatever about the killing of anybody, in Detroit or elsewhere, by the Black Legion. The organization deplores anything of this nature. It stands wholly for law and order based on justice."

"An unlawful act that might be committed by one or more irresponsible persons claiming membership in any given organization certainly should not be justly construed as a reflection on the legitimate aims and purposes of such organization.

"The honorable and law-abiding members of the Knights of Pythias, the Knights of Columbus, the Odd Fellows and similar orders have never been made to suffer for the bad deeds of the renegade members of their own organizations, so why should certain persons now be so eager to place the blame for the slaying of a man in Detroit on the membership of the Black Legion?"
No Black Legion!

Police Chief Ray Allen has taken
the proper step in fixing the police
division's policy as definitely against any
effort of the so-called Black Legion to gain
a foothold in Toledo.

Many rumors are about that this organi-
zation, whose operations first came to light
with the reign of terror in Detroit, is re-
cruiting members in this city and that for
the initiation fee of $3 anyone who fits the
pattern can join.

We want none of the kind of invisible
government this outfit suggests. Toledoans
still have the unhappy memory of the
tyranny of the Ku Klux Klan, and how its
promoters cleaned up by enlisting "100 per-
cent Americans" in their dangerous scheme
to control political offices. The ideal of
service for K. K. K. was to intimidate and
endanger anyone so unfortunate as to have
been born in another country or born black
or of a race that was anathema to these
self-righteous, professional zealots.

The Ku Klux Klan was a racket, and it
died because it didn't deserve to live, an
organization thriving on intolerance. But
chiefly it died because many of its organizers
and promoters were racketeers making a fat
living at the expense of unthinking, credulous
persons.

These secret organizations thrive in elec-
tion years. They prosper on strife by taking
into their ranks those who are of a common
mind on a certain phase of politics.

Now is a good time to squash the first
signs of such an organization as the Black
Legion, obviously a by-blow of the Ku Klux
Klan, gaining a foothold.

Let the campaign be in the open. And
let those promoters who hope to get rich
thriving on the prejudices and the intoler-
ance of a certain class, be warned to scam
while the scamming is good.
"The Black Legion" deals out its own masked mockery of "justice" with bullets.

Uncle Sam, in business for 160 years, has seen strange things developed in his Republic. Fortunately, that Republic is divided into 48 separate States, mistaken experiments of each not necessarily injuring any other.

Uncle Sam has seen Ku Klux Klan "Night Riders" burning barns and beating women; forceful Carrie Nation smashing barrooms; "Sockless Simpson" from Kansas, who wore no socks as a sign of "democracy." Uncle Sam has seen prohibition come and go, bringing bootlegging and leaving organized racketeering. He has seen queer, new religions start and some of them die. Now, in Detroit, he meets a new zoological specimen known as "The Black Legion."

This "Black Legion," which calls itself "100 per cent American," appears to be, in reality, "100 per cent masked murder."

The knights of the "Black Legion" feel it their duty to improve government and politics with bullets, NOT ballots.
Arrested members of this "Black Legion" confess that it has been their custom, when they thought a man had done wrong, to take him out, tie him to a tree, lash him as long as he could stand it. Recently, they went further: They "tried" and convicted, in their private quarters, a man accused of beating his wife. The man, apparently guilty, was not an admirable character. Wife-beating deserves punishment. But the "Black Legion," not satisfied with whipping this time, took the man out, stood him up, shot him dead. Arrested members confessed to this murder for "better government."

The wife of the dead man, Mrs. Charles A. Poole, who had a girl baby the day after her husband was butchered, now declares that he never beat or kicked her as alleged.

Important for Uncle Sam is the fact that his laws no longer seem to satisfy his people. Masked murderers of the "Black Legion" cast aside criminal law, and commit murder in the name of "justice." Eminently respectable gentlemen in Washington cast aside fundamental law, the Constitution, threatening to rewrite it, make it "up-to-date."

Between the gutter and the Capitol at Washington, Uncle Sam has several problems.
LAW PURSUES MYSTIC NIGHT RIDERS OF BLACK LEGION
PRISON GUARD DICE HAWLEY

After Paul Every was flogged to death last April police started an investigation into the crime. Hawley, a prison guard and worker of the flogging victim was questioned. State police now believe Every was killed by members of the Black Legion.
LAW VS. LYNCH

IN FLORIDA a Polk County jury found five former Tampa policemen guilty of kidnapping and flogging three labor leaders last November, a case made famous for its brutality and the death of one of the victims.

In Louisiana a Federal court jury fined a sheriff $2500 for negligence in failing to prevent the lynching of Fred Moore, a Negro boy, in 1933. Because the case was brought by the dead boy’s parents in Arkansas the trial fell under Federal jurisdiction.

But these triumphs of law, encouraging as they are, do not cancel the other side of the picture.

Lawlessness, masquerading as super-patriotism, is brought to light in Michigan. The Black Legion, a terroristic secret society professing allegiance to the Constitution but conducting an undercover campaign of race hatred and religious intolerance, is caught red-handed in the mob murder of a young WPA worker. State police investigate tips that this vigilante organization also was responsible for many other “purification” murders which were disguised as suicides.

There is ample justification—yea, necessity—for an expansion of the Federal police power to the end that we may stamp out mob violence just as we have stamped out kidnapping. In the last 54 years, lynch mobs have slain 5000 men and women. Since the spring of 1935, when a Senate filibuster shelved the Wagner-Costigan anti-lynching law, there have been 25 actual lynchings and 117 attempted lynchings, narrowly averted.
The Lure of Secret Societies in United States

BY FREDERIC J. HASAN

Once again there has appeared upon the American scene a secret society which has, in some localities, adopted territorial divisions and which is known as the Black Legion. Being a secret society, no one knows how extensive the membership of the Black Legion may be or in how many communities it is organized. The outstanding fact, however, is that such an organization does exist within the United States but not of the United States within local communities but not of them. The secret order's existence is an open secret from the political and social organizations of the communities. They are excluded.

The desire of mankind to organize secret societies is well-nigh universal and is older than history. A philosophical psychologist could write a moving essay on this impulse. It exists in the child in point of years and the adult in point of historical evolution. A part of the play of children has always been secret organizations with mystic passwords and counterlaws, and in the dawn of civilization primitive peoples had the same urge.
The Black Legion is but a manifestation of this ancient social principle. Various types of secret organizations have existed with widely different purposes. The Masonic and college fraternities may be regarded as wholly social, while the order of Freemasons is largely religious, with added social and elevatory features.

The Black Legion appears to resemble the Ku Klux Klan rather than any other type of a secret order. The original Klan was organized in the reconstruction days of the Civil War in an effort to bring order out of the chaotic political and social conditions which the disturbed times had created. As they were taking the law into their own hands and because of the desirability of vesting their actions in an air of mystery, they appeared disguised in striking color but with white hoods covered in black. That these secret night riders performed a valuable service is recognized by all historians. That some serious offenses were committed by some of them, under the cloak of the order's secrecy, has to be admitted.

As well should be made of the Vigilantes, especially those who operated in San Francisco in the hectic period following the discovery of gold. They were not a secret order in the same sense and they did not invariably wear the same mask. They resembled secret orders, however, in that their operations were swift and without warning. It is especially interesting to recall that the last operation of Vigilantes took place in 1851. That Vigilante committee took from the jail a group of Italians, believed guilty of murder and understood, by members of the famous secret order, the Mafia, and lynched them.

The Mafia came into existence at the time of the Napoleonic War and became a secret society of the utmost danger. The members were opposed to the police and all measures for the enforcement of public order. They preyed upon landowners and merchants and upon any other likely victims. An attempt was made to establish the order in the United States and this led to the action of New Orleans. They had murdered Chief of Police Hennessey.

Another Italian secret society was the Camorra, which became known about 1580 in Naples. The members were criminals who worked singly and in gangs. The order had a secret language and system of signals. Taking part in politics, the Camorra became members, often, it is said, because they were forced to escape attack. It has been reported that individuals have been forced, in much the same manner, to join the Black Legion in this country. The Camorra was finally stamped out in 1911, but the Mafia continued to exist in secret until the Fascist regime took charge, following the World War. It is probable that there is still a skeleton organization which maintains the deepest secrecy to their existence and which hopes to re-establish themselves after a change in political conditions in Italy. It is notable for the number of its secret societies among the natives. Not only in the Congo, but in other sections of the Dark Continent, secret orders have been in existence from the earliest times. They usually have some religious connection, but not always. For example, the Human Leopard Society is an organization of cannibals. There seems to be no people immune from the impulse to organize secret societies among the natives. Although there were never more than 2,000,000 Indians in North America at any one time, therefore, no problem of crowding or domination, the Camorra-congested regions, they had their secret societies.

The secret society with the largest membership in the world is China. It is the Hung, or Triad, Society. It has been in existence for 1,500 years. This organization was founded in A.D. 366 by a Buddhist priest named Tse. It seems to be religious, the chief purpose of the society was to spread the Buddhist doctrine. It changed from being primarily a religious to a semi-military organization because of its effort of Chinese work to stamp out. When a secret order is well established, and especially when its membership consists of a religious or social group, it presents itself as one and is converted into a political or social instrument, such as the Chinese and the Egyptian rituals and portions of the ritual of Occidental Freemasonry.

It is probable that the impulse to organize and join secret societies springs from an inferiority complex. The individual is not long enough in his own personality to accomplish what he desires. He feels that, in addition to being illegal, some of his exploits would appeal to a vivid interest. It is probable that a master of a mysterious secret society about himself and those with whom he is joined, because temporarily at least, to put a different mask upon the matter.

Just as the child at play puts on a false face and feels quite important when he jumps from behind a door and cries "Boo!" at some one, so the member of the type of Ku Klux Klan which was organized after the World War and took part in the events which pranks, or the member of the Black Legion, feels that he is not like other men. He can know the members of his own community because he knows the members of his own community. He can be a member of a secret society and feel that he is not a criminal.
The Greatest Show On Earth

By Frank Miller Smith

THE BLACK MENACE

Traveling incognito Representative Samuel Dickstein has toured several cities for Black Legion clowns. He has just returned to the Capitol, determined more than ever to push for Congressional investigation. He goes before the Rules Committee next week.

Asked if he came into personal contact with any of them or if he had been warned to lay off he said:

"No, but it might happen any day. I didn't let them know I was around. They are a bad lot. A black menace.

"I am receiving thousands of appeals daily by letter and telegram to get at the bottom of this thing and save the country from this organization."

61-7348-A

JUN 12 1939
Youths' Actions Clear Exemplification of Real Viciousness of This Type of Mob Violence, Says Rabbi Israel

By RABBI EDWARD L. ISRAEL

INTERMINGLED with the various news items concerning the infamous "Black Legion" was one which interested me enormously. It told of a group of adolescent boys who organized a Junior "Black Legion." They proceeded, in emulation of their elders, to hand out rough treatment to those who had the ill-fortune to incur their wrath. The chief object of their persecution was a youngster who was tortured almost to death "because he made too good marks in school."

Here, in the actions of the Junior "Black Legion" we have a clear exemplification of the real viciousness of the type of mob violence. Perhaps it is but another instance of truth becoming apparent thru fools and children. At any rate, it brings the secret psychological explanation into the open. Ku Klux Klan and Black Legion represent the resentment of mediocrity against anything or anyone who dares to stand out above the level of the mob. If the Junior Black Legion veils its wrath upon the boy who makes a good school record, it is only perpetrating a counterfeit of the elders' opposition to individuals or minorities who have the courage to be different.

CURIOUS PARADOX

The curious paradox of mob reactions is the greatest menace to the success of democracy. The crowd is subject to the conflicting emotions of admiration and envy. It loves to extol the leader and then to tear him down. Something in it glorifies the admiration of exceptional qualities, but, unable to maintain the high standard required by spontaneous appreciation of excellence, it must show its resentment by destroying the very person or thing it has elected to appreciate. Witness how in New York City no reform administration has ever been re-elected to public office. And the same thing is true in smaller communities.

The Black Legion represents this destructive emotion by the mob of its own low mediocrity.

The mob hates minorities like Jews and Catholics in America, not because of whatever faults characterizing Jews and Catholics, but because their individuality represents a certain strength of character which the mob can tolerate no more than the Junior Black Legion could tolerate the boy who makes good marks in school. The later arguments which grow up concerning the faults of minorities are in reality only rationalizations by which the mob tries to build a moral defense for its immoral conduct. It is the finer side of mob psychology rising to plague the "Black Legion" side.

ONE REDEEMING QUALITY

And yet, there is always the temptation to rationalize in justification of its viciousness, that the mob's one redeeming quality. It is the one hope on which democracy can build. If Ku Klux Klan and their kind merely attacked Jews and Catholics with no effort at justification for their viciousness, we could begin to sound the death knell of what little civilization has to build. And when these mobs try to defend their barbarism by accusations of "Jewish mercenariness" or "Catholic plots at domination," their very ridiculous allegations show that somewhere a conscience is at work, urging viciousness to set up a seeming moral defense.

When a conscience is present at all, even in a distorted form, there is hope that sooner or later it will triumph over the hypocrisy which it curiously reveals. There is enough evidence in the record of man's long and tedious story to warrant some faith in this assumption. Let's hope it's true for America—and that this truth will become evident before Fascism makes the mob's condition impossible.
INVESTIGATION NEEDED

Although the most overt activities of the Black Legion, an outgrowth of the Ku Klux Klan, seem to have been confined to Michigan, it probably has agents in several other states. Certainly its criminal exploitation of racial and religious animosities has implications which are of national concern. Judge Ralph W. Liddy summarized the situation in his statement holding thirteen members of the Black Legion for the kidnapping and murder of a WPA worker. He said: "This is a very sinister spectacle of an organized group attempting to usurp the function of government for what it considered an offense."

The efforts of the Michigan authorities to expose the secrets of the Black Legion and to bring the murderers of young Charles A. Poole to justice have so far been commendably aggressive. But every such local inquiry is bound to be hampered by pressure to suppress some of the facts. There are indications that several Michigan officeholders have not been above using the Legion for political purposes. They cannot be expected to aid in the exposure of it.

Beyond the murder of the Poole youth, which Michigan will apparently attend to with appropriate vigor, there is the larger question of the extent of organized and commercialized bigotry in the United States. This can be discovered only by a national agency. Congress should adopt the Benson resolution for a thorough-going probe of the Black Legion.
Add Black Legion, Pontiac

Judge Hartrick speculated upon the possibility that the black legion contemplated nation-wide revolution for the 16th of this month. Indictments two weeks ago charged that Brigadier-General Virgil F. Effinger, reputed national commander, had conspired with the others to take over government buildings and arsenals on that date.

"Was there to be a rebellion against the government, or was that the date of a contemplated communist revolution in America which the Black Legion would be mobilized to combat?"

The court offered no proof to strengthen this speculation.

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COPY

WCNS 39

Pontiac, Mich.--Sixty-four high officials of city, county and state government have been or are members of the vigilante Black Legion in Oakland county, the one man grand jury investigating the subversive organization reported today.

included in the list made public by circuit Judge George B. Hartrick, were Oakland county prosecutor David C. Pence, State Representative Joseph A. Long and Police Chief Alfred L. Reynolds of Royal Oak, the city in which Father Coughlin's Shrine of the Little Flower is located.

WCNS 43—ADD BLACK LEGION

The lengthy report climaxing Judge Hartrick's three months investigation of the night riding order, recommended no criminal action against any of those named.

"By virtue of the belief that the public is entitled to know who are its county and city officials and whom it employs with its tax moneys, these names are divulged," the report said. "Whatever disposition is made of them is a matter for responsible officials and the electorate to decide."
Black Legion Murders
Are Cases for Federal Action

Workers must insist on no end to inquiry until backers of the terror
brands are exposed with their killers.

SLIMY Black Legion terrorists honeycomb Michigan's public officialdom.

Sixty-four state, county and local officials have been unearthed as participants in this sadistic fascist conspiracy.

Sixty-four—from the Pontiac section alone. Sixty-four—including a State Representative, the sheriff's force, chiefs of police and the prosecuting attorney of the Pontiac region. Sixty-four men, in public positions "for the enforcement of the law," swearing secretly to join in the murder of Jews, Catholics, Negroes, Communists and labor organizers, their reputed "enemies."

From what county do these revolting revelations come? From Oakland County, controlled in an iron grip by the Morgan-duPont-General Motors Corporation. In that county public officials have certainly needed the blessing of the Morgan-duPont combine if they meant to continue in office.

It is from that county also that the pro-fascist Father Coughlin broadcasts his radio addresses—but not against the Black Legion. Catholics are attacked, but he pays no heed. Significantly, on the other hand, he allies himself with Gerald L. K. Smith, who has openly announced the same program as the Black Legion has attempted to put into effect. That is a program against the Catholic masses as well as against Communists. Coughlin shouts for a war with Mexico, in the name of the Catholics; but he joins hands with those who are plotting attacks on Catholics here and now, in our own country.

What has the capitalist press to say to these Michigan revelations? That press has become strangely silent. The Black Legion reports have faded into the back pages. No editorials appear, demanding a rooting out of this widespread terroristic gang. No surprise is denounced and no anger expressed at the astounding
that the entire "law enforcement" agencies of Michigan are so corroded and rotten.

What a contrast would there be were this the kidnapping of one rich man! The front pages would blaze with the story. The G-men would be shouted at to act. The entire Federal man-hunting machinery, under pressure of the press, would set itself into action.

The capitalist press remains silent. But the workers and the mass of the American people cannot let it go at that. There can be no letting up on this Black Legion fight, until this gang is wiped out in its entirety. There can be no cessation of activity, until the higher-ups—the backers and inciters of this foul conspiracy—are brought to light.

What can the workers and the liberty-loving people of America do, to stamp out this outfit organized for murder and for arson?

They can insist that the Department of Justice hunt out these murderers. It is a real reflection on the entire negligence of the Federal government, that the chief man-killer, V. F. Ettinger of Lima, Ohio, has been allowed to disappear. Indicted in Michigan, he has simply faded from the scene.

If the Department of Justice will not do the job that it should do, then let the LaFollette Committee act. From the American people there should come a torrent of letters, wires and resolutions pressing such a move upon the LaFollette Committee. It has been formed to investigate violations of industrial civil liberty. Here is a startling example of precisely such a violation: flagrant, challenging, vicious.

In one sentence: THIS ORGANIZED DEGENERACY—THE BLACK LEGION—HAS CARRIED MURDER AND ARSON ACROSS STATE LINES. IT HAS CONDUCTED A NATIONAL CONSPIRACY AGAINST LABOR AND MINORITY GROUPS. LET THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROCEED TO ACT AGAINST THIS EVIL, NATIONALLY.

[Signature]

April 4, 36
WOMAN HELPS TRAP EXTORT PLOT SUSPECT

A note written in Hungarian and signed "The Black Legion," demanding $500 from Mrs. Margaret Clark, writer, of 310 W. 95th St., and threatening the kidnapping of Mrs. Clark's daughter, 7, was held by police today as evidence against an unemployed baker.

Steve Audremy, 22, was locked up today, accused of attempted extortion, following his arrest at 77th St. and York Ave., the heart of New York's "Little Hungary," where he is alleged to have made a rendezvous with Mrs. Clark.

RECEIVES LETTER.

The letter was received by Mrs. Clark, whose husband, Gilbert Clark, represents several Canadian newspapers in this country, early yesterday, when it was slipped under the door of her apartment on the ground floor. Mrs. Clark, who has traveled considerably, understands Hungarian and was enabled to read the note which directed that she collect the money in $5, $10 and $20 bills and take it in the cab of a designated company to the rendezvous at 10 p.m.

IN POLICE CAB.

The note directed the money be given to a man who used the word "guz" as a password. By arrangement with the cab company, a policeman in cab uniform, Detective James Connor, drove Mrs. Clark to the place of meeting.
And now Dayton Dean, self-confessed trigger man of the fourteen Black Legionites now on trial, tells that six of his colleagues went out hunting one night and killed a Negro, "just for the hell of it."

It has been shown that Michigan authorities, because of their political tie-up with Black Legion officers, are unable to act effectively against this Fascist band. So defense organizations submitted facts to Attorney General Cummings in Washington, showing that no less than six federal laws make it mandatory for the Department of Justice at least to investigate. But the federal authorities still take dictation from political expediency. The Attorney General replied:

"Please be advised that after a careful and thorough analysis of the facts and law set forth in the submitted memorandum, the conclusion is reached that no sufficient factual or legal basis is shown thereby which would justify the Federal Government in assuming investigative jurisdiction of the Black Legion activities therein outlined."

American League Against War and Fascism

September 1936
The Black Legion Convictions.

Conviction of seven members of the Black Legion for first-degree murder and four others for second-degree murder in the sensational trial that has just concluded in Detroit should go a long way toward smashing this notorious secret terrorist society. Fifteen cases against other members, involving lynchings, arson, murder conspiracies and plots to seize public buildings, are still pending.

There is no place for such a group in any State in which law and order are supposed to prevail, and above all in a democracy. Yet the Black Legion's rapid growth and apparent success, for a time—reminiscent on a small scale of the huge power seized by its spiritual predecessor, the Ku-Klux Klan—are an indication of the large number of people who can be organized into such bands to attempt to carry out fanatical programs. Prompt and unrelenting enforcement of our criminal laws is the most certain means in the hands of the people to stamp out such groups whose leaders are aiming to be unofficial dictators in their communities.

BROOKLYN DAILY EAGLE
Forwarded by New York Office

OCT 1 - 1936
Doom for the Black Legion

Eleven men who took part in the murder in Michigan of Charles A. Poole, falsely accused of beating his wife, were found guilty of murder in the United States Circuit Court in Detroit on Tuesday. Seven, convicted in the first degree, face mandatory sentences of life imprisonment; four others are subject to varying terms as second-degree murderers. Thus, it may well be believed, collapses the last remnant of that incredible association of the criminal and the dull-witted which at one time was supposed to have a membership of 135,000.

Many public officials were carried on its books, and police officials, deputy sheriffs and other law-enforcement agents were found to be allied with practitioners of murder, flogging, kidnapping, arson and other furtive and cowardly crimes. The Black Legion inspired such terror, by reason of its apparent immunity, that in many communities there was reluctance to prosecute those who were known to be active agents. It was not until the particularly callous killing of Poole aroused public indignation that witnesses found the courage to come forward and tell what they knew.

The Black Legion was organized for the purpose of intimidating and oppressing Catholics, Jews and Negroes. As usual with such degraded conspiracies, private malice also directed its activities against persons not included in any of those categories. At one time fifty-seven persons, in Michigan alone, were arrested in connection with unsolved crimes of varying atrocity. Seemingly there was no depth to which the legion was not willing to descend. A chemist employed by the City of Detroit was asked if he would be willing to supply typhoid germs to be placed in milk sold to individuals who were obnoxious to the hooded assassins. He refused to assist in the murder plot, but seemingly did not report the proposal to his superiors. When it became known he was dismissed.

A witness testified that "Colonel" Davis, ring-leader in the murder, one of those convicted, in the first degree, at one time caused the shooting of an unoffending Negro to amuse himself. A succession of similar, and even worse offenses which came to light as it became evident that the legion's power was gone stirred public indignation. It was determined to destroy the criminal conspiracy which had become so widespread that it included plots to overthrow the Federal government. Prosecutions were begun and energetically pressed. Witnesses who had feared to tell what they knew were eager to make terms with the authorities, and soon no one who had held a place of power in the legion was safe from denunciation. The end of a strange and particularly evil manifestation of the mob spirit plainly has arrived.

N. Y. HERALD-TRIBUNE
Forwarded by New York Office
OCT 1 - 1936
- You don't have to be an Anarchist or a Communist to oppose a vicious oath like this.
- Brutal killings have been charged to this pernicious organization.
- Bombings are said to have been carried on by it.
- Other anti-social activities directed against groups imagined to be opposed to Black Legion principles were executed without regard for human life.
- It must be apparent enough to Sevst. Dear himself, on the basis of such evidence, that he is unfit to hold any position in the Police Division. Perhaps, as Chief Allen suggests, a mental disorder has been partly responsible. But that does not alter materially the facts of the case. Dismissal should be immediate.
TOLEDO COPS FACE BLACK KLAN PROBE

Officer Admits Membership in Legion of America—Three Other Inquiries On

TOLEDO, Oct. 7 (AP) — John A. Carey, vice mayor, today said that legislation authorizing an investigation into possible connections of city employees with the Black Legion will be introduced in City Council Monday.

The legislation will ask authorization to subpoena witnesses and records.

Carey, who asked the city clerk's office to draft the bill, said the move was prompted by the admission of Lyman Dear, sergeant in charge of the police arsenal, that he had been a brigadier general in the Legion of America.

The Lucas County prosecutor's office already has begun a probe and Michigan authorities are conducting a private investigation.

LaFollette Aides at Work

The LaFollette Senate investigating committee has three representatives here checking recent bombings of Communist meetings.

Investigators of the Michigan Attorney General's office and the Wayne County (Detroit) sheriff's office conferred with Inspector Joseph Fruechey of the Toledo police.

The Michigan officials said they are interested in learning whether Virgil Effinger of Lima, Ohio, wanted in Detroit in connection with the Legion inquiry there, was ever active in Toledo.

Francis Murphy, secretary of the American League Against War and Fascism, in an affidavit filed with City Council, charged members of the police department with Black Legion connections. The inquiry is to determine if the Legion of America and the Black Legion are related.
THE BULLET FRATERNITY

RESPONSIBILITY for investigation into Toledo activities of the Black Legion cannot end with a police chief's admonition to one of his men, found to have been a Black Legionnaire, to "go home and forget your troubles."

The police and the prosecutor's office, with the wedge they already have, must get the answer to the question:

"How far has Black Legion membership extended in Toledo, who are its other leaders and what have been its activities?"

Eleven men stand convicted in Detroit for the Black Legion murder of a man. So far as is known there have been no deaths or pogroms of torture in the Toledo area. But the mere existence of such a vicious organization is cause for concern, we believe, and it is the duty of public officials to do an efficient job of smoking out the membership here.
Yesterday a City Street Department employee told a hearing in Service Director Schoonmaker's office:

"I will say this: I know a great many people who belong to it; in fact, I know a great many of their chiefs."

So what?

Is someone going to find out who the "great many people" are?

Did Police Chief Allen get from Sergt. Lyman Dear, who admitted he was a Black Legion member, the names of any others? Certainly he should have, or should have tried.

Today Chief Allen has gone to a police convention in Columbus. Certainly Ray Allen ought to know better than that. He ought to stay here and follow through at once on rooting this terrorist gang out of the Police Department, and out of Toledo.

Let's not forget this is the same organization which plotted a Detroit killing in which 11 men were convicted, an organization against which bombings, torturings and other crimes have been charged. And let's not have anything that looks at all like "cover-up."
POLICEMAN TELLS OF LEADING CULT

'Buck' Dear Admits Being 'General'; Denies Giving Guns to Black Legion Members

Sergt. Lyman G. (Buck) Dear, custodian of the Police Department arsenal, admitted today that he formerly was brigadier general in the Black Legion.

His admission came as he was questioned by Police Chief Ray E. Allen and Detective Inspector Joseph Fruechey on charges made to City Council yesterday afternoon that Dear had supplied pistols to Toledo members of the Legion.

Under questioning by Chief Allen, Dear said:

ONE: That he was active as a brigadier-general in the legion until December, 1935.

TWO: That last March he was "suspended and demoted" for non-activity following a difference with the Black Legion high command over policies.

THREE: That he never had sold any pistols to members of his section of the legion.

"Don't Trust Me With Gun."

While the hearing was going on, Dear babbled at length about not being able to "trust myself with a pistol" and pleaded with the chief to "take the pistol I have that belongs to the Police Department so that if anything happens no department gun will be involved."

Chief Allen heard Dear's entire story and then sent him home on sick leave.

He advised Dear to "go home and forget your troubles" and told him that if he later desires to seek retirement on pension he would have the chief's full support. Chief Allen said after the hearing that he believes Dear will retire.

The chief excused Dear's conduct by saying that he is "a man easily led" and that he has not been right mentally since he was seriously injured Sept. 13, 1929, when a police car he was driving crashed into a train at Manhattan Boulevard and the Ann Arbor Railroad tracks.

He is convinced, Chief Allen said, that no other member of the Police Department other than Dear has been a member of the Black Legion.

In addition to the accusations against Dear, the charges presented to Council included the following:

ONE: That Vic Roe, 1943 Superior Street, employee of the City Street Department, was a ring-leader in the Black Legion.

TWO: That a "violence committee" has been formed in Toledo and meets every Monday night in the Richardson Building, the membership already having reached 500.

Roe is to appear for questioning at 4 p.m. today before Service Director George N. Schoonmaker, his superior.

Developments resulting from these charges, in addition to the
of the Black Legion. Mr. Edy said
Mr. Roe admitted his membership
in the organization.

Mr. Edy said that in fairness to
all the city employees who have, or
may be called to his office, the
mere fact they are summoned
should not be interpreted that they
are members of the Black Legion.

"We are calling everyone whom
we believe may give us some leads
in this matter," he said. Mr. Edy
said at least three more city em-
ployees, not members of the police
department, will be questioned to-
day.

Mr. Brown, reputed commander
of the Black Legion here, was
brought to Mr. Edy's office shortly
before 3 p.m. and was questioned
until after 6:30 p.m. Mr. Rhine-
fort said he admitted his connection
with the organization.

Details Secret

The assistant prosecutor declined
to reveal details of the information
from Mr. Brown and the others but
indicated it would be used, along
with other information he has ob-
tained, as the basis for a complete
investigation of the organization by
the grand jury.

City Manager Edy said he would
continue today his questioning of
city employees, whose names are
linked with the organization, and
will render a decision shortly about
Mr. Roe and any other employee
who may be implicated.

Mr. Edy said he is desirous of
finding out the exact objectives of
the local organization, and whether
they were the same as the Black
Legion in Michigan.

The meeting in Mr. Edy's office,
called shortly after he returned
yesterday from a shortened vacation
trip, was attended by Mr. Rhine-
fort, Mayor Roy C. Sturt, Vice
Mayor John Q. Carey, Councilman
Edward DeAngelo, Service Director
George N. Schoonmaker and De-
tective Inspector Joseph Fruechey.

Joined At Tribby

Patrolman Bokan was the first
person summoned, Mr. Gilbert was
second. He was followed by Pat
Lavender, Mr. Roe and Mr. Brown.

Patrolman Bokan told reporters he
had informed the city officials he
never had been a member of the
Black Legion.

Mr. Gilbert made a declaration
and said he was called because he
is Mr. Roe's boss in the street de-
partment. Mr. Lavender declined
to make any comment. Mr. Roe
talked freely of his connection with
the organization and revealed he
had been initiated at a meeting in
the Tribby fire engine house in 1934.

Examination Disclosed

City Manager Edy said he may
ask a local brain specialist to ex-
amine Police Sgt. Lyman (Buck)
Dear, who admitted last Tuesday
he had been a general in the Black
Legion, and who is confined to his
home.

A letter from Dr. Max Pest, brain
specialist at the university hospi-
tal, Ann Arbor, stating Sergeant
Dear is mentally unsound was re-
ceived yesterday at the office of
Police Chief Allen. Dr. Pest ex-
amined Sergeant Dear at Ann Arbor,
Wednesday. He said he first ex-
amined Sergeant Dear 16 months
ago and that he is suffering from
a brain disease, resulting from an
accident.

Deputy sheriffs yesterday report-
ed they were unable to locate Bert
Rickard, 832 Oakwood avenue,
which is an investigation, and inquir-
ies at his home revealed he was
on a hunting trip in Michigan.

Dean Names Toledoans

Local authorities are considerably
interested in the story related in
Detroit yesterday by Dean, con-
fessed trigger man for the Black
Legion there, about his knowledge
of the Toledo set-up, and his iden-
tification of six Toledoans, in-
including two policemen, as individ-
uals who had attended Black Legion
meetings in Toledo at which he
was present.

Dean yesterday received life sen-
tence for murder from a circuit
judge in Detroit who called Dean's
victim, a WPA worker, "a martyr
to the cause of civil and religious
liberties." Dean had pleaded guilty
to shooting Charles A. Foote, a
young WPA worker, on order of a
Black Legion superior officer.

Seven Black Legion members
were convicted of the
Foote killing will receive
mandatory life sentences today in Detroit.
Four convicted of second degree
murder will be sentenced tomor-
row.
5,000 AT ONE LEGION RALLY

3 Elected Officers Belonged, Former Member Says

The Black Legion had five regiments in the Toledo district last fall and the members pledged allegiance in the presence of guns.

This was revealed last night by Charles Hill, of 730 Kipling drive, a self-admitted former adjutant, after he had been questioned by Joel Rhinefort, assistant county prosecutor. The regiments were in Point Place, Maumee and the south, west and east sections of the city, he said.

Mr. Hill was questioned in Mr. Rhinefort's private office in the Edison building, where he was brought by a police officer. Mr. Hill also said that at one time three elected officials were members of the organization, and that 5,000 persons attended one meeting on a farm outside the city.

Mr. Hill refused to give the names of any members, saying he had to observe his oath of silence. He also declined to say whether the elected officers, to whom he referred, still were holding office.

Effinger at Toledo Meetings

As adjutant, Mr. Hill said he had exchanged several letters with Virgil Effinger, of Lima, leader of the Black Legion in Ohio. He also stated Mr. Effinger has been in Toledo several times.

Mr. Hill said the organization was anti-alien, anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic and anti-Communist. He said he and Police Sergt. Lyman (Buck) Dear quit the order at the same time, because of differences with leaders over reorganization matters.

After questioning Mr. Hill, Mr. Rhinefort last night conferred with a representative of the attorney general of Michigan.

Several additional Toledans, including three city employees, will be questioned today about their connections with Black Legion activities here as a result of information obtained by city and county officials during the questioning of five men in the office of City Manager John N. Edy yesterday.

This announcement was made late yesterday by Mr. Rhinefort after he completed questioning of Clarence G. Brown, 1610 Mansfield road, whom he identified as "head man" of the Black Legion in the Toledo district.

May Question Dean

Mr. Rhinefort said he also may go to Detroit today to question Dayton Dean, talkative two-gun killer, whose lurid disclosures of Black Legion terrorism resulted in the conviction of 11 Michigan members on murder charges, and who yesterday indicated he had considerable knowledge of the Black Legion affairs in Toledo.

In addition to Mr. Brown, these men were questioned in Mr. Edy's office yesterday:

Victor Roe, a street department worker, who admitted he had been a brigadier general in the Black Legion.

Steve Gilbert, foreman of the street department.

Patrolman Joseph Bokan, burned at the Safety office.

Pat Lavender, foreman of the street department shops.

Assistant Prosecutor Rhinefort said Walter Leiter, 1635 Oakwood avenue, who was brought to the manager's office by Detective Harry Manson at the same time as Mr. Brown, would be questioned in the prosecutor's office today. Mr. Leiter said he is a WPA worker, but knew nothing of the activities of the Black Legion, and could not understand why they desired to question him.

Three Deny Membership

City Manager Edy said Gilbert, Lavender and Patrolman Bokan denied they've or had been members.
THE Black Legion is the latest "stiff neck" to hit our communities. It is difficult for the thinking man to properly appraise its importance, its extent, or danger. Beyond question, the nature and character of the organization and its personnel are offensive both to the sense of small and to our American institutions. Clinking itself with the prestige of preserving the very institutions it shocking, the organization appears to have made great strides.

Ordinarily, we could safely ignore its importance as a mere antecedent of the Ku Klux Klan. The reason that as long as the majority of our people are advised and possessed of a sound mind we have very little to fear from "nut houses" and "nut organizations."

However, what does cause great and grave concern is the fact that day to day new revelations of associations involving men in public office and in the law enforcement branches with this "strait-laced brain" outfit is being called to our attention. When it is considered that the great mass of law-abiding citizens sleep in peaceful slumber in complete and total reliance that our duly elected and appointed officials and guardians of the peace will protect us, it becomes a matter of serious consequence that these same guardians of our safety are striking us and warning to betray their trust.

It is unfortunate that members of our Police Department should be involved for the reason that it casts reflections and suspicions upon the entire force, and we must consider that we expect very little from applicants for police duties except a strong back.

Let us not become so involved in panicky about the matter, but at the same time let us not hesitate to fully investigate the situation. It might also be a good idea to alter our system of selecting policemen. Offer better pay to attract well-educated men than smear them to gather the proper kind of evidence. Why not post local departments after the Department of Justice in Washington, The Honest and Keen.
TESSERIST OUTFIT
FOUND IN STREET

Los Angeles Police Hunt
Black Legion Member.

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14 (A. P.)—
Discovery of a black hooded gown
with a skull and cross bones on
the left chest, in a suitcase on
Wilshire Boulevard, spurred police
search today for Black Legionnaires
believed operating in southern Cali-

nia.

Capt. William Hynes of the police
anti-Radical Squad disclosed that
activities of the hooded order had
been reported here for the last four
months, increasing recently.

"The Black Legion will not be
tolerated," he said.

Found with the gown by two
patrolmen were a
series of notes to "brothers" and
clopping from Detroit papers on
the trial of cult leaders there.

All the notes were mimeographed
on white paper of a standard size.
They gave notice of meetings, ad-
vised "arms" and warned against
talking too much.

A final one said:
"Everything off until further no-
tice. Do not communicate with
brothers. Detroit affair very bad.
Will notify when coast is clear."

A label on other clothing in the
suitcase bore a Los Angeles store's
name. The gown itself showed
signs of use, and had been patched
in several places.

While admitting the possibility
the bag may have been lost or
abandoned by a Detroit Black Le-
gion official, here to escape the
Michigan inquiry, detectives were
inclined to believe it belonged to
a Los Angeles cultist.

All cleaning and laundry numbers
had been torn off.
West—Traces
Black Legion

Robes and Notes Found in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14. (AP)—Los Angeles police opened an investigation of "Black Legion" activities in Southern California today following accidental discovery of an abandoned suitcase containing what were described as robes of the secret organization.

The paraphernalia of the "legion" was discovered by two radio patrolmen as they were cruising in their automobile through the exclusive Wilshire district near a hotel frequented by motion picture celebrities.

The officers, R. F. McGarry and W. A. Ellenson, found in the suitcase an outfit of robes and messages advising "brothers" of a new meeting place and warning them to come armed.

The evidence was turned over to Police Capt. William Hykes who reported the robes were replicas of those seized in Detroit during the last year.

The robes were of black satin and had a white skull and crossbones over the heart. The black hoods had eyeholes cut through. A suit of clothes with a Los Angeles clothier's label in it was also in the suitcase, police said.

TRACES LEGION
Capt. Hykes reported his special investigators had discovered some evidence pointing towards "Black Legion" activities here during the last few months.

"Our investigation discloses that the legion is in existence in this area, the membership is confined to not more than 100 persons who have managed to keep their meetings and activities secret," he said.

Three notes were in the suitcase. One read:
"Dear brother, 17 hours north same side of the street as old meeting place, Friday meeting important, arms and robes. Acknowledge."

A second message advised members to halt activities until public indignation over the "Detroit affair" died down. It read:
"Dear brother, everything off until further notice. Do not communicate with brothers. Detroit affair very bad. Will notify when coast is clear."

SIGNED BY GAY
The third note read:
"Dead brother, matter handled at last meeting safe but do not talk to inquiring visitors. No meeting until further notice."

Each of the messages was signed "Gay." The notes were typewritten on white mimeograph paper.

Two clippings from Detroit newspapers were in the suitcase, both dealing with the investigation there of the Black Legion following the death of Charles Fend, WPA worker slain by members of the legion.
Handbag Tip
To Cultists
On Coast
International News Service Wire
LOS ANGELES, Oct. 14.—
Police were seeking a Black Legion headquarters here today after a ceremonial robe, bearing a skull and crossbones, literature and a letter instructing a "brother" to "come armed" were found in an apparently misplaced handbag in front of a fashionable hotel.
Black Legion Scare
Film Publicity Scheme

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 15 (A. P.).- A skull-and-crossbones robe, which created a Black Legion scare in Los Angeles, was branded a film press agent's scheme by an angry police officer today.

"It was only a press agent's hoax and a despicable one," said Capt. William F. Hynes of the Police Intelligence Bureau.

His detectives, he said, compared the black hooded garment, found in a suitcase near a Wilshire Boulevard hotel Tuesday, with the costumes used in three current motion pictures based on Black Legion terrorism, and found they matched.
Black Legion Note
Found in Slaying

San Luis Obispo, Calif., Oct. 20
6:09.—Possibility of a Black Legion
slaying was investigated by police
today in the shotgun death of Mil-
ton Edward Zylicz, 28, school
janitor.
The janitor's body, his head
nearly blown off, was found in his
office at the Fremont School, where
he had been employed 14 years.
Police found a note which in part
read: "Hope you get this a job.
Think you know too much." It was
signed "The Black Legion."
Police said the janitor had been
receiving threatening notes for sev-
eral years.
KIDNAPED BOY—FORCED TO ROB

TOLEDO, Ohio, Oct. 22 (U.S.). A 15-year-old boy late today declared that he had been kidnapped recently by members of the terrorist Black Legion, flogged and forced to join a "junior order" of the night-riding cult known as the "Red Circle."

The story was unfolded to Assistant prosecuting Attorney Joel Rhinefort who is seeking information as to the extent of Black Legion activities in Ohio. A city council investigating committee headed by Mayor John A. Carcy is conducting a separate probe.

Rhinefort and the mayor's committee conferred on "compare data" and consider presentation of facts at hand to a special grand jury. Ohio links in the chain of the cult were partly disclosed during the trial of 12 men convicted in Detroit of the Black Legion murder of Ernest Poole, Works Progress Administration employee.

The boy, whose identity was not disclosed, told Rhinefort that late last year he and a companion were kidnapped and taken to a South Michigan city. There they were flogged to a board and beaten until they agreed to join the "Red Circle."

When the two joined at its hideout in the Michigan city, 80 other youths were there, the boy said.
POLICE HEADS' BIG SHOTS IN BLACK LEGION

Administer Bloody Oaths To New Police Recruits

TOLEDO—"In the name of God and the Devil, I promise never to betray secrets of the Black Legion, to carry out orders unto bitter death and to strike with an avenging arm so long as breath remains."

This is part of the bloody and murderous oath administered to new police recruits, paid by tax funds to uphold law and order, at initiations frequently held during lunch hour in the police arsenal.

BLACK LEGION KILLS IN OROSIPO

SAN LUIS OROISOPO.—The Black Legion was reported behind the slaying of Milton Edward Zylives, a school janitor here. Police announced definite possibility of the murderous fascist organization's connection with the killing.

The janitor's head was nearly blown off by discharge of a shotgun. His body was found in his office at the Fremont School. A note found by police read: "Hope you get this shot. Think you know too much. Black Leg--"
Police Probing Threat Against Stanley Field

Chicago—(AP)—Identity of the person who made a threatening telephone call to the suburban home of Stanley Field, president of the Field Museum, was sought today by Lake Bluff police. The caller was quoted as saying: "You think you're pretty smart, but we're coming up to bomb your place. If you think I'm bluffing, I'll tell you where the house keys are hanging."

The caller then told where the keys could be found, the police were informed. The call was made Sunday. Field said he knew no reason for the threat.

Mr. Nathan
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Baughman
Chief Clerk
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Cooney
Mr. Edwards
Mr. Egan
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Joseph
Mr. Kibb
Mr. Lester
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Schilling
Mr. Tipp

The Hartford Times
June 9, 1936
Forwarded by New York office
NEW JERSEY PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU
11 HILL ST. NEWARK

MORNING CALL
Paterson, N. J.

JUN 8 1936

EDITORIAL

It is well that the machinations of the Black Legion, with its reputed hundreds of thousands of members and with a record of a score or more of murders and hundreds of beatings, have come into the limelight and that the Michigan authorities are determined to punish those guilty of these crimes and break up the organization, for outside of the crimes of which they have been guilty they have undoubtedly been an evil influence on the youth of the state when youngsters in their early teens begin to emulate their crimes.

America has no place for organizations which go outside of the law to accomplish their ends and spread a reign of terror among the people. We have had a number of them in the past, but apparently the Black Legion represents a combination of the worst qualities of all of them.

The Michigan authorities have the power to deal with the crimes of that organization within the state limits, but if it is found that its influence has spread beyond state lines, and, as one of the members of the Black Legion has stated, has become a nation-wide organization, it is time that the Federal government, through the Department of Justice and its agents, take a hand in wiping it out and punishing those found to have had a hand in its criminal activities.
Mumbo Jumbo

Last Thursday the arraignment in Detroit of "Wolverine Republican" club members for the murder of a young Catholic worker (Time, June 1) was the U. S. post office's first word of a nefarious, back-cloaked, Klan-like organization called the Black Legion. Following one slim lead the Press and police last week splashed over U. S. newspapers an incredible, fantastic, ulcer eater of a story on this odious gang of black-cloaked, left-wing, self-appointed police. The average citizen was bewildered.

First Black Legionary of note to be arrested after the seven "Republicans" was a moonshiner, tight-lipped Ray Ernest, a Jackson State Prison guard, reputedly a "progressive general." With four others he was accused of lashing another WPA worker, of fatally flogging a fellow prison guard who had tried to withdraw from the organization. The newspapers painted the tale of a complicated ritual in which a Legion neophyte is asked whether he believes in a Supreme Being, could ride, shoot, drink and lie. Police announced that they had raided Ernest's Jackson home, found a metal-studded whip. Mrs. Ernest, claiming to have played Little Eva in a presentation of Uncle Tom's Cabin, said the whip was merely a stage prop. "What were you trying to do?" asked a weary policeman, "kill Uncle Tom?"

A correspondent to Virgil Perry Effinger of Lima, Ohio, a neophyte, is a fitful, big-nosed salesman with a foghorn voice who quotes extensively from the Bible, addresses everyone as "Brother." Seated in his basement office, which contains a plaster statue of a hooded klanman and framed pictures of Paul Revere and George Washington, Effinger neither admitted or denied that he was the Legion's commander-in-chief. The 5,000,000 members, he stoutly asserted, did not believe in violence, worked solely for the furtherance of "Americanism.

Another Detroit clue pointed to Bellevue, Ohio's $5-a-month Health Commissioner, squint-eyed Dr. William Jacob ("Dr. Billy") Shepard as commander-in-chief. To citizens there "Dr. Billy" was a "harmless old coot," incurably hipped on the preservation of Southern chivalry. Eleven years ago he appeared at a Ku Klux Klan meeting dressed in black, attended by "Black Guards." stirred up Klan resentment. He withdrew with his Black Guards, who apparently broke up without his assistance, into the Legion. Refusing to define his position, "Dr. Billy" said: "You have to have mystery in a fraternity thing to keep it alive; the folks eat it up."

Michigan and other states investigating the Legion found its odor distinctly unpleasant. Outraged Pontiac, Mich. citizens, hearing that many of their city officials were connected with Legion activities, began an inquiry of their own. The appearance of Wayne County Prosecutor Daniel C. McCrea's name on a Legion membership blank caused a fine furor in...
Lansing Extortion-Bombers Admit Firing at Man in Door

LANsdng, Mich., June 8.—(P)—Police Chief Alfred Seymour searched today for Black Legion implications in an extortion plot, bombing, holdup and shooting that he and his officers marked "solved" on their books.

The chief said he had obtained statements from Steve Goulding, 25 years old, and Fred Chapman, 26, admitting that it was they who fired a fusillade of pistol bullets that narrowly missed Marion O'Connors of Eagle, as he stood in a restaurant doorway here two months ago. Seymour was not satisfied with their explanation, however, that the bullets were intended to frighten the restaurant proprietor rather than to injure anybody in particular.

Added to this was the fact that O'Connor told police he knew who shot at him but that "I'll take care of this in my own way." Seymour contended this and other misdeeds with which the men are accused all "conceivably might have something to do with Black Legion activity, although the men deny it."

Prosecutor Dan D. McCullough planned to prepare warrants today accusing the two of a plot to extort $5,000 from Max A. Kramer, of Lansing, and with having bombed his auto parts plant here to prove to Kramer that they "meant business." No money was paid.

Both Goulding and Chapman are accused also of implication in the $324 robbery of Tony Tremonti in his residence here last Friday. A third man, Eddie Belock, 26, is held on a charge of suspicion of robbery armed as their accomplice in that robbery. Police Capt. Frank J. O'Brien said Chapman and Goulding accused him of assisting in the holdup, but absolved him of implication in the other crimes.
Cardinal Forecasts Black Legion's Fall

Vatican City, June 6 (AP).—The "Black Legion" was condemned here today by Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, of Philadelphia, and he prophesied its early death.

"It will fall to pieces as soon as it is dragged out into the sun," he remarked following a half-hour visit with Pope Pius.

Cardinal Dougherty said he read about the Legion's discovery in Detroit upon his arrival in Europe and said it "seemed incredible."

"The organization seems to be a revival of the Ku Klux Klan," he said, "embracing the same kind of people and thoroughly un-American."

He discussed ecclesiastical affairs with the Pope and presented his nephew, the Rev. J. Carroll McCormick, vice chancellor of the Archdiocese, to him.

He found Pope Pius "looking remarkably strong and well and unchanged from when I saw him two years ago," he said. "His mind, as formerly, is most active, clear and keen."

The Cardinal, who will remain in Rome for the forthcoming consistory, also visited Cardinal Pacelli, papal secretary of State. He plans to leave June 25.
ESCAPED LEATH
Black Legion Inspired Boys to
Attempt Their Lynching

JOSEPH IGNAGNI AND ALBERT VALENTI
Rescued From Hanging Planned By Young Hooded Mob in Detroit

WASH. HERALD
JUN 7 1936
Today

More Worry In Paris.
Two Hangings Thwarted.
30,000 Leave Their Money.
What About China?
By Arthur Brisbane

Interesting news from Detroit where police found three boys, from nine to 14, holding as prisoners, in a barn, two other boys, nine and 11, preparing to hang them, in imitation of the "Black Legion." Police called by passers-by heard the screams of the boys.

The three boys were going to hang the two youngsters because they were "too high up in their classes."
Boys, Aping Clan, Try to Hang Companion

DETROIT, June 6 (INNS).
"Aw, we wouldn't have dropped him. We ain't that dumb."
Three frightened boys thus protested to police today after a "Junior Black Legion" lynching party was broken up just as the boys allegedly prepared to hang Albert Valenti, 11.
The three boys, playing checke from school, according to police, saw Valenti and another boy, Joseph Ignagni, 9, go by in a coaster wagon.
The trio, Amando Scaria, 14; Raymond Buccelliati, 11, and Joseph Angelo, 10, swooped on Valenti and Ignagni and forced them into a barn, officers declared.
After keeping their victims "prisoners" for four hours, the trio, Police Inspector Wendell Locksister said, tied Ignagni to a post and then bound and gagged Valenti, placed a rope around his neck and started leading him toward the big window of the abandoned barn.
Walter Kaltenberg, a gardener, rushed into the barn and stopped them. Valenti was hysterical.
The attorney general of the United States is a savvy Connecticut Yankee. He knows he's got a good thing in the G-men. But he has been long in politics and he realizes it would take very little extra zeal on his part in the use of those same G-men to bring some very vocal senators or congressmen bounding into the arena with cries that he is setting up a Cheka, OGPU, or what have you. Hence his unwillingness to inject his men into the Black Legion situation until he is dead certain specific federal laws are being violated.

Att'y Gen.
Cummings

CAPITAL STUFF

CHICAGO DAILY TIMES

BY: Doris Fleason

June 5th, 1936
Who's Next, Boss?

Asked why he murdered a helpless innocent man, Dayton Dean replied: "I shot people because I was supposed to. I had no personal grudge. I had to take orders from my superior officers. If I were ordered to murder someone or commit crime, I would do it."

The Black Legion of hoodlums, thugs, murderers, and some politicians seeking advancement, dress themselves in black robes, decorated with the pirate's symbol of the skull and crossbones, and feel that they are all powerful, recognizing no law save their own.

Their ridiculous costumes, titles and rituals would be of no importance, except that this organization, formed to commit murder and lesser crimes, seeks to extend its rule by terror and mystery, and imposes its bloody will on well-selected tools who actually commit murder under orders.
The "Chaplain" of the Black Legion charges new members during initiation:

"Remember that our purpose is to tear down, lay waste, despoil and kill our enemies."

Then they swear: "Standing under the black arch of Heaven's avenging symbol," the Black Oath:

"In the name of God and the devil...to devote my life to the obedience of my superiors..."

And "in the obedience of my superiors," Dayton Dean murdered Charles Poole, riddled him with bullets, left him to die in a ditch. The cartoon above, like photographs, shows Dayton Dean to be a typical heavy-jawed thug, incapable of independent thought. Calmly, defiantly, he told in court how he murdered the unfortunate Poole, whom gossips had accused, unjustly, of beating his wife.

While the other defendants glared at him, Dayton Dean told how he fired eight shots into the kneeling form of Charles A. Poole, "because you do what you are told to do in the Black Legion."

Dean had had a taste of Black Legion "discipline."

Detective Sergeant Harvill disclosed that Dean had told him "that he was taken to a field west of the city about eighteen months ago, tied to a tree and whipped because he was lax in getting members to meetings."

Dean's divorced wife, in a series of articles in the New York Evening Journal, tells how her husband became leader of the "Death Squad."

"One day he came home and told me he was in charge of the Death Squad. He said he was picked because he had the courage to do the job and he was a good shot. Nothing could stop him after that. He was wild with power and importance and wouldn't listen to anything I said. He was 'going to the top,' he said."

Murdering Charles A. Poole was part of "going to the top" for Dean. The American public wants to know who is already at the top of this murderous Black Legion.

All law-abiding Americans are interested in the existence of such a murder-gang as this Black Legion, particularly in the encouragement to lawlessness, which makes the organization of such a gang possible.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea, Presiding Judge Ralph W. Liddy, the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan have a grave responsibility in tracking the Black Legion to its roots, and to its TOPS.
Denounces 'Legion'

Denying any connection between the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan, burly Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Klan, is shown at Atlanta as he urged the use of G-Men to stamp out the black-hooded terrorists. (Associated Press Photo)
Detroit Experiencing
Black Legion Scare

Said to Have Large Membership Throughout Country

Lima, Ohio.—Detroit, Michigan is experiencing a Black Legion scare almost a year after a former city employee had a case of Blind Jitters or something that is said to have caused him to see pink elephants doing a circle dance on the ceiling.

From now on the police of various cities will have an excuse for believing every crime they cannot solve was committed by this particular group.

The unfair enforcement of law by some of the constituted officers are the real reason for organizations of this kind to come into being.

Rumor has it that this particular group have already formed county organizations in 79 of the 88 counties of Ohio.

It is also said that this organization will be a factor in the Fall election, already having enough power in the way of ballots to swing an election in the state.

Unlike the old Klan group, this new group are said to have been building a machine of members for the last six years until at the present time they have a machine of tremendous voting power.
Dayton Men
In
Black Legion
Political Bosses Who Were Unaware of Existence of Secret Organization of this Size Now are at Loss to Know Who to Trust or Not to Trust.

Brower Said to be the Man Most Alarmed Due to Nickel Grabbing By Himself and Other Members

Dayton, Ohio.—With the uncovering in Detroit, Michigan, of a new organization, said to be on the order of the K. K. K. namely the Black Legion, a branch of which is said to be located in Dayton, numbering about 21,000 for Montgomery county, is said to have the political wise boys guessing.

Any organization with a membership of this size could very easily control the trend of politics in the Fall campaign.

Some years ago Lil' Daniel Brower of Gold Brick fame was able to control the vote of the old Klan through deals made with unscrupulous officers of that organization.

But it is said that with this new political factor, the political shyster of the type who trades favors is said to be on the outside looking in.

This new organization which has sprung into prominence overnight seems to have used an altogether different method of organizing without the fanfare of the old Klan they seem to have built their group gradually until they reached a voting strength sufficient to control an election before getting into the spotlight.

According to information, a number of city officials and county employees belong to this new group.

A Klan membership is said to be one of the requirements to become a member.

Like the investigations some years ago when the old Klan was investigated time after time and all of the crimes of the calendar were charged to them, this fanfare from Detroit may be another one of those cases where some political hightender may have had a hand in the jitters and imagined a lot about murder and suicide.

Anyway, if it is true that 21,000 members of the black legion are on the loose in Montgomery County they don't seem to have killed or beat up many around Dayton.

But if the reports are true as to their membership strength, at the political funerals may be the order of the day when election time rolls around next November.

The State Indicator

May - Ohio

6-1-36
City Hall Boys Spend Night of Idle "Waiting"

Tap The Wires Like They Did NOT Do In Karpis or Dillinger Cases.

The State Indicator
May - Ohio
6 - 4 - 36
Akron, Ohio.—Mayor Lee Schroy, incensed at the recent flareup in labor troubles at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company was reported last week to be taking an active, very active interest in the situation and from a source real close to the mayor came the information that the head of the city was launching on a determined effort to "clean out the anarchist agitators" from whence came the majority of labor disputes.

While city detectives were busy Friday night combing the city for two men, against whom warrants had been issued following the assault upon two non-union workers at the No. 2 plant Friday, city officials were preparing for any emergencies that might arise. Police Prosecutor James Alpeter refrained from going to bed until well after midnight Friday, staying at his post downtown to be ready to give any legal assistance needed in case of not unexpected trouble at the change of shifts at midnight or shortly thereafter.

From the Portage Hotel, immediately after the Republican central committee met to select executive committee men, telephone calls were being made to officials of the city and the rubber factory, telling of the determination of the titular head of the administration to "make a cleanup".

"Mayor Schroy wants to clean out that anarchist agitation", one source said in a conversation with a supposed rubber company man, after first talking with the legal department of the city.

"If you need legal advice or assistance, then Alpeter will be there all night. If you just need police assistance then call direct to the police department", a voice over the phone was reported saying.

A special detachment of officers was detained in anticipation of trouble at the change of shifts and were ready to report at the factory at a moments notice.

Saturday morning Schroy got busy to see what could be done to settle the difficulties between officials of the rubber factory and the employees. After deliberating with both sides Schroy announced that he thought the trouble would be settled in a peaceable manner reporting both sides agreeable to a round table discussion to iron out the difficulties. He said they were both desirous of doing everything possible to avoid trouble.

Unlike former mayor half Nelson Sparks, Schroy is playing squarely with both sides. Sparks played with both sides, but not squarely. Schroy is a friend of the laborers, not just a pretended friend. He is taking an active interest in labor difficulties to clear up the situation with the least amount of trouble. Sparks made the laborers think he was their friend while at the same time dealing with the rubber barons to doublecross the workers when the oppo-

The State Indicator
May, Ohio
6-4-36
WASHINGTON, June 4—Atty. Gen. Homer S. Cummings declared today he had known of the existence of the Black Legion for about a year. He said, however, he had received no evidence of violation by Black Legionnaires of any federal laws. He acknowledged having knowledge of the existence of the Black Legion for about a year, Cummings declared.

SHERIFF INFORMER

He refused to reveal who had informed him of the existence of the cult.

"The justice department can only enter a case," Cummings emphasized, "in event a federal law has been violated. We do not hesitate to act, however, if a federal law has been violated.

Cummings said he had not heard from Duncan C. McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor, who last week wired him he had evidence which he believed constituted violation of federal laws. Cummings wired McCrea to submit any evidence he might have to the justice department for examination. The department, in this case, would decide whether there had been any violation of federal statutes.

"But far," Cummings said, "I have heard nothing further from McCrea.

NO FEDERAL VIOLATION"

"I might say when I first heard of the existence of the Black Legion in Michigan, notice was presented to me which would warrant justice department intervention.

"The same situation exists now. I have not received from any body else any information which would warrant the department in taking action.

"George W. May, president of the American Federation of Labor, Cummings said, discussed with him recently the activities of the Black Legion.
Ohio's Chief Black Legion Figure Dies

Virgil H. Effinger of Lima, Ohio, once leader in that state of the Black Legion, died Saturday in a state hospital at Toledo. The Black Legion, an organization which intended to overthrow the government, figured in news nearly two decades ago. Seven of its members now are in South a Michigan prison, serving terms imposed on murder charges growing out of its activities. Effinger, who was 82 at the time of his death, never was returned to Michigan for trial for his part in the legion's affairs. Originally arrested in August, 1936, on charges of criminal syndicalism, he vanished during an extradition hearing at Columbus.

In December, 1938, he reappeared at his Lima home, surrendered and posted bond for his appearance at another hearing. The case dragged on for months and finally was dropped.

An electrical contractor at the time of his arrest, Effinger was described as the "major general" of the Black Legion. He was one of 22 persons indicted at Detroit. According to evidence, he and the others advocated seizure of the government by a coup on Sept. 16, 1936, when arsenals and federal buildings were to be taken over by the organization.

Imprisoned here are Dayton Dean, Irvin Lapp, Lowell Rushing, Irving Lee, Edward Baldwin, and Charles Ross.
DETROIT.—VIRGIL EFFINGER, REPUTED FORMER HEAD OF THE BLACK LEGION, WAS CLEARED OF A CHARGE OF POSSESSION OF BOMBS IN CONNECTION WITH ACTIVITIES OF THE CULT. JUDGE JOSEPH GILLIS DISMISSED THE CHARGE AGAINST EFFINGER WHEN THE CASE WAS CALLED FOR TRIAL IN COMMON PLEAS COURT AND THE PROSECUTION ANNOUNCED IT WAS NOT READY TO PROCEED. EFFINGER STILL FACES A CHARGE OF CRIMINAL SYNDICALISM.

3/16--R1052A J
BLACK LEGION—
GANB BOMBS
BLOOR RALLY

Toledo Investigation Is
Demanded by C. P.,
American League

(Special to the Daily Worker)

TOLEDO, O., March 16—Two
year gas bombs were hurled from
a speeding automobile believed to
be carrying Black Legionnaires
Tuesday night at the second story
windows of a hall where Mother
Ella Reeve Bloor, veteran Commu-
nist leader, was addressing a mass
rally.

The incident brought forth an
immediate demand by the Commu-
nist Party, represented by Kenneth
Hay, and the American League
for Peace and Democracy, through
its spokesman Francis J. Murphy,
for reopening the Grand Jury In-
vestigation of the Black Legion and
similar terrorist organizations.

The bombing took place at the
Red Davis Building where Mother
Bloor was speaking at the time. No
one was hurt.

Steps will also be taken. It was
reported, to dislodge Vic Roe,
former Brigadier-General of the
Black Legion now serving on the
Lucas County Grand Jury. Trade
union and civil groups are pressing
for his dismissal. A recent confer-
ce with City Manager Edy
brought assurance that serious
efforts will be made to end a re-
newed campaign of violence against
the left-wing movement, which
had ceased for more than a year.
only to begin again with the atro-
cious bombing Tuesday night, and
by the bombing of the home of
John C. Taylor, Socialist Board of
Education member, two weeks ago.
Black Legion—Called Echo of Union League

Prof. Akers Thinks Band May Have Reflected Ideas of Michigan Financiers

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 28.—The Union League of Michigan, led by forty-two of Detroit’s dominant financial and industrial figures, unwittingly fostered the development of the Black Legion. Professor Emlen Akers, of the department of sociology at the University of Michigan, said in an address made today before the American Sociological Society meeting at the Hotel Claridge.

“Nothing has yet been discovered which can be taken as conclusive evidence of direct sponsorship of the Black Legion by the Union League of Michigan, or by any members of the class it represents,” Professor Akers said. “The relationship seems to have been one in which a group of highly prejudiced rank-and-file American citizens carried out in their own way their interpretation of the example and point of view expressed by the dominant attitude and policy forming groups in the community, of which the Union League of Michigan was the leader.”

Trace Legion Origin

Professor Akers traced the origin of the Black Legion to widespread “Red hunting,” which, in 1933, he said, began to assume national proportions. “It was generally known in the city (Detroit),” he said, “that some Communists and radical sympathizers were active in the Auto Workers’ Union. The newspapers, certain fundamentalist Baptist ministers, the Liberty League and hundred agencies were the standard bearers in the anti-Communist campaign.”

“It is possible, if not probable, that certain promulgations on this matter by the Union League of Michigan—because of its high position in the social and industrial life of the metropolis—provided the impulsion which set in motion the antidemocratic movement in Detroit—a movement in which the Black Legion was destined to play, by its own unique methods, a striking part.”

Law Legion Backed Hit It

Ironically, he said, one of the League’s resolutions, unanimously adopted at the time, called for strict observation of Michigan’s laws regarding criminal syndicalism. That, Professor Akers said, “was the very law under which, a little more than five years later, the Black Legion members apprehended were tried, convicted and sentenced to prison.”

Ellsworth Farns, of the University of Chicago, delivering the presidential address at the annual dinner of the American Sociological Society, said tonight that members of his organization did not seek for certainty but only for “a greater measure of security.” He added: “The triumphs of the age of physical science give us confidence in the power of the human reason.”
BLACK KLAN CHIEF GIVES HIMSELF UP

Surrenders in Ohio Home—Will Fight Extradition to Michigan

LIMA, Ohio, Dec. 4 (AP)—Virgil H. (Bert) Eflinger, accused commander of the Black Legion who walked out of an extradition hearing at Columbus and was unheard of for fifteen months, was back home today, ready to battle in court his return to Michigan to face charges of criminal syndicalism and possession of explosives.

The portly one-time electrical contractor surrendered at his home suddenly and dramatically yesterday, as the climax to a lengthy search that extended through several States.

An hour after his arrest, Eflinger was freed under $1,000 bond by Common Pleas Judge E. E. Everett, who set hearing of a habeas corpus writ for next Friday.

Judge Everett also granted an injunction restraining law enforcement officers from arresting Eflinger on charges similar to those contained in the warrant upon which he was held today.

The hearing will offer, Eflinger's attorney, Clarence C. Miller, told the Court, the first test of a new Ohio statute under which the legality of an extradition warrant may be examined.

The "major general" of the Black Legion, an organization designed to overthrow the Government at a given date, was one of twenty-two persons indicted in Detroit. According to evidence, Eflinger and others advocated seizure of the Government by a coup on September 15, 1936, by taking over Government buildings and arsenals at given points.

CLIPPING FROM
NEW YORK POST

DATE: __________________

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION
No Toledo Action
On Black Legion

TOLEDO, Ohio, Sept. 12 (L.N. S.R.—The year-old grand jury investigation of Black Legion activities in Lucas county was at an end today, without return of a single indictment. No mention of the investigation of the night riders was made by the jury in its final report.
G.M. to Arm New Black Legion
Ku Klux Klan Vigilante Outfit

New ‘Law and Order League’ Headed by Man Who Gained Political Office Through Support of General Motors-Republican Gang

By DEWITT GILPIN

[This is the second of a series of three articles]

FLINT, Mich., Aug. 2.—When I interviewed Raymond French, head of General Motors’ 1937 model vigilante band, he declared that he would arm his members in case of labor trouble, “after they have been depunitized.”

When I interviewed Police Chief Wills, anti-labor specialist, now back in office through the power of the “Law and Order League,” he told me he wouldn’t comment on the vigilantes.

“But,” I protested, “Raymond French says that his men will be depunitized in case of labor trouble. You will have to do that, won’t you?”

“Maybe,” snapped the man whose anti-labor record stretches from the copper strikes of 1917 to the shooting of the GM strikers at Fisher No. 2 last winter, “but maybe the sheriff and I’ll cross that bridge when we come to it.”

F. W. Thomas, Klansman and secretary of Protestant Action Association, united Black Legion—Klan group, was just as touchy on the subject of the vigilantes. “I don’t know anything about them,” he insisted.

BLACK LEGION HELPS

“Then, your president and other members of Klan and Legion are helping them,” I informed him.

Thomas, despite the fact that he had issued a statement to the press previously that his organization was coordinating the two disreputable groups, shouted a denial that his members were Klansmen and Legionnaires.

“But you said so in the Detroit News,” I reminded him.

“A pack of lies,” he roared.

“But at your first meeting of the Association,” I persisted, “didn’t you have James A. Colecott, grand dragon of the northwestern states, speak to you about the Klan’s program?”

“Well,” said Thomas, a little weakly, “he was there alright.”

So, as I explained in the previous article, was George Boyzen, ex-head of the Flint Alliance and other vigilantes now resurrecting Boyzen’s old organization under a new name. In reality the Action Association first tried to form a vigilante organization on its own, but gave up this idea when the “Law and Order League” was agreed upon. Before this took place, Thomas, when questioned by a News reporter as to the effect the exposure of the Black Legion in Detroit had on its members in Flint, declared, “Why should it hurt the Legionnaires out here? They are all good Americans!”

REPRESENTATIVE TRIO

Raymond French, American Legionnaire, James Wills, anti-labor police chief who refused to let the Flint unions distribute a handbill attacking the Black Legion, L. W. Thomas, Klansman and Black Legion defender—here is a representative trio of the “Law and Order League of Flint,” organized to protect the right to work and backed by GM.

“I’m not connected with General Motors and I don’t intend to be,” French told me in his office over vigilante headquarters in the Dryden Building.

Knowing the ill-repute that all organizations fall into here once they are tainted with the stamp of the motor corporation, French and his associates are trying desperately to avoid exposure.

Unfortunately for him, French’s own record makes him out a liar. For years he has been a part of the political machine that has been General Motors company union in the city hall. A legionnaire and former commander, he was elected to office as city commissioner several years ago with the full support of the Republican-G.M. machine. At that time his opponent for office, another Republican, attacked him in a pamphlet which charged that he had made arrangements with all the collection agencies to garnishee the wages of auto workers delinquent in their accounts. It earned for him a title that stuck, “the garnishee lawyer.”

BROKE STRIKE

French also gained notoriety during the 1934 A.F. of L. auto strike here that were broken by state militia. At that time he busied himself giving pep talks to the troops and exhorting them to “protect property” and keep order.

As a veteran politician, French fits nicely into the plan entered into by General Motors executives and Republican politicians to use the newly formed vigilante organization to oust the pro-labor representatives in the city government. The details of this political coup, which has already resulted in union sound cars being banned from the streets, involved officials of the G.M. plant and will be described in the next article of this series.

DAILY WORKER

AUG 3 1937
Black Legion Head Reported in N. Y.; Tip Proves False

New York, July 27 (AP)—A report that Virgil F. Berth Eflinger, reputed head of the Black Legion and fugitive from justice, was working here caused a flurry of excitement in the police department today.

Assistant Chief Inspector John Lyons said requests for Eflinger arrest had come from Detroit, Mich., and Columbus, Ohio, after tips Eflinger was employed by a local contractor.

The man reported to be Eflinger was investigated but his identity was established quickly.

Eflinger, identified at trials in Detroit as commander of the Black Legion, has been sought since last August 28.

WASHINGTON POST
JUL 28 1937
BLACK LEGION HEAD
HUNTED IN NEW YORK

"Major General" Effinger, Who Fled Ohio Inquiry, Reported Seen in City.

Virgil F. (Bert) Effinger, described as a "Major General" of the Black Legion, was being sought in New York today on a report from Columbus, Ohio, and Detroit that a man resembling him was seen here recently. Assistant Chief Inspector John A. Lyons said police had been requested to arrest him on a warrant charging him with being a fugitive and possessing firearms.

Effinger, a Lima (Ohio) electrical contractor, walked out of an investigation at Columbus last August into the activities of the Black Legion, a terrorist organization with a background of violence and murder. He is credited with the observation that "America is cursed with too much liberty."
Police Working On Report

Police were working on a report that a man resembling a Negro was seen recently in metropolitan New York.

Effinger, identified at trials in Detroit and national commander of the Black Legion, was among twenty-two persons charged with violation of the State criminal syndicalism statute and conspiracy to overthrow the government in a blanket warrant issued by Circuit Judge James E. Chenow, of Detroit.

Judge Chenow sat as a one-man grand jury to investigate the secret society of hooded night riders.

Faces Bomb Charge Also

Effinger also faces another warrant, obtained by Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Wayne (Detroit) county, who charges that Effinger transported bombs and explosives to a Black Legion meeting here two years ago.

Both charges are contained in an extradition warrant signed by Gov. Martin L. Davey of Ohio on August 28, three days following a hearing before Charles Leasure, his executive assistant.

Effinger, who was attending the hearing, failed to appear after a noon recess. Leasure recommended that Effinger be returned to Michigan.

Based On Dean's Statement

The indictments naming Effinger and twenty-one others were based on affidavits of Dayton Dean, confessor of Black Legion "executioner," and other members.

Dean alleged that Effinger and others advocated the overthrow of the Federal Government and planned a coup on September 18, 1935, to seize Government buildings and arsenals.

Dean, one of eight men sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Charles A. Poole, testified that there was a national call word, "Listo," as the signal for the coup.

McCrea's warrant charged that Effinger displayed six hand grenades in front of the Detroit home of Arthur F. Lupp, Sr., alleged state commander of the Black Legion.

Effinger was named also as a sponsor of the Black Legion in a grand jury report issued by Circuit Judge George B. Hartwick, of Portiac, Mich.

The report said the Black Legion was formed in Ohio, probably in 1931, by "rebellious members" of the Ku Klux Klan.
Branded by Fire

Black Legion" Boy Gang

Weird Torture Rules of the
When Grown Men Do Silly Things, the Kids Will Imitate Them—And It Almost Came to Tragedy in a Pennsylvania Town

On the wooden doors hung slantwise. It had only one good hinge. But the gang could fix that up. George Wagner decided George was fourteen, and pretty smart, a bit bigger than the other members of his gang, and this was his idea. He talked it over with about eleven other boys, as they met in this abandoned wooden garage way down the end of Lane Alley, in Turtle Creek, Pennsylvania. They all listened pretty well, for George said he was going to be Chief and the boss. It developed weirdly, as you'll see.

The gang, particularly Bill, who was eleven, and Hank, who was twelve, and Jim Mason, ten, were pretty sore at the bigger fellows up the hill near the railroad station. Every time any of the Lane Alley kids would go up that way, they'd meet about half a dozen older guys (some of them as old as sixteen) and there'd be fist fights and rock throwings and things like that.

Jim Mason, for example, even though he was only ten, said he wasn't scared of any of those big palookas, even if he'd got a black eye only that week. Three of the big guys had jumped on him, he said, when his mother sent him to Adam's grocery store up the hill.

Vas, agreed George Wagner, that's why he'd picked this secret meeting place in the old wooden garage. They'd form a gang, and get a lot of the other fellows in it, and then they'd go to work on the big bullies up the hill near the railroad station.

Well, they talked it over pretty well that afternoon, and decided four things. Dues would be five cents a week. They would meet each night for at least ten minutes (so as not to miss any good movie in town) and every man would be pledged to secrecy. They would call themselves "The Crusaders"—just like some grown folks.

EVERYTHING went swell for a while.

Except that the gang dropped "The Crusaders" and became the "Black Legion." That sounded better, anyway, more mysterious and up-to-date. Almost fifty were in the gang by now. And they had some good meetings. No one could get into that garage without a password, a secret knock and the approval of the outer guard—a Belgian police dog named "Marks."

"Marks" knew his business. Many a night he'd sit there, outside that wooden door, peering down the alley or up in the air at the flag with the big red cross (hand painted) stuck up on the roof of the headquarters. Every member had a sword or knife, and a shield (wooden, of course) and all decorated with red crosses. If "Marks" didn't know you, you didn't get in.

They tried to get robes like the real Black Legion, but there was no money. It took quite a while for some of the younger members of the gang to get the secret code down pat, so that they could write each other secret notes while in school. George Wagner and one of his trusty lieutenants devised the code. It went like this:

A is a cross.
B is C.
C is an upside-down T.
D is a double circle.
E is V.
F is V upside down.
G is V.
H is V.
I is V.
J is V.
K is V.
L is V.
M is V.
N is V.
O is V.
P is V.
Q is V.
R is V.
S is V.
T is V.
U is V.
V is V.
W is V.
X is V.
Y is V.
Z is V.

"Tut" Barnes had a grand idea; it was mostly "Tut's" idea, but Chief Wagner told the meeting that night that HE had thought it up while reading a book he found on Pop's table at home. They'd have a torture chamber, an initiation chamber and a punishment chamber!

The torture chamber would be the best and most important, and Chief Wagner said in a stern voice that as soon as they got the torture machines fixed up that "Tut" Barnes would be "The Tester."

"And," said Chief Wagner, "I'm going to appoint Skinny Wilson my bodyguard and assistant torturer. First thing we're going to do, when I get my instrument together tomorrow night, is to brand every man in this gang."

With many a hurried groan and shiver, the branding started the next night.

Wooden clothespins were dipped into
a fire. The points of the unmodulin clotheshpin were pressed into their flesh, just above the wrist, on each and every arm. Each victim was hurt, of course, but no one cried out loud. The brands stayed there, too.

The torture machines were swell. They were home-made, of course, but they worked fine.

"The Stretcher" was a wooden door. Victims were roped up over this door. Then a man hung them there for a while and then they got a few strokes on the bare back with rubber hoses.

The "Paddle Machine" was a rude step ladder, about three feet high, across which victims were stretched and tied, while either Chief Wagner or his bodyguard applied a leather strap.

The "Swing-up Machine" was a rope suspended from the roof of the Secret Headquarters, by which members were drawn into the air to remain suspended like chain gang convicts until they saw the end of their ways.

Everything was fine now and Chief Wagner decided that the time was ripe to go after those big guys up the hill near the railroad track. Up they went, just before supper time one night. The Black Legion was almost fifty strong, well armed.

They quickly fought off that gang of bigger boys, seven in all, and retired to their own business for a while.

Then an undercover scout of the "Black Legion" reported to his chief:

SIX OF THAT BIG GANG (one had quit after the fight) HAD FORMED THEIR OWN SECRET CLUB! IT WAS CALLED "THE SYCAMORE SIX!"

And boy, did that require initiations and punishments!

Why, the "Sycamore Six" were taking fellows and hanging them, by their wrists, to big tree limbs for as long as half an hour.

And while they were hanging 'em there they would jab their feet with sharp thorns and hit 'em with gnarled bushes, with the leaves off!

The Black Legion was in a turmoil. They were being outdone. To a man, they agreed to stamp out "The Sycamore Six" and run its members off the face of the earth.

They laid their plans carefully.

But something went wrong.

The Chief of Police, William J. Whalen, met Chief Wagner, head of the Black Legion, down on Main Street.

The Chief of Police was pretty stern.

One of the Black Legion members had almost got blood poisoning in his wrist from a brand mark. Parents had kicked.

Chief of Police Whalen had a good idea. Dissband the Black Legion and form a G-Men Gang! Boy Chief Wagner thought it over. It might be a swell idea at that—his G-Men could abolish "The Sycamore Six!"

He agreed to have his men become G-Men and said, unhappy:

"Maybe it's just as well. We ain't collected hardly any dues. They was five cents a week and we only collected a dime from the whole gang. Two G-Men kids paid up one week."
THE SECRET TERROR-RITE
Above, If You Look Closely, You'll See "Black Legion" Chief Wagner Branding a New Gang Member.

FLOGGING—JUST LIKE MEN
When Any Boy Broke the Stet Gang Rules, He Was Put on the Stretcher," as Shown Above, and Laced by His Fellows.

TORTURE A LA MODE
"The Paddle Machine" (Above in Circle) Was Another Home-Made Apparatus Used to Punish Boys Legionnaires.
Black Legion Probed

The Senate Civil Liberties Committee has begun a secret investigation of the notorious Black Legion which terrorized Michigan and other states during the late years of the depression. It was learned today, Committee investigators are in Detroit. Their findings may be revealed in public hearings here.
BLACK LEGION PROBE
Senate Looks Into Cult's Deeds

The Senate Civil Liberties Committee has begun a secret investigation of the notorious Black Legion which terrorized Michigan and other States during the late years of the depression, it was learned last night. Committee investigators are in Detroit probing activities of the hooded organization which originated in Michigan and spread to California, New York, Indiana, Ohio and other areas.

The committee, headed by Senator Robert M. La Follette (D.), of Wisconsin, became interested in the legend because of its alleged anti-union activities.

(Copyright, 1937, by United Press)
EX-SERGEANT IS JAILED
IN BLACK KLAN ARSON

PONTIAC, Mich., May 4 (AP)—
Walter A. Pierce, former Pontiac
police sergeant, was sentenced in
Circuit Court today to three to
seven months in jail for arson. He
pleaded guilty to participating in a
raid during which Black Legion
members set fire to the Workers' 
Educational Camp in 1933.
Prosecutors said Pierce was a
colonel in the secret society.

NEW YORK POST
Forwarded by New York Office

MAY 4 1937
AstheCrowFlies

The Committee of 1,000,000 Seems to Be the Nucleus of a New Klan

By ERNEST L. MEYER

LAST week in Detroit nine more men were added to the score convicted of Black Legion terrorism which was climaxed by the murder of a WPA worker.

These latest convictions pretty well smashed the leadership of the underground terrorist secret society. But the organization was not crushed until great damage had been done, and there are doubtless many cases of Black Legion thuggery which never have come to light.

The wise thing to do is to nip such a fungus in the first stages of its exsurgence. The Black Legion is beaten, but organizations as sinister may take its place.

There is one already in the process of formation. It is called the Committee of 1,000,000 and its national leader is the Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith, who seeks to inherit the mantle of the late Huey Long. One can dismiss the Rev. Mr. Smith as a babbling blowhard yowping about "baby-havin' folks and 'tater growers." Once we dismissed Huey Long with the same easy sneer, but Huey's march to dictatorship might conceivably have been stymied with victory had he not been mowed down by a victim of his own viciousness.

For God and Country

The Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith denies he is a Fascist. His sole aim, he says, is to treat Communism not as a political party but as a crime. He vows that his committee will work within the law.

Now it is quite possible that this windbag will get nowhere. It is also quite possible that he may attract to his banners the nucleus of a new brand of Ku Klux Klan with potential power to do untold damage to the Bill of Rights and racial and political minority groups.

There is something hauntingly Klannish in the literature sent out by the Committee of 1,000,000 from its New York headquarters at 65 West Fifty-fourth Street.

"The Committee of 1,000,000," says the leaflet, "is a militant, aggressive, nonsectarian, nonpolitical organization of men and women imbued with the spirit of true Americanism. It has dedicated itself, under the leadership of Gerald L. K. Smith, to the solemn purpose of crushing Communism and other insidious and pervasive influences that have undermined the sanctity of our churches, the integrity of our schools and colleges and the solidarity of our accepted family institutions and to the rebuilding of a new spirit of American national character.

Seven Pillars of Smith

The spirit of the Committee of 1,000,000 is defined in seven principles of action, covering the entire sphere of our national, religious and economic life.

NEW YORK POST
Forwarded by New York Office

MAR 10 1937
"(1) To rebuild the Spirit of America.
(2) To wipe out to the last vestige Communism and Marxism in all its forms.
(3) To redefine the American National Character.
(4) To instill a new spirit of American Youth dedicated intellectually and physically to the maintenance of American Institutions.
(5) To issue a call to farmers and laborers to resist what is now known to be an international plot to make them part of world revolution.
(6) To re dedicate the citizenry of America to the family altar.
(7) To secure the maintenance of a well-defined standard of living.

These are the seven pillars of wisdom of the redoubtable Mr. Smith. In joining his organization for an initial fee of $1 you receive a long questionnaire entitled "Application for Action Committeeman." Besides the usual questions of name, address, place of birth, religion, etc., the application blank states this:

"Do you realize that in joining the Committee of 1,000,000 you may be required under oath to express your willingness to participate in activities that may be beyond the limits of other organizations to which you might belong? Are you willing to do this?"

And the application adds significantly: "Have you ever been in the military or naval service? If so, give duration of service, regiment, and date of discharge."

Rising in the Ranks

A H, BUT that is not all. You can also sign an application blank for "Action Group Leader." This application blank asks your bank account, whether you have ever been employed on a Government relief job, whether you could be available at all hours of the day and night for duty and "can you receive confidential messages without interference whatsoever from any source, even your family?"

Moreover, you can arise one step higher in the hierarchy of the Rev. Mr. Smith. You can sign a blue application blank for "Unit Leader." In this blank added questions are asked: "Are you willing to answer all calls for meetings without any delay whatsoever?" "Are you available for confidential duties and assignments in your community?" "Is your family in sympathy with the general principles of the Committee?" "Do you own an automobile?" "Have you life insurance?" "What church do you attend?"

Don't be afraid to join in the Rev. Mr. Smith's red-riding legions. You won't be found out. In the statement of principles there is one paragraph captioned "Confidential Membership." It says:

"No membership list of the Committee is ever published and no member is made susceptible to the influence of undue publicity...."

It is my belief that undue publicity is precisely what the Rev. Mr. Smith and his visionary committee needs. It is my belief that the organization and its objectives and its plan for attaining those objectives are a fit subject for scrutiny by La Follette's Senate Committee on Civil Liberties.

Then perhaps we might discover precisely what the members of the Committee of 1,000,000 enrolled in secret have to do when they are "required under oath to participate in activities that transcend all political party lines."

It may be that these duties transcend, also, all lines of decency and the law of the land.
JUSTICE BLUSHES

All the comforts of home and Mae West's "come up and see me" dramas can take a fade out. The old saw that truth is stranger than fiction will have to be revised. Truth is stranger than the movies.

Dayton Dean, triggerman in Michigan's Black Legion killing, is held temporarily in a skyscraper jail in Detroit. He's going to prison on a life sentence, but in his present abode he has a room which 17-year-old Lucille Turner describes as "nice." It has a private bath, a radio and other comforts of home.

Lucille climbed into Dean's nice room for a three-hour dinner party with the convicted killer. It was all staged with money furnished by the taxpayers of Michigan and it had more action and "glamour" than anything Hollywood ever produced. When the lady came out from behind the curtain of a shower bath in the convict's cell even blind justice must have blushed.
Romance Behind the Bars:

Cell Tryst Balks Slayer's Escape

'Sure I Visited Dean; We'd Been Flirting,' Says Girl, 17, Found by Policeman

DETROIT, Feb. 22 (US).—A three-hour tryst with a pretty girl in a jail cell balking the escape plans of Dayton Dean, called "executioner" for the Black Legion murder cult, police disclosed today.

Lucille Turner, 17-year-old runaway from Asheville, N. C., admitted without abashment:

"Sure, I visited Dean in his cell; we'd been flirting for over a week."

But the lover caused by the girl's disappearance from the jail sewing room on the eighth floor, directly below Dean's cell, caused a thorough search of the jail and a disclosure of Dean's preparations for escape.

Under Life Sentence for Cult Slaying

Dean, under life sentence for the cult slaying of Charles A. Poole, young Works Progress Administration employee, had twisted a bolt from the grillwork vise of his cell and the nut on the bolt was missing, police said.

Search of his cell revealed the wrench with which he had done this. Investigators said it would have taken only a few more nights for Dean to have removed the grillwork completely.

The Turner girl said their "affair" started more than a week ago when she was singing and playing the piano in the sewing room. Dean, she related, hooted to her out the window:

"Why don't you come up and see me some time?"

And then last Saturday:

" Ain't you coming up?"

Calls to Him That She's Coming Up

This time, she said, she called back:

"Sure, I'm coming up."

She told conflicting stories of how she had reached Dean's cell. First she said she was taken up in an elevator and later that she climbed up to his cell on the inside of the grillwork that extends past the windows on both the eighth and ninth floors. An investigation was ordered to determine whether Dean was getting special favors and whether the girl had been slipped into the cell by a jail official.

Lucille was dazzled by Dean's cell, with its private bath and radio. She went on:

"As we became better acquainted, he kissed me passionately. Afterward, we ate dinner together. I had some food in his room and we made a dinner from that."

But, in the meantime, Lucille's disappearance from the sewing room was discovered and the alarm spread through the jail. She said she tried to return to the eighth floor by way of the grillwork, but found the window to the sewing room locked and had to go back to Dean's cell for lack of any other place to hide. Occasionally a policeman would look into Dean's cell. Lucille said:

"Whenever a policeman came through the cell block, I ducked into Dean's shower bath and hid behind three suits of clothes he had hanging there.

"Dean would just glance out the window as if he didn't have a thing on his mind when the guard passed, but I held my breath every time. Dean always could tell when the guard was coming because he heard the click of the key in the big steel door leading into the cell block."

Found by Policeman

"Finally, we heard the door lock click again and I ducked back into the shower. But this time the policeman looked into the shower room and found me."

Dean was equally frank about the affair. With his accustomed bragadocio, he said:

"Yeah, I had a date with her. I got to know several girls down there by calling down to them. We swapped notes, too, using a string."

Police Commissioner Heinrich A. Pickert declared:

"We are investigating to see whether other women have been visiting other men prisoners in similar fashion."

Replying to intimations that favoritism might have been shown Dean, Detective Sergeant Jack Havril said:

"He has been treated like any other prisoner. He is being held here to testify in the cases of other Black Legion members accused of crime. When his testimony is finished he will be sent to prison."

Dean is said to have been taken off by a previous occupant of his de luxe cell that if he were able to get a transfer to that particular cell he would have no difficult in becoming friendly with the women quartered on the floor below.

Lucille, who has the status of a "lodger" rather than a prisoner, hitchhiked to Detroit with a man Feb. 3 from Asheville where her mother, Mrs. Gusie Turner, lives. Police records show. She is being held in the jail until transportation is furnished for her return home. She has been allowed to come and go as much as she pleased.

She was arrested her first night in Detroit when a soldier told police she had accosted him in a beer garden.
Invited to 'Come Up' and See Him 'Some Time,' She Climbs Through Windows of Jail Into His Cell

LUCILLE TURNER
Nonchalantly Puffing on Cigarette, She Admits 'Flirting for Over a Week' with Black Legion's Triggerman
Girl Bares 'Romance' In Legion Killer's Cell

Detroit, Feb. 22.—Lucille Turner, slim, 17-year-old runaway from Asheville, N. C., told of her "life" in the prison "suite" of Dayton Dean, convicted killer and trigger man of the Black Legion, today as police photos showed brick red.

Lucille, arrested three weeks ago as a frequent of beer taverns and placed in the women's detention quarters on the eighth floor.

She had climbed up an iron grille outside the prison walls, she said, to climax a week-long romance.

"Oh, sure, I kissed him many times," she told Eleanor Hutzel, head of the Woman's Division of the Police Department, tonight. "Our affair started a week ago. As we became better acquainted, he hugged and kissed me passionately."

The blue-eyed girl explained that the sewing room of women's quarters was directly under the room Dean occupied until today, when he was transferred to a real cell.

"Piano Prelude to Affair.

"There's a piano in the sewing room," Lucille said, "and a week ago I was playing and singing to myself when Dean yelled out of his window and I answered him. "Why don't you come and see me sometime?" he asked.

"She was playing again Saturday when the girl went on, when the hoody legion's executioner again called.

"Ain't you coming up?" she said, asked.

"I opened the window and climbed up the grille to his room and climbed in, she said. "We talked for a while and afterward we ate together. He had some food in his room."

Found After Search.

She was found only when a search of the building was made after her absence, on the floor below was discovered.

Police Commissioner H. A. Pickert, asked why a convicted killer was so comfortably housed, replied:

"We couldn't send him to the county jail because the other Black Legion men are there. They would do him bodily harm."

Dean, sentenced to life imprisonment, is being held here as a State witness in the approaching trial of other members of the order.

Lucille Turner

Dayton Dean's cellmate of Police Headquarters, was found late Saturday night in the shower room of Dean's apartment—living room and private bath—on the seventh floor.
Girl's Jail Tryst With Killer Told

FOLLOWING is an account of Lucille Turner's three-hour tryst with Dayton Dean, infamous Black Legion killer, in a jail cell in Detroit. The visit is now the subject of an extensive police probe.

By LUCILLE TURNER.

(As told to Nellie Hixson, head of the Women's Division of the Detroit Police Department.)

Copyright, 1937, by International News Service.

DETROIT, Feb. 22 (INS).—Sure I visited Dayton Dean in his jail cell.

Sure, I kissed him. And we had dinner together, too.

Our affair started about a week ago.

You see, I've been kept in the sewing room on the eighth floor of Police Headquarters, which is directly under Dean's cell. There's a piano in there and I like to play it and sing sometimes.

A week ago I was playing and singing to myself, when I heard voices. Dean was yelling out the window and I answered him.

We had quite a conversation but I don't remember now what was said, except one thing. Dean yelled:

"Why don't you come up and see me some time?"

Last Saturday I was again playing the piano, or playing some old Southern songs (Miss Turner is from Asheville, N. C.) and Dean recognized the songs.

He yelled:

"Ain't you coming up?"

I yelled:

"Sure, I'm coming right up."

I opened the window and climbed up the grill outside the window to his room and climbed in.

I know I told you at first I went up the elevator, but that wasn't true.

Editor's note—Police are still investigating the report she was taken up in an elevator to Dean's cell.)

We said hello when I climbed in, in regular friendly fashion. I have never seen him before and I was interested in him, having heard so much about him.

He certainly had a nice room.

We talked for a while.

As we became better acquainted, he kissed me passionately.

Afterward, we ate dinner together. He had some food in his room and we made a dinner from that.

NEW YORK DAILY MIRROR

Forwarded by New York Office

FEB 23 1937
CELL YIELDS WRENCH TO SEARCHING POLICE

Girl Tells of 3-Hour Party With Black Cult Killer

DETROIT, Feb. 22 (L.N.S.), Dayton Dean, Black Legion executioner, gave up possible escape from prison for a three-hour tryst with a girl in his jail cell, police revealed today.

Discovery of a wrench in Dean's cell after his romantic interlude with 17-year-old Lucille Turner was announced by police this morning.

One bolt had been twisted from the grillwork bars of his cell on the ninth floor of police headquarters and the nut on the bolt was missing.

Police said he would have needed only a few more nights to completely dismantle the grill work.

Search Reveals Wrench

His cell was searched, however, and the wrench was discovered today after Miss Turner was found in the bathroom of his cell Saturday night.

Miss Turner admitted spending three hours with Dean after she escaped from the eighth-floor sewing room of the women's division of the jail, directly below Dean's cell.

During their three-hour tryst Dean also served her with dinner from food which he had been allowed to keep in his cell, she said.

Saturday night Miss Turner, held as a runaway from her home, was reported missing, and a three-hour search of the jail finally led to her discovery behind a shower curtain in the bathroom of Dean's cell.

WASHINGTON TIMES
FEBRUARY 22, 1937
BLACK LEGION SENDS THREATS

DETROIT, Feb. 19 (H.N.S.)—A bullet, with the Black Legion's insignia, received in the mail by Civil Service Commissioner Harry A. Smith, of Highland Park, was the center of an investigation today by postal authorities.

The bullet, a .38-caliber automatic pistol cartridge, with its nose sliced off and with an inscribed cross was received Wednesday by Smith. It was mailed in Detroit.

Smith told authorities he believed the Black Legion had sent him the bullet because of his activity as a member of the commission in purging the civil service of alleged riders during the legion expose.
FLORIDA MOVES TO PROBE BLACK LEGION CHARGES

TAMPA, Fla., Feb 19 (UP).—State's Attorney Rex Farrar today prepared to subpoena Maurice McMahon of Detroit to explain charges of Black Legion conditions in Tampa which he made in a Michigan newspaper. McMahon wrote the letter from Miami.

It was addressed to the Highland Parker, Detroit suburban newspaper, and charged a Black Legion group controlled the City Hall, committed several murders, tarred and feathered many victims and left them to die in the woods.

Farrar said he would seek to have McMahon testify when the Tampa flogging cases are reopened in April.

MacMahon charged most of the floggings were committed by police who were members of the Black Legion.

NEW YORK POST
Forwarded by New York Office

FEB 19 1937
BLACK LEGION

Quiz Slated

International News Service

Outlining its future program, the Senate civil liberties committee announced today it will investigate the terrorist practices of the Black Legion and other vigilante groups.

In a report filed in the Senate today Senator LaFollette (P.), of Wisconsin, said:

"There remains a much broader and more important work to be done than probing labor spying. Among its other obligations in this inquiry, your committee must study vigilante and violence groups such as the Black Legion."

He declined comment when asked if investigators had begun an investigation of the Black Legion.

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 1)

BLACk LEGION Quiz Slated

(Continued from Page 1)

Legion, whose leaders are serving prison terms for the murder of a PWA worker in Detroit.

Spying Called Habit

Labor spying has become a habit in American industry and as long as it exists it will block collective bargaining, the Senate was told in the report.

The report was filed in support of the committee's request for $50,000 to continue. It said:

"From your committee's still fragmentary inquiry in this field of its investigation, it is clear that espionage has become a habit of American management."

"Until it is stamped out the right of labor to organize, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly will be meaningless phrases. Men cannot meet freely to discuss their grievances or organize for economic betterment; they may not even express opinions on political or religious subjects so long as the machinery of espionage pervades their daily life."

Fear List Expose

On the ground that it would "lead to murder," the Pinkerton Detective Agency declined today to make public its list of secret labor spies.
Law to End Lynching
Demanded by Wagner

New York, Feb. 13 (AP) — Senator Wagner (Democrat), New York, in a Lincoln anniversary radio address tonight, demanded Federal anti-lynching legislation to "vindicate the principles for which Abraham Lincoln gave his life."

"The crime of lynching," the Senator said, "is one of the most threatening evils... which must be eradicated. In 11 cases out of 12 it is directed against that very race which Lincoln released from physical bondage."
25 Are Indicted
In Flogging by
'Black Leg' Cult

Band Was Sworn to Torture, Burn and Kill 'Gossips,' Prosecutor Charges

7 Arrested, 18 Hunted
Alleged to Have Beaten and Robbed Storekeeper

By The Associated Press

FREESTONBURG, Ky., Jan. 7—Twenty-five men alleged to belong to the "Black Leg" Legion were indicted here today. They were charged with beating and robbing a country storekeeper who had criticized operations of the band in adjoining Magoffin County.

Commonwealth's Attorney O. C. Hall said the members of the band were sworn to "torture, burn and kill" anyone who talked about them, and he described Commonwealth's Attorney Earl H. Cooper as having charged they had planned to punish persons who were "not working or were filthy in their homes or didn't send their children to school."

Seven of those indicted today were placed in jail with bonds set at $1,000 each, and Commonwealth's Attorney Hall said that Jim Marshall, one of those indicted, had offered to plead guilty and turn state's evidence.

Deputy sheriffs were sent out after the eighteenth still at large.

Commonwealth's Attorney Hall said Marshall told him the members of the band were under oath to "hang, burn and kill any man who squealed" and that he was "mighty afraid for himself."

In Magoffin County, indictments were returned more than a year ago. Three trials ended in hung juries, and finally two men pleaded guilty to misdemeanors and paid fines of $150 each. The others were placed under bond.

"There has been no trouble since then in Magoffin County," Cooper said.

The indictment returned today charged that the men banded together and took Miles Barnett, a forty-year-old farmer and country storekeeper, from his home last April and beat him. Hall said some members of the band went to the home of Walter Watkins under orders to "blow his head off" if he were arrested by their actions and tried to aid Barnett. Barnett's wife and son were in the house, and when Barnett was taken out, they were not harmed.

Barnett went to McCown, Ohio, after that, but returned the next day to testify.
PEG LEG WHITE IS DEAD;  
INDICTED IN BLACK KLAN

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 24, 1898. 

Death here of Isaac "Peg Leg" White removed his name from among the twenty-two men indicted in Michigan on charges of criminal syndicalism in connection with alleged activities of the Black Legion.

White succumbed yesterday to lobar pneumonia without disclosing his part in founding and fostering the terrorist gang. His body remained in a funeral home awaiting arrangements for shipment to Detroit for burial.

A cold, which White was suffering from at the time of his arrest near here last Monday, developed into pneumonia. Dr. W. F. Williams, Allegany County physician, said he was in a coma four hours preceding death.

[Redacted]
Black Legion's Organizer Dies

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 20
(AP) — Isaac "Pex Leg" Stull White, arrested near here as the founder of the Black Legion terror gang of Michigan, died in a hospital today of complications arising from lobar pneumonia.

White died without talking about his activities in the Black Legion. He was captured Monday at Oldtown, a village near here.

White was one of 22 alleged members of the Black Legion who were indicted in Detroit several months ago on charges of criminal syndicalism.
Accused Black Legion
Founder is Ill

CUMBERLAND, Md., Dec. 16 (A. P.)--Isaac Pegleg] White, reputed founder of the Black Legion terrorist gang, was seriously ill with pneumonia today in a hospital here.

Late last night, Dr. William F. Williams, Allegheny county physician, said White's condition was very serious and that he was running a temperature of 104. Dr. Williams said White's condition was such that it was possible for him to suffer a turn for the worse very quickly.

White was arrested near here Monday. He and twenty-one others were tried in Michigan on charges of criminal syndicalism.

NEW YORK SUN

Passed by N.Y. office.

New York 16 1936.
KILLS OVER TAUNTS ON BLACK LEGION

Pontiac Fire Captain Shoots Subordinate Who 'Talked Too Much,' Ends Own Life.

INQUIRY LISTED HIS NAME

Five of Cult at Detroit Get Life Terms in Slaying of Negro for 'Target Practice.'

PONTIAC, Mich., Dec. 4 (AP).—Fire Captain William H. Bradburn shot and killed a fellow-fireman and committed suicide today. He acted in resentment at taunts about his alleged membership in the Black Legion, according to Frank Nelson, acting Chief of Police.

Bradburn was named by a grand jury recently as a member of the society of hooded night-riders. His victim was Donald H. Slusher.

The bodies were found in the kitchen of the fire station Bradburn commanded. On the captain's desk was a note to Fire Chief Frank W. Kuhn, which said: "He talked too much. He should have been changed."

Nelson said he was told that Slusher had directed many jibes at the fire captain. He expressed the belief that the captain brooded over the taunts and the possibility of dismissal.

The grand jury named nineteen Pontiac policemen and firemen at Black Legion members. Police Chief Charles McMillan, one of those named, was removed by the police and fire trial board. City Manager William P. Edmonson planned charges against all those named.

Late today the police and firemen's board dismissed from the Police Department Sergeant Walter A. Pierce, former head of the vice squad, one of those accused of membership in the Black Legion. Pierce, who had been under suspension, failed to appear at the board trial.

Five Get Life Sentences

DETROIT, Dec. 4 (AP).—Five Black Legion members convicted of killing a 15-year-old Negro for "target practice" received life sentences here today.

Judge Donald Van Zile of Recorder's Court pronounced the mandatory sentences on Harvey Davis, Ervin D. Lee and John Dannerman, all already facing life terms for the Black Legion "execution" of Charles Pooler, and on Charles Rouse and James Roy Lorance. All were convicted of first-degree murder.

Judge Van Zile, commenting on the killing of Silas Coleman, Negro war veteran, May 23, 1925, told the defendants:

"It is hard to understand why you killed this man, who had never done anything to you and whom you did not even know."

Dayton Dean, Black Legion "trig-ger-man," also under life sentence in the Pooler killing, had testified he helped entice Coleman to a lake for "target practice" because Davis "wanted to see what it felt like to kill a Negro."

Preparing for another Black Legion trial, Common Pleas Judge Ned H. Smith ordered three men held for higher court. They are Arthur Lupp, accused of commanding the terrorist society in Michigan; Charles Baker and Frank Howard. They are charged with conspiring to kill Arthur Kingsley, a publisher in suburban Highland Park.

N. Ray Markland, former Mayor of Highland Park, was dismissed as a defendant when prosecutor said they had no evidence against him.
INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
June 3, 1936

By United Press
WASHINGTON, June 3.—Att'y
Gen. Homer S. Cummings today
revealed the Department of Justice has been aware of the existence
of the Michigan Black Legion for "about a year."

INDIANAPOLIS NEWS
June 3, 1936

WASHINGTON, June 3 (A.P.)—
Homer S. Cummings, attorney-
genral, said this afternoon he has known about the Black Legion
for "about a year," but has not
found any federal law being vi-
lated by the organization "either
then or now."

The attorney-general said Dun-
can C. McCrea, Wayne county
prosecutor, has not furnished the justice department any evidence of
violation of federal laws in the
Black Legion's activities in Michi-
gan.
KIDNAPPING STORY
OF FARMER PROBED

Abducted and Hanged From Tree
by Trousers, Alleged Victim Says.

By the Associated Press.

MOUNT CARROLL, Ill., June 3.—Reese Spellman's story that he was
kidnapped and hanged from a tree by
night riders employing the terror tacts
of the Black Legion puzzled offi-
cials of two counties yesterday.

The 21-year-old tenant farmer was
held in voluntary custody while Sher-
iff E. D. Shepherd investigated his
account.

Spellman said he was whisked away
from his Carroll County home at mid-
night Sunday by three men—two of
them masked. He was taken 12
miles into Whiteside County.

added, and forced to assume
trousers. He said he was gagged with
a handkerchief, his arms were tied
behind him with a belt, the pants were
looped under his arm pits and he was
suspended from the tree.

He seemed near collapse when Otto
don Holton, a farmer, found him yester-
day morning.

During the period Spellman cov-
ered in his story, his home was de-
stroyed by flames.

Sheriff Shepherd said parts of the
peaceful "didn't jibe." Both Shep-
herd and Sheriff A. E. Hamilton of White-
side County asserted the belief that
the Black Legion had no connection with
the affair.

Spellman contended he knew of no
motive for an attack.
ARMY OFFICERS HELD ACTIVE IN ‘BLACK LEGION’

Cult Plotted Armed Revolt, Dickstein Charges in Demand for Congress Probe

Charging that officers of the Michigan National Guard and of the U.S. Army Reserve are members of the “Black Legion” and have been plotting an armed uprising, Representative Dickstein (D.), of New York, yesterday demanded a congressional investigation.

Over 6,000,000 men belong to the terrorist organization, Dickstein told the House. It was spread from Michigan into 11 States, he declared as he flayed subversive activities.

Reveals No Names

Dickstein declined to reveal the names of the Army officers who he said not only have joined the Black Legion but used Army horses to train the hooded legionnaires in night riding forays.

Chairman of the House Immigration Committee, Dickstein pleaded for immediate enactment of his resolution which would appropriate $100,000 for a House investigation of the Black Legion, which, he said, is “sworn to bloodshed.”

Collapse of Michigan police machinery in wiping out the “menace” was cited by the New Yorker as a reason for the investigation and possible enactment of new laws which would broaden existing authority...the Department of Justice in crushing subversive movements.

Long Known to Police

Representative Sladowski, (D.) of Michigan, arguing for immediate consideration of the Dickstein resolution, told the House that Michigan police were aware of the existence of the Black Legion as early as last year. He declared:

“The Department of Justice has already been approached on this matter. The Attorney General as expressed his views and does not see how the department can enter the case. He says nothing has been presented which would show a Federal offense of an interstate nature.”

“Nevertheless, let us remember that the State Police of Michigan were aware of this condition last August when they arrested some of these men with guns, but nothing was done. The Governor of the State of Michigan has known about it. It does not look as if the State Police and the Governor of our State are going to do much of anything about the matter.

Linked to G. O. P.

“The reason the State of Michigan has not taken any part in this prosecution, is because these men have been affiliated with the Wolverine Republican Club and other Republican organizations. They (the Black Legion) have worked closely with the Republican party in about four large counties in Michigan and have been the backbone of the Republican party in these four counties.” Dickstein declared:

“What can the Department of Justice do? Make an investigation and then what? There is not a bit of law upon which they can prosecute and destroy this menace.

“I warn this Congress that now is the time we put the searchlight upon every organization in this country that takes the law into its hands and destroying the background of this republic.

Cavalry Horses Used

“It is very serious when you find men in the Reserve Corps of the United States Army men in the State Militia of Michigan, parts of this group. When you find the cavalry horses from the Army to use in their night riding, I say it is serious.”

WASH HERALD
JUN 3 1936
'Republican Club' Formed by Night Riders, Is New Charge

Staff Writer Davis' Black Legion In-Quarrel Carries Him to Jackson, Mich., To Prove of the Pseudo-Republican Brotherhood.

By FORREST DAVIS

JACKSON, Mich.—The birthplace of the Republican Party in 1854 as a snidely radical political instrument today witnesses the stern, public disrobing of a ragtag band of emerging Fascists who were out among other objectives, to capture the Republican machine in Jackson County—accused here of causing the death of one, possibly two men; of four pogroms and three house burnings in the course of their bid for power—is further advanced of any politics in Michigan.

Owen Dudley, Republican, a vigorous young prosecutor, deserves credit for Jackson's promptitude. While Detroit and other infected communities verily enjoyed their amusement in talk of Dudley acted. He set up a one-man grand jury which is now in the thick of unfrocking the night riders.

TO GRILL PRISON GUARD

"Brig.-Gen.", Ray Ernest, suspended guard in the Jackson State Prison fumes resentfully in the county jail. He is to be questioned tomorrow. In Ernest's home, police found a sub-machine gun, rifles, ammunition, robes and masks.

Ernest founded and headed the Citizens Republican Club, with which he hoped to capture the county Republican organization.

Today, Rev. Ralph C. Montague, Baptist minister at near-by Bixes Junction, regarded Justice of the Peace Ernest as a one-man jury, with his defiance of the Black Legion.

A two-armed World War veteran and county preacher, Montague dared threats of Black Legionnaires at a midnight, pasture lout meeting and invited to join him, he went with friends to an initiation.

BLACK LEGION POLITICS PROBED BY PROSECUTOR

Wants to Meet Smith

"All I want to do is meet Smith face to face," he said. As for the clergyman, "If he says he was beaten, he is no man of God."

Napoleon is a village of 300 souls in Jackson County. Until the Charles Podolynchuk, a man of 25, 48 years old, was taken to the police station.

The Hawley brothers, Erwin and Virgil, ran a filling station at Napoleon. They already have testified in the Osaka Smith. Their father, Joe, a suspended lieutenant, in the State Prison, was a member of the Black Legion. Eight of the 380 prison guards have been suspended as a result of Black Legion disclosures.

CLAIMS HUSBAND BEATEN

To grand jury subpoenas are yet to be served. A witness, Dudley revealed today, will testify that her husband was badly beaten when he tried to quit the Black Legion. He is guarding her identity.

A visitor to this tree-shaded Michigan industrial city of 60,000—the usual midwestern overgrown county seat, with smooth streets, a luxury hotel, handsome movie theaters, modern schools and tall church spires—finds it difficult to believe that under the day-by-day surface of life here existed a secret movement bound to any crime, not except murder, by its ritual.

But in the courthouse, the glycerin enters the story. Smith flogs the death of Paul Every since he was beaten last year and a serious death.

"We are looking into the case of a man found by the roadside," Dudley said. "His skull was fractured and he was dismissed as a hit-run automobile fatality. But new evidence has come to light which dictates he, too, may have been a Black Legion victim."

FRIGHTENED INTO FLEEING

Every's widow and son, the procurator said, were frightened outJackson and now live somewhere long island, N.Y.

"The General" profanely indignantly over news that the criminal syndicalist act was to be invoked again, disclosed the nature of his campaign to take over the Republican Party.

"I invited 13 citizens from parts of the county and we formed an executive committee," he said. "They told me the only way to get police jobs was to get in office. We were circulating petitions for candidate to the county convention when it happened." He condemned 20 Black Legionnaires, on trial for the murder, unsparingly.

He likewise professed his eagerness to "die for the Red, White and Blue, on any or all occasions."
One Man's Opinion
by Hugh S. Johnson

Johnson says swift attack on Black Legion is proof 'it can’t happen here'; calls Townsend and Coughlin blocs more dangerous.

TULSA, Okla.—Sinclair Lewis wrote a book called "It Can’t Happen Here." The book showed how a Fascist movement on the Hitler plan could happen here. Then his wife, Dorothy Thompson, in her admirable column "On the Record," writes a piece called "It Can Happen Here," and uses for her text the revelations and rumors about the Black Legion.

With deference for the fine analytical thinking of both wedded gentil, as a national menace to be dignified by attention so distinguished, the Black Legion is the bunk. It is a dirty rat’s nest that should and will be stamped out. But to go from that to a conclusion that it is a forerunner to some American Hitler is too big a jump.

The Black Legion is no manifestation of a considerable American fascism or any other philosophy. It is a distorted outcropping on the lower ledge of the ingrained American mincing-and-peacock complex. You can read about it in embryo in "Huckleberry Finn" and Tom Sawyer’s boy robber bands. You can see it at its brighter form in the plunies, sabers, swords, doilens, regals, passwords and ritual of every fraternal group and secret society—hundreds of them everywhere. Its basis is a bucolic yearning toward romance and away from the hum-drum plus an excuse to be out with the boys.

Where some moron or worse person

verbs this tendency of belated adolescence to such sinister purposes as race and religious hatred and political action, it is time to take it apart and hang somebody. But the mere fact that this is going to be promptly and thoroughly and effectively done is proof enough that "it can’t happen here."

A far more dangerous regimentation of simplicity and prejudice than these murder juntos is the Townsend and Coughlin type of emotional bloc, deluded by eloquence or sophistry into crusading zeal for wholly destructive purposes of impossible idealism. You can hang a man so successful a conspiracy to murder your neighbors because they are Negroes, Catholics or Jews, but you can’t hang him for an impossible plan to keep your grandparents out of the poorhouse—and even if it does threaten to upset the country.

(Copyright, 1939)
'WHITE-LEGION' COAST ROW PROBED
William Haines, Film Star, and Friends Beat by Gang

HOLLYWOOD, June 3 (In.).—Sweeping investigation into activities of a "White Legion," membership of which severely beat William Haines, former film star, and a group of his friends and drove them from a beach city near here, was launched today by city and county officials.

Deputy sheriffs reported they had questioned a score of residents of East Manhattan Beach, all of whom admitted membership in the legion and talked freely of driving Haines and his friends from their community.

No action will be taken, however, until further investigation, the officers said.

Haines Blames Drunks

The beating, which was revealed yesterday, took place last weekend. Haines and Jimmy Shields, film extra player, were struck down by an infuriated mob, and they and 14 other summer residents were pelted with tomatoes as they were driven out of town, Haines said today:

"It was the work of drunks, spurred on by malicious gossip."

Haines said he was at a loss to understand how the people could have become so excited, but readily admitted the beating and added he had left the beach town for good.

Deputy sheriffs revealed that some members of the "White Legion" had come to them seeking a morals complaint against an unnamed member of the group, which charged he had houses from Haines. The officers said they refused to hear—complaint because there was no evidence.

Stays Down When Hit

The actual violence occurred outside a restaurant Saturday night, according to Haines and Shields, both of whom still are suffering black eyes and swollen faces, Haines said:

"When they came up and told us to get out, I was surprised and started to question them. Then they knocked Jimmy down, and when I started to help him up, they knocked me down. I realized the men were intoxicated, and that to fight with them might result in fatalities, so I stayed in a prone position."

The men and some women who were in the mob ordered Haines and Shields and their friends to get out of town in an hour, the former actor said.

After they went home and packed up and were driving through the town their car was pelleted with tomatoes.
ASK U. S. SIFT AUTO 'SPIES'

Universal Service Wire

WASHINGTON, June 3.—The Department of Justice today was asked to investigate possible connection between the Black Legion and operations of company spies in automobile plants in the Detroit area.

Attorney General Cummings, to whose attention the matter was brought by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, told him that no showing of a federal question being involved had been made and for that reason the department could not take it up.

Green called on the attorney general to lay before him a letter of complaint he had received from Homer Martin, president of the Automobile Workers' Union affiliated with the A. F. of L. Martin wrote his organization had evidence to show that the Black Legion was responsible for the death of one member of his union at Hudson Motors.

Also, he said, the union had evidence of some relation between the Black Legion and an organization known as the "Dawn Patrol," with objectives similar to the legion. He furthermore wrote the union had collected evidence of close working relations between the legion and company spies, special police and other undercover agents of the motor manufacturers.
THEY SENT IN A CALL FOR THE
G-MEN

THE MICHIGAN STATE AUTHORITIES
took no time in calling for federal assistance when
they uncovered the so-called Black Legion. But
the department of justice still recognizes the fact
that national law enforcement agencies have juris-
diction only when federal laws have been violated.

To the appeal of Michigan for aid, Attorney
General Cummings simply stated that the G-men
could not step in unless there were clear indica-
tions that federal law had been violated. Upon the
state enforcement machinery the major portion of
the task of extirpating crime still rests.

The Black Legion is a sort of notarious politi-
cal organization. For that reason local elective
officials naturally wonder how many votes they
will gain or lose by suppressing the terrorists. It
would be convenient for them to accept federal aid
and be in position to shift responsibility to G-men.
FARM YOUTH TORTURED BY NIGHT RIDERS

STERLING, Ill., June 1.—Authorities tonight sought to connect the Black Legion with masked night riders who early today kidnapped a young tenant farmer near Chadwick, bound him to a tree limb with his pants, and burned his home.

The victim, Kees Spellman, 21, was alone when called to his door. He was roughly thrown into a car, and driven thirty miles. His upper garments were fastened about his body, and the pants tied to a tree, leaving him dangling in mid-air.

Hours later he was found and released, suffering from exposure.
Find Kidnapped Illinois Farm Tenant Tied; Home Destroyed

Sterling, Ill., June 1.—[Special]—Authorities of two counties were puzzled tonight over the kidnapping and "pants hanging" a young tenant farmer at near Chadwick and the burning of his home during his absence.

Tonight Spellman was in voluntary custody of Sheriff E. D. Shepherd who was investigating his story. The sheriff said certain parts of the strange tale jibe. The sheriff said that while reputed methods of the kidnappers were the same as employed by the Black Legion, he doubted that there was any connection.

The victim, Rees Spellman, 21, was alone in his home last midnight when he heard a knock at the door. His young wife had been staying at her mother's since the birth of her baby two weeks ago. Spellman admitted a stranger who asked for road directions.

Masked Men Outside.

Suddenly the man produced a revolver and ordered the farmer to accompany him. Outside two masked men stood beside Spellman's car. They forced him to get in and drive through Sterling and Rock Falls to a point in Whiteside county, about thirty miles from his Carroll county home.

There he was ordered out of the car and his pants removed. Using the garment as a sling, the man fastened the upper part around his body under his arms and tied the leg to the tree limb. His feet, bound with his belt, swung several inches off the ground. His red handkerchief was poked into his mouth as a gag and his hands were tied behind his back. Then the men drove away.

Otto Von Holton, Whiteside county farmer, passed near the place this morning and heard Spellman's cries. He unfastened the pants and let the exhausted victim down. Spellman collapsed from shock and exposure, but was revived a short time later.

Thought Victim of Fire.

An hour or so after the farmer was kidnapped his house burned to the ground. Neighbors, who arrived on the scene after the building was enveloped in flames, believed Spellman had died in the fire. They searched the ruins for his body before learning that he had spent the night tied to a tree.

Spellman said he could advance no motive for the act. He said the men hardly said a word to him and offered no hint as to their reason for kidnapping him. Authorities working on the case also declared they were unable to offer a theory for the attack other than that it was done by a secret band of self-appointed vigilantes.
So the Scotch'd snake isn't dead yet?
Though its head is smashed and flattened
By the heavy stone hurled on it,
Still the rattler's tail is writhing

In the manner of all reptiles,
There remains life in the menace,
And it must not be permitted
To revive and spread new terror.
MORE WORK FOR G-MEN

The more enlightened citizens of Michigan have demanded that Congress pass legislation authorizing the G-Men to go into their state and "liquidate" the infamous Black Legion. Once again, it would appear that the local authorities are incompetent to meet a menacing situation, just as they were powerless before the onslaught of the kidnapping racket. Federal assistance, of the effective variety supplied by the federal bureau of investigation in bringing kidnappers to terms, therefore presents itself as the logical remedy. Certainly the Black Legion and similar terroristic organizations must be exterminated if American government is to survive.

But one difficulty arises in the plan to resort to the simple device of calling in the G-Men to break up a band of masked murders. Where is this process of letting the local authorities "pass the buck" to the federal bureau of investigation going to stop? High-priced police forces are maintained by all cities and most of the counties and states. Certainly they should be able to do something besides hand out tickets for illegal parking or locking up the town drunk. But if this becomes the limit of their activities and all the more urgent jobs are handed over to the G-Men the federal bureau of investigation will soon demand that it be multiplied in size to perform the extra duties which seem to be its lot. Meanwhile it is too much to expect that the surplus of local police will be curtailed and the result will find the nation's police bill doubling overnight.

Furthermore, what about state's rights? Hardly a day passes but what a politician of low or high degree majestically exclaims that the federal government should keep its hands off the business of the states, implying that the 48 divisions of our government are able to take care of themselves. Yet it would seem that whenever a taxing job arises the states run to Washington for assistance. State's rights is a two-way theory. It implies that the states be given freedom from federal interference and that they demonstrate their ability to take care of their own business in a creditable manner.

Especially when it reaches the proportions of the Black Legion, crime is too important a problem to be fettered with lengthy debates on state's rights and other political issues. But consistency demands that if the states refuse to permit the federal government to close up sweat shops within their borders or abolish business racketeering, they dispose of not only these problems but also such imposing menace as kidnapping and mob murder.

The state's right principle is being scrapped, not only by the aggressiveness of the federal government but by the impotence of the states effectively to exercise their constitutional rights and the responsibility that goes with them.
Today

The Veterans That Remain.
Politicians Will Tell You.
The Palestine Troubles.
10,000 Tons of Cotton.

By Arthur Brisbane

No one knows quite how that "Black Legion" really...
A Legion of Death—Cl

Masked Fanatics Ask
End of All the ‘Isms’

Communists and Fascists Are Marked to Die; Their Wrath Is Also Said to Extend to Catholics and to the Jews.

By Liam Lenihan.

Strange costumes out of the twilight of civilization, dark, giant-like silhouettes cast against the black background of the watching night, masks and banners and exotic ritual, clandestine gatherings and furtive speech . . . Then wild rumor of swift retribution and with it fear—the fear of the enemy unknown, the dread of fear itself . . .

Such is the aura of the Black Legion and behind it arise the grim ghosts of the past . . . shadows that lurked in the gloom since the dawn of Time to brand terror in their wake, phantoms that ever haunted the counter-eddy of the human mind. Primitive society heard the challenge from the gray mists of the valley, modern civilization caught the echo in the backwash of Main street.

Members Drawn From Small Town.

Most secret masked organizations are essentially a regression, a definite throw-back to the mentality of the savage. Membership is drawn mainly from the small town, for it is in the small town that we sometimes find the narrow outlook, the mediocrity, the small minds that are stiffened by the deadly boredom of routine. And in that atmosphere of vacuity and drabness man finds stimulation in secret fellowship, in disguise. For the disguise of the Black Legion and the white hood of its mother strummet, the Klan, renders man less an individual, more a heroic member of a uniform group, less a person, more a half-god. And disguise, too, is the expression of the paranoid trend that is in each of us. For in masks we find courage to bolster our fears and in numbers controlled, impervious to reason, dreaming of sway.

It was the death-knell of civilization in the South and so blindly, malevolently the white landowners struck back.

Order Formed For Amusement.

Two years prior to this period of mob marching and unrest six young men who had seen service in the War of the States, organized, for diversion and amusement, the first “den” of the Ku Klux Klan in the little town of Pulaski, Tenn. The original name of their club was Ku Klos, from the Greek word “Ku Kllos,” meaning band or circle. It was then changed to Ku Klux and Klan was later added. And since masquerading was very much in vogue the young men arrayed themselves in pillow-cases and disted linens. To deepen the mystery they robed their horses and muffled their heads and when black night fell they rode forth to startle the superstitious freedmen who thought they were fearful portents of disaster from the nearby battlefield of Shiloh.

At first the whites laughed over the discomfiture of the Negroes, then noticing a change for the better in their conduct, they saw in the organization a panacea for high-handed tyranny. Thus preferred, the society spread like wildfire from Virginia to Texas and the first meeting of delegates from all dens was held in Nashville, amid acclaim.

Tornado of Terror Sweeps South.

Designating the Southern territory as “The Invisible Empire,” the convention subdivided it into
America a Blood Purge

Dread Society Claims Enormous Membership

Its Members, Scattered Throughout the States, Owe Allegiance to a Mysterious Leader, by Reason of Fearful Oaths.

that the suspects were members of an organization, calling itself the Black Legion, that Poole's death was a ritual murder, that the order had political implications, with a U.S. dictatorship as its avowed goal and that its tentacles spread far and wide with a possible membership of 5,000,000.

Far-Flung Activities Revealed.

Alert, authorities instituted a statewide manhunt throughout Michigan, and their quest swept on to other murders. Prosecutor Duncan McCrea found new evidence of its far-flung activities. Consulting his captives - some defiant, some babblingly hysterical - he looked over the coroner's reports for mysterious deaths and suicides of the last several months, and presently announced that new evidence had come to light in the sudden demise of 50 men who, he claimed, had died merely because the Black gang did not will them to live.

Detroit was in a state of frenzied apprehension. There were ugly rumors that the city hall was involved - the police force ... City officials. What are these people like, the citizenry asked, without the glamour of their death masks? Are one's relatives and friends on the list of men who signed their names in blood?

There were repercussions throughout the country, too. Somewhere in Ohio or northwestern Virginia lurks the Supreme One of the clan, whose name must never be mentioned except in awed and fearful whispers. Dubbed Shepherd, the Mysterious, police, making rough calculations, figured that dues from his robbers and sworn cohorts would give him the modest income of $700,000 a month.

Leaders Dragged Out
The Black Legion Terror

If the Black Legion has done half the things in Michigan which are charged against it, the Michigan criminal code, State and local, must be competent, if enforced, to bring to book the perpetrators of such outrages. The prosecutor of Wayne County, who says that he knows of various instances where the members of this organization have violated Federal law, including the Lomax and kidnapping law, ought not to be wasting time seeking evidence that will induce Federal Attorney General to take a hand and order out Chief Hoover's public enemy hunters. He would operate more directly to the point, and with less difficulty, if he started the State law-enforcing powers at work.

There may be an interstate conspiracy, committing offenses within Federal jurisdiction and warranting Federal jurisdiction. But it is a safe assumption that the major offenses have been committed within State jurisdiction. Challenging the statutes of State authority, Appeals for Federal action may benighted supreme confidence in the efficiency of the Federal police. But by the same token they destroy confidence in State law enforcement, whether it be in fear of actual incompetence, or of unwillingness to test the political issues involved. In other words, the appeal for Federal intervention looks very much like passing a hot buck.
No Amateurs Wanted.

Aside from their frequent miscarriage of justice, the hopeless mixture of untrained men who band together to supplement the law's efforts is well demonstrated in the news from Louisiana. Possemen, in beating through the wilderness to find an escaped convict, have shot three of their own number. Two of the searchers fired blindly at vague movements in the brush in accordance with their orders to "shoot to kill."

The order, in the first place, was rashly given. Not even police officers trailing the most dangerous maniac receive such unqualified instructions. Plainly, hysteria was ruling the sheriffs who organized the posse. Add to this the nervousness of volunteers unaccustomed to the business of man-hunting and the mistaken shots are quite understandable. But they may not be so simply excused—in fact, they never can be condoned.

Particularly in this country, where the vigilante tradition of frontier days still lingers, impulsive cries for revenge must be continually guarded against. At best, they open the way for such blunders as Louisiana reports; at worst, they result in "Black Lexons" of the sort Michigan is now belatedly scotching.

\[61 = 7^2 + 98 = A\]

MAY 30, 1936
Capital punishment, gloomy and grim, extends to the Black Legion an invitation that some of its members will accept, whether they want to or not.

That Black Legion, based on secrecy, cowardice, cruelty, race and religious hatred and murder, has been energetic in enrolling new members. Its rules for membership have been worthy of the skull and crossbones with which it decorates its regalia. A member must be "native born, Protestant, white, Gentile." Above all, the "native born, Protestant, white Gentile" must be ready to commit MURDER if ordered.

Here is another "club" formed by men to protect themselves from Black Legions, white Ku Klux and similar murder organizations: The Death Penalty, executed by JUSTICE.

Terms of admission to that club, as Black Legionnaires will discover, are simple: There are no oaths, no dues. It does not matter whether you are native born, white, Protestant, Gentile, Catholic, Jew or Negro. And the initiation is very simple.

You sit down in a chair, while somebody presses a button, or you stand with hands and ankles bound, while someone puts a rope around your neck, and a few seconds later you are a full fledged member. The Black Legion would do well to remember this.
Moronic Criminality

The "Toledo War" - 1902
Toledo Ohio
1910
NEWSPAPER GUILD
AFFILIATION ASKED

Board's Report Recommends
A. F. L. Move and Urges
Black Legion Probe.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 20—The Executive Board of the American Newspaper Guild recommended in its annual report yesterday that the guild make application to the American Federation of Labor for a charter signifying affiliation with the federation.

Edward Levinson, chairman of the Labor Relations Committee, told the 260 delegates attending the guild convention that a majority and a minority report on affiliation would be presented today.

The delegates unanimously adopted a resolution urging Senate investigation of the Black Legion, and telegraphed President Roosevelt saying the guild unanimously registers its whole-hearted support of Senate resolution 266, providing for a thorough investigation of rights of free speech and assembly and undue interference with the right of labor to bargain collectively. "Current disclosures concerning the Black Legion activities, emphasize the grave danger to American liberties and the vital need of a searching inquiry into the denial of civil rights and the violation of democratic traditions," said the telegram.

The guild also discussed the case of Morris Watson, vice president of the Guild for Press Associations and former employee of the Associated Press, who charged in a complaint to the National Labor Relations Board, he was discharged for guild activities.
It Seems to Me
By Heywood

BROWN

No danger when hoods lift.
Now it has happened here.
Things silly and sinister.
Proof of Fascism needed.

No hooched group in America has done very much damage once it was dragged out into the open. But there is sometimes a reluctance to tackle such an organization.

The advent of the national conventions reminds me of the strange atmosphere that prevailed in Madison Square Garden when the Democrats met in 1924.

The Klan was sweeping the country, but both politicians and publishers, with a few conspicuous newspaper exceptions, simply refused to talk about it.

The Republican Party was prepared to let well enough alone, and so were most of the Democrats. Even the facts of the organization were inclined to talk about "intolerance" and "bigotry" and name no names.

Indeed, the spokesmen of the Klan had no objection whatever to sweeping declarations concerning "freedom" so long as no finger was pointed directly at the organization which they served.

But at last there stood up in the Garden a man from Maine named Patlialil. He began as the rest had done, talking in generalities, but then he raised his voice and said, "And when I talk of bigotry I refer specifically to that organization known as the Ku Klux Klan."

The rafters of the building almost came down. It was like the breaking of a storm which has been growing around over the edge of the horizon.

The fight was on, but at least you could breathe the air. After a night session which marked the high spot in drama of all political conventions of our time the Democrats decided to straddle and omit any mention of the Klan. And yet the fight against the terror was really won in that convention by "racism's" speech.

I TAKE with many grains of salt the assertion that the Black Legion numbers 6,000,000 members, and that the problem which it presents deserves the most serious consideration and investigation. I believe there is a move in Congress to inquire into "possible" foreign sources of infection.

Personally, I doubt the existence of any Nazi league, although it is worth considering. An important question would be an examination of the sources nearer home.

The fact that large financial interests in this country were willing to finance Talmadge and his race-hated program shows that there is hardly any point at which the confraters will stop. There is nothing fantastic in the Fascist threat. Sinclair Lewis may not be the great American novelist, but he certainly qualifies as the great American prophet.

I wrote one own him an apology. Certain phases of "It Can't Happen Here" seemed to me to run into the field of burlesque. They didn't. The things he imagined have actually occurred. Indeed, when I look at a photograph of the Black Shirt leader I was inclined to say, "You're not real; you're a character in a story. Sinclair Lewis invented you."

Recent developments have convinced me that there ought to be a campaign against the American sense of humor and an effort to found a festival to be known as Get-Rid-of-That-Silly-Grin week. We are disposed to forget that things can be silly and sinister.

Knaves and dupes and fanatics cannot be laughed off the earth. An editorial commentator has remarked that the Black Shirt oath reads like something taken out of "Huckleberry Finn." That is true enough, but, even so, it cannot be taken lightly. Who could have seemed more silly than Hitler before he came into power? Indeed, who could seem more silly than Hitler today? And yet, he is no laughing matter.

We will have to ferret out Fascism even when it wears the guise of farse. America may have its share of particular paperhangers who is a potential threat. Indeed, the men I fear in this country are those who are paper-hung. I refer to a group of political eligibles who range into the arena wearing a garland of Heard editorials.
U. S. SET TO MOVE ON BLACK LEGION

But Evidence of Violation of Federal Law Needed,
Cummings Writes.

By the Associated Press.

The Federal Government is ready, it was learned today, to begin a broad
offensive against the Black Legion, the moment it receives definite
evidence that Federal laws have been violated.

If black legionnaires are shown to
have kidnapped persons and transport-
ated them across State lines, officials
explained, the "G men" will get into
action immediately.

The "Lindbergh law" makes such an offense a crime against the Fed-
eral Government, and if the victim
suffers bodily injury, the guilty person
may be punished with the death pen-
alty.

Attorney General Cummings, how-
ever, indicated the Government is
powerless to move unless it receives
evidence that the Federal statute actu-
ally has been violated. He took this
stand in a reply yesterday to a mes-
 sage from Duncan C. McRea, prose-
cuting attorney of Wayne County, Mich., who had asked that J. Edgar
Hoover's Justice Department agents
be assigned to investigate the order
accused of terrorism.

Cummings wired:

"As, of course, you are aware, the
authority of the Department of Justice
in criminal matters is limited to vi-
olations of Federal statutes.

"If you have information that a
Federal offense has been committed
I would suggest that you submit the
same to the Department of Justice,
Washington."

There was no information today
as to how soon Congress would come
to a vote on a resolution, offered by
Senator Benson, Farmer-Laborite of
Minnesota for a joint House and Sen-
ate investigation into "such terroristic
organizations as the Black Legion" and
other groups alleged to be "sub-
versive."

WASH. STAR
MAY 29 1936
Sen. Benson Asks Congress to Act; Intimidation in Ohio Charged.

The Department of Justice yesterday declined temporarily to join the investigation of the Black Legion terrorist activities because there was insufficient evidence that Federal laws had been violated.

Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecutor, had appealed for aid from the Federal agents after his investigation of the slaying of a WPA worker by the night-riding gang because he "knew too much" uncovred evidence indicating the terrorists were operating in more than 15 states.

Attorney General Homer S. Cummings remarked that more information concerning possible Federal law violations would be necessary for the Justice Department to enter the case but left the way open for throwing Federal men into the investigation by inviting McCrea to submit such information.

"As of course you are aware," Cummings telegraphed McCrea, "the authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of Federal statutes. If you have any information indicating that a Federal offense has been committed, I would suggest that you submit the same to the Department of Justice."

Congress Inquiry Nearer.

Meanwhile, efforts for Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and other "un-American" secret orders gained impetus on Capitol Hill.

A thorough inquiry into all such "subversive" organizations by a Joint Congressional committee was proposed in a resolution introduced in the Senate yesterday by Senator Elmer Benson (Farmer-Labor), Minnesota. A similar resolution was offered in the House Wednesday by Representative Samuel Dickstein (Republican) of New York.

Benson urged Congress to act promptly before "we awake to the day when our cherished American liberty will be thing of the past." His proposal called for appointment of four Senators and four Representatives with full power to make a thorough investigation of secret orders "seeking to establish dictatorship or rule by force and terror in the United States."

New Appeal to U.S.

"We have no idea how many of the Black Legion members have been found on lists seized from Black Legion members."

A resolution demanding an investigation of the Black Legion in Ohio, where it has been accused of night riding and with attempting to gain control of relief activities in the Lima area, was placed before the Ohio Senate immediately after an earlier resolution to the same effect had been defeated.

In Boston, officials said State detectives and Federal postal inspectors were attempting to learn if numerous threatening letters and dummy bonds sent to citizens and officials in New England were the work of the Black Legion.

Echo in Kentucky.

Still other echoes of terrorism were heard at Elizabethtown, Ky., where a number of joggings of both men and women were attributed to authorities to a secret society known as the "Black Leg." It was not known whether the group there was affiliated with the Black Legion.

Possible use of the Michigan criminal syndicalism statute as a weapon against the Black Legion was studied today by Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson County, who said the law prohibited any "advocacy of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism as a means of accomplishing industrial or political reforms."
'Authority Limited'

In Cummings' reply to a telegraphic appeal from State's Attorney McCrea of Wayne County, Mich., who had asked the Attorney-General to place a squad of G-men at his disposal, he said:

"The authority of the Department of Justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of Federal statutes. If you have any information indicating that a Federal offense has been committed, I would suggest you submit it to the Department of Justice at Washington."

Announcement by Cummings of a cautious policy by the Government in the Black Legion investigation came shortly after Rep. Lesinski (D., Mich.) forwarded to the Department of Justice a bundle of letters from his constituents charging that high ranking Michigan officials have been actively linked with the organization of night-riding fanatics.

Dickstein Asks Fund

Earlier Rep. Dickstein, chairman of the House Immigration Committee, called on the Senate to appropriate $100,000 for a special House investigation of the Klan.

At the same time Sen. Benson (F., L., Minn.) introduced a resolution asking for a joint Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and "all kindred groups." The committee would be authorized to sit all Summer and Fall with the stipulation that it make its report next January. Benson requested $50,000 for the investigation. Lesinski declared:

"It looks very much like the Black Legion has spread its activities into many States and that fact alone should warrant a Federal investigation."

"The Michigan delegation will make a strong plea that the G-men go immediately into Michigan."
WASHINGTON TIMES
MAY 29, 1936.

U. S. INQUIRY ON
BLACK
LEGION INCOMES

FORECAST HERE

TAX VIOLATION
BY LEADERS
SUSPECTED

Unit That Put Capone
In Prison Is Studying
Michigan Reports

International News Service

An inquiry by the Federal Gov-
ernment into the financial affairs
of Black Legion chieftains ap-
peared certain today.

Elmer Irey, chief of the Intern-
ral Revenue Bureau's intelligence
unit, whose agents sent Al Ca-
pone to prison for income tax
violations, announced he will give
careful consideration to reports
from Michigan that hint possible
tax evasions by leaders of the
clan.

Detroit Prosecutor Duncan C
McCrea requested the Internal
Revenue Bureau to check the In-
comes of Black Legion heads.
Appeals for Aid

McCrea also appealed to Attorney General Cummings for aid in running down members of the Harling band. He said:

"Agents of the intelligence unit in Michigan undoubtedly are watching developments in this case for possible disclosure of income tax violations."

Cummings promised McCrea he would send G-men into Michigan immediately upon receiving evidence of Federal violations by Black Legion members.

Following a conference with Chief J. Edgar Hoover of the Bureau of Investigation, the Attorney General asked McCrea to forward such evidence to the Justice Department. Cummings said that up to now the alleged depredations of the legion do not fall within Federal jurisdiction.

Resolution Passed

Meanwhile, Chairman Dickstein of New York of the House Immigration Committee, and Senator Benson (F-
L) of Minnesota, said they will press for action on their resolutions calling for a Congressional inquiry into activities of the group.

Dickstein announced he had gathered "startling information" which he will place before the House next week. He added:

"This information concerns organizations which are fomenting religious and racial hatred, and has come to me unsolicited."

The Michigan House delegation also considered issuance of a joint statement formally condemning activities of the Legion.
Battling Against Bigotry
The Duty of All Real Americans

Credited with fifty murders in the cause of "good government," the Black Legion in Michigan seems to be an even more sinister manifestation of racial and religious hatred than the Ku Klux Klan from which it apparently originated.

From the Declaration of Independence to the present day, tolerance of others’ religious beliefs has been the mark of the true American.

That is one of the fundamental tenets of Americanism, embodied as such in the Constitution, upheld by the courts, practiced in their daily lives by all good citizens.

Unlike Fascism or Communist, Americanism grants full liberty of conscience to all people, whether their ancestors came here on the Mayflower or via Ellis Island.

Intolerance has no place in the American scheme of things, and homicidal fanatics of the Black Legion type have no place in America.

One of many reasons why that typical American, Alf M. Landon, possesses the confidence of millions of his fellow Americans is his courageous stand on this issue as shown not only by his words but by his RECORD.

He fought the Klan in Kansas, campaigned for the anti-Klan candidate for Governor, risked his political future because HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE INtolerance.

For such a man there can be only admiration, coupled with the knowledge that if he is called to the Presidency he will STAND LIKE A ROCK AGAINST BIGOTRY, however, and wherever manifested in this great country of ours.

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WASH TIMES
MAY 29, 1936
174
G-MEN INVITED TO PROBE CULT

Cummings Suggests Sending of Evidence if Federal Statutes Violated.

INTERSTATE TRAIL SEEN

Detroit Prosecutor McCrea Charges Groups Active in 15 or 18 States.

WASHINGTON, May 28 — Atty.-Gen. Cummings today invited Michigan state authorities to submit any evidence that the "Black Legion" had violated federal laws as a necessary prelude to action by the federal government.

The invitation was addressed to Duncan C. McCrea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne county, who telegraphed the Justice department asking that the bureau of investigation agents be assigned to uncover the terrorist order's activities.

House and Senate Ready.

House and Senate members also took action during the day, designed to clear the way for the federal government to assume jurisdiction in an investigation and possible prosecutions.

The Cummings message, sent the Wayne county prosecutor after the conference, said:

"As of course you are aware, the authority of the department of justice in criminal matters is limited to violations of federal statutes.

"If you have any information indicating that a federal offense has been committed I would suggest that you submit the same to the department of justice at Washington."

Interstate Activity Charged.

McCrea in his message asserted that he knew definitely "that the Black Legion is now operating in fifteen or eighteen states."

"I know that it is very active in New York and Chicago," McCrea declared. "I am unable to investigate the evidence and for that reason I have sought the aid of the department of justice."

"I have reason to believe that the activities of the (Black) legion have included the hauling of bodies across state boundary lines, which is a federal offense. Many serious crimes have been committed in states other than Michigan."

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE
MAY 29, 1936

operators to strike at the black-robed order.

Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea sought new light on the extent of the Black Legion, which he believes is active in at least fifteen states, by proposing that the Internal Revenue department check up on the income tax returns of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima (O.) contractor, who has asserted that the organization has a national membership of 6,000,000.

McCrea said he had evidence indicating that Effinger is collecting 10 cents a month from members of the Black Legion, as well as from the death's head clubs, and other re- gula- tions they are charged with bearing on midnight football parties of which they are accused in several states.

Postoffice inspectors were reported at work in Jackson, Mich., where five women are charged with beating a reluctant member with three-pronged whips such as have been used in several recent raids, checking reports that mail carriers there belonged to the order. One mail carrier is under suspension.

Still another federal inquiry was sought by Representative Dingell, Democrat of Michigan, who said he would ask that a federal grand jury be called.

In Detroit, where the slaying of Charles A. Poole May 13 led to the fast-moving expose of the Black Legion, charges were heard that the shrouded band had enrolled numerous Detroit patrolmen and southern Michigan prison guards in an effort to build up swiftly an organization skilled in the use of firearms and permitted legally to own them.

"We have no idea how deep the inroads of the Black Legion into police personnel may be," said Chief of Detectives Henry W. Piets, "the names of several officers have been found on lists seized from Black Legion members."

Three teams of detectives were assigned to the investigation and five police officers were summoned to the office of Police Commissioner Heinrich Pickert for questioning.

A parallel investigation is under way in the department of street railways and eight employees have been suspended.

A resolution demanding an investigation of the Black Legion in Ohio, where it has been accused of night riding and with attempting to gain control of relief activities in the Lima area, was placed before the Ohio senate immediately after an earlier resolution to the same effect had been defeated.

In Boston officials said state detectives and federal postal inspectors were attempting to learn if numerous threatening letters and dummy bombs sent recently to citizens and officials in New England were the work of the Black Legion.
Black Legion
Attacked by
Klan Head

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, headed by J. Edgar Hoover, should break up terrorist activities of the Black Legion or any similar organization, "letting the chips fall where they may," Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, declared here Thursday.

Black Legion activities, he said, seem to be crossing state lines, and the federal government should, therefore, take a hand. This is especially the case, Dr. Evans said, because state officials seem to have become involved in the Black Legion affairs.

The Klan head said his organization had made a "superficial" investigation of the Black Legion and all records and information which it possessed were at the disposal of federal authorities.

'G-MEN SHOULD ACT'

Initiative for the investigation lies with the G-men, he said; however, "That's what they are paid to do, and that's what they should do," he said.

Dr. Evans said he had sent no formal communication to J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Klan, he said, hopes the federal government will break up all terrorism, but is leaving active operations in the hands of legally constituted authorities.

Dr. Evans condemned the Black Legion vigorously for its "lawlessness" and declared that observation and enforcement of the law is the only course for American citizens to follow.

Michigan, he said, is a Midwest state, and there is much subversive activity in that area, in his opinion, which should be stamped out.
Right for G-Men to Move Against Terrorists Asked

Michigan Congressmen Draft Legislation for Smashing Black Legion

WASHINGTON, May 23 (AP)—A powerful movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover’s Federal agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic congressmen began drafting legislation to allow the agents to investigate the organization and take action.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover," announced Representative Sadowski, chairman of the group, "has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it.

"This organization is evidently interstate in its operations. It is very clear to me that it is the function of the Federal Government to stop this crime-fostering organization. We have no need for such a society that operates by shootings and bombings."

Saying that the Black Legion might be tolerated in some of the "more backward foreign nations," Sadowski added that it has no place in the United States where the Constitution guarantees religious and political freedom.

He said he hoped a bill covering the desired powers of the committee could be completed by the end of the week.

A Justice Department spokesman indicated Attorney General Cummings would reply today to the request of Detroit Prosecuting Attorney for a Federal investigation of the hooded organization.
G-MEN READY
TO START WAR
ON VIGILANTES
Awaiting Only Evidence
Of Lindbergh Law
Violations
OTHER FORCES MOVE
Criminal Syndicalism Law
May Be Invoked by
Michigan.
Washington — (AP) — The federal
government is ready, it was learned
today, to begin a broad offensive
against the Black Legion the moment
it receives definite evidence that fed-
eral laws have been violated.
If Black Legionnaires are shown to
have kidnapped persons and trans-
ported them across state lines, offi-
cials explained, the "G Men" will
get into action immediately.
The "Lindbergh law" makes such
an offense a crime against the fed-
eral government, and if the victim
suffers bodily injury the guilty per-
son may be punished with the death
penalty.

Must Have Evidence
Attorney General Cullom, how-
ever, indicated that the govern-
ment is powerless to move unless it receives
evidence that the federal statute actu-
ally has been violated.
He took this stand in reply yester-
day to a message from Duncan C.
McCrea, prosecuting attorney of Way-
ne County, Michigan, who had asked that
a Edgar Hoover's Justice Depart-
ment agents be assigned to investigate the
order accused of terrorism.
In Detroit it was said that Michi-
igan's criminal syndicalism law, en-
couraged to combat communism, may be
invoked against the Black Legion.
Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson
County said today he contemplated
the prosecution of 13 men whom he
described as the "board of directors"
of the night-riding terrorists in that
county, under the statute.

Long Term Possible
It provides for imprisonment up to
10 years and a maximum fine of
$5,000 for "advocacy . . . or teaching
the duty or necessity of crime, sabo-
tage, violence or terrorism to accom-
plish industrial or political reform."
At least two grand jury investi-
gations of the vigilantes were imminent,
while both houses of Congress had
before them resolutions demanding
congressional inquiries.
Internal Revenue department offi-
cials declined to discuss a sugges-
tion from McCrea that they inspect
income tax returns of Virgil P. Eff-
finger, Lima, O., contractor described
by the Detroit prosecutor as a regional
leader of the order. They said such
suggestions usually were welcome.
Although McCrea said he had evi-
dence indicating that Effinger sold
rags and hoods to the Black Legion-
naires, and collected $10 cents a month
from each member, Effinger said at
Lima that "I haven't sold anything,"
and expressed no fear of an income
tax inquiry.

The Hartford Times
May 29, 1935
Forwarded by New York Office
BLACK LEGION

Revelations that organizations similar to the Black Legion, unearthed in connection with a Detroit mob vengeance slaying, have been thriving for some time in several midwestern states, are disquieting. Aside from one intimation that federal department of justice agents encountered evidence of the organization about eighteen months ago, nothing has been brought out as yet to show that it was the subject of official attention anywhere until the Detroit killing a few days ago. How a secret society so sinister in its purposes and methods could flourish for more than a few weeks without being exposed by the police is what puzzles the people. The explanation that in some places the police may have been in collusion with the organizers hardly suffices to explain the secrecy.

Such organizations gain a foothold only when there is a considerable feeling among the people that law enforcement is weak. When a group of masked men undertakes to usurp the authority and function of the police and the courts, it is either bent on robbery and violence for gain, or is able to convince law-abiding men that something is wrong in law enforcement. So far there has been no showing that members of the Black Legion were organized to break the law for their own gain or that they were engaged in shielding lawbreakers. Indeed, one of their reported purposes is to enforce the law according to their light. They assumed to correct what they believed to be the failures of the law and of duly constituted government.

To the extent that poor law enforcement inspired the growth of their membership, the situation can in a measure be overcome by good police work in breaking up the gangs and making cases against all that are guilty of taking the law into their own hands. In a free country the duty of every citizen dissatisfied with policies of government is to work for improvement by use of the ballot. No other plan can be tolerated. Terrorism in any form is a menace to free government, and to peace and good order, and its authors are enemies of society. The Detroit exposure is a warning to every community to make a complete investigation and govern itself accordingly.
Black Legion Hysteria
Will Cool

PROSECUTOR REAMS says he has no information upon which to base an official investigation of the Black Legion by the Lucas county grand jury. If and when arrests are made or evidence of criminal activities by this organization in Lucas county is presented, witnesses will be summoned and a thorough investigation begun.

But no organization of so-called vigilantes, or avengers, or even of professional criminals, could have committed all the major crimes and atrocities which the police, the prosecutors and other law-enforcement officials in all parts of the country, now suggest may have been committed by the Black Legion.

* * *

And we do not believe for one moment that the Black Legion has millions of oath-bound, dues-paying members. Active as it may have been in a few localities, it is unthinkable that hundreds of mysterious murders and kidnappings and threats of violence can be attributed rightfully to its membership.

We have only words of condemnation for mobs or organizations which fan race or religious prejudices into flame and whose methods are those of violence, but out of the sordid Detroit murder story, a veritable nation-wide Black Legion hysteria seems to have developed. Some of the reports come from beyond the frontiers of reason. They overtax the credulity of intelligent readers.

* * *

Prosecutor Reams' position in this matter is sound and sensible. He will sink the probe quickly, and deep, when he finds something more substantial than rumors and guesses and gossip upon which to base an investigation.

Meanwhile the wide unfavorable publicity which the Black Legion has been given may serve at least one good purpose—that of putting another robed and hooded organization out of business.
KLAN-CHIEF ADVISES
ENDING BLACK LEGION

Evans Urges G-Men to Act as
They Did on Kidnappers.

By the Associated Press

ATLANTA, May 29—Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, urged the federal government today to stamp out the Black Legion, hooded terrorist society.

"The federal government has brought kidnapping to an end in America," he says, "and if the same efficient men are directed to go to the bottom of the Black Legion, they will end night riding in the United States."

Evans denied emphatically that any connection existed between the Black Legion and the Ku Klux Klan. A suspect under investigation in Detroit told officers that the Black Legion drew its members from among former members of the Klan.

"The Ku Klux Klan is opposed to terrorism and does not believe in any illegal action for any cause whatsoever," Evans said, pledging the Klan's aid in stamping out the Black Legion.
WATCH BEING KEPT ON BLACK LEGION

Officials Assert They Have No Trace of Organization in Indianapolis.

Authorities in Indianapolis today held to a policy of "watchful waiting" in connection with purported Black Legion activities here.

Thus far not a single official of the county, city or federal government in Indianapolis has received reliable information that the Black Legion is even organized in this city, and none has been informed of any overt acts by stray members.

A calling card put into a mail box at the apartment of Miss Helen Benham, 856 East Twelfth street, Thursday night, was said to be typical of the type of pranks invariably following nation-wide stories on secret cults.

It bore the name "Black Legion," with the words Captain and Agent of 65 inscribed in one corner.

Michael F. Morrissey, chief of police, said he had received copies of the handbills found Thursday by some boys. The handbills purported to carry the oath of the Black Legion, together with much of the organization's hocus-pocus. But there was no proof they were authentic and there was no flurry of excitement about them.

John Dowd, head of the department of justice office, repeated a previous statement that he had not heard anything about the Black Legion in Indianapolis, and that his department was not investigating anything connected with it.

Sheriff Otis Ray, who said his men had been on the alert for a county organization of the Black Legion, reported they had found no indications that it existed here.
INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
May 29, 1936

TE R R O R C U L T H E A D
HUN TED IN DETROIT;
LOCAL PROBE OPENS

Investigation Launched by
Prosecutor Spencer and
Police Department.

Chief Morrissey and Prose-
cutor Herbert M. Spencer to-
day began an investigation
into alleged local activities of
the "Black Legion."

As a result of their investigation,
they had three sets of six types
documents from the alleged Black
Legion, discovered on the near
North Side.

Chief Morrissey said:
"We will do all we can to sup-
press the progress of the Black
Legion in Indianapolis. If our in-
vestigation calls for more men they
will be supplied. The matter cer-
tainly merits investigation.

"We are going ahead on instruc-
tions from Prosecutor Spencer and
will give this matter a thorough in-
vestigation. I am turning the in-
formation over to the homicide squad
under Lieut. Roy Pope, since it
seems that the investigation may
lead to homicide cases."

Prosecutor Spencer said that any
further information discovered
would be turned over to the grand
jury along with the alleged doc-
ments found by The Times and now
in his hands.

Meanwhile in Detroit Duncan
McCrea, Wayne County prosecutor,
said evidence has been turned up
in the last 12 hours that leads investi-
gators to believe that Vern F. Ef-
finger, Lima, O., has been active in
organizing the Black Legion in In-
diana. McCrea said the Depart-
ment of Justice, which yesterday agreed
to assign him agents for the case,
had now decided to withhold co-
operation pending developments.

Miss Helen Bonham, 658 E. 12th-
st., told police she found a calling
card in her mailbox last night on
which was printed, "Black Troops
Capt., Agent 27."

This card did not
resemble the other notes discovered
elsewhere Wednesday night.

A seal was stamped on the back
of the card and inside the seal in
red ink was stamped "N 28. Other
numbers on the back but not in the
seal were "XX 9" and "N 28-27."

She told detectives she did not
know who could have put the card
there.
INDIANAPOLIS STAR
May 29, 1936

BLACK LEGION HOAX LIKELY

Two Handbills Found in City
Believed Work of Sensation Seekers.

There is no concrete evidence that the Black Legion is organized in Indiana, city, county, state and Federal law enforcement officials said last night.

Two typewritten handbills purporting to be literature of the Black Legion, which were reported found here yesterday, are believed to be the work of "sensation seekers" intent upon perpetrating a hoax, it was said.

An alleged Black Legion "calling card" was found by Miss Helen Bonham, 656 East Twelfth street, Apt. 4, in her mailbox last night. It was smudged with fingerprints and bore the printing: "Black Legion" in the lower corners "Captain" and "Agent M. E. S."

Photostatic copies of the handbills were obtained by Michael F. Morrissey, chief of police, last night and he said that an effort will be made to trace the typewriter on which they were written.

Both Found By Boy.

Both of the handbills were found by boys. One was lying in the street and the other was stuck behind a door knob to an apartment building.

The handbills were in two sheets. One sheet was an alleged membership blank and the other announced that members would call "in rota" to collect membership dues. The alleged oath of the Black Legion also was printed on the bills.

Officials point out that if Black Legion organizers had distributed literature more than two copies would have come to light. Chief Morrissey said that the police department has received no information of citizens finding similar handbills at their home.

Herbert M. Spencer, prosecuting attorney, said that in event of a law violation attributed to the Black Legion an extensive investigation would be made. Aside from the finding of the two handbills he said that he had heard nothing about the organization being established in the county.

No Evidence in State.

Neither has evidence been uncovered to indicate that the Black Legion is organized in any part of the state, according to Governor Paul V. McNutt.

Sheriff Otto Ray and Capt. Matt Leach, head of the state police, said that nothing has come to their attention which would indicate activity of the organization in Marion county or any place in the state.

G-men here will not investigate Black Legion activities unless a Federal law violation is attributed to its members and that there has been no information received that it is operating in this state. John A. Dowd, chief investigator of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, said...
Black Legion 'Domination' of Relief Office Is Bared

COLUMBUS, O.—Transcripts of detailed testimony concerning alleged Black Legion "domination" of Allen County poor relief administration were made public today by Rep. H. T. Phillips (R) of Athens County, member of the joint legislative relief investigating committee which conducted hearings in Lima last July.

Two witnesses told the committee members of the Black Legion were given preference in the granting of relief, were made foremen on relief projects, and that non-members were discriminated against.

One of these witnesses, George Armstrong, Lima, admitted under oath he was a Legion member.

While he was being cross-examined, Armstrong was asked to have admitted Legion members take an oath "to kill their enemies, if necessary," and to "swear to a lie" to protect fellow members.

Asked if he had heard of anybody being killed, Armstrong replied, "I am not saying anything to that."

He said Legion enemies are "anyone who would oppose them."

Armstrong, during his testimony, named three men he said were in control of Allen County relief work and legionnaires.

These were Guy Effinger, Lima, since identified as a Black Legion officer; Glen Webb, Lima newspaperman, and William Zimmerman.

MAY 28 1935
Violent Crimes in Ohio Laid to Black Legion; Threat to Kidnap Davey's Daughter Is Cited

By The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, May 27.—A report of three official investigators connecting the Black Legion with acts of violence in Ohio and blaming the hooded order for threats to kidnap a daughter of Governor Davey was made public today by State Representative H. T. Phillips.

The investigators, Charles J. Skill and Claude L. Recker of Columbus and Hubert J. Schwartz of Cleveland, added a legislative committee which investigated relief administration in Allen County (Lima) a year ago.

The report, made to the committee but never submitted to the Legislature, was released on the heels of action by authorities over the State to connect various acts of violence to the night riders.

Meetings of the legion, the investigators said, were usually held "from 3 A. M. until daylight in an open field in the country."

"We obtained the statements of two men who had been officers of the organization," the investigators said. "They told where the meetings had been held and said one of the leaders bragged about burning down Twin Oaks roadhouse (near Lima) and that he was ordered to burn another roadhouse."

"The State investigators said their informants declared the organization was 'suspicioned of the threats against Governor Davey's daughter."

The Governor disclosed more than a year ago that threats had been made to kidnap his daughter, but he did not order an investigation.

Other acts charged to the legion by informants of the three investigators were the seizure of a motion picture film from a Lima theater, the beating of a man who was generally believed to have been hit by Northwestern Ohio onion strike.

"We received estimates that 82 per cent of the Allen County relief administrative department, as well as the women's division employees, were members of the organization," they said.

Their report mentioned also the alleged attack on William Smith, a 25-year-old Waynesfield farmer, and said that he was severely beaten because he was unwilling to join the night riders.

Sheriff W. E. Kelley of Auglaize County said he reported the attack on Smith, an unwilling candidate for membership in the Black Legion, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but in Washington spokesmen for the G men said they had no record of the case.

A member of the Black Legion told a legislative investigating committee last July that its members swore to kill their enemies "if necessary."

The testimony was that of George Armstrong, Lima relief worker, in a hearing at Lima July 23.

Portions of the testimony follow:

Q. - I don't know if you want to answer me on this proposition, but did you become a member of what is known as the "Black Legion?" A. - I did.

Q. - And did you take that oath of the Black Legion, to tell a lie if necessary to support some of your members? A. - I did.

Q. - Now, was that organization connected with, lined up with, in this county? A. - It was.

Q. - Do they swear in that organization an oath to kill their enemies if necessary? A. - They do.

Q. - And who are their enemies? A. - Well, any one that would oppose them.

Q. - You never heard of anybody getting killed, did you? A. - I am not saying as to that.
THE 'BLACK LEGION' HAPPENED HERE

Every week brings evidence that Sinclair Lewis was right: that a dangerously large section of the population of the United States is fertile seed for Fascism.

The most shocking disclosure to date is the existence of the "Black Legion." The claim that this armed secret organization has 135,000 members in Michigan is probably exaggerated and the statement that there are 6,000,000 members in the United States is certainly absurd. Nevertheless, it has been established that the "Black Legion" is a large and powerful force in several sections of the nation.

Even the "Black Legion's" responsibility for the cold-blooded murder of at least one man is not as important as the fact that the terrorist organization arose out of economic causes and uses "patriotism" and religious bigotry as its rallying points.

In its background the "Black Legion" reproduces part of the familiar pattern which led to the present German and Italian Governments. That its political program called for a dictatorship is significant of its similarity to European terror movements like the Brown Shirts and the Fascist street gangs.

The Detroit suburbs where it is strongest are those filled up during the 1920's by automobile workers recruited from the South, especially from the benighted and impoverished regions of Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Ignorant, unable to adjust themselves readily to their new life, particularly to the insecurity of industrial employment, these men tended to band together for protection.

It is not surprising that shrewd organizers were able to restore a lost feeling of self-importance by pledging them to attack "Negroes, communists, Jews and Catholics" and to defend the "laws and Constitution" of the United States.

The fact that the first purpose is directly counter to the spirit of the latter will startled only those who expect consistency of such movements.

The organization has indulged in threats, beatings and, apparently, killings. That it has recruited its members by "shanghai" methods is shown by the story of an ex-Legion member now running in The Post. It is significant that at least two of their victims were active in the automobile unions.

The fierce competition for jobs, the failure of the labor unions to organize these men with racial backgrounds, the labor policies of the industries in the Detroit region left them a prey to those who knew how to play upon their prejudices, their insecurity and their ignorance.

The men who later became Hitler's Brown Shirts passed through comparable experiences before they were enlisted under the swastika through similar methods.

Detroit authorities have asked assistance of the United States Department of Justice in investigating the "Black Legion." The Federal Government should respond immediately. The sooner this thing is dragged out into the open the less harm it will be able to do.

America doesn't want and should not tolerate secret armed terrorist bands. But it will not be enough to break up this particular organization and imprison its officers. What of similar organizations which are reported operating in the Mid West, in the Far West, the South and, to a lesser extent, in the East? What of the Klan in Queens? What about Tampa?

For a hundred years organizations of this nature have played a sinister part in American life. Although they seem remote in their principles from economic aims, it is notable that they rise to greater heights during periods of economic stress and change such as those which preceded and followed the Civil War and that through which we have passed since the World War.

Was all well with the nation during the "prosperous" 1920's which produced the Ku Klux revival? Is the great industrial city of Detroit "fundamentally sound" today when such numbers of its workers band together in armed mobs based upon terrorism and bigotry?

Or does insecurity here, as elsewhere, produce reversions to un-American principles?
Black Legion Suspected of Threat to Ohio Governor

COLUMBUS, May 27.—The Columbus Dispatch, May 27 (AP) — The Black Legion suspects of threatening to Ohio Governor H. T. Philo had been arrested by the police in connection with the murder of a Black Legion member in columbus, Ohio.

The suspect, identified as J. W. Smith, was charged with the murder of C. A. Miller, a member of the Black Legion, who lived at 103 S. High St. in Columbus. The suspect was arrested by police after they received information that he had been seen near the murder scene.

The Black Legion is a paramilitary group that was formed in the early 20th century to protect the rights of members of the White Lodge and to oppose those they perceived as threats to their community. The organization was disbanded in 1922, but its influence continued to be felt in the years that followed.

The Black Legion was known for its violent tactics, including beatings, vigilante justice, and other forms of intimidation. The group was often accused of engaging in racial and political violence, and its members were frequently involved in criminal activities.

The arrest of the suspect in the Miller murder is the latest in a series of cases involving the Black Legion in Columbus. The group has been linked to other crimes, including deaths and injuries caused by its members.

The suspect, J. W. Smith, is scheduled to appear in court at a later date to face charges related to the murder of C. A. Miller.
Bomb Sent Curley Laid to Black Cult

BOSTON, Mass., May 21 (US) - Possibility that the clock bomb recently sent to Governor Curley was a machination of the Black Legion, sensational Detroit killer's band, was being investigated by state police here tonight.

2 More Slayings Blamed on Cult

CLEVELAND Police Renew Probe Into Deaths of Decapitated Men

CLEVELAND, May 27 (AP) - Detective Inspector Nevel ordered renewed investigation of two unsolved slayings when an anonymous telephone message said to "Look into the murders of those two men and you'll find the Black Legion was responsible."

The nude bodies of the men, both decapitated, were found together in an isolated ravine last September.

One of the victims was Edward Andrasay, 28. The other body, that of a man about 40 years old, was not identified.

Mrs. Helen Andrasay, the slain man's mother, said a stranger called at her home the morning he disappeared and said: "Tell Eddy I'm going to get him for playing around with my wife."
Congress Asked to Probe Black Legion; New York Believed a Center of Cult

Link Terrorists to Plot To Kidnap Daughter Of Ohio Governor; Plea to G-Men

RURAL AIDES

Developments yesterday in the investigation of the Black Legion were:
Demand by Rep. Dickstein (D.-N.Y.) for a Congressional investigation of the organization.
An appeal to the Department of Justice for G-men to enter the probe from Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea of Detroit.
Charges that the Legion was highly organized in rural New York.
Revelation of a plot to kidnap the daughter of Gov. Martin L. Davey of Ohio.
Investigation renewed into deaths of two men who were beheaded in Cleveland, O., last September.
'NIGHT RIDERS' PROBE ASKED OF CONGRESS

Dickstein Demands Action on Michigan Reign of Fear Threat to Member Bared

By EUGENE KELLY

Spurred by disclosures of the Black Legion's "reign of terror," in Michigan, Chairman Dickstein, of the House Immigration Committee, yesterday introduced a resolution for appointment of a special House committee to investigate the activities.

At the same time, Attorney General Cummings revealed, at his press conference the Department of Justice is maintaining a close watch on developments.

MEMBER THREATENED

Members of the Michigan House delegation disclosed one of their members, Representative Hoffman, had been threatened, presumably by agents of the group of terrorists. In a letter received here, Hoffman was branded "a two-faced rat." The letter was signed "KKK—Look out for the hood."

Michigan delegates said the Black Legion worked so secretly they were unaware of its existence.

Dickstein, vice-chairman of the House Committee on un-American activities which last year uncovered distribution of propaganda designed to foment an uprising against the Government, announced he would introduce a separate resolution today requesting $100,000 to carry out the proposed House investigation into the "character and extent of the Black Legion's ramifications."

ACTION IS HURRIED

The Dickstein resolution was speeded to the Rules Committee where proponents of the investigation will push for immediate consideration. With approval by the House, the committee would hold hearings all summer and fall, Dickstein said.

In addition to the Black Legion, the resolution incorporated the Black Shirts, the Christian Party and the A. B. C. Legion, of New York. All four organizations Dickstein charged, are distributing propaganda intended to foment racial and religious prejudices. The A. B. C. group, he said, made Catholics and Jews an especial target of "malicious persecution."

G-Men Get Evidence

Dickstein said already he had uncovered "some evidence" in connection with the Black Legion's drive against Jews and Catholics. He said he would turn it over to the Department of Justice for investigation, if that agency possesses legal authority.

WASH. HERALD
MAY 28, 1936
TURN ON THE LIGHT.

THE VILE doings of the so-called Black Legion form another challenge to the Senate, which is being asked by Sen. La Follette to authorize a thoroughgoing investigation into violations of civil liberties under the American flag.

Here is an outfit that admits itself an outlaw. Its alleged murders, arsons, assaults and terrorism are directed against such minority groups as Catholics, Jews, Negroes, Communists and others. While the Michigan police appear to be doing a splendid job of tracking down the actual criminals, they probably will not learn all that should be learned of this revival of the old K. K. K. spirit, and of the peculiar breed of humans being gripped by its sadistic religion of hate.

Congressman Dickstein’s proposal to investigate the Black Legion is, we believe, ill-timed. His anti-Nazi and other investigations have not been particularly fruitful of results in unearthing significant facts. The La Follette investigation could be better financed and better manned. A House probe of a single phenomenon would not only be a duplication but a dissipation of effort.

The Black Legion’s crimes are part of a larger picture of intolerance in America. They are cut from the same piece as teachers’ oaths, anti-red forays into campuses, vigilante and lynching mobs, anti-labor terrorism and the other manifestations of special interest racketeering wrapped in the garb of patriotism. It is the Senate’s business to light a lamp and search these social rat holes. If it fails to launch the La Follette investigation and finance it with adequate funds it will have failed in one of its most important duties.

WASH. NEWS
MAY 28, 1936
"What if I am?" That was the answer of Virgil F. Effinger, Lima, O., electrical contractor, when asked if he were leader of the "Black Legion," alleged secret terrorist society, in Ohio, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Admitting he belonged to the Ku Klux Klan and evincing knowledge of the legion, Effinger, who resembles a movie "western sheriff," is said to have stated that the latter had 3,000,000 members. An Ohio legislator charged that Effinger was one of three who controlled relief in Allen County.

WASH NEWS
MAY 28, 1935
Act to Empower G-Men
To Smash Black Legion

Washington, May 28.—(AP)—A strong movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover’s Federal agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee began drafting legislation to allow the agents to investigate all the secrets and activities of the organization and take action.

“Mr. J. Edgar Hoover,” announced Representative Sadowski, chairman of the committee, “has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not, then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it.”
U.S. to Fight Black Legion As Kidnappers

Evidence of Interstate Violations Awaited to Put G-Men in Action

Washington, May 28—The Federal Government is ready, it was learned today, to begin a broad offensive against the Black Legion in the moment it receives definite evidence that Federal laws have been violated.

If Black Legionaries are shown to have kidnapped persons and transported them across state lines, officials explained, the G-men will get into action immediately.

The "Lindbergh law" makes such an offense a crime against the Federal Government, and if the victim suffers bodily injury, the guilty person may be punished with the death penalty.

Attorney General Cummings, however, indicated that the Government is powerless to move unless it receives evidence that the federal statute actually has been violated. He took this stand in a reply yesterday to a message from Duncan C. McCrea, prosecuting attorney of Wayne County, Michigan, who had asked that J. Edgar Hoover's Justice Department agents be assigned to investigate the order accused of terrorism.

To Invoke Syndicalism Law

Detroit, May 29 (AP)—Michigan's criminal syndicalism law, enacted to combat Communism, may be invoked against the Black Legion, whose members are accused of floggings and even slayings in the name of defense against Communists.

Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson County said today he contemplated the prosecution of 26 men whom he described as the board of directors of the night-riding terrorists in that county, under the statute.

It provides for imprisonment up to ten years and a maximum fine of $5,000 for "advocacy...or declaring the duty or necessity of crime, sabotage, violence or terrorism to accomplish industrial or political reform."

At least two Grand Jury investigations of the night-riding vigilantes were imminent, while both Houses of Congress had before them resolutions demanding Congressional inquiries.

Proposed legislation to curb the order was in preparation at the national capital, and the Internal Revenue Bureau considered a suggestion that it inquire into the income tax returns of a reputed leader of the Black Legionaries.

Wayne County (Detroit) Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea prepared to assemble for submission to United States Attorney General Homer S. Cummings evidence he said showed the order is active in at least 15 states. "The hauling of bodies across state boundary lines," was one of his charges against Black Legionaries.

Damaging Letters Shown

Prosecutor McCrea exhibited scores of letters today from nearly all parts of the United States, giving information about alleged Black Legion activities or expressing fear of terrorism.

It was because so many letters came from other states, McCrea said, that he asked the Department of Justice to help in the investigation that started in Michigan.

From Dallas, Texas, came a letter signed "A Member" and asserting that "the legion had Huey Long killed."

"In some Southern cities," the writer said, "where Negroes are lynched, the general says the Black Legion takes in 500 new members after one lynching."

In Pontiac, Mich., members of a hastily organized citizens committee said they had received evidence that Black Legion members held high offices in the local government.

Charles P. Webster, once a Democratic candidate for Congress and now a member of the investigating committee, said that "witnesses are being threatened with death if they talk to us."

Blazed Note Warns Police

Reports that fear-stricken members of the Black Legion were burning their hoods and robes were received today.

A letter, said by Detective Richard Bowen of the Detroit police laboratories to have been written in human blood, was received by the police department today, warning it to "get off the Black Legion."

The note, signed "The White Legion," was printed in letters nearly a half inch high, and was postmarked New York.

New York authorities were asked to investigate.

The Detroit Free Press said it had information connecting Pontiac Black Legionaries, including a police officer, with a lynching in Lima, Ohio, about a year ago, but the newspaper said Lima police had been unable to find any record of such a death there.
'Black Snakes' Probed In Indiana

By The United Press

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28—Sheriff George W. Gillie said today evidence in his possession points to a connection between the notorious Black Legion and the "Mystic Order of Black Snakes," an organization allegedly responsible for terroristic activities in Allen County.

Sheriff Gillie said several victims of the Black Snake order have recited stories of being haled before the "high tribunal" of the black-hooded and robed group and threatened.

A former township official and his chief deputy were said to be among the victims. They reportedly told of being threatened with severe beatings if they discharged two members of the organization then working under the official.

By The United Press

COLUMBUS, O., May 28—The Black Legion was suspected of having threatened more than a year ago to kidnap Gov. M. L. Davey's daughter, Evangeline, according to a report of three special investigators for the Ohio Joint Relief Investigating Committee, made public today.

The investigators, C. J. Skill and C. L. Recker of Columbus and H. J. Schwartz of Cleveland, gave no reason for their suspicions.

The kidnap threat against the Governor's daughter was received shortly after he took office. She was guarded for a time. Miss Davey since has become the wife of Alexander Smith.
MINISTER DEFIED LEGION AT RITES

Refused to Take Oath to Kill, Even When Guns Were Pointed at Him.

By the Associated Press.

JACKSON, Mich., May 28—Charles Standish, a suspended prison guard who said he was forced to join the Black Legion, disclosed today how a minister, Rev. Ralph C. Montague, 45, of Rives Junction, Mich., defied the guns and death threats of the terrorists and refused to join.

Standish said he was invited to a "stag party" by a guard sergeant and that when they arrived at a grove they found 80 men, some of them hooded and robed.

"About 15 of us, including Mr. Montague and myself, were pushed into a line. Men in masks and hoods formed a ring around us and leveled pistols and rifles at us," Standish said.

"We were told we had been selected for membership in the Black Legion. There was one fellow wearing a robe who was bossing things. He began asking us the questions in the ritual.

"I was so surprised and scared I just said yes to everything. I said yes when the tough guy asked if I would be willing to kill if we were ordered to by the Black Legion.

"One of the men in the line didn't say yes, though. He said: "No; certainly not."

"It was the minister. He spoke right out and it got very quiet. In a minute all the guns seemed to be right around the minister."

"The minister said, 'Just a moment, I don't believe in belonging to any organization of the sort this apparently is.'"

Many of the men shouted "String him up!" Standish said. "but Mr. Montague replied:

"'Gentlemen, I've taught the gospel of God and if you are going to kill me, I'm prepared to die.'"

The minister was released after leaders at the meeting conferred.
America is Ripe for a Dictator, States Harrison

Editor, The News:

The recent disclosures regarding the activities of the Black Legion indicate on a small scale the kind of terror America must expect when "It Happens Here."

However moronic or misguided the members of the Black Legion may be, their ranks, like the ranks of the Klan and similar terrorist societies, are generally controlled by clever strategists.

The Black Legion is not to be dismissed lightly—to be censured editorially and then forgotten. The power of Hitler was recruited from just this sort of petty middle-class criminal and lumpenproletariat. The masses of Italy are now subdued by the same methods.

America is ripe for a dictator. We have probably had our last president. When the present Administration attempts its retrenchment and thousands of former Government employees, married and single, are turned out to search for miserable jobs in private employment—jobs that may never exist—these thousands are going to be ready converts for any dictator (unless the WPA continues), Fascist or Communist, and Black Legions will spring up all over the country.

J. James Harrison.
**Senator Calls for Probe of Terrorist Organizations**

WASHINGTON, May 28 (By International News Service)—A joint resolution calling for a Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and kindred terrorist organizations was introduced in the Senate today by Senator Benson (D.) of Minnesota.

A special committee of four Representatives and four Senators would be appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House to investigate any or all activities of such subversive groups throughout the country.

A similar resolution was introduced in the House yesterday by Rep. Dickstein (D.), of New York.

**OFFICIALS ACCUSED.**

Letters accusing high officials in Michigan of being implicated in the Black Legion's reign of terror were sent to the Department of Justice today by Rep. Lesinski (D.), of Michigan.

Because of the seriousness of the charges and uncertainty as to their truthfulness, he declined to make the letters public.

The letters were expected to be turned over to J. Edgar Hoover's Bureau of Investigation for study and possible action. Refusing to divulge any names, Lesinski said "they are higher-up officials."

In the face of an apparent reluctance on the part of leaders to authorize a new investigation, Dickstein planned to address a formal letter to the House Rules Committee asking approval of the resolution.

"I expect to take the floor of the House on Monday or Tuesday and disclose startling unconfirmed information which has reached me about organizations which are fomenting religious and racial hatred," said Dickstein.

**WIDE INQUIRY ASKED.**

"If the Townsend investigation was worth $50,000 to the House this inquiry I propose would be worth $1,000,000. It is important because there is a national subversive movement in the country.

"I think I can link up the Black Legion with the Black Shirts organization."

In addition to an investigation of the Black Legion, Dickstein urged inquiry into the Black Shirts, the Christian Party, the A. B. C. Legion of New York and the Robert E. Edmonston organization, also New York.

He exhibited a circular purporting to be issued by Robert E. Edmonston attacking Jews. The A. B. C. Legion, he said, was sponsored by C. Lewis Forlmer of New York. Formed to promote "cultural and good citizenship." Dickstein charged that it has 56,000 members who are fostering anti-Semitism. He exhibited a circular assailing "orientalism, absolutism and Karl Marx in the United States.

**PROBE MOVE DEFEATED.**

COLUMBUS, May 28 (By International News Service)—An attempt to force a Statewide investigation of the Black Legion was defeated today in the Ohio Senate.

The Upper House rejected by a vote of 16 to 9 a resolution introduced by Sen. John R. Davis (D.) of Cleveland, calling for appointment of a five-member commission to investigate the black-robed secret order and frame legislation designed to drive it from the State.

Charges that the Black Legion organization in Lima, O., and Allen County, threatened Evangeline Davey, daughter of Gov. Martin L. Davey, were being investigated today by a special joint legislative committee.

The riot-ridden McDuff onion strike, the burning of buildings at McGuffey, O., control of 82 per cent of the relief organization of Allen County, and numerous outrages were laid to the door of the organization in an investigators' report to the committee.

The report, made to the committee which has been investigating relief but never submitted to the Legislature, was made public by State Representative T. T. Phillips.

Phillips declared that evidence showed that 82 per cent of the Allen County Relief Administration Department at Lima were members of the organization.

**'SNAKES' KIDNAP**

PORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28 (By International News Service)—

"The Mysterious Order of Black Snakes," a weird, hooded, night-riding band that kidnapped and threatened two township officials last night, is an agency of the infamous "Black Legion," Sheriff George W. Gillis said he believed today.

While he refused to reveal the identities of the kidnap victims, the Sheriff said they had been seized on the street here, forced into an automobile, and carried before 12 hooded, armed men seated upon a "crescent shaped throne." Other hooded figures
Black Legion Blame Put on Public

Murder Bonds' Growth Is Laid on Tolerance of Intolerance.

BY DOROTHY THOMPSON.

I AM very remonstrant. It's a funny thing but I never had a feeling that I wanted to kill anybody that I can remember. I was under an illusion. I didn't have any idea what I was getting into when I joined up two years ago.

The speaker was Dayton Dean, a city employee of Detroit who was admitting to the police that he had killed a man in a murder trial of Charles A. Pool, a W. P. A. worker of the downtown area on the date of May 12.

"I wanted it to be a feeble party with rope and regalia." said Dean. "That it would make more impression. Big some of the cars got lost. We got tired of waiting, and so I shot him. I thought it was my job."

And with the death of Pool, the Michigan police authorities began an investigation, which in the last few days has uncovered a fantastic organization known as the Star Line, of yet undiscovered ramifications, of white protestantism, pledged to "defend the United States and the Constitution against domination of the political parties in city and county and state; to exterminate anarchists, communists, Catholics, Negroes, and all other alien races, and to deport all undesirable aliens; and to support and participate in lynching laws, to arm its members for civil war, while pledging them by a blood oath to absolute secrecy and absolute obedience to their superiors, and eventually, to establish a dictatorship in America.

"In your imagination these men, gathered together at night, in some remote place. They wear black or white hoods to conceal their faces. They wear black or white robes purchased from the organization, worth $1.35, price $1. Guards with pointed revolver covers over them. They are addressed by a chaplain, the servant of white protestantism.

"Remember," he whispers. "Our purpose is to tear down in war, desert, and kill our enemies. Mercy, no place in the fighter's outfit. We recognize one power idea to separate us in the hour of peril; all are bound by the stronger than honor."

They are questioned by the commanding officer, do you believe in a Supreme Being? A future reward, and punishment? Can you ride a horse, drive a car, shoot a rifle? Do you believe in blood supremacy? Would you like if ordered by your superior? You may be required to do some service on a higher plane than ordinary night riding. And for that you must make an oath in blood.

They scratch their arms and swear the black oath, the blood oath. They accept for themselves "for root of the sky, bed the earth, for and reward death."

Who are these men, standing in the darkness, swearing such oaths, later to be translated to murder? "Good people from all walks of life who were brought to their senses when communism and other ideas invaded the United States from other countries," their leader, a Michigan state inspector, Arthur Lipp, testified. "Who are these men? Poor folk. Kill billies from the mountains, the South invading Detroit looking for work. 'One purpose was to get jobs for members.' One of those questioned were unemployed. Several said they had got jobs through other members. Whom do they hate? Life, which has treated them badly. Who is to blame? Some black eyes in the face. The niggers, working in the fields that should be theirs. Or the Jews. Do they not keep the prosperous shops? Or the Communists aren't some of the papers full of the Communist peril? Or the trade unionists, who enlist the skilled and unskilled. Or the Catholics, who have a pope in Rome.

They are the poor, the credulous, the violent; little men, full of confused hatred. They are the gullible. The organization, they are told, dates back to Revolutionary days. It has 12 officers, representing the 12 original colonies. They have a direct link with the Ku Klux Klan and its old night riders."

Unaware of True Purpose.

They come into the organization unaware of its true purpose. They sign a simple pledge, joining an order to uphaul the Constitution. They are lured into it by appeal to their basic racial prejudices and with promises of recreational activities and business help. The rest is forced upon them.

Betrayal of secrets is death. They are now members of a gang.

The organization is not confined to Michigan. There was that affair of a short time ago in Florida. "The Toledo Blade reports the existence of the movement in Ohio. Echoes of it are everywhere. They are on my desk in the Herald Tribune. Here is Mr. Robert Edward Edmondson of Washington whom I ask to join the Christian Vigilantes." He writes:

Dear Madam: These two pamphlets are accompanying your letter of 22 of the Christian Vigilantes, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, that was so brutally murdered by the Jew Jews. Over 170,000 copies of these two pamphlets have been distributed in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Invocation to Enlist in War.

And he invites me to enlist in a war against Jews, niggers, Japs, Chinese, all colored, all Aryan swine, communists, pacifists, socialists, internationalists, under the radiant cross of Jesus.

Gentle Jesus, meek and milde.

Or here is another correspondent, who informs me that I am one of many thousands who have been circularized with the information that the murder of the Lindbergh baby was performed as an act of God by those Jews to revenge against the gentle world!

What can be done about it?

Federal Government can do nothing. The Federal police can participate in the apprehension of the kidnappers who have taken a person across state lines to hold him for ransom. But the Lindbergh law, it is argued, does not permit the Federal Government to track down those who kidnap and kill, not for gain, but because the superior has ordered it, because the virgin is a Catholic or a Jew! It is forbidden to send obscene materials in the mails, but not literature exciting any co-operation against a whole class of American citizens, and suggesting civil war. States reserve to themselves, the right to lynching of their own minorities. What the Federal Government can do, however, under the law is to investigate! Let us at least find out how widespread, how numerous are these murder bonds?

Who is Lindbergh? You and I are.

To Blame. All of us who listen tolerantly to intolerant expressions of racial and religious prejudice, without registering our own indignation against such un-American ideas. All of us who tolerate without protest the theory that any man who strikes for better wages is a dangerous radical. All of us who accept lies which are able to contradict. All of us who all amply and think that it can happen here.
G-MEN SOUGHT FOR PROBE OF BLACK LEGION

Bill Clothing Them with Needed Power To Be Introduced

Washington—(AP)—A powerful movement got under way in Congress today to equip J. Edgar Hoover's Federal Agents with new powers to smash the Black Legion.

The Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee began legislating to allow the agents to investigate all the secrets and activities of the organization and take action.

"Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, announced Representative Szadowski, chairman of the committee, "has said that apparently no Federal law has been violated. If one has not then we shall make every effort to pass one that will cover it."

At the Meeting

Meeting with Szadowski, who represents the first Michigan Congressional District located in Detroit, were: Representatives Prentiss M. Brown, Frank E. Hook, Louis C. Ratbaut, John D. Dingell and John Lodwick.

"This organization is evidently interstate in its operations," asserted Szadowski. "It is very clear to me that it is the function of the Federal government to stop this crime-fighting organization. We have no need for such a society that operates by shootings and bombings."

Wants Thorough Probe

"The meeting of the Michigan Democratic Congressional Committee," said the Representatives, "was called to demand a thorough investigation and to draft legislation which will bring organizations such as the Black Legion under jurisdiction of the federal government."

He said he hoped a bill covering the scope of the committee, could be completed by the end of the week.

A Justice department spokesmen indicated Attorney General Cummings would reply today to the request of Duncan C. McCrea, Detroit prosecutor, for a federal investigation of the society of hooded members.

Detroit—(AP)—The Black Legion, which guarded its secrets with scowl and secret, boasted that it could mobilize millions of armed men in 24 hours, was the center of the new investigations today.

The "mobilization," Prosecutor Duncan C. McCrea said members told him, was to be ordered in the event of a Communist uprising.

The Wayne County Circuit Bench planned to decide by mid-day whether to order the Grand Jury investigation asked by Michigan's Attorney General David H. Crowley of violent deaths, floggings, and burning of buildings in the metropolitan area.

In Cleveland, police reopened their investigations of two unsolved deaths after an anonymous caller had blamed the Black Legion.

Threat to Davey

In Columbus, O., records of a legislative investigation a year ago disclosed that the night riders were responsible for threats to kidnap Governor Martin L. Davey's daughter, Evangeline, among other acts of intimidation and violence.

In Pontiac, Mich., a citizens' committee undertook an investigation of reports ascribing two deaths, a flogging and the burning of homes of at least two suspected Communists to a secret organization similar to, if not affiliated with, the Black Legion.

V. F. Elfinger, of Lima, O., spokesman for the national organization of the legion, claimed a total membership of 6,000,000 in the country over.

Prosecutor McCrea said he had received letters from persons in 13 or 18 states, among them Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois and Colorado, ascribing acts of intimidation or violence to the hooded and hooded order.

Upon those letters he based his appeal to United States Attorney General Cummings late yesterday for a federal investigation.
G-MEN BEING SENT HERE BY DETROIT AUTHORITIES; TERRORIST NOTES FOUND

Fort Wayne WPA Worker Pleads for Police Protection.

BULLETIN
Municipal Judge Dewey Myers of Indianapolis said today that citizens in northern Indiana were "up in arms" against the operations of the Black Legion.

"I have just returned from a three-day visit to the northern part of the state, and I know that the Black Legion has been operating there," Judge Myers said.

"The members are 'laughs,' and their activities there are making an investigation to determine to what extent the organization is operating there.

"It is a terrible thing, and the good citizens of the northern part of the state are up in arms against the Black Legion. I am sure that the good citizens of Indianapolis and Marion County will be the same."

By United Press

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., May 28.
A convicted Indiana township official today revealed alleged terrorist activities of an organization known to him as the "Black Knights" which operated in Fort Wayne.

Lawrence F. Hoeltje, former Wayne Township assessor, blamed the "Black Knights" for his conviction on a charge of accepting bribes. He said he refused to carry on their demands and was "too scared" at the time of his trial to reveal their threats.

Marion County Grand Jury investigation of alleged Black Legion activities in Indianapolis was pledged today by Prosecutor Herbert Spencer.

"G-men" are being sent here to investigate "Black Legion" notes uncovered by The Indianapolis Times, Prosecutor Duncan McCrea of Detroit announced.

Municipal Judge Dewey Myers, following a trip to northern Indiana, said the Black Legion is active there and that the "good citizens" of that section "are up in arms" against it.

Fort Wayne sheriff probes reported kidnapping of two men by "Mystic Order of Black Snakes."

Congressional investigation of the Black Legion and similar secret orders is requested by Senate resolution, following corresponding House resolution.

Ohio Senate defeats resolution to investigate state activities of Black Legion.

Messages Promise Calls Will Be Made 'at Night in Robe.'

(From Indianapolis Times)

A grand jury investigation into alleged "Black Legion" activities in Marion County was promised by Prosecutor Herbert Spencer following disclosures today by The Indianapolis Times that purported "Black Legion" documents had been served on Indianapolis citizens.

At the same time Duncan McCrea, Wayne County (Mich.) prosecutor, informed of Indianapolis developments, promised an immediate investigation here by United States Department of Justice agents assigned to his office for interstate duty in the investigation.

Mayor Kern said the city will do everything in its power to prevent the "Black Legion" from operating here. Chief Morrisey and Sheriff Oio Ray invited any one having "Black Legion" information to give it to police authorities.

The local anti-Black Legion activity was set off today with publication in The Times that two sets of purported "Black Legion" notes had been delivered—last night to apartment doors of near north side apartment houses.
INDIANAPOLIS TIMES
May 26, 1936

"We must and will take the law in our own hands by August."
"Please stand by.
A lieutenant will call at your house soon (at night in robe). Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him."
"MAJOR 29KI."

Imprint of Stamp
On each document the imprint of a stamp in purple ink. The design had 16 points connected by seven circles. Indianapolis rubber stamp manufacturers said they believed no such stamp was manufactured and suggested that it may have been cut from card.
The imprint, they said, did not appear to have been made by rubber.
The two pieces of paper were folded lengthwise and fastened by a strip of gummed paper tape similar to that used in groceries.
The occupant of an apartment at which one of the notes was left denied all knowledge of it. He said he knew of no one who would have sent it either in earnest or jest.
At the same time, Lima (O.) authorities disclosed that records of the Black Legion had their possession indicate that the organization went by various names in the different states, and were designated as "Red Leg," in part of Indiana, and "The Black Brigade" in West Virginia.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., May 28.—A frightened WPA worker today pleaded for police protection from Black Legion vengeance and told Sheriff George W. Gillie of plans for a secret meeting of the black-hooded terrorists tomorrow night.

At the same time, Sheriff Gillie confirmed a tale of terrorism related today by Lawrence F. Hootlie, former Wayne Township assessor serving a term for bribery in prison in Michigan City.
"We are going to make a thorough investigation and question members of the organization by the police, and others whose identity we can learn," Gillie said.

Says Hands Are Tied

The sheriff admitted that at present his hands are tied because no acts of violence have been laid at the Black Legion's door to serve as a basis for formal charges.
"What can we do?" he asked.
"Even if we do find out where the meeting is going to be tomorrow night, we haven't anything to charge them with."
Those named by Hootlie as members of the Black Legion, and who will be questioned first by Gillie are Heldon W. Wollman, former deputy township assessor; Jim Fisher, and by Hootlie to have been the leader of the group which threatened him; William Stout, who owned the woods in which Hootlie said Black Legion meetings were held.

FEDERAL HELP Sought Again

Detroit Prosecutor Suggests Inquiry by Internal Revenue Men.

By United Press
DETOUR, May 26.—Prosecutor Duncan O. McCrea today made a second attempt to enlist the aid of Federal officers in his investigation of the Black Legion when he requested the Department of Internal Revenue to inquire into the source of income of Vergil J. Ehringer, Lima, Ohio, alleged district commander of the secret organization.
In a letter to the Rev. John M. Diergen, Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington, McCrea requested an investigation of Ehringer's income, emphasizing that he unaccountably received money from the sale of the black hoods and robes used by the terrorist band, and from the dues of thousands of members in his district comprising Michigan, Ohio and Indiana. Yesterday, McCrea asked aid of Atty. Gen. Homer Cummings.

While Detroit police officials pursued their inquiry into reports that five members of the department were members of the Black Legion, Prosecutor Owen Dudley of Jackson sought to involve Ehringer on crimes of criminal syndicalism in that county.

The Jackson County Grand Jury reopened its hearings into charges of bombings, arson and kidnappings today. As a result of its findings, Dudley said Ehringer would be charged with criminal syndicalism because he had preached in the county last summer in connection with the Black Legion's activities.
Indianapolis Times
May 28, 1936

'Black Legion' Message Found at Apartments

Comrade:

We must recognize quickly we suffered a black time and broke our stride but we will get back to perfect and race on through the night and show the world now it is done.

As Chief had given the word:

"Fellow comrades we must not give up. We must make the symbol of the skull and crossbones the terror of the world. We must and will take the law in our hands before August."

Please sign up now!

A Lieutenant will call at your house soon. (At night in robe) Give your membership to him. He will be your leader and you will get all information from him.

Major 2010