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**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS**

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

HQ FILE: 100-50869

SECTION 20



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NOTICE

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April 23, 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letters of April 17th and 18th have been received.

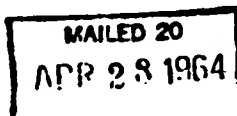
With respect to your inquiries, I am unable to comment in the manner you requested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature I hope you will find of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Internal Security 4-17-62

"Faith in God -- Our Answer to Communism"
"Faith in Freedom"

NOTE: Bufiles contain no derogatory information re. correspondent. Her letter of 7-18-63 was complimentary concerning the Bureau's work in fighting communism and the Director's book, "Masters of Deceit." She was sent material on communism with our reply of 7-26-63. (94-5-52578) American Council of Christian Churches has not been investigated by the Bureau and we enjoy cordial relations with several of its leaders.

DTP: kpl (3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Miss Holmes	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

[REDACTED]

April 18, 1964

J. Edgar Hoover
F. B. I.
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

○ Would like to know if American Council of Christan Churches & National Council of Churches are, one & the same.

Assuming they are not, would like to know if American Council of Christan Churches are Communist infiltrated, or have ever been investigated by our government?

In article written by American Council of Christan Churches literature item No. 100, written by W. O. H. Gorman Is a quotation, which says, "I confess to a real apprehension so long as Communist are able to secure minster of the gosphel to promot thier eviel work."

Assuming this was your quotation was it directed at the Nat. Council of Churches? Did you later repeal this statement?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

COPY:nm

8-100

ack
4-28-64
100-1

April 18, 1964

J. Edgar Hoover
F.B.I.
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

would like to know if American Council
of Christian Churches & National Council of
Churches are, one & the same.

Assuming they are not, would like
to know if American Council of Churches
are Communist infiltrated, or have even
investigated by our government?

An article written by American Council
of Christian Churches literature item no. 1
written by W. O. H. Gorman is a quotation, we
say, "I Confess to a real apprehension of
Communism are able to secure ministers
of the Gospel to promote their evil work."

Assuming this was ^{REC-302} your quotation
it denied at the Council of Churches? & 100-50867-11
you later repeal this statement.

Sincerely,

APR 24 1964

ack
4-28-64
F.H.I.

APR 24 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

TRUE COPY


April 17, 1964

Informant

J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I live in a small community, population 150.
We have one church in our town, Presbyterian tho denomination
has nothing to do with the issue.

The new Revised Standard Bible have, recently
been purchased by our church. This is a concern to me, as
I do not approve of the R. S. V. Bibles.

As I understand it the R. S. V. was revised &
approved by the Council of Churches, which has been accused
of being Communist infiltrated.

If possible would like your ^{Opinion} option on Council of
Churches, and also your opinion of the new Revised Bible.

Has the goverment ever investigated the Council
of Churches ? If so what were there findings?

Sincerely,

REC-102


17 APR 30 1964

CORR. 

1-TC
4-27-64

ack: 4-28-64

64 MAY 5 1964

April 17, 19.

J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I live in a small community, popu-
150. We have one church in our town, Presby.
The denomination has nothing to do with the
issue.

The new Revised Standard Bible have
recently been purchased by our church. This
is a concern to me, as I do not approve of the
R.S.V. Bible.

As I understand it the R.S.V. Bible
was revised & approved by the Council of
Churches, which has been accused of Commu-
nism infiltrated.

I personally would like your opinion
on Council of Churches, and also your opinion
of the new Revised Bible.

Has the government ever investigated the
Council of Churches? If so what were the
findings?

Sincerely,

CORRESPONDENCE

1-70
4-2764

4-28-64
1/1/1

REC-43

April 27, 1964

100-2-107-1121

[REDACTED]

INFORMATION

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 20th has been received.

With respect to your inquiry, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the organization you named.

With regard to the pamphlet you mentioned, you are apparently referring to a leaflet which has been distributed widely and contains a sentence from my statement made to the House Committee on Un-American Activities on March 26, 1947. In this statement, I was establishing the fact that it is a continuing program of the Communist Party to attempt to infiltrate every part of our society, including religion. When this passage is read in context, one realizes that I was not making reference to any particular organization or religious denomination. The statement in question is now out of print.

Enclosed is literature which I trust will be of interest to you.

MAILED 20
APR 28 1964

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Enclosures (4)

1 MAY 1 1964
BTP:mc (3) 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

See Enclosures and Note next page.

Enclosures (4)

4-1-61 LEB Introduction

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

4-17-62 Internal Security Statement

"Faith in God --Our Answer to Communism"

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. The pamphlet to which he refers is believed to be the leaflet, "How Red is the Federal Council of Churches?" which has been widely distributed by the American Council of Christian Laymen. The sentence in contention is "I confess to a real apprehension, so long as communists are able to secure ministers of the gospel to promote their evil work." This has frequently been brought to the Bureau's attention in the past.

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]

Dear Sirs.

I am writing this letter to you in hopes that I can help to re-unite our church. Our church has been separated due to the fact that some people have sent some literature to the effect that the National Council of Churches is communist infiltrated.

I am under the impression that it is not. If I am wrong I would like to know this also.

We have a pamphlet and on the cover is a statement made by J Edgar Hoover to the effect that he expresses great trepidation as long as the communists are able to take over the clergy. I would like to know what was said along with this as I feel it may have been taken from context.

Any information you can forward to me would be appreciated as our church is a small one and cannot afford to be separated.

It would appear to my untrained eye that these sympathizers do more harm than good by causing such a big argument. Consequently our church is no longer any help to anyone.

Thank you:

[REDACTED]

REC-43

8-5TP

17C 4-24-64
ack 4-27-64
DTP/mic
none

envelope
enclosed
Postpaid
4-30-64
EX 101

100-5042-1121
12 APR 29 1964

Dear Sirs.

I am writing this letter to you in hopes that I can help to re-unite our church. Our church has been separated due to the fact that some people have sent some literature to the effect that the National Council of Churches is communist infiltrated.

I am under the impression that it is not. If I am wrong I would like to know this also.

we 4-24-64
me
on the
ad 27-64
made
to the
p/e have a pamphlet and
cover is a statement
by J. Edgar Hoover
to the effect that he.

f27

CORRESPONDENCE

expresses great trepidation
as long as the communists
are able to take over the
clergy. I would like to
know what was said along
with this as I feel it
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context.

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can forward to me would
be appreciated as our
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cannot afford to be
separated.

It would appear to
my untrained eye that these
sympathizers do more harm
than good by causing such
a big argument. Consequently
our church is no longer any
help to anyone.

Thank you

CORRESPONDENCE

REC-43

April 27, 1964

112

APR 27 3 54 PM '64
FBI
FBI READING ROOM

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 21st has been received.

With respect to your inquiry, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the organization you mentioned. You may be assured that I have not furnished a statement such as you indicated to the individual you named.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest.

MAILED 20
APR 27 1964

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (4)

1 - Richmond - Enc.

Attention SAC: Correspondent and [REDACTED] are not identifiable in Bufiles.

Enc.

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
4/1/61 LEB Introduction
4/17/62 Internal Security Statement
Faith in God - Our Answer to Communism

DTP:sls (4)

53 MAY 4 1964

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED]
April 21, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover,

[REDACTED] of Rustburg Va. has stated publicly that he has a letter from you which proves that the National Council of Churches is a communist organization. I have not, however, seen the letter.

I would like to know if the National Council of Churches is presently considered to be a communist controlled or dominated organization. Any information you can supply me will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,
[REDACTED] *h*

REC-43

EX-112

8-ATT
100-50509-1126
● APR 28 1964

*NC 4-24-64
me*

*ack 4-27-64
DTP/als
mmh*

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
April 21, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover,

[REDACTED] of Rustburg Va.
has stated publicly that he has a letter from
you which proves that the National Council of
Churches is a Communist organization. I
have not, however, seen the letter.

I would like to know if the National
Council of Churches is presently considered to be
a Communist controlled or dominated organization.
Any information you can supply me will be
greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

CORRESPONDENCE

17C 4/24/64
me

ack 4-27-64
DTP/sls
mmh

[REDACTED]

131

April 27, 1964

REC-43

1125

34-11

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 22nd, with enclosure, has been received and it was indeed thoughtful of you to bring this material to my attention.

With respect to your inquiry, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

L. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (4)
Let's Fight Communism Sanelly!
4/1/61 LEB Introduction
4/17/62 Internal Security Statement
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Enclosure was a pamphlet describing the reasons why a minister of the Episcopal church was leaving his congregation.

DTP:sls
(3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

REC'D-READING ROOM

APR 27 5 09 PM '64

[REDACTED]

April 22, 1964

F. B. I.
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Will you kindly send me any material you have available on the subject of Communist infiltration of the churches, especially infiltration of the National Council of Churches.

*ack 4/27/64
0727pm*

I have recently become awakened to the fact that our clergy are, I believe, literally brain-washed unless they keep themselves informed from sources other than church publications and our local press, which is nothing but a political organ. I am a member of the Episcopal Church and I was shocked to discover that the rector of the church I attend is completely unaware of any unpatriotic or apostate tendencies of the National Council of Churches. I need something factual to show him. This is a very serious problem with my husband and me because it may involve leaving the church, but this would solve nothing, so it would be more purposeful to attempt to enlighten people who can take action to change the conditions.

12

I am enclosing a pamphlet which, if you have not already seen it, may be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,

[REDACTED]

CORRESPONDENCE

827

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

EX-112

REC-43

APR 28 1964

1125

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

And so I come out. I have found that there are other people who have suffered the same trials of their faith and the same mental anguish that I have suffered, and they plan to come out with me. We plan to set up a new Episcopal Church patterned after the historic Anglican tradition. We believe that God will bless our efforts. We believe that there are many who believe as we believe and who are looking for a wholesome spiritual home. We believe that there are many who are weary of contributing their money toward Church programs that are opposed to the welfare of our country and Biblical religion, and who would welcome the opportunity of being able to make a contribution to what we are trying to do. If you are one of these people, then we extend to you a most profound and prayerful invitation to come along and help build an Episcopal Church based on the Scriptures and on the orthodox faith, one that possesses a purged ancient and orthodox liturgy and traditions, and one that seeks humbly by God's grace to strip itself of unbelief, apostasy, and pagan superstitions, to witness to God Almighty in the name of His divinely appointed Son, in His Spirit, to whom alone we give all the praise and honor and glory.

If you are interested further in our plans, we hope you will let us hear from you.

Rev. James P. Dees
P. O. Box 128
Statesville, North Carolina

Statement of the Rev. James P. Dees on His Withdrawal

WHY I AM LEAVING THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH TO WORK WITH OTHERS WHO DESIRE TO RECAPTURE THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS AND THE WITNESS OF THE HISTORIC CHURCH

I am a clergyman of the Episcopal Church. I have been in the ministry now here in North Carolina for more than fourteen years. I have served as priest in charge of one mission and as rector of two parishes. In times past it has been my privilege to serve my Church in many responsible positions. I was for several years a member of the Executive Council of the Diocese in which I was located, and was Secretary of the Diocesan Convention, Chairman of the Department of Youth, a member of the Department of Christian Education, and a member of the Department of Camps and Conferences, to mention some of the positions I have held.

But the time has come when I can no longer support the Protestant Episcopal Church and what it stands for, and I am now coming out of it. To say that I am leaving my Church is not quite the whole truth, for I feel that the Protestant Episcopal Church, for reasons to be enumerated, has already left me. I am separating myself from what the Church has become. I am coming out of

ences have now reached into Church publications including Church School literature for our young people.

So ends the "Relief and Declaration of Purpose" of the Committee of Christian Laymen.

It is obvious, it seems to me, that much of the programs of the National Council of Churches and of the international Communist conspiracy are being promoted within the framework of the Episcopal Church. A new clergyman in the diocese some time ago quoted a bishop as indicating to him that "the plums" — that is, preferred positions — in the Diocese went to the men who promoted the program of the National Council of Churches. It seems obvious. The Church, in my opinion, is so oriented toward a program of political and social action, that it practically has lost its true mission. We have committees in the Church that tell us how the Church can be effective in getting legislation passed, such legislation as abolition of capital punishment, civil rights (socialism). When I support the Church, I am supporting agencies of the Church doing these kinds of things. I find that I cannot endure it any longer. It appears that the Church has degenerated into the role of a political and social action committee trying to remake the world, by the use of force and persuasion, into the image that the people in authority in it think it ought to be made into, rather than, through preaching the Gospel, letting the Holy Spirit of God move men to do His will freely.

I feel that in the Protestant Episcopal Church I am supporting a political and social action program committed to things that I disagree with and that are displacing the Church's primary function of proclaiming the saving grace offered to sinners through faith in the Divine Saviour. I am afraid that I have had about all that I can stand.

FIRST CONCERN IS THE FAITH

There are times of grave concern. My first concern is for the historic Christian Faith. Christianity is founded on God the Father's revelation of Himself to the world through His divinely appointed Son, knowledge of whom has been committed truthfully to us through the Scriptures and through the Holy Spirit and through a faithful ministry. My second concern is for my country, which is based on the Federal Constitution as it is plainly worded and plainly intended by its authors and based on the basic economic factor of private property, and on concern for the preservation of our national sovereignty and individual freedom. Thirdly in order comes my concern for the Episcopal Church. I cannot accommodate myself to rationally and willfully serving both good and evil. When the Episcopal Church serves

causes that I consider to be evil and contrary to the best interests of the Biblical faith and of my country, then something has to give somewhere, and my personal integrity under God is more important to me than my remaining a priest of the Episcopal Church.

I feel therefore, that the Church and I must separate. I have felt for a long time that I should stay with the Church and fight for what I believe in, from within the Church, and I have done so. But I think now that the time has come when I may be able to give a more adequate witness to God's Truth outside the Episcopal Church.

I wish to let it be clearly known that I stand unequivocally for certain elements of the orthodox faith that I consider basic and particularly relevant at this time, these elements being:

- the Virgin Birth of our Lord as historical fact,
- the Divinity of our Lord,
- the Atoning Sacrifice of the Cross,
- the Resurrection of our Lord from the grave, leaving the tomb empty on Easter morn,
- the Second Coming of Jesus, and
- salvation by Grace through Faith alone.

To sum up now, from the negative side, let me say that I sense deeply the fact that the Episcopal Church is participating in the general dissipation of the historic, Biblical Faith; it is actively engaged in working against the best interests of our country; and it is actively working to destroy race, peace and American culture by advocating the use of force by the Federal Government, which would take away ultimately all of our freedom and liberties.

I know there is much true faith in the Church. I know well of many great sacrifices now being made by churchmen in the name of our Saviour. It is a bad situation that does not have some good mixed with the bad, but the evils that I have pointed out exist on too great a scale for me to live with here any longer. If the House of Bishops will not give us a clear statement of its attitude on certain heretical sounding pronouncements, and if others in high places in the Church deny our Lord as the one Way, Truth, and Life, then the theological and spiritual climate is not for me.

THE DEMAND OF HOLY SCRIPTURE

The fourteenth through the eighteenth verses of the Sixth Chapter of the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, I feel, speaks to me particularly in this hour.

the Church that I feel has departed from what I consider to have been its intellectual, spiritual, and doctrinal heritage. I have had all that I can stand of its social, economic, and political program of socialism; of its pseudo-brotherhood; of its appeasement of the Communists; of its so-called civil rights; and of its rejection of much that I consider to be fundamental to the Biblical faith.

AN EPISCOPALIAN HERITAGE

Let me preface what I have to say further by saying that I am an Episcopalian of many generations. Episcopal clergy are among my forebears. I loved the Church of my childhood and the Church that I felt was handed down to me as "the Church of our Fathers." I loved the comforting faith and gracious manners manifested in the lives of my early spiritual mentors, whose lives and teachings revealed that they were indwelt by the Spirit of our Saviour, whom they taught as the Bible plainly reveals. I love its ancient liturgy and its ancient vestments, and I love the creeds and the heritage of its architecture, its hymns, and many things besides.

But the Church has changed; or, at least, the Church seems to be no longer as it used to appear. The spiritual and intellectual climate is no longer as in days gone by, and I feel that it has changed for the worse, and the faith of the clergy has been sorely watered down with liberal doctrine.

The root of my unrest is found, I believe, in the fact that the bent of my nature is primarily toward the Divine Revelation recorded for us in the Bible, which, I believe, has been imparted by the grace of the Holy Spirit. As I interpret the situation, my faith is basically Biblical faith; and I think that the faith of the Church also should be Biblical faith; and that its worship and practices should conform plainly to God's Word which is found in His Holy Book.

YEARS OF REFLECTION

After years of long and considered reflection over observations gleaned from many sources, I have come to the conclusion, however, that there is a wide discrepancy between what the Bible teaches and what many of the clergy, both of the priesthood and of the episcopate, believe. There are many who do not believe that the Virgin Birth of Christ was an historical fact. They call it a myth. It is my conviction that there are many who do not believe that the tomb in which our Lord was buried on Good Friday was empty on Easter morning and that He had risen from the dead in a transformed, quickened, glorified body. They say this also is only myth. It is my personal observation that there are many in the

Church who do not believe in the Holy Trinity, in its historic relevance and significance. One bishop says that it is out of date. There are many who do not believe in the plain Bible statements that salvation is offered through Christ alone, through His atoning sacrifice, to be appropriated through faith in Him.

CHURCHMEN REJECT THE BIBLE

As samples of current thinking, let me give you a few quotes from certain leaders of the Anglican Communion. Here are some attributed to His Grace, the most Rev. Arthur Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury, who is recognized generally as the titular head of the worldwide Anglican Communion. It is reported that in the *London Daily Mail* of October 2, 1961, he said, "Heaven is also not a place to which we humans go in our present bodily state, nor is it a place for Christians only. Those who have led a good life on earth but found themselves unable to believe in God will not be debarred from heaven. I expect to meet some present-day atheists there." He reportedly is quoted in the *Oakland Tribune* of February 3, 1956 in an AP dispatch from Durham, England, as follows: "The theology of 'Christ bore your punishment: believe and be saved,' when accompanied by the fundamentalist's cliché 'The Bible says' is a very distorted view of the apostolic gospel." Further questionable theology of the Archbishop is reprinted in the same dispatch, where the Archbishop is said to have "attacked the Protestant movement which insists upon the infallibility of the scriptures and such biblical miracles as the virgin birth and the physical resurrection of Christ." Of Dr. Hewlett Johnson, the "Red Dean" of Canterbury, it reportedly is stated in a UPI dispatch of January 26, 1959: He "was quoted as saying he believes Stalin is in heaven . . . 'Stalin was a rough and stern man. He had to be because he had a dirty job to do. But God's eye is a big eye and sees everything, good and bad. To know all is to forgive all, so I think that from heaven's point of view, Stalin is safe.'" These statements speak for themselves and are hardly deserving of comment among people who believe the plain statements of Scripture.

The Rt. Rev. Richard S. M. Emrich of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan is quoted in the *Detroit News* of December 30, 1961 as saying: "You see, God knows His own, and the one thing He wants is love. That is why a good Moslem, who loves God and his neighbor, has a better chance at heaven than a lazy, selfish Christian." I wonder what prompted the bishop to engage in this sophistry. I wonder also, does he consider the doctrine in the third chapter of the Gospel of St. John to be false doctrine? Apparently, he does.

It is my conviction that a Church that tolerates such views as these is to that extent apostate. It is my con-

viction that such views in the Church are gross. I feel that to the extent that I am supporting a Church which permits such beliefs, I am supporting apostasy. I am fully participating in the betrayal of my Lord. God forbid! I feel that the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church has failed in one of its basic obligations, namely, that of attempting to proclaim the historic and to keep the Faith of the Church as free of heresy as possible. In at least one particularly obvious instance, namely, concerning the observations of Bishop Doane of the House of Bishops has failed to take a stand and delineate its position. The House of Bishops has failed its duty to the people of the Church in this regard.

CHURCHMEN ARE SACERDOTALIST

Besides this thinking, to which I take exception, confess to a lack of sympathy with certain practices of our High Church brethren, among them being the use of invoking the blessings of the Virgin Mary. My way of thinking, is a product of medieval and medieval superstition and there is no warrant whatever for it in the Scripture. It tends to deprive our Lord of the veneration due to Him alone. I feel that anything which does this is of the Antichrist. Another practice with which I have little sympathy is that of reserving the Sacrament and of tending to place the physical elements of the Communion, the bread and the wine, on a level where they are held in adoration. I feel that the reserving of the elements and the tendency toward the adoration of the elements in certain worship services hint strongly of idolatry. The elements, the bread and the wine, as I interpret the situation, become considered as a means to approximate the actual physical presence of the Lord and the blood of the Son of God; the practice, in itself, of the doctrine of transubstantiation, to that extent that this is true, I consider it to be idolatry. It is difficult to support a Church that indulges in such practices.

One gets the impression that one can belong to the Protestant Episcopal Church and believe in nothing or everything at all, except, that is, in certain social and political issues.

CHURCHMEN ARE LEFTIST

Apart from this issue of the basic doctrines of the Faith, I find myself sorely tried by our Church's participation in worldly matters that I consider to be of no concern to Christ. The Protestant Episcopal Church is a member of the National Council of Churches. I did not vote for it, and I cannot vote to get out of it, and I have no voice in making my will or views of any effect in regard to it. I am advised that among many of the things that

viction that such views in the Church are growing, and I feel that to the extent that I am supporting a Church that permits such beliefs, I am supporting apostasy; I am willfully participating in the betrayal of my Lord. God forbid! I feel that the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church has failed in one of its basic obligations, namely, that of attempting to proclaim the historic Faith and to keep the Faith of the Church as free of heresy as possible. In at least one particularly obvious instance, namely, concerning the observations of Bishop Pike, the House of Bishops has failed to take a stand and clearly delineates its position. The House of Bishops has failed in its duty to the people of the Church in this regard.

CHURCHMEN ARE SACERDOTALIST

Besides this thinking, to which I take exception, I must confess to a lack of sympathy with certain practices among our High Church brethren, among them being the practice of invoking the blessings of the Virgin Mary. This, to me, of thinking, is a product of medieval and pre-medieval superstition and there is no warrant whatsoever for it in the Scripture. It tends to deprive our Lord of veneration due to Him alone. I feel that anything that does this is of the Antichrist. Another practice with which I have little sympathy is that of reserving the Sacrament and of tending to place the physical elements of the Holy Communion, the bread and the wine, on a level where they are held in adoration. I feel that the reserving of the elements and the tendency toward the adoration of the elements in certain worship services hint strongly of idolatry. The elements, the bread and the wine, in effect, as I interpret the situation, become considered practically to approximate the actual physical presence of the body and the blood of the Son of God; the practice smacks mightily of the doctrine of transubstantiation; and, to the extent that this is true, I consider it to be idolatry. I find it difficult to support a Church that indulges in such practices.

One gets the impression that one can belong to the Protestant Episcopal Church and believe anything or nothing at all, except, that is, in regard to certain social and political issues.

CHURCHMEN ARE LEFTIST

Apart from this issue of the basic doctrines of the Faith, I find myself sorely tried by our Church's participation in worldly matters that I consider to be of the anti-Christ. The Protestant Episcopal Church is a member of the National Council of Churches. I did not vote to get into it, and I cannot vote to get out of it, and I have no way of making my will or views of any effect in regard to it. I am advised that among many of the things that the Na-

tional Council of Churches advocates are disarmament, co-existence with Russia, the abolition of loyalty security laws, recognition of Red China, forced racial integration, to mention but a few. One study of the National Council of Churches by a congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church states that the Council has "exceeded its rightful role in speaking out, as the official voice of Protestantism in America, on such controversial issues as federal aid to education, the right-to-work laws, the ethical considerations of the steel dispute, the seating of Red China in the United Nations, etc." and that it, "as presently constituted and operated, is a harmful and highly dangerous institution" (*St. Mark's Vestry Committee Report on the NCC*). I am advised that in 1960 the Episcopal Church gave the NCC "over \$500,000" which "does not include private gifts, but is represented in the general budget of the Episcopal Church, pp. 47, 48, 49, 50, 51" (*The National Council of Churches of Christ - Activities Revealed*, published by the States Rights Council of Georgia). When I support the Protestant Episcopal Church, my financial contributions and my moral and spiritual support are funneled in part into the support of the National Council of Churches. There is no way that I can avoid this happening as long as I am supporting the Protestant Episcopal Church in any way whatsoever, whether it be in giving toward local needs, toward building funds, or anything else. I am opposed to my supporting, even indirectly, an organization that is aligned with forces that are destroying America. It sorely tries my spirit.

Someone has sent me a copy of the "Belief and Declaration of Purpose" of the Committee of Christian Laymen, Inc., Box 285, Woodland Hills, California. The statement in which I heartily subscribe reads as follows:

1. We believe in an unchanging God "the same yesterday, to day and for ever," hence the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rather than the Social Gospel, should be preached from the pulpit.
2. We believe that as individuals we are fully capable of making our own political decisions. So we oppose the political activities of the National Council of Churches in seeking, as an organization, to influence legislation in the name of Protestantism.
3. We oppose the One World, One Church idea whereby this nation surrenders its sovereignty to the United Nations as promoted by our Church leaders.
4. We support the American Free Enterprise System and our Constitutional Republican form of Government as a necessary adjunct to the survival of Christianity.
5. We seek to inform lay people of influence in our Seminaries and Churches which downgrade the Bible and picture Jesus Christ as just another man. These influ-

April 22, 1964

REC-22
EX-117

Dear [REDACTED]

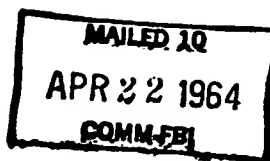
Your letter of April 14th has been received.

With respect to your inquiries, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

Enclosed is some material I trust will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,
A. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely
4-1-61 LEB Introduction
4-17-62 Internal Security Statement
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:jba
(3)

Tele. _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

72 MAY 4 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

APR 22 5 58 PM '64
FBI
RECEIVED ROOM

SW: B

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
April 14 1964
[REDACTED]

Dr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In the welter of charges and counter-charges concerning the integration-segregation crisis in the deep South we hear repeated charges that the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. has been infiltrated by communists and is being used as a tool of the communist regime.

May I ask you if the F.B.I. has any information pertaining to the truth of such a charge? Is there any truth, so far as the F.B.I. is concerned about such allegations as the National Council of Churches having been organized for communistic purposes, etc? Have you had occasion to investigate the N.C.C.?

I am not asking for privileged information as such; but if the F.B.I. can exonerate the N.C.C. this would be very helpful to us in our effort to do the work of the Kingdom of God thru the Methodist Churches in Mississippi. These charges keep our people consistently upset and confused particularly in view of the fact that they come from so many sources.

I will appreciate any assistance you can give us relative to these questions.

Respectfully yours,

[REDACTED]

EX - 117

REC-22

4 APR 27 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

REC-35

April 23, 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 18th has been received.

With respect to your inquiries, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

With regard to Mr. Dan Smoot, he was employed as a Special Agent of the FBI from March 23, 1942, until June 15, 1951, when he voluntarily resigned. His personal ventures and his opinions and comments are strictly his own and this Bureau is not in a position to comment on these in any way whatsoever.

Enclosed is some material I trust will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (5)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

List of Subversive Organizations
Let's Fight Communism Sanely
4-1-61 LEB Introduction
4-17-62 Internal Security Statement
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
DTE:mlk (3) Y 6 1964

SEE NOTE NEXT PAGE

PERS. REC. UNIT

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

RECEIVED
FBI
READING ROOM

[REDACTED]

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. The American Council of Christian Laymen is known in Bufiles for disseminating material stating that the National Council of Churches is communist infiltrated. For the purpose of this reply the individuals mentioned by correspondent were not checked through Bufiles; however, it is noted that the American League for Peace and Democracy and American Youth Congress are cited organizations.

TRUE COPY

April 18, 1964
[REDACTED]

Subject: Communism in the National Council of Churches.

Dear Sir,

Some literature has come to my attention of which I would like to have the evaluation of the F.B.I. I have brought this literature before my preacher and our Young Adult Sundayschool Class. We would like to know the validity of this literature.

I am sorry I could not enclose these pamphlets, but they were the property of another.

The first is a report called The Dan Smoot Report, Vol. 10, NO. 2 (Broadcast 438) January 13, 1964 Dallas, Texas. This report is entitled "National Council of Churches," in which Mr. Smoot contends that the leaders and officers are either communists or communist sympathizers.

Mr. Smoot, once being an agent of F.B.I., suggests to us that maybe the National Council of Churches has been infiltrated by communists, although all of us are quite sure that this is not the case. We would like to know how this organization is considered politically by the F.B.I.

The second pamphlet is entitled "How Red is the National Council of Churches." Published by the American Council of Christian Laymen. Copyrighted 1949 and 1959 by American Council of Christian Laymen.

This pamphlet gives a list of some 46 well known persons and the (communist) organizations to which they have affiliation. Among those are:

E. Stanley Jones, Federal Council Preacher and Missionary, he has affiliations with "American League for Peace and Democracy" and "Signer of "World Tomorrow " Poll!

Ralph W. Sockman, Minister, Christ Church (Methodist) New York, he supposedly has affiliations with "American Youth Congress," "Emergency

ST-114

REC

PERS. REC. UNIT

APR 27 1964

Peace Mobilization," "Fellowship of Reconciliation," and 'Signer of "World Tomorrow" Poll'.

I certainly would not consider these men Communists even though some of their ideas may be a bit strange to some people.

I certainly hope you can give us more information with which we can form more rational opinions. We do not wish to enhance the communist movement, but neither do we want to go off half-cocked. With your information we hope to be better and more enlightened citizens.

Sincerely yours,



April 18, 1964

Subject: Communism in the National
Council of Churches.

Dear Sir,

Some literature has come to my attention of which I would like to have the evaluation of the F.B.I. I have brought this literature before my preacher and our Young Adult Sunday school class. We would like to know the validity of this literature.

I am sorry I could not enclose these pamphlets, but they were the property of another.

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CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Smoot, once being an agent of F.B.I., suggests to us that maybe the National Council of Churches has been infiltrated by communists, although all of us are quite sure that this is not the case. We would like to know ^{how} this organization is considered politically by the F.B.I.

The second pamphlet is entitled "How Red is the National Council of Churches". Published by the American Council of ~~Churches~~ Christian Laymen. Copyrighted 1949 and 1959 by American Council of Christian Laymen.

This pamphlet gives a list of some 46 well known persons and the (communist) organizations to which they have affiliation. Among those are:

E. Stanley Jones, Federal Council Preacher and Missionary, he has affiliations with "American League for Peace and Democracy" and "Signer of 'World Tomorrow' Pledge".

Ralph W. Dockman, Minister, Christ Church
(Methodist) New York, he supposedly has
affiliations with "American Youth Congress", "Emergency
Peace Mobilization", "Fellowship of Reconciliation", and
'signer of "World Tomorrow" Poll'.

I certainly would not consider these men
Communists even though some of their ideas may be a
bit strange to some people.

I certainly hope you can give us more information
with which we can form more rational opinions.
We do not wish to enhance the communist movement,
but neither do we want to go off half-cocked. With
your information we hope to be better and more
enlightened citizens

Sincerely yours,


REC 55

27-103

1122

April 22, 1964

APR 22 4 46 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 16th has been received.

With respect to your inquiry, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. Further, this Bureau does not issue clearances or nonclearances of any type. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the National Council of Churches.

For your information, Assistant Director William C. Sullivan has made many appearances in various sections of our Nation lecturing on the threat of communism. However, he has not issued clearances or nonclearances for a particular group or individual.

Enclosed is some material which I trust will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 10
APR 22 1964
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)
4-1-61 LEB Introduction
4-17-62 Internal Security Statement

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. It is assumed that her reference to Mr. James Sullivan is in effect to Assistant Director William Sullivan.

67 MAY 62 1964
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Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐


Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

April 16, 1964

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
 Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

A statement was made in a discussion group at our church Sunday evening that, if possible, I would like to have clarified.

 Arkansas Council of Churches, stated that you had personally deputized Mr. James Sullivan to speak to the American people concerning the National Council of Churches. He implied that he (Mr. Sullivan) was touring the country to clear up charges made against the National Council of Communist infiltration into this group.

Our churches is "indirectly" a member of the National Council and we are aware of the good done but are quite disturbed by their "so called" right to speak for us politically.

Any information you can give to clarify this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,



REC 26

COPY:nm

1122

4 APR 27 1964

Handwritten notes:
 4/21/64
 100-100000-100000

PER. REC. UNIT



[REDACTED]

April 16, 1964

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

11P Dear Mr. Hoover,

A statement was made in
a discussion group at our church
Sunday evening that, if possible,
I would like to have Chicago.

[REDACTED]

Arkansas Council of Churches, stated
that you had personally deputized
Mr. James Sullivan to speak

at the life of American people concerning
the National Council of Churches.
CORRESPONDENCE


EX-100-1064


EX-100-1064

It is implied that he was ^(Mr Sullivan) touring
the country to clear up charges
made against the National
Council of Communist infiltration
into this Group.

Our church is "indirectly" a
member of the National Council
and we are aware of the good
done but are quite disturbed
by their "so called" right to
speak for us politically.

Any information you can
give to clarify this matter
will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,




REC 30

100 50 567-1120

April 21, 1964

REC'D-READING ROOM

APR 21 4 44 PM '64

Informant

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 12th has been received.

With respect to your inquiries, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 10

APR 22 1964

COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely
4-1-61 LEB Introduction
4-17-62 Internal Security Statement
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
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Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
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Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
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Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

DTP:jba

(3)

6 APR 29 1964

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT ☐

April 12, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover,

In mail I have been receiving for over a year, many well known Americans have been called Communists or "Red sympathizers." I believe you have been quoted incorrectly or out of context in these letters and articles. According to some of them, you agree that many of our church leaders are knowingly or unknowingly serving the Communist cause.

Please answer some questions for me, Mr. Hoover, so that I will know what you really think. If I am wrong, I want to know it -- and if I am right, I hope a letter from you will convince a dear relative of mine that one doesn't have to agree with Billy James Hargis, Dan Smoot, & others with ideas similar to be anti-communist.

Do you think the National Council of Churches is "soft on communism"? Are any clergymen to your knowledge members of communist front organizations? Did you ever say that the late Bishop Oxnam was a "fellow traveler"? Do you think Rev. Martin Luther King is helping the communist cause? Are these newspapermen --- Walter Lippman, Ralph McGill, James Reston, Marquis Childs -- a help to communism? Was Carl Branden convicted of being a communist?

It seems to me that some organizations purported to be anti-communist actually do more harm than good by branding all who disagree with them as communist sympathizers. They would have us work for the impeachment of Chief Justice Warren, the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations, and against efforts in behalf of Christian unity and civil rights.

I know you are a very busy man, Mr. Hoover, but I hope you can reply to these questions. We are active in our church and try to be good citizens -- but we keep getting mail saying we are "communist dupes." Are we?

Thank you for any help you can give,

Sincerely,

COPY:nm

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. Belmont ✓
Mr. Mohr ✓
Mr. Casper ✓
Mr. Callahan ✓
Mr. Conrad ✓
Mr. DeLoach ✓
Mr. Evans ✓
Mr. Gale ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Sullivan ✓
Mr. Tavel ✓
Mr. Trotter ✓
Tele. Room ✓
Miss Holmes ✓
Miss Gandy ✓

221

April 12, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover,

In mail I have been receiving for over a year, many well known Americans have been called Communists or "Red sympathizers." I believe you have been quoted incorrectly or out of context in these letters and articles. According to some of them, you agree that many of our church leaders are knowingly or unknowingly serving the Communist cause.

Please answer some questions for me, Mr. Hoover, so that I will know

REC-30

REC 30 100-50567420

what you really think. If I am
wrong, I want to know - and if I
am right, I hope a letter from you
will convince a dear relative of mine
that one doesn't have to agree with
Billy James Hargis, Dan Smoot, & others
with similar ideas to be anti-communist.

Do you think the National Council
of Churches is 'soft on communism'? Are
^{any} ~~many~~ clergymen to your knowledge members
of Communist front organizations? Did
you ever say that the late Bishop Doonan
was a "fellow traveler"? Do you think
Rev. Martin Luther King is helping the
communist cause? Are these
newspapermen - Walter Lippman, Ralph
McLitt, James Reston, Marquis Childs - a
help to communism? Was Carl Braden

~~Victim~~ of being a communist?

It seems to me that one organization purported to be anti-communist actually do more harm than good by branding all who disagree with them as communist sympathizers. They would have us work for the impeachment of Chief Justice Warren, the withdrawal of the United States from the United Nations, and against efforts in behalf of Christianity and civil rights.

I know you are a very busy man, Mr. Hoover, but I hope you can reply to these questions. We are active in our church and try to be good citizens - but we keep getting mail saying we are "communist dupes." Are we?

Thank you for any help you can give,
Sincerely, [redacted]

REC-34

April 20, 1964

EX-103

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 13th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped that you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (4)
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
4/1/61 LEB Introduction
4/17/62 Internal Security Statement
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:sls
(3)

53 APR 27 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

APR 20 3 03 PM '64

TRUE COPY

April 13, 1964

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

Dear Sir,

There is a group of us in this community who have noted what we believe is a strong Communist influence in the policies of our church, The United Church of Christ, and also in the National Council of Churches. We desire to eliminate this influence without destroying the church. We respectfully solicit your help in either, supplying us with information or directing us to a source where information is available as to whom these elements are and how we can most effectively combat some.

We would also appreciate information on how much of the leadership in the demonstrations, riots and other attacks on law and order, being done in the guise of civil rights is Communist inspired.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

6. ETP

REC-34

1117

EX-103

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6-11-64
3721-282

April 13, 1964.

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

Dear Sirs:

There is a group of us in this community who have noted what we believe is a strong Communist influence in the policies of our church, The United Church of Christ, and also in the National Council of Churches. We desire to eliminate this influence and destroy the church. We respectfully solicit your help in either supplying us with information or directing us to a source where information is available as to where these elements are and how we can most effectively combat them.

We would also appreciate information on how much of the leadership in the demonstrations and other attacks on law and order, for some in the guise of civil rights as Communist inspired.

Sincerely,
[Redacted Signature]

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ack 4/20/64
[Redacted]

[Redacted]

April 17, 1964

REC-20

100-50869/1118

Kilgus
Robt

REC'D-READING ROOM
B I

APR 17 12 54 PM '64

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

Your letter of April 7th, with enclosure, has been received.

As I indicated to you previously, this Bureau does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to be of further assistance along these lines.

I am sending you some additional literature which I trust will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

JH

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (3)

- (1) Let's Fight Communism Sanely!;
- (2) 4/1/61 LEB Intro;
- (3) 4/17/62 Internal Security

NOTE: Correspondent wrote on 11/14/63 concerning the National Council of Churches and was sent an outgoing 11/19/63 advising him that the FBI does not make evaluations and assured him that the National Council of Churches has not been the subject of an investigation by this Bureau. Bureau literature was sent. The reprints currently being forwarded are not duplicative. His enclosure was a copy of the St. Marks Vestry Committee report on the National Council of Churches which has been brought to the Bureau's attention in the past.

Tolson _____
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Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

ATTACHED (3)

APR 17 1964
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Mr. Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

April 7, 1964

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

Dear Sir:

The attached envelope contains a copy of a publication which is causing doubts and concern among some of the members and officers of our [redacted] I am inclined to believe that it surely must require some "reading between the lines" and "going behind the scenes" to get at the real truth.

On November 14, 1963, I wrote to you enclosing samples of some of the other literature that was causing concern among us and requested an evaluation and opinion. I appreciated your courteous and prompt reply and clearly understand that you are not in a position to make evaluations. On the other hand, possibly you might be able and willing to place the attached enclosure of the St. Marks Vestry Committee report on The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America in the hands of someone who would be capable and willing to render a fair and impartial evaluation regarding this particular publication and any other similar materials.

At the present time I am employed as principal of the [redacted] I am a member of the Session of the [redacted] and am serving for this year as [redacted] No one has requested or authorized me to engage in this correspondence but I do feel that it is my personal responsibility to seek the truth and endeavor to work for the welfare of my church and community. Whatever you may do directly or indirectly will be greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

[redacted signature block]

EX-100-PROC
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 20
 APR 10 1964

RECEIVED

REC-23

100-57869-1117

April 17, 1964

(6)

[REDACTED]

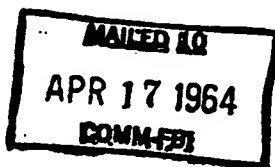
Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 13th has been received.

With respect to your inquiries, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matter you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,



J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (2)

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
4-17-62 Internal Security Statement

NOTE: Bureau files reflect prior correspondence with [REDACTED] last outgoing 3-22-62. Material forwarded at that time is not being duplicated.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
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66 APR 22 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

APR 17 10 23 AM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

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

This past week one of the churches of our Community carried an ad in the local paper which accused the National Council of Churches of Communistic affiliation. I have corresponded with you before and have always appreciated your willingness to assist within the framework of your fine organization.

1. We are told that the old Federal Council of Churches changed its name to the National Council of Churches after being cited three times as a Communist front organization. Is this true?

Sincerely yours,

REC- 23

APR 17 1964

APR 17 1964

~~CORRESPONDENCE~~

44-1115
April 13, 1964

REC-24

APR 15 3 41 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Dear [REDACTED]

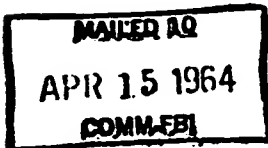
I have received your letter of April 9th and I want to thank you for your generous remarks concerning my administration of the FBI. It is hoped that our future endeavors will continue to merit your support and approval.

With respect to your inquiry, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped that you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature which I hope will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



Enclosures (4)
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
4/1/61 LEB Intro
4/17/62 Internal Security
"Faith in God--Our Answer To Communism"

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

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59 APR 15 1964
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[REDACTED]

April 9, 1964

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Will you be kind enough to send us the information you have concerning the National Council of Churches, information concerning evidence of Communism among the clergy, and any other pertinent information you may have about Communism and the Christian Ministry.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the outstanding work you have done for many years in the interest of our country. May God bless you in every way.

Sincerely yours
[REDACTED]

GC

REC-24

EX-107

1115
16 APR 16 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

REC 29

100-50869-1114

April 13, 1964

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

APR 13 4 12 PM '64

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 8th has been received.

With respect to your inquiry, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped that you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the organization you mentioned.

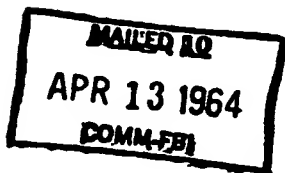
With regard to Mr. Dan Smoot, he was employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent from March 23, 1942, until June 15, 1951, when he voluntarily resigned. His personal ventures and his opinions and comments are strictly his own and this Bureau is unable to comment on these in any way whatsoever.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



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Enclosures (4)

Internal Security Statement, 4-17-62

LEB Introduction, 4-61

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

Faith in God--Our Answer To Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:kcf (3)

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MAIL ROOM ☐

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[REDACTED]

April 8, 1964

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Director Of The Federal Bureau Of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am wondering if you could give me information concerning the degree of influence and infiltration of Communists into the National Council Of Churches.

As a result of the attacks which former F. B. I. member Dan Smont has made on the National Council Of Churches I am finding myself spending more and more time trying to convince people that Communists have not taken over control of the Churches in America. One lady who is not a member of our church has taken her children out of Sunday School because of her fear that the material is being prepared by Communists.

I realize that your office is undoubtedly besieged with requests similar to this, but am hoping that you may at least be able to direct me to some reliable source of information and evaluation on this matter of great concern to all people who love both their church and their country.

Thank you.

Very Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

REC 29

100-34111-1114

8-27-64

Church Youth Camps Are Urged For Race Mixing

Participation In 'Demonstrations' Proposed At Conference Here

By BOB BELL

Banner Church Editor

Summer church conferences and camps should be a time for racial experiences for high school youth, all the way from simple Negro-white association to participation in "demonstrations," according to some national Protestant youth leaders.

This was one of the major suggestions at the closing session of the Youth Ministry Consultation on Race Wednesday afternoon at the Methodist Board of Education building, 19th & Grand. Sponsor was the Emergency Commission on Religion and Race of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

The meeting was a consultation for discussion and exchange of ideas, not a voting matter; results were in the form of suggestions and representatives of some of the 15 denominations present were clearly not in sympathy with many of the ideas presented, although the entire atmosphere was friendly and professional.

Many of the ideas were plainly only those of the person making the suggestion, but members of the group of 40 were either staffers for the National Council of Churches or denominational youth leaders and editors:

The only outside resources leaders were from the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and its northern counterpart, the Northern Student Movement.

Summer youth conferences came into the discussion when Jay Moore, associate director

suggested the use of people who have been directly involved in racial demonstrations as leaders in the camps to acquaint church young people—10th, 11th and 12th graders for this consultation—with what is going on the American race revolution. "Last year we took a group on a speaking tour of the Midwest to stir up votes on civil rights and to influence congressmen in some of the swing (doubtful) areas—got three of them out of jail for the trip just in time to catch the bus."

Pointing out that he is on a phone-call basis with leaders of the racial organizations, John Wood, chairman of the consultation and on the NCC youth department staff in New York City, told the leaders to refer requests for such speakers to his office.

Then Miss Joan Hemenway, associate editor of "Youth" magazine of the United Church of Christ, Philadelphia, suggested that instead of bringing in the demonstrators that the entire camp or conference should be "blooded"—taken to the demonstrations for participation. "The kids owe it to the church to march, to picket in the South, and more so in the North."

The Rev. Theodore McEachern of the Methodist Board of Education staff here asked, "How much can you expect children of mid-adolescence to do?" They're under of the emergency commission, parental care, he continued, have their school duties, can't vote—"why they're as disfranchised as the Negro himself."

"Which is important," he said, "for the youth to work at developing his own identity or to become militant in social action? I think it is asking too much, and I am familiar with what Negro 11th and 12th graders have done in filling jails."

The Rev. Richard Rice, editor of a Methodist publication for senior high, differed. Because of over-protection, youth should be interested in getting freedom, he said. "They acquiesce in their slavery, as it were. I like the idea of giving them contact with SNCC, voter registration and such things."

John Newman, a college student taking a year out to work with the national Methodist youth organization here, declared there is not enough conflict in the church. He suggested that NCC help trigger sympathetic youth demonstrations all over the U.S. when suitable events occur. "It would be good for the kids." Earlier he had told the group

of plans for a group of Mississippi young people—white and Negro, to take a tour bus trip to a national Methodist youth meeting later this year.

Dr. Colin Williams, evangelism director for NCC, wondered if in areas where integration is slow, the United Christian Youth Movement, another NCC organization, might organize pickets.

This prompted Newman. "We've already thought about picketing the (Methodist) General Conference" (starting April 26 in Pittsburgh).

Marvin Dirks of the Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas, thought the youth had more freedom than at any other age, pointing out that youth, particularly in college towns, can get away with almost anything. "They expect children to do things. Aren't they the easiest mobilized and the most volatile? The average teen-ager has his family on his side in any shenanigans."

Miss Hemenway pointed out that "all over the nation parents have restrictive influences. Summer camp is the first time for the youth to get away, free to do as they like."

(At several points in the discussions, it had been said that parental pressure is one of the major reasons the high schoolers have not been taking a more active part in the racial demonstrations. Negro representatives at the consultation had little to say during the discussions of how to get the youth out from under parental control, unless asked a direct question. In conversation after the close of the consultation, several, although deeply concerned over church participation in the campaign for equal rights and civil justice, were as appalled as some of the white representatives at the idea for subverting parental control of youth.)

Discussion developed the possibility of quietly arranging with one of the racial organizations to be staged in connection with church youth conferences, so that the youth could be involved, yet organizers of the conference would not be responsible.

"If I'd done my homework, we should have had CORE (Committee on Racial Equality) organize a picket line when the National Conference of Methodist Youth met," Wood told Newman.

Newman was eager to get church youth involved in everything—school integration, voter registration, political campaigns. "Parents in the north would get as mad at seeing their kids in a labor picket line as in a civil rights line. . . . We need to get the kids militantly involved."

Dr. Williams suggested that UCYM send its bus throughout the southeast to tell the story of the organization—if churches refuse, they go to the town square. "If it involves conflict with local law, all the better — it will attract more attention."

One committee was bothered by communicating with youth in the southeast — earlier in the consultation one editor told of having copies of an issue devoted to race returned by one church in Alabama.

Efforts to get racial matters into 1964 summer conferences may be stymied because many denominational leaders have already sent out their information. Boyd Hughes of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Indianapolis, said his denomination's 1965 program calls for youth conferences to get off the usual conference sites and go where something is happening. Some Illinois conferences have already arranged to switch from their usual rural camps to the heart of Chicago this summer, he told the group.

When the question of introducing racial matters into Boys State and Girls State programs came up, Lanier Hunt of the NCC staff suggested that an attempt be made to find students who

were going to such camps and train them ahead of time.

"There's always the possibility of getting CORE to stage a demonstration at the same time," pointed out Newman.

Throughout the three days, the comments of the NCC leaders were to encourage brushes with "the system" in an effort to get young people involved in the racial revolution as it was continually termed. For young people to be stopped by police was termed an excellent way to wake them up to what is going on in the world around them.

In his lengthy talk Tuesday, Dr. Williams had pointed out that NCC staffers and most church board staffers are not in any danger of their jobs because of racial activities, and had asked how they might "use this freedom in the battle for human dignity."

THE NASHVILLE BANNER,

Fri., Jan. 10, 1964

April 7, 1964

APR 7 2 13 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

REC-22

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received the letter of March 25th from your wife and you, with enclosures, and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

Assistant Director William C. Sullivan, formerly Chief Inspector of the FBI, did receive a telephone call from Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., and discussed communism and the churches in response to Bishop Hardin's questions. Both agreed that churches and religious organizations have been and will remain targets for communist infiltration as are all segments of our society. Bishop Hardin asked whether the National Council of Churches had ever been cited as a subversive organization by the Attorney General. Mr. Sullivan told him that the National Council of Churches had not been so designated under the provisions of Executive Order 10450. For your additional information, it is also noted that it has not been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

With respect to my quote you mentioned, this was taken from my article which appeared in the February, 1949, issue of "Redbook Magazine," which was written to alert members of religious groups to communist tactics.

We must continually be alert to communist attempts to penetrate and influence; however, our efforts must be rational and objective, and kept within the due process of law.

I hope the foregoing will be of assistance to you in understanding the background of this situation. As an investigative agency of the Federal Government, the FBI does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions

1 - Mr. Sullivan - Enclosures (2) (Con't next page)
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[REDACTED]

concerning any organization, publication or individual. Further, this Bureau does not issue clearances or nonclearances of any type. Therefore, I trust you will understand that conclusions drawn by Bishop Hardin from his conversation with Mr. Sullivan are strictly those of Bishop Hardin and should not be used as the basis for inferring either that we do or do not support his stand.

Enclosed is some material I trust will be of interest, along with the stamped, self-addressed envelope which you so thoughtfully forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (5)

4-1-61 FBI LEB Intro
Let's Fight Communism Sanely
4-17-62 Internal Security Statement
"Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism"
Stamped, self-addressed envelope

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Correspondent's enclosures were a stamped, self-addressed envelope which is being returned and the article quoting Bishop Hardin as saying he contacted the Chief Inspector of the FBI who said it was not true that communism was invading the National Council of Churches. Sullivan to Belmont memorandum 3/9/64, explained Bishop Hardin's call to Mr. Sullivan and suggested recommendation that a request for a speaker be declined. Mr. Sullivan noted that he explained in detail the official Bureau position concerning alleged communist infiltration into religious groups and did not give any information which could be utilized as a basis for a clearance or nonclearance of this group. The quote attributed to the Director in the correspondent's letter appears in Mr. Hoover's article, "God or Chaos?" which appeared in the February, 1949, issue of Redbook magazine. It appeared on page 7 and is quoted accurately.

March 25/1964.

Mr. Evans
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

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

Dear Mr. Hoover,

This is a plea for help in getting the truth to our people.

A recent copy of the South Carolina Methodist Advocate carries a short notation by Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., which I shall enclose for your reading.

Mr. Hardin's reference to a telephone conference with the "Chief Inspector of the F.B.I. in Washington," is undoubtedly calculated to convince his readers that he was talking to J. Edgar Hoover; and we doubt that seriously, since we have printed quotations from you which give the opposite information. Among these quotations, I read that you said, "It is ghastly to see the monster atheism being nourished in the churches which it seeks to destroy."

Of course, we can see what the National Council of Churches is doing, for ourselves. (Our church belongs and we would give anything to be able to get away from it.)

But we have full confidence in you and your opinion and believe you know the truth better than anyone else in America.

How can we reconcile Mr. Hardin's statement that the Chief Inspector of the F.B.I. in Washington flatly denies Communist invasion in the churches?

We wonder who this "Chief Inspector" may be?

Thank you if you will straighten us out in this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

REC-22
EX-103

MAR 30 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

ENCLOSURE

31 MAR 30 1964

Notes From The Bishop's Study . . .

It was six-thirty in the morning when the desk clerk at the motel in Jesup, Ga. told me that I was wanted on long distance . . . Dr. Francis Cunningham was calling to tell me that the main building at Columbia College had burned to the ground a few hours earlier . . . He assured me at once that no one had been injured and that the girls had been magnificent in their behavior when disaster struck . . . Like everyone else, Dot and I were shocked at the thought of the loss of an historic building, with records and other valuables, but grateful to God that no lives had been lost . . . Since returning to Columbia I have been cheered by the fine spirit and determination of all who are connected with the college . . . President L. Wright Spears and other administrative officials, the faculty and student body, the Board of Trustees and the Board of Visitors, the pastor and members of College Place Church and the people of Columbia and South Carolina have all cooperated in laying plans to recover as quickly as possible from this devastating blow . . . Of course the alumnae and friends everywhere are lending their full support and I predict that Columbia College will meet the challenge of its recent catastrophe by making greater advances more quickly than otherwise would have been the case . . . Let us lend our every effort in this direction . . . Mr. DeHon Clarkson, our able and amiable conference treasurer, tells me that the South Carolina Conference is at the sixty per cent point in the payment of Conference and World Service Benevolences for this conference year . . . Incidentally, I trust that each church and each pastor is giving serious attention to the ADVOCATE campaign . . . A number of people have written to me recently, expressing concern over the unfounded rumors that Communism is invading the Church and the National Council of Churches . . . So I picked up the phone on Tuesday, February 25th, and called the Chief Inspector of the F.B.I. in Washington and asked him about it . . . He said flatly that it was not so . . . And he is in charge of F.B.I. investigations of Communism . . . Some good news comes along occasionally, news that thrills me . . . Down in Elba, Ala-

ENCLOSURE

bama, the Methodist church was asked to pay \$840.00 on World Service and Conference Benevolences Without any pressure from anyone the church voluntarily accepted \$1600.00 Things like that strengthen our faith in our Methodist people David Carter is the highly esteemed pastor there Responses to a recent printing of these NOTES have been interesting I am referring to the NOTES in which I wondered if anybody loved anybody else any more and in which I said that I was fed right up to the neck with hostility A lot of people seem to feel as I do One of the more interesting letters came from my old friend Ben Ray in Birmingham He said that sometimes when he feels discouraged and is inclined to think that things have never been so bad he rereads the following quotation:

"It is a gloomy moment in history. Not in the lifetime of any man who reads this paper has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so dark and incalculable.

"In France the political cauldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty.

"England and the British Empire are being sorely tried and exhausted in a social and economic struggle, with turmoil at home and uprising of her teeming millions in her far-flung empire.

"The United States is beset with racial, industrial and commercial chaos, drifting we know not where.

"Russia hangs like a storm cloud on the horizon of Europe — dark, menacing and foreboding.

"It is a solemn moment, and no man can feel indifferent, which haply, no man pretends to feel in the issue of events.

"Of our own trouble, no man can see the end"

This was an editorial in Harper's Magazine, October 10, 1847.

Paul Harding Jr.

The Communists have demonstrated time and again their mastery of deception in injecting their slogans and propaganda into Christian groups on the themes of "peace," "democracy," "aid to the poor" and "civil liberties." They are just as facile in dealing with Jewish groups in passing the lie that there is no "anti-Semitism in Russia." To the Jew they say that Palestine is the natural home of the Jews, and to the Mohammedan they deplore Jewish encroachment upon the Arabs. Selling and pandering the hellish hates of Communism, they represent themselves as all things to all people.

Individuals who, if they are not Communists, have followed every twist of the Party's line have defended themselves on the basis of their self-declared nominal affiliation with the Church. When the Catholic War Veterans asked a group of Communists to declare themselves, as laymen in any church have a right to ask a brother, they replied variously from "none of your business" to "the suffering of an individual as a result of such attacks is small compared to the sufferings of Christ."

Many Communist fronts have operated under the guise of some church commission or religious body. It is ghastly to see the monster atheism being nourished in the churches which it seeks to destroy. Church leaders can stop this nefarious infiltration by taking vigorous action in the boards and commissions under church supervision. Individual ministers and church members can avoid being hoodwinked if they will stay close to the fundamentals of their faith. Any minister who cannot find in his Bible sufficient argument for the cause of liberty and social justice--who has to borrow the double-talk of the Communists--is in the wrong profession and should be carefully watched by his official superiors and his congregation.

Religion is the only force that can save our civilization. Only in religion can men learn to live at peace with one another, because only religion puts total emphasis on serving others rather than self. In the twilight of despair which is settling on so many areas of the earth, we must turn to the Fatherhood of God.

The zeal of early Christians stamped out paganism in Rome and conquered the savage gods of the northern barbarians. That same zeal could convert godless Communism. It is up to the churches of America to recapture the militant spirit of Paul and to fulfill the magnificent prophecy of John:

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

April 10, 1964

REC-124

100-50867-1112

EX-103

APR 10 4 31 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 7th, with enclosure, has been received.

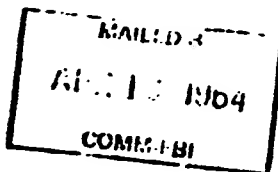
With respect to your inquiries, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest, along with the stamped, self-addressed envelope you so thoughtfully forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (5)
Correspondent's enclosure
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
4-1-61 LEB Introduction
4-17-62 Internal Security Statement

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

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FBI

am
B.L.

[REDACTED]

7 April 1964

The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:-

We are facing quite a challenge in the work of the Methodist Church here in the South and particularly in the State of Mississippi regarding the financial support that the Methodist Church extends to the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST in the U. S. A. due to persistent rumors about and allegations against the Communistic infiltrations and tendencies related to the NCC.

Could you possibly furnish me with any information regarding this situation? Have you ever had any occasion to investigate the NCC regarding this matter and, if so, what did your investigation reveal?

Any information you may furnish relative to this important matter will be sincerely appreciated.

I am enclosing a self-addressed stamped air-mail envelope for your use in this instance.

Thank you for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

REC- 224

EX-103

100-50867-1112
APR 13 1964

P10

REC-24

100 50867-1111

April 9, 1964

APR 9 4 19 PM '64
FBI
REC'D-READING ROOM

C
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of April 5, 1964, with enclosure, has been received.

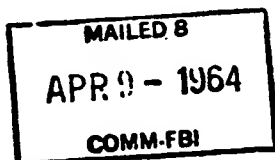
With respect to your inquiry, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the organization you mentioned.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest, along with the stamped, self-addressed envelope you so thoughtfully forwarded.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (5)
Correspondent's Envelope
4-1-61 LEB Introduction
4-17-62 Internal Security
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in God - Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

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B.S.

[REDACTED]
Apr, 5th 1964

J. Edgar Hoover
Director Federal Bureau
of Investigation
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir;

Will you please give me some information on the National Council of Churches regarding their position toward Communism, I am an Elder in [REDACTED], and a Trustee in same, my reason for wanting this information is many prospective members are saying I would join [REDACTED] if you were not affiliated with the Nat'l Council of Churches and imply they are Communist inspired.

U.S.P

P.S. Enclosed stamped self addressed envelope will appreciate immediate reply.

U.S.P

REC-28

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CORRESPONDENCE

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REC-24

100-50869-110

April 10, 1964

REC'D - READING ROOM
FBI
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C
[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 30, 1964.

With respect to your inquiries, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. It is hoped you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

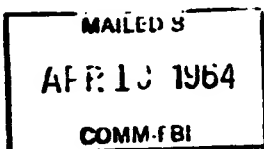
With regard to Mr. Edgar C. Bundy, I have not made a report such as he indicated. Mr. Bundy does not speak for this Bureau and you may be assured he does not have access to data in our files.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



8
Enclosures (4)
4-1-61 LEB Introduction
4-17-62 Internal Security
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in God - Our Answer to Communism

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NOTE: [REDACTED] is not identifiable in Bufiles. [REDACTED]

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(3) APR 17 1964

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Mr. Tolson
 Mr. Belmont
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. Casper
 Mr. Callahan
 Mr. Conrad
 Mr. DeLoach
 Mr. Gale
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Sullivan
 Mr. Tavel
 Mr. Trotter
 Tele. Room
 Mr. Holloman
 Miss Gandy

March 30, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
 Director
 Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Sir:

As a member of the Methodist Church and an interested citizen in our country's welfare, I am writing to you to clear up a matter that is now prevailing.

Mr. Edgar C. Bundy of Wheaton, Ill. is going about the country exclaiming that in a report to Congress you have made, you proclaimed the National Council of Churches is Communists infiltrated. Is this true or is this fiction? what is your opinion of the N. C. C.

If this "report" is not true, this "so called Major," is using false documented literature, to deceive Americans and cause great strife among Christian people.

Your reply will be greatly appreciated by myself and many Americans. There are so many charges and countercharges concerning this matter that it is difficult to distinguish the truth.

I know you are a busy man but if you could send a reply, I would be very grateful.

Also, if this request is not out of order, please relate any information you have concerning the facts about Mr. Bundy.

Thanking you in advance, I remain,

Sincerely yours,
[Signature]

[Redacted Signature Block]

COPY:nm

*10
 4/2/64
 100-1-126*

E-RTT

87

March 30, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Dear Sir:

As a member of the Methodist Church and an interested citizen in our country's welfare, I am writing to you to clear up a matter that is now prevailing.

Mr. Edgar C. Bundy of Wheaton, Ill. is going about the country explaining that in a report to Congress you have made, you proclaimed the National Council of Churches is Communist infiltrated. Is this true or is this fiction? What is your opinion of the N.C.C.

If this "report" is not true, this "so called Major" is using false documented literature, to deceive Americans and cause

REC-24 / 100-50869

great strife among Christian people.

Your reply will be greatly appreciated by myself and many Americans. There are so many charges and counter-charges concerning this matter that it is difficult to distinguish the truth.

I know you are a busy man but if you could send a reply, I would be very grateful.

Also, if this request is not out of order, please relate any information you have concerning the facts about Mr. Bundy.

Thanking you in advance,
I remain,

Sincerely Yours,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

AS

REC'D

AS

REC'D

2 ENCLOSURES

103

REC 5

April 9, 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of April 2, 1964.

With respect to your inquiries, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the organizations you mentioned.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

LEB Introduction 4-1-61

4-17-62 Internal Security

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

Faith in God - Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles..

DTP:eo (3)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

72 APR 16 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
APR 9 2 14 PM '64

6.2

[REDACTED]

April 2, 1964

[REDACTED]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Chief
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Over the past several months in our community several speeches have been made and much literature distributed suggesting that the National Council of Churches is aiding Communism, particularly through its work with the race problem.

The charge has also been made that the Communist party has infiltrated both the National Council and the Methodist Church.

Your opinion on these charges and suggestions will be much appreciated.

We are grateful for your work and for your influence for the sake of upright, law-abiding citizenship.

Cordially yours,

[REDACTED]

REC 5

100-50869-110

APR 10 1964

APR 10 1964

88

4/9/64
D-22

April 8, 1964

REC-139

100-50867-1108

REC'D-READING ROOM
B I

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of April 4th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiry, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance but trust you will understand the necessary reasons for this policy.

Enclosed is some literature I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
4-17-62 Internal Security statement
4-61 LEB Intro

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:jfg
(3)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
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Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

DEM
B.2

[REDACTED]

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Our Church, [REDACTED] feels that the Church has the responsibility to seek for truth in all areas of life. Because our Church feels this way, it has appointed a committee to make a careful study of THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES as regards rumors that circulate concerning its function.

Our Committee is most anxious for a prompt reply, and we do hope that you will see fit to help us.

One charge that has been brought against the Council is that it is a Communistic Organization, or that, at least, it has Communistic Leanings.

Would you be able to let us know by letter whether or not you have evidence or suspicions as to the NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES being Communistic in its interest and work. A letter would help so much to settle unrest and commotion in our area.

Also, it would help us to destroy rumors (if such they are), if we could be given permission to print copies of the letter you send.

We hope you will be able to help us in this matter. Just a statement is all we would need.

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REC-139

11 APR 10 1964

WORKS 277
P. 1

REC 29

100-50347-1101

April 9, 1964

EX-103

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of April 4, 1964.

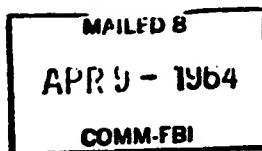
With respect to your inquiries, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the organization and individuals you mentioned.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)
LEB Introduction 4-1-64
Internal Security 4-17-62
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in God - Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

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Tolson _____
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Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

APR 9 2 01 PM '64
FBI
READING ROOM

B.1.

TRUE COPY

To whom it may concern:

I have heard several things and seen several leaflets and articles in various places about the National Council of Churches being affiliated with Communist organizations, and I would surely appreciate it if you could furnish me with any documentary proof of any kind, as to what groups or churches belong to NCC, and some of their past and present officials. Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

/s/

REC 29

APR 10 1964

To whom it may concern:

I have heard several things and seen several
leaflets and articles in various places about the National
Council of Churches being affiliated with Communist
organizations, and I would surely appreciate it if
you could furnish me with any documentary
proof of any kind, as to what groups or churches I
belong to, P1 C13, and some of their past and present
officials. Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]



110-91-10
110-91-10
110-91-10

ATTN: [REDACTED]

REC-20

April 6, 1964

EX-103

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 31st, with enclosure, and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to the clipping you forwarded, my speeches are a matter of public record and many individuals quote from them from time to time; however, this does not necessarily mean that this Bureau is either in support of or against the position these individuals assume.

With regard to the National Council of Churches, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of this Bureau must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance but trust you will understand the necessary reasons for this policy.

Enclosed is some literature I hope will be of interest to you.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (4)

1 - Memphis - Enclosures (3)

DTP:mc (4)

See Enclosures and Note next page.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
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Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

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[REDACTED]

Enclosures (4)

4-1-61 LEB Introduction

4-17-62 Internal Security Statement

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

Faith in God—Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. His enclosed clipping tells about the speech given by Lyon C. Branlett, Jr., [REDACTED] before the Clarksdale Rotary Club. The Delta Project, [REDACTED] is reportedly a program of the National Council of Churches about the problems of integration in the Mississippi Delta area. A reference is made to an FBI study in the 1930's concerning Negro self-determination in a five-state region of the Southeastern United States. It would appear that reference is being made to the policy of Joseph Stalin concerning Negroes in America. This policy was changed in 1959 at the 17th convention of the Communist Party, USA (after Stalin's death).

March 31, 1964

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director
The Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a news item from the local paper (Clarksdale Press-Register, March 25, 1964) concerning an address given at the local Rotary Club on Tuesday of last week. Though I did not hear this or the subsequent addresses made by the speaker, some came away feeling that the speaker used an F.B.I. report to link the National Council of Churches' Delta Project with the communist party. Although I am not in complete agreement with the methods or tactics employed by the NCC, I do not believe it is following the communist party line with its Delta Project. Could the speaker mentioned in this news item be right about the NCC's "Delta Project"? Is the National Council of Churches following the line of the communist party? Are there any communists in its group? If so, I feel that as a minister of a member church who lives in an area concerned by this project, I have a right to know. If the NCC has been given a clean bill of health by the FBI, I feel that these good people here have a right to know.

I shall appreciate any information you may have on this subject. Please let me hear from you concerning this matter at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

[Redacted Signature]

REC-20

EX-103

Encl.

ack 4-6-64
134-104-1

76

① F-2-17
Page
Wednesday Afternoon,
March 25, 1964

The Clarksdale Press Register

'Delta Project' Seen As Call To Break Law

Bramlett Urges Stand Against It

Terming the endorsement and financing of the Mississippi Delta Project by the National Council of Churches an "open call to law violation in the name of non-violent protest" and "a glib acceptance of a foreign program for weakening the American nation through racial agitation under the guise of religious activity," Coahoma County planter Leon C. Bramlett Jr. yesterday asked the Clarksdale Rotary Club to recognize the inherent dangers in the project and be prepared through knowledge to "cope with it with foresight, calmness, patience and intelligence."

A member of the Citizens Committee, appointed by the Coahoma County Bar Association last summer when the initial NCC activity began in Clarksdale, Bramlett last week gave the same report to Cooper Yergers Post of the American Legion and is scheduled to address other clubs and civic groups in the near future.

His written address included detailed documentation of sources, including frequent direct quotations from the reports of J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the resolution of the NCC General Board at its Baltimore meeting Feb. 26, when the so-called Delta project was first publicized, and comparisons of the platform of the Communist Party of the United States with the details of the 1964 program as announced.

Bramlett emphasized that while the "invasion and activity of these ministers, along with recruited student aides, will prove exasperating and annoying" to both the Negro and white residents of the 15 Delta counties involved, "it is the duty and responsibility of each of us to leave the handling of any problems that may arise entirely within the discretion of our expanded and improving law enforcement agencies acting under the supervision of the elected bodies of our government."

"To do otherwise, to assume
Continued on Page nine)

100-55561-1116
ENCLOSURE

(2)

The Clarksdale Press Register
Wednesday Afternoon, March 25, 1964

Page 9-

'Delta Project' Rapped By Speaker

(Continued from Page One)

unto individual judgments the proper response to such agitation, is to play into the hands of those who through ignorance or intent seek to upset or destroy the entire social and economic order of this region," he added.

Conservative Approach

Bramlett opened by saying that he considered himself, like many others, "remiss for many years in accepting the opportunities of citizenship without the related responsibilities." Labeling himself a "conservative — in the sense of meaning to save" he said that the chains of the Constitution which bind our government and protect all citizens from unwarranted abuses by the government face destruction "unless we all come alive as citizens, arm ourselves with knowledge so that we will quit being nagged by fear of an enemy that we don't understand, and resist successfully the insidious changes which others would force upon us."

He opened by tracing the infiltration of communists — propagandists into the efforts of sincere Americans to evolve improvements in the status of Negroes in U.S. society. Quoting from Lenin's pronouncements of 1913 and Stalin's acceptance of racial agitation as a party program in 1925, he also cited the increasing severity of legislation in this field from 1947 through the Civil Rights Bill of 1963 now in Congress.

An FBI study in the 1930s reprinted a communist document calling for land confiscation, abolition of state boundaries and Negro self determination in a five-state region of the Southeastern U.S.

The NCC statement outlining the Delta Project cites land ownership as one of the key flaws in the present economy and implies that their program under a \$25,000 director with a \$10,000 a year minister in each of the 15 counties will study improvement of this problem.

Funds Allocated

The NCC resolution, also advocates the encouragement of "non-violent and passive" protests, sit-ins, challenges to existing ordinances and laws, and resistance to the existing social and economic order.

The NCC will furnish 60 per

cent of the allocated \$250,000, socking the remaining 40 percent from the World Council of Churches. Salaries will of sume \$175,000 and the remaining \$85,000 is budgeted for "educational activities, legal fines and fees, travel, etc."

The speaker concluded: "We should never become so accustomed to untruths and wrong, under whatever guise it is presented, that we fail to act to save what is good in this republic of ours. Even with its faults it today offers more freedom, happiness and material well-being to more people, including our dissatisfied minority groups, than any other nation in the long history of the world. We should not hesitate to engage in this controversy and speak out for our beliefs, for there is no controversy permitted under the systems of those who would destroy us."

Bramlett was introduced by Pete Shelby, program chairman.

EX-102

REC-125

April 1, 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 24th, with enclosure, and want to thank you for your good wishes for my health.

With respect to your inquiries, I would like to point out that the FBI does not issue clearances or nonclearances of any type and that our files are confidential and available for official use only, pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I can, however, assure you that the FBI has not investigated state-supported schools and colleges in North Carolina. For this reason, it would obviously be impossible for this Bureau to make any authoritative blanket statement regarding the existence of communists or communist sympathizers in these educational institutions.

With regard to the National Council of Churches, a representative of the FBI did talk to the group mentioned in your clipping; however, they were not given any information from our files to substantiate their conclusion. Any conclusions drawn by them were strictly their own and it should be clearly understood that our inability to furnish information to this group should not be the basis for inferring either that we have or have not "cleared" this organization.

Your interest in writing is certainly appreciated, and I hope our efforts in carrying out our responsibilities will continue to merit your approbation. I am enclosing literature which I trust will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

1 - Charlotte - Encs. (2)

DTP:jba (4) See note and enclosures on next page.
Enclosures (4)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MAILED 8
APR 2 - 1964
COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

APR 7 3 17 PM '64

REC'D - READING ROOM
FBI

[REDACTED]

Enclosures

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

4-1-61 LEB Introduction

4-17-62 Internal Security Statement

Faith in God

NOTE: Her enclosure described the Episcopal commissions reported check with the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the FBI concerning the National Council of Churches. Mr. Sullivan has explained that this group was given the Bureau's official position in regard to these matters and drew their own conclusion. The portion of the reply pertaining to the educational institutions of North Carolina was composed in a letter dated 3-20-64 to a North Carolinian concerning Governor Sanford's stand in this matter. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **The issue of communist infiltration into educational institutions in North Carolina has received considerable attention in the recent past.**

Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Mrs. Gandy	

March 24, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

It has been my understanding in the past that the FBI is not authorized to issue security clearances to any individual or organization.

Recently Governor Terry Sanford made a widely publicized statement asserting that you had assured him there was no Communist membership or sympathy among either faculty or students on the North Carolina college and university campuses.

The enclosed clipping is from my church paper, The Lutheran Witness. It implies a clearance of sorts being given to the National Council of Churches by the FBI.

I would like to know whether the FBI has changed its above mentioned long-standing policy regarding the release of such information or is the public being misinformed?

May I also say, Sir, that I wish you good health and a long life.

Sincerely yours,

COPY:nm

6-ATP

11

March 24, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D.C.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It has been my understanding in the past that the FBI is not authorized to issue security clearances to any individual or organization.

Recently Governor Terry Sanford made a widely publicized statement asserting that you had assured him there was no Communist membership or sympathy among either faculty or students on the North Carolina College and university campuses.

The enclosed clipping is from my church paper, The Lutheran Witness. It implies a clearance of sorts being given to the National Council of Churches by the FBI.

I would like to know whether the FBI has changed its above mentioned

EXP. PROC.

MAR 27 1964

100-50861-1115

MAR 27 1964

ENCLOSURE

CORRESPONDENCE

long-standing policy regarding the
release of such information or is
the public being misinformed.?

May I also say, Sir, that I wish
you good health and a long life.

Sincerely yours,



Red Charge False, Says Commission

Charges that the National Council of Churches (NCC) harbors communist sympathizers are false, says the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations of the Episcopal Church after a 2-year investigation of the NCC.

The Episcopal commission reported that it had met with "personnel of the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Federal Bureau of Investigation" but was "not able to discover any fact of record" that would support charges of communist sympathies in the NCC.

"The allegation that the NCC has given intellectual comfort to the communists by following certain economic and social lines is based on the erroneous assumption that people who attack the same economic and social problems must share the same principles," the report stated, adding:

"The NCC has shown in its literature, its pronouncements, its action, in the lives of its leaders, and in many other ways that its forces are enlisted in the fight for free men in a free world."

In its report, however, the Episcopal commission noted that the NCC had exposed itself to valid criticism of its pronouncements on controversial economic, social, and political issues by failing to make clear that "dedicated Christians may be standing on either side of a particular issue."

In conclusion the report recommended that the Episcopal Church increase its participation in the NCC.

Included among the recommendations was one urging that Episcopal Church representatives in the NCC "use their influence to prevent reckless and unwarranted pontifical utterances by spokesmen and agencies of the council."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
 Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

DATE: March 20, 1964

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. J.A. Sizoo
1 - Mr. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

As you know, various references have been made concerning possible communist infiltration of the National Council of Churches. Not too long ago your Section made an analysis which failed to show that there is any evidence of communist domination of this particular Council.

[REDACTED] called me a few days ago to say that he had received letters which contained information relating to the National Council of Churches and communist infiltration. He said his attorney in [REDACTED] who advises him in all controversial matters, had requested of him that he send these letters or anything like them to the FBI because they may contain information of interest to us. [REDACTED] went on to say that he thought also that, while he didn't want to discuss the letters over the phone, they may contain something which we should be aware of. He said he would like to send them along for our consideration.

I told him that if he had any information which he thought he should furnish us it can be done either through our local office or, if this is not convenient, to send it in directly. Attached are copies of these letters. As you can see, they contain nothing of value to us but apparently pertain to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I have returned the originals to [REDACTED] and told him that we are not interested in receiving this kind of a letter for they contain nothing that we should comment on or take any action relative thereto. A copy of my reply is attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the fact, as indicated above, the information furnished by [REDACTED] contains no new information and is garbled, no action is necessary with respect to it. However, it is being placed in the file for future reference.

Enclosures

WCS:djw
(4)

72 APR 16 1964

ENCLOSURE

was.

[Signature]

Washington, D.C.

March 19, 1964

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

Apropos of my telephone conversation with you this morning, I am returning the enclosed letters which you have sent to me. The contents have been noted, but there is no need to retain the letters here. Also, as you know, no comment can be made.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE

100-50867-113

[REDACTED]

April 2, 1964

REC-121

100-50864-1102

Apr 2 2 15 PM '64

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 26th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiry regarding the National Council of Churches, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the group you mentioned.

The Communist Party in this country has attempted to infiltrate and subvert every segment of our society. Its efforts are being thwarted by the FBI's internal security programs, by investigation, arrest and prosecution of Party functionaries, and by widespread, intelligent public opposition to the communist philosophy. These achievements are being accomplished through orderly, legal procedures.

Despite the above, the world communist conspiracy and its advocates in the United States continue to pose a basic threat to our country. It is important that our citizens educate themselves concerning the true nature of this atheistic philosophy in order that they will be able to resist its eroding influence. At the same time, opposition to communism must be careful and constructive, and kept within the due process of law. It is not enough to be merely against communism. We should exhibit in positive ways the superiority of our form of government over any foreign ideology.

Regrettably, there is a tendency on the part of some to make exaggerated charges as to the extent of communist success in gaining influence

DCL:sls (3)

(See enclosures and note next page)

MAILED 8
APR 2 - 1964
FBI
Tolson _____
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Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
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Malone _____
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Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

within legitimate organizations and segments of our society, such as our religious institutions. We must continually be alert to communist attempts to penetrate and influence; however, our efforts must be rational and objective.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

**John Edgar Hoover
Director**

Enclosures (5)

4/1/61 FBI LEB Introduction

4/17/62 Internal Security Statement

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism and Crime

"Faith In Freedom"

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

TRUE COPY

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

Dear Sir:

I would like to know if your office has any reason to think
that there is any significant Communist Infiltration in the National Council
of Churches.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

DEC 1963

100-7-1102

10 APR 6 1964

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ack 10/1/64
mml*

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

Dear Sir:

I would like to know
if your office has any
reason to think that there
is any significant Communist
infiltration in the National
Council of Churches.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]



CORRESPONDENCE

March 31, 1964

RECEIVED
FBI
MAR 31 2 47 PM '64
KODAK READING ROOM

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 25th.

Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. Therefore, I am unable to comment concerning the matter about which you inquired. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to The National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

The Communist Party in this country has attempted to infiltrate and subvert every segment of our society. However, the Party's efforts are being thwarted by the FBI's internal security programs; by investigation, arrests and prosecutions of Party functionaries, and by wide-spread, intelligent public opposition to the communist philosophy. These achievements are being accomplished through orderly, legal procedures.


Despite the above, the world communist conspiracy and its advocates in the United States continue to operate against the welfare of our country. It is important that our citizens educate themselves concerning the true nature of this atheistic philosophy in order that they will be able to resist its eroding influence. At the same time, opposition to communism must be careful, constructive and kept within the due process of law. It is not enough to be merely against communism. We should exhibit in positive ways the superiority of our form of government over any foreign ideology.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
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Conrad _____
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Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Rm. _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

1 - Savannah - Enclosure
RR:cal (4)

See Note and Enclosures next page

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐


Enclosed is literature I trust you will find of interest. You may also want to refer to my books, "Masters of Deceit" and "A Study of Communism," which were written to help Americans gain an insight into the communist strategy and tactics, both in this country and abroad. Copies may be available at your local library.

Sincerely yours,

~~J. Edgar Hoover~~

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (5)

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality
The Communist War Against Human Dignity
Communism: The Bitter Enemy of Religion

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of correspondent.

March 25, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
F.B.I. Headquarters
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Yesterday, Tuesday, March 24, 1964, [REDACTED] held a meeting of the Women of the Church. The purpose of this meeting was to decide whether to vote yes or no as to whether we should join our individual churches group of women to the National Council of Church Women here in [REDACTED]. The Motion to join was tabled until our September meeting.

Here is what I seek - information and advice ! I have in hand pamphlets which were put out by St. Marks Vestry Committee Report on The National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. and Communism in Our Churches by J. B. Matthews, Former Chief Investigator for the Committee on Un-American Activities of the U.S. House of Representatives.

How can we best fight this infiltration of the National Council of Churches Organization by joining with or not joining with?

My viewpoint is that by not joining we are doing exactly as the Communist wish in the first place. By not feeding money into the organization & power of numbers behind the good done by the organization - the communist have stopped their competition for souls in the bud - Should we not clean out the infiltration & continue in our good work - What other organization can do the work? There is no substitute organization! Am I thinking wrong? The opposite viewpoint expressed yesterday was that by not joining we gave the organization no power or steam to do their evil with. I say then our

MCT-47

104

APR 1 1964

Christian commission set for us in the last verse of Matthew to go and preach & do good in the name of Christ will stop unless the organization of National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches continues.

Please take a moment and send advice as to how to take this up in my own church - Thank you.

Truly yours,



[REDACTED], S.C..
March 25, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
F.B.I. Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Yesterday, Tuesday, March 24, 1964, [REDACTED] held

[REDACTED] a meeting of the Women of the Church.
The purpose of this meeting was to decide
whether to vote yes or no as to whether
we should join our individual churches
group of women to the National Council of
Women here in [REDACTED] The Motion to join
was tabled until our September meeting.

Here is what I seek - information and

CORRESPONDENCE 831

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Our Churches by J. B. Matthews, former Chief Investigator for the Committee on Un-American Activities of the U. S. House of Representatives.


How can we best fight this infiltration of the National Council of Churches Organized by joining with or not joining with?

My viewpoint is that by not joining we are doing exactly as the Communist wish in the first place. By not feeding money into the organization & power of members behind the good done by the organization - the Communist have stopped their competition for souls in the bud - Should we not clean out

3.

The infiltration + continue in our
good work - What other organization
can do the work? There is no
substitute organization! Am I thinking
wrong? The opposite viewpoint expressed
yesterday was that by not joining we
gave the organization no power or
steam to do their evil work. I say
then our Christian Commission set for
us in the last verse of Matthew to
go and preach + do good in the
name of Christ will stop unless the
organization of National Council of Churches
and the World Council of Churches continue

Please take a moment and send
advice as to how to take this up in
my own Church - Thankyou.

Sincerely yours,


UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson ☒
Belmont ☒
Mohr ☒
Casper ☒
Callahan ☒
Conrad ☒
DeLoach ☒
Evans ☒
Gale ☒
Rosen ☒
Sullivan ☒
Tavel ☒
Trotter ☒
Tele. Room ☒
Holmes ☒
Gandy ☒

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: March 25, 1964

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. J.A. Sizoo
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. R. W. Smith

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Reference is made to the enclosed letter from the above-captioned person dated March 21, 1964, wherein he inquires about the Bureau's evaluation of the National Council of Churches (NCC) and my conversation with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] in February of this year, wrote a letter to the Director making inquiries about Billy James Hargis, Dan Smoot, Carl McIntire, and Edgar Bundy's Church League of America. He indicates that he questions that these irresponsible people and their movements are extremists. (94-5-53909) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

REC 14

RECOMMENDATION:

That the enclosed proposed letter be sent from the Director to the captioned individual.

Enclosures 4 94-5-27-44
WCS:djw/lml
(8)

[Handwritten signatures and initials: V, WCL, GH, etc.]

3 APR 8 1964

[Handwritten: CONFIDENTIAL]

March 26, 1964

REC 14
EX 104

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 21st, with enclosure, has been received and I certainly appreciate your kind comments regarding the FBI and my administration of it. The sentiment you expressed and your confidence in this Bureau mean a great deal to my associates and me. We regret that there has been some confusion concerning this Bureau's policies.

As I indicated in my letter to you of March 2nd, the FBI does not make evaluations as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. This is true in connection with the National Council of Churches.

Assistant Director William C. Sullivan did receive a telephone call from Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., and discussed communism and the churches in response to Bishop Hardin's questions. Both agreed that churches and religious organizations have been and will remain targets for communist infiltration as are all segments of our society. Bishop Hardin stated he was completely and vigorously opposed to communism and that he would have nothing whatsoever to do with any organization that was connected with communism. He asked whether the National Council of Churches had ever been cited as a subversive organization by the Attorney General. Mr. Sullivan told him that the National Council of Churches had not been so designated under the provisions of Executive Order 10450. For your additional information, it is also noted that it has not been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont (rewrite of 3-26-64) (continued next page)
1 - Mr. Mohr " " "
1 - Mr. DeLoach " " "
1 - Mr. Sullivan " " "
1 - Mr. J. A. Sizoo " " "
1 - Mr. Edgar Gardner " " "
1 - Mr. R. W. Smith " " "

UH:cal (10)

NOTE next page

MAILED 19
MAR 27 1964

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
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Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[REDACTED]

In response to another question regarding churches and clergymen in general, Mr. Sullivan explained that because of the investigations of the FBI and rising public opposition to this evil philosophy, communist efforts to infiltrate religious institutions have been largely thwarted and the overwhelming majority of our clergymen are completely loyal to this Nation.

You were previously furnished a copy of "Let's Fight Communism Sanely!" which makes note of this same fact in the last paragraph. The literature I sent you also emphasized my concern over anticommunist activities which confuse, divide and tend to weaken us as a people at a time when we must be clear-thinking, united and strong in the face of world communism.

Regrettably, there has been a tendency on the part of some to make exaggerated charges as to the extent of communist success in gaining influence within legitimate organizations in our society, such as our religious institutions. We must continually be alert to communist attempts to penetrate and influence; however, our efforts must be rational and objective, and kept within the due process of law.

I hope the foregoing will be of assistance to you in understanding the background of this situation. You will note that these facts do not constitute an evaluation of the National Council of Churches.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: See Sullivan to Belmont memorandum of 3-25-64 captioned: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

March 21, 1964

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover;

I wish to thank you for your reply of March 2, 1964. I realize how busy a man you are. I have just one other question to ask you, however.

First of all, I should tell you that I am a Methodist. I am a member of the

[REDACTED]

In the March 3, 1964, issue of the Methodist Christian Advocate, the Official publication of the Alabama West Florida Conference, Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., in his column NOTES FROM THE BISHOP'S STUDY made the following statement:

"A number of people have written to me recently, expressing concern over the unfounded rumors that Communism is invading the Church and the National Council of Churches . . . SO I PICKED UP THE PHONE ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, AND CALLED THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF THE F.B.I. IN WASHINGTON AND ASKED HIM ABOUT IT . . . HE SAID FLATLY THAT IT WAS NOT SO . . . AND HE IS IN CHARGE OF F.B.I. INVESTIGATIONS OF COMMUNISM."

cc'd
JN/ea
ENCLOSURE

EXP. PROC.
33 MAR 23 1964

from
Purman
3-25-64
11:25
J. Edgar Hoover

EX-101
REC 74
101-51264-1096
MAR 28 1964
CORRESPONDENCE

To say the least, Mr. Hoover, I am confused. The reason for this is rather simple, I think. In your letter to me of March 2, 1964, you made the statement "You may be sure, however, that this Bureau has not investigated The National Council of Churches." Yet Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., says that this Chief Inspector of the F.B.I. gave him a clean slate as far as the National Council Churches is concerned.

Also, in your letter to me of March 2, 1964, you made the following statement: "With respect to your inquiries, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual." Yet Bishop Paul Hardin's statement of March 3, 1964, would lead me to believe that this Chief Inspector of the F.B.I. did just this in relation to the question the Bishop asked him.

And, Mr. Hoover, in concluding the second paragraph of the March 2, 1964, letter to me, you made this statement: "Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested." As I recall, Mr. Hoover, one of "the lines" I "suggested" comment was as to whether Communism had any of its forces acting within the boundaries of the National Council of Churches. Now the following statement was made by you in an April 17, 1962, publication entitled "INTERNAL SECURITY" :

" 7. The FBI is as near as your telephone. The first page of telephone directories shows the number of the nearest FBI field office. Each office is open 24 hours a day, including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. You may furnish us information either by telephone, letter, or in person. Data in FBI files is held confidential; hence, WE CANNOT INFORM YOU REGARDING THE RESULTS OF ANY INQUIRY WE MAY MAKE BASED ON INFORMATION YOU SUPPLY. NEITHER CAN WE CONFIRM OR REFUTE YOUR SUSPICIONS RELATIVE TO SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES, NOR CAN WE SUPPLY CHARACTERIZATIONS OR EVALUATIONS OF INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR PUBLICATIONS."

Again, It appears to me that this is just what this Chief Inspector of the FBI did in the telephone call supposedly made by Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr.

So, Mr. Hoover, from the forgoing statements of fact, I hope you can understand why I am "confused."

Now, some two pages ago, I said I had one other question to ask you.

That is simply this:

"Did you really mean what you said about the F.B.I. not being able to give out information concerning one's suspicions of individuals, organizations, and publications OR did Bishop Paul Hardin, Jr., in fact obtain such from the Chief Inspector of the F.B.I?"

I sincerely hope you will be able to clear some of this up for me. Let me hasten to say that I have the greatest regard and respect for you and your fine Bureau. As long as I can remember John Edgar Hoover has been the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This statement makes me very proud to be an American. I read in yesterday's paper that President Johnson is due to issue an Executive Order which will allow you to continue to be the Head of the F.B.I. past your retirement age. You don't know how happy I was to read this. I don't think this country knows how fortunate it is in having you as a servant.

I thank God each and every day!

For your convenience, I am enclosing a photostatic copy of the statement made by the Bishop. I pray that you will not evade my ONE question.

Yours truly

REC- 11

March 31, 1964

REC'D - LEADING ROOM
FBI

MAR 31 4 03 PM '64

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 23rd, with enclosures, has been received.

While I would like to be of assistance, the files of the FBI are maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and are available for official use only. I hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have information in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry.

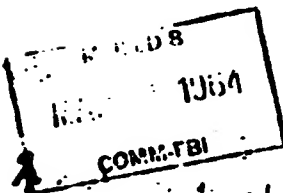
With regard to Mr. Smoot, he was employed in the FBI as a Special Agent from March 23, 1942, until June 15, 1951, when he voluntarily resigned for personal reasons. Since his writings at the present time are personal ventures of his own, I am unable to comment concerning them.

In response to your inquiry concerning Mr. Philbrick, he furnished information concerning subversive activities on a confidential basis to this Bureau from 1942 to 1952, for which he was compensated. His services were terminated with his appearance as a witness in the trial of the communist leaders in New York City.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
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Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____



APR 9 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

(See note next page)

[REDACTED]

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Correspondent's enclosures are newspaper clippings concerning the National Council of Churches.

March 23, 1964

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

As a direct result of a letter to the editor of the Cincinnati Enquirer which [redacted] wrote and which her views on communism in the National Council of Churches things have really been hopping in Cincinnati. Although she only received two replies which disagreed with her she has certainly received countless who are in complete agreement. As a result of this the rest of my family and many members in my church have changed from being merely Non-communists to fervent Anti-communists. One of her dissenting replies came from a minister in my own denomination (Disciples of Christ- of which [redacted] was a minister over 50 yrs.) and one came from [redacted] very politely laughed off the fact that it was even possible that the Council could possibly be in any danger of communism. His, probably historic quote, was "There is no danger in this country of internal communism." I am happy to say that the rest of the [redacted] family does not agree with him and phoned to say so.

Now to come to the purpose of this letter. The church which I attend, The [redacted] has made me chairman of a committee to investigate the possibility of the truth in [redacted] claims concerning the National Council of Churches with the purpose of deciding whether or not we should pull out of the council. Although I am completely convinced I want to be completely fair so that those who oppose the move will be as sure as I am. They have complete faith in you. I am hoping that you could give me something concrete to show the committee. Also, our minister [redacted] strongly opposes us and has called Mr. Dan Smoot a disbarred F.B.I. agent on the pulpit. Would you please help me to clear the matter of Mr. Smoot's present status with your organization and if you can give his reason for leaving I would appreciate it!

Thank you very much for any help you can give. I think we are gaining a foothold in informing some very heretofore, misinformed persons of the true state of things.

Most sincerely yours,

[redacted signature]

8-1
Kuh

ENCLOSURE

ack 3-31-64
DTC vly

8-11-64
C-91

TRUE COPY

Mr. Hoover:

We are also interested in how Mr. Philbrick stands with your organization. My particular interest stands with the youth I am youth director in our church I understand there are plans to teach our young people in the summer camps to break the law.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

ENCLOSURE

REC-11

MAR 1 1964

Mr. Hoover:

We are also interested
in how Mr. Philbrick
stands with your organization
My particular interest
stands with the youth
I am youth director in
our school. I understand
there are plans to teach
our young people in the
summer camp to break
the law.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Use gentle nasal elevation within 20 to 30 minutes.

DEXAMYL

SK

'There Is No Danger From Internal Reds'

TO THE EDITOR: I note the letter of Ruth Imhoff Schumacher published on February 18. She intentionally confuses the local Council of Churches of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, which is completely autonomous, with the National Council of Churches. The National Council of Churches is strictly a representative body made up of delegates and board members officially elected by the constituent churches. Whatever they say is said by those officially elected representatives, and any delegation from a particular church may dissent on any vote taken by the National Council of Churches. They speak for themselves as delegates, and in so doing they do not bind their churches, and they certainly do not bind the members of those churches. This has been repeatedly stated and is only denied by extremists like Mr. Philbrick.

She objects to spending "\$90,000 in bail bonds for racial demonstrators." There is no evidence that any such sum was spent for such purpose. But the work the National Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Race, jointly with the National Lawyers' Committee set up in Washington after a White House conference two years ago, of which I am proud to be a member, secured the release of demonstrators locked up in an abandoned penitentiary in Mississippi with little food and evidently no clothing, and of a group of young women imprisoned in Georgia under the most distressing conditions.

The National Council of Churches is not pacifist and never has been, and does not distribute peace propaganda of any such character as Mr. Philbrick is quoted as claiming.

I don't know whether Mrs. Schumacher is quoting Rev. Richard Isler correctly. But whether she is or not, she can hear it from me. "We are in no danger from internal Communism in America today."

CHARLES F. TAIT, First National Bank Bldg.

Letter to Philbrick, Dec 17, 1950. The other side of the paper is signed by Tait.

Readers' Views

'Church Council Needs An Awakening'

TO THE EDITOR: As daughter, granddaughter and niece of three deceased, well-loved Cincinnati clergymen and one medical missionary to the Congo, I feel certain none of them is resting in peace if he is aware of how well many clergymen and the Council of Churches are demonstrating the effectiveness of the Communists in using our churches.

Herbert Philbrick, FBI counterspy, said, "The church is the No. 1 target of the Communists in America." J. Edgar Hoover has expressed real concern over the safety of our nation "as long as Communists can secure clergymen to do their evil work." And Earl Browder, while still leader of the American Communist party, said at one of our seminars, "You would be surprised to learn that we have many ministers active in churches who are members of the party."

As a tax-exempt organization, the council is supposed to refrain from political activities; yet in organizing the Washington march, signing of petitions for the passage of the civil rights bill, and lobbying for many controversial political issues, it is ignoring the conditions for its exemption. The council in '63 boasted of spending \$90,000 for bail bonds of racial demonstrators. They have sent and paid students to participate in sometimes militant demonstrations, and are advocating "forced integration."

When council leaders, speakers and clergymen are saying, "Marxism may be God's means to Christian fulfillment in history," and, "Since democracy has failed, God has put His blessing on the Communist system," when hundreds of them are participating in Communist-front organizations and when the council makes political pronouncements on highly controversial issues, they are dividing us in our congregations, losing support for the council and weakening the strength of Protestant America, which is just what Khrushchev has ordered.

If you belong to a member church of the Council and are not in accord with this fraternization with atheistic Communism, launch a protest in your own denomination and pray that somehow the council may be brought to its senses.

RUTH IMHOFF SCHUMACHER, 9431 Kemper Rd., Loveland.

March 26, 1964

REC-23

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter dated March 21, 1964, has been received.

The FBI is unable to supply the information you requested about the National Council of Churches since data in its files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. Please do not infer that we do or do not have material in our files regarding this organization.

Your communication alleges that spies were brought into this country. The FBI has jurisdiction over espionage matters, and if you have any facts in your possession regarding such activities, they should be furnished to our office located at 500 Widener Building, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107.

Enclosed is literature it is hoped will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (3)

Tolson ☒ Philadelphia - Enclosure

Belmont

Mohr

Casper

Callahan

Conrad

DeLoach

Felt

Gale

Rosen

Sullivan

Tavel

Trotter

Tele. Room

Holmes

Gandy

NOTE: Correspondent wrote March 2nd and wanted the Director to make a statement opposing the Supreme Court's decision regarding religion in schools and urged the Director to support corrective legislation. A reply was sent on March 5th pointing out that it had been the Director's long-standing policy to refrain from injecting the Bureau into legislative matters. The National Enclosures and Note next page

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Note Continued:

Council of Churches has arranged for visits to this country of Russian Orthodox clergymen. Conservative religious groups vigorously opposed this action and claimed some of the Russian Orthodox clergymen were espionage agents. This letter is intentionally formal to preclude further efforts involving the Director in this group's controversy.

**4/17/62 Internal Security Statement
FBI LEB Intro 4/61
The Communist Party Line**

March 21, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Thank you for your recent letter. I completely understand why it is necessary for you to take the stand that you do on Bible Reading and Prayer in the schools. As chairman of this committee I have worked this issue from every conceivable angle and have finally come to a surprising conclusion that our biggest opposition is the National Council of Churches and their Ministers. We understand the N. C. C. who is very friendly with the Russia Orthodox Church has brought spies into this country thru church association. There is suppose to be five different groups according to our information. We plan to expose this situation in the New York Times with the assistance of [redacted] attorney in New Jersey and we also expect [redacted] assistance. N. C. C. members are already objecting to the Constitutional Amendment to preserve our religious heritage. I need all the information that you can give me or have someone else give me on the leaders, of the National Council of Churches. Anything that you send which maybe confidential, please so state. If you so desire a delegation will come to your office.

Your prompt reply will be appreciated.

Most sincerely yours,

K

[redacted]

[redacted]

Handwritten notes:
NCC had sponsored
Senate legislation in
1962 + 1963 - per Baff
105-112179 + 105-1121
WAF

REC-23 100-50869-1091

ack 4/20/64
JH

CONFIDENTIAL

426

REC-100

March 26, 1964

[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Wood:

I have received your letter of March 20th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiries, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matters you mentioned.

In regard to Mr. Karl Prussion, he assisted this Bureau by furnishing information on subversive activities from November, 1949, to July, 1958, during which time he was compensated; however, he was not a Special Agent. His personal ventures and his opinions and comments are strictly his own and the FBI is unable to comment in any way whatsoever.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
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Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____



Enclosures (4)

DTP:mc

(3)

APR 3 1964

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

See Enclosures & Note next page)

Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

4-61 LEB Intro

4-17-62 Internal Security statement

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. The Committee of Christian Laymen, Inc., is known in Bufiles as being bitterly opposed to the National Council of Churches (NCC) and has waged an aggressive fight against it. This group has attempted to use the FBI as a tool in its fight against the NCC.

[REDACTED]

March 20, 1964

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I have a pamphlet entitled "The National Council of Churches of Christ", published by the Committee of Christian Laymen Inc. of Woodland Hills, California. This pamphlet makes both false statements and draws thoroughly unwarranted conclusions from quoted statements.

This pamphlet mentions the F.B.I. in the following way and I quote: "Radio Station WAB", Augusta, Georgia gave a report by Earl Prussion, a counterspy for the F.B.I. for twenty-two years, on Martin Luther King in which the press quotes Prussion as follows: "Martin Luther King is a member of more Communist front organizations than any Communist in the United States. Martin Luther King belongs to sixty Communist front organizations!"

I would appreciate very much answers to the following questions concerning the above quoted statement so that I will have evidence of the truth or complete falsehood of the statement.

- (1) Is Earl Prussion a "counterspy" for the F.B.I. and did he make such a statement in regards to Martin Luther King?
- (2) Does Martin Luther King belong to "sixty Communist front organizations" or for that matter does he belong to any Communist front organizations?

Lastly, I would like your opinion of the National Council of Churches and how much of a bulwark against Communism does it represent?

Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

100-136

100-136-15916

COPY TO OFFICE

P26

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: March 25, 1964

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Kleinkauf

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

You will recall that in March, 1950, we prepared a brief on "Communism and Religion" with particular emphasis on the National Council of Churches (NCC). Our brief showed that the National Council was not under the domination of communists. Since that time we have been alert for any information concerning communist infiltration, domination or control of NCC, particularly in connection with the national officers of NCC.

It is noted that the national officers are elected on a triennium basis. My memorandum to you dated 9/20/61 set forth the identities of the national officers for the 1960-63 triennium together with the results of file reviews concerning those national officers.

[REDACTED]

The above memorandum pointed out that the next election of national officers would take place in the latter part of 1963.

On 3/23/64 the Washington Field Office secured and forwarded to the Bureau a list of the national officers elected in the latter part of 1963 for the triennium 1963-1966. In this regard it is noted that a booklet currently being distributed by NCC still carries the officers elected for the 1960-1963 triennium; however, Washington Field was able to secure the list of officers elected for the 1963-1966 triennium which the person whom they contacted at NCC stapled over the page of the booklet containing the old officers.

100-50869

JHK:mar/fjht
(5)

68 APR 2 1964

REC-11

5 MAR 31 1964

INT. SEC.

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
RE: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
100-50869

ACTION:

We are presently having the names of the new national officers of NCC searched through Bureau indices and upon completion of the file reviews concerning these individuals a memorandum will be prepared setting forth the results of our file reviews and analyzing whether any of the national officers of NCC are under any communist control or domination.

W.C.S.
A ✓
YHK
FSC
We still do not
want to give any
"clearance" to this
outfit. It has been
"fishing" for such
for a long time.
A

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Sizoo
1 - Mr. Moore

March 16, 1964

REC 5 100-50869-1094

MAR 16 1 45 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Dear [REDACTED]

Please refer to your letter to me dated March 11, 1964.

The files of this Bureau are confidential and, therefore, no comment can be made concerning areas in which you are interested. No conclusions, either positive or negative, should be drawn from this stated position.

It can be stated that while churches and related religious organizations have been targets of communists their efforts have been thwarted by the FBI's internal security programs and by investigations, arrests and prosecution of Communist Party officials. Further, communist activities have been neutralized by calm and rational public opposition emanating from the major segment of our social order.

The communists have not, in any way, changed their goals and, therefore, we must continue to be alert to prevent them from making any headway in our free institutions.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 19

MAR 16 1964

COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
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Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
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NOTE

ECB:djw
(8) 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

11 MAR 18 1964

March 11, 1964

Mr. Tolson	/
Mr. Belmont	/
Mr. Mohr	/
Mr. Casper	/
Mr. Callahan	/
Mr. Conrad	/
Mr. DeLoach	/
Mr. Evans	/
Mr. Gale	/
Mr. Rosen	/
Mr. Sullivan	/
Mr. Tavel	/
Mr. Trotter	/
Tele. Room	/
Miss Holmes	/
Miss Gandy	/

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director
United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am very much concerned about the possibilities of the communist movements within these United States, especially within the areas so vitally affecting our youth, namely the Church.

Therefore, I submit the following statement by Bishop Paul Hardin of Columbia, South Carolina which appeared in the March 3, 1964 issue of The Methodist Christian Advocate, the official publication of The Alabama-West Florida Conference of The Methodist Church:

"A number of people have written to me recently, expressing concern over the unfounded rumors that Communism is invading the Church and the National Council of Churches... So I picked up the phone on Tuesday, February 25th, and called the Chief Inspector of the F.B.I. in Washington and asked him about it... He said flatly that it was not so... And he is in charge of F.B.I. investigations of Communism."

Please confirm the above.

In Bishop Hardin's sermon delivered in Dothan, Alabama the evening of March 8, 1964, he made the same statement along with other comments.

To me, this leaves the impression that your bureau has made an evaluation or conclusion in this instance.

Does this mean that the National Council of Churches has a clean slate with your bureau? Does your bureau have evidence to prove that there are no communists, communism or communistic leanings among the officials and leaders within the National Council of Churches? Do any of the programs of the National Council of Churches parallel those of the Communists?

I greatly appreciate the work which you and your department are doing and have the utmost faith in your bureau. You are highly commended and admired.

Thank you very much for the attention which you may give the above.

Very truly yours,

ENCLOSURE

REC 5 MAR 12 1964

APR 15 1964



Bishop Hardin

Notes From The Bishop's Study

The Union Springs church dilemma has now reached the court stage and I am sure that all of us deplore this unfortunate circumstance . . . I have refrained from making any more public comment than was absolutely necessary because I do not feel that the case should be tried in the public press . . . Thousands of people, including many Methodists, do not understand the difference between a congregational church (like the Baptist) and a connectional church (like the Methodist) . . . Dr. J. B. Nichols' recent article was helpful in this respect . . . Any Methodist who desires to leave the Methodist fellowship is free to do so but what has been attempted at Union Springs is in the final analysis an attempt to disrupt the polity and established structure of The Methodist Church . . . Only the General Conference has the right to do that . . . It is significant to note that the loyal members of The Methodist Church there are continuing to function, although deprived temporarily of the use of Methodist property . . . It is a most unhappy and unpleasant situation . . . The Reverend Corydon Friedrich is now the pastor of the Union Springs Methodist Church . . . The former pastor has publicly announced his severance from The Methodist Church, yet continues to be presented as the pastor of the Union Springs Methodist Church, and clings to his credentials as a Methodist minister, although his ministerial privileges as such have been suspended according to the rules of The Methodist Church . . . There is nothing good about the whole situation . . . Although I think that they are wrong in what they are trying to do I know that the people who are attempting to withdraw and take the property with them are honorable people — and as a bishop of The Methodist Church I am left with no choice but to uphold the law and structure of the Church . . . I made a special trip to Union Springs to seek a reconciliation and my efforts were rejected . . . The Methodist Church continues to hold open the doors to those who will return to her ministry . . . So much for that . . . A number of people have written to me recently, expressing concern about unfounded rumors that

Communism is invading the Church and the National Council of Churches . . . So I picked up the phone on Tuesday, February 25th, and called The Chief Inspector of The F.B.I. in Washington and asked him about it . . . He said flatly that it was not so . . . And he is in charge of F.B.I. investigations of Communism . . . Some good news comes along occasionally, news that thrills me . . . Down in Elba the Methodist church was asked to pay \$240.00 on World Service and Conference Benevolences . . . Without any pressure from anyone the church voluntarily accepted — \$1600.00 . . . Things like that strengthen our faith in our Methodist people . . . David Carter is the highly esteemed pastor there . . . Responses to a recent printing of these Notes have been interesting . . . I am referring to the Notes in which I wondered if anybody loved anybody else any more and in which I said that I was fed right up to the neck with hostility . . . A lot of people seem to feel as I do . . . One of the more interesting letters came from my old friend Ben Ray in Birmingham . . . He said that sometimes when he feels discouraged and is inclined to think that things have never been so bad he rereads the following quotation:

"It is a gloomy moment in history. Not in the lifetime of any man who reads this paper has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so dark and incalculable.

In France the political cauldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty.

England and the British Empire are being sorely tried and exhausted in a social and economic struggle, with turmoil at home and uprising of her teeming millions in her far-flung empire.

The United States is beset with racial, industrial and commercial chaos, drifting we know not where.

Russia hangs like a storm cloud on the horizon of Europe — dark, menacing and foreboding.

It is a solemn moment, and no man can feel indifferent, which happily, no man pretends to feel in the issue of events.

Of our own trouble, no man can see the end . . .

This was an editorial in Harper's Magazine, October 10, 1947.

— Paul H. Hays

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 3-10-64

FROM : Mr. J. A. Sizoo

SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Tolson
Belmont
Mohr
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
DeLoach
Evans
Malone
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

ST wa In your absence I took a call yesterday from [redacted] who called long distance and has asked to talk with the "Inspector in charge of security matters." After asking my name and identifying himself as [redacted] he asked if the Bureau would furnish information concerning an individual or organization over the phone. He specifically asked if I knew and could give him an opinion of the reliability of Edgar Bundy. I told him that our files were confidential and available for official use only and that the Bureau could not provide an evaluation of an individual or organization.

[redacted] said he understood this to be Bureau policy and he was checking in view of a statement appearing in the "Methodist Christian Advocate" of 3-6-64 by Dr. Paul Hardin, Bishop of the Methodist Church, concerning the National Council of Churches in which Hardin alleged that he had made a telephone request of the "Inspector in charge of security matters of the FBI" and was advised that the National Council of Churches had not been infiltrated by communists. Columbia S.C.

[redacted] thanked me for the statement of Bureau policy and hung up.

ACTION:

This is for information.

SEE ADDENDUM, W. C. SULLIVAN, PAGE 2

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. J.A. Sizoo
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner

JAS:lm1:jdd
(5)

50 APR 1 1964

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MAR 30 1964

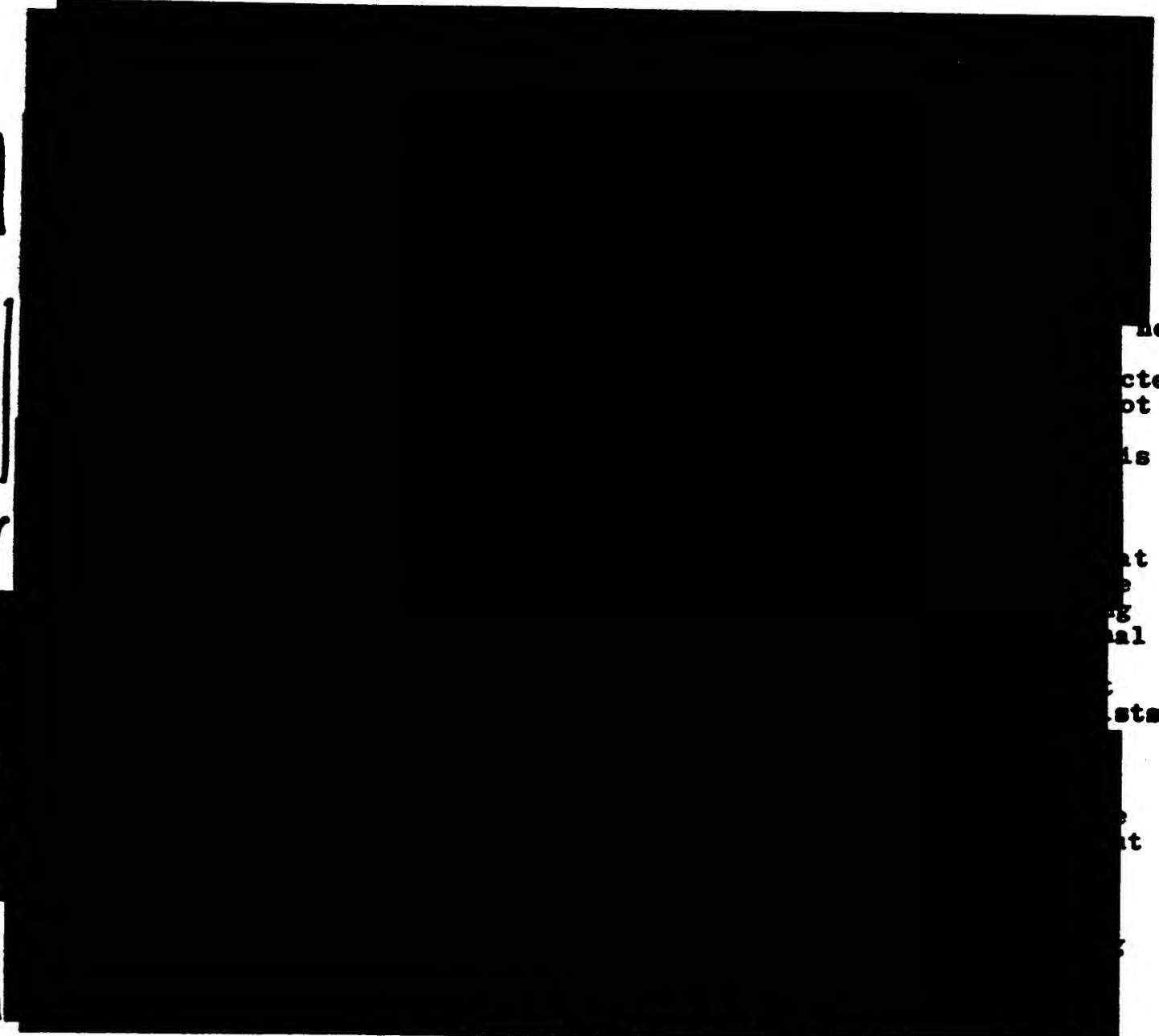
CHIEF

ADDENDUM

W. C. SULLIVAN

March 10, 1964

In view of the fact that Bishop Paul Hardin in South Carolina had called me, it occurred to me on reading this memorandum that the above matter may relate to this particular conversation. The Bishop's call has previously been set forth in a memorandum from me to Mr. Belmont.



WCS

*Re: memorandum to W.C.S.
"no comment" & "no comment"
These are confidential & the same
conclusion should be drawn either
pro or con because of "no comment."*

MR. TOLSON

We receive quite a volume of mail making inquiry on the National Council of Churches and all are answered that we do not evaluate and that we have not investigated the National Council of Churches.

In view of Mr. Hoover's comments shouldn't the inquiries now be answered that files are confidential and no inference should be drawn that we do or do not have information in our files?

LCB

Regrettably, there is a tendency on the part of some to make exaggerated charges as to the extent of communist success in gaining influence within legitimate organizations and segments of our society, such as our religious institutions. We must continually be alert to communist attempts to penetrate and influence; however, our efforts must be rational and objective.

Enclosed is some literature which I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

**John Edgar Hoover
Director**

Enclosures (4)

**Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
LEB Intro, 4-61**

Internal Security statement, 4-17-62

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

-2-

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
H. L. Hunt _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

March 19, 1964

8-1

Office of J. Edgar Hoover
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

I am writing for information concerning the organization called the National Council of Churches. I was pastor of a church that is a part of this organization. I have felt that they were doing a great work in the unity of the Churches of America. Recently I have been hearing comments about the Council being in some way affiliated with the Communist program. Some studies made in the neighborhood communities have used some books by Billy James Hargis and others that have nothing to say that is good for the National Council, and claim that it is communist run. This I cannot believe because only recently one of our Church Bishops was elected to the office of President of the Council and knowing him as I do, I know he has nothing to do with Communism.

If you have any information available that would help substantiate this criticism or help to refute it either way, I would appreciate it very much. Any information that is available that would help to show the place of religion, as ever against Communism. I was handed something ago, a pamphlet, reprinted from the Christianity Today, "The Communist Threat: Religion and Christian Values", that was a help. Also I have the booklet, "Masters of Deceit".

Any help you can give with it will be greatly appreciated.

[Redacted signature block]

100-50867-10

MAR 26 1964

REC-21

REFERENCE

P

nmh
all 3-24-64
DTP: jg: 1/10
nmh

March 23, 1964

REC-20 100-1090

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

MAR 24 11 28 AM '64

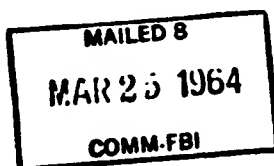
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 18th, with enclosure, and want you to know how much I appreciate your kind comment.

Although I would like to be of service, we are unable to make any comment concerning the National Council of Churches. Information in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret we are unable to help you and hope you will not infer that we do or do not have data relating to the subject of your inquiry.

Enclosed is literature I hope will be of interest to you.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (5)

"Faith in Freedom"

"Keys to Freedom"

Let's Fight Communism Sanely

"Faith in God--Our Answer To Communism"

The Communist Menace: Red Goals and Christian Ideals

JH:dll

(3)

NOTE: Correspondent cannot be identified in Bufiles.

Tolson _____
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Conrad _____
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Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
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Tele. Room _____
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Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[REDACTED]

18 March 1964

[REDACTED]

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This morning I read the enclosed editorial in our local morning Newspaper, The News. This morning I have had three conversations with members of the Parish about the charges directed against the National Council of Churches of Christ in America. Naturally I do not want to defend an organization which might be guilty of the charges contained in this editorial.

Would you be kind enough to express a conviction on the charge that the "NCC" is "shot through and through with Communist fellow travelers" and that "on the basis of the public records, the NCC stands convicted of Communist front activities indulged in by its members and officials."

Any information relating to the charges contained in this editorial will be appreciated and will enable me to minister to the members of the Parish more helpfully. If your office wishes to write the Newspaper I will appreciate it if my name is not mentioned.

I thank you in advance for any assistance you might offer me. Your moral integrity throughout the years means much to many and has personally been an inspiration.

REC-20 1 5 17 18
10 MAR 19 1964
Sincerely yours,
CORRECTION
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
1610

The News

Published by The Lynchburg News, Inc., Lynchburg, Virginia

Formerly Carter Glass & Sons Publishers

PHILIP LIGHTFOOT SCRUGGS, Editor

F. JAMES MURDOCK, Associate Editor

DAVID W. WRIGHT, Managing Editor

Wednesday, March 18, 1964

The Other Face Of The NCC

For some time now, the readers of this newspaper have been conducting, by means of letters to the Forum, a running battle over the National Council of Churches. The NCC has been attacked and criticized as sympathetic to Communism and as being infiltrated with fellow travelers. It has been defended as a great force for Christianity.

Now, finally, the NCC itself has jumped into the fray, with a letter from its director of information in which he sets forth the goals and programs of the NCC and attempts to discredit its critics and their criticism. We published the letter last Sunday.

Except in unusual circumstances, it is the policy of this newspaper, as it is with most, not to argue with the opinions expressed by individual letter writers, although we do point out errors of fact. The NCC letter, however, expressed the opinion of an organization and contained statements of policy. It is the opinion not of one man, but of many. And as such, it might be accepted by some as the last word on the subject.

Well, it isn't. Far from it. This

men of the NCC have been published by Circuit Riders, Inc., which stated: "In 1961, Communist fronts had the support of more than 1,200 different Protestant clergymen."

On Feb. 25, 1960, Mr. Richard Arens, then staff director of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, testified during a Committee hearing that, on the basis of "careful, but yet incomplete checks" it had been shown that "Thus far, of the leaders of the National Council of Churches of Christ in America, we have found over 100 persons in leadership capacity with either Communist front records or records of service to Communist causes." This testimony was verified Tuesday by the present director of the HCUA staff, Mr. Francis McNamara.

The foregoing should suffice to show that the letter began with a deliberate whitewash.

Among other things, the letter stated that the NCC had "never referred directly to right to work laws." This is a dodge. As the letter stated, the NCC is on record as saying: "Union membership as a basis of continuing employment should be neither required nor forbidden by

last word on the subject.

What it isn't. Far from it. This high-sounding statement of ideals, this résumé of programs, this explanation of and denial of accusations, contains so many half-truths, distortions of fact, artful dodges and careful omissions as to qualify it as a masterpiece of deception. Instead of turning the other cheek, the NCC has turned the other face.

For instance: "Nothing could be further from the truth—" the letter states in the beginning as a reply to accusations that it is infiltrated with fellow travelers and with Marxist-Communist ideals.

As a matter of fact, nothing could be further from the truth than that denial.

The National Council of Churches of Christ in America was founded in 1950 as a merger of the old Federal Council of Churches and several minor religious organizations. The House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee have identified many FCC and NCC officials and members as Communist fellow travelers.

And what is a fellow traveler? The Senate subcommittee defines one as "... an individual who from time to time supports one or more organizations or campaigns operating under the indirect and usually unpublicized initiative and control of the Communist Party or its representatives." There are three types of fellow travelers, according to the subcommittee: the conscious, who is aware that he is supporting Communist objectives; the consistent, who sometimes takes issue with the Party but continues to support its programs and campaigns even after they have been exposed; and the unwitting, who is a dupe.

On this basis, and documented by the Congressional committees, the NCC is shot through and through with Communist fellow travelers, from its longtime official and former president, Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, on down.

The public records of the leftist actions of 655 clergymen and lay-

ing: "Union membership as a basis of continuing employment should be neither required nor forbidden by law..." What is this, if it is not a statement in itself a law which provides that a man does not have to belong to a union to obtain a job?

One of the favorite techniques of the NCC is to have its members and officials promoting a desired program while the organization itself takes no official stand. This is subterfuge.

For example: the letter stated that the NCC has never called for the abolition of the HCUA. Perhaps, technically, it has not. But its officers and members have signed such petitions.

Another example: the letter stated that the NCC has made no statement calling for the admission of Red China to the United Nations. But an NCC-called conference, attended by top NCC officials, made such a statement unanimously. And the NCC urged that the statement be publicized and given great weight.

The letter stated the NCC does not favor repeal of the McCarran Act, but instead, wants to have it changed. However, the changes it wants would make the present act ineffective. Furthermore, past-president Dahlberg has signed at least 11 petitions calling for an outright repeal of the act.

We could go on and on, but it is not necessary to prove the point. And that is: on the basis of the public records, the NCC stands convicted of Communist front activities indulged in by its members and officials. And on the basis of its letter, it stands convicted of propagandistic trickery.

The NCC, on the one hand, has endorsed Christian programs as an organization, while on the other hand it supports atheistic Communist doctrines through the individual efforts of its members and officials. The NCC reminds us of Janus, the two-faced Roman pagan god. It turns the Christian face to the nation. But we should never forget that other face.

EX-114

REC-40

March 23, 1964

MAR 23 4 33 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

100 - 1 - 1089

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

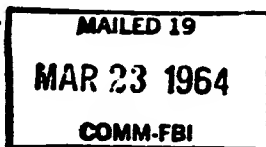
I have received your letter of March 13th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiry, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matter you mentioned.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

L. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
4-61 LEE Intro
4-17-62 Internal Security statement
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:rcd
(3)

APR 1 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

Handwritten notes and signatures:
Kleppner
J. Edgar Hoover
B. J.
MAY 1964

March 13, 1964.

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. —

Dear Mr. Hoover —

Having heard two sides to the following problem I
feel I must write and ask you —

Our Episcopal Rector, informs me that the F.B.I.
personnel has completely absolved the National
Council of Churches of Christ in America from the
accusation of communist infiltration or sympathies —

Is this true? I have read a great deal of
literature indicating this is NOT true —

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]

Oct 33
3/18/64
DIP: ep/rw

17C
3-18-64
WRITTEN ON FILE

2

TRUE COPY

March 13, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover.
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. _

Dear Mr. Hoover _

Having heard two sides to the following problem I
feel I must write and ask you _
Our Episcopal Rector informs me that the F. B. I. personel
has completely absolved the National Council of Churches of
Christ in America from the accusation of communist infiltration or
sympathies ----

Is this true? I have read a great deal of literature indicating
this is not true-----

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

EX-114

REC-40

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3 MAR 25 1964

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111)

ack: 3-23-64
DTP: nch

EX-114

REC-40

100-50667-1088

March 23, 1964

MAR 23 2 04 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 17th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiry, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the matter you mentioned.

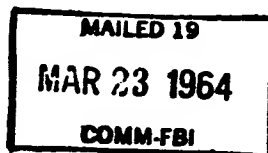
With respect to Mr. Dan Smoot, he was employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent from March 23, 1942, until June 15, 1951, when he voluntarily resigned. His personal ventures and his opinions and comments are strictly his own and this Bureau is unable to comment on these in any way whatsoever.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

4-61 LEB Intro

4-17-62 Internal Security statement
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

DTP:rcd (3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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Holmes _____
Gandy _____

[REDACTED]

March 17, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

① A group of laymen in my church are convinced that the National Council of Churches of Christ in America is a Communist organization. We are making an investigation of the Council and would deeply appreciate any statement of your experience, of your impressions or your knowledge of the Council on these grounds.

If it is a Communist organization I want to be among the first to condemn and utterly discredit it. However, if my laymen are being blindly led to accuse the Council of such betrayal of our democratic principles on false and untruthful grounds of information then I would like your help in bringing the light of truth to bear on their thinking.

I shall anxiously await any help you should like to offer in this matter, and must, if you please, sir, have your answer before April 14, 1964.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

P.S.

Have you any information regarding authenticity of articles appearing in the Van Smoot report of Jan 13, 1964?

3 MAR 25 1964

REC-100

100-69-1088

EX-112

ack 5-17-64
272-62/CS/ea

6-877

P20

EX-114

March 23, 1964

REC-31

100-50869-1087

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 16th has been received.

While I would like to be of assistance, I am unable to comment in the manner you suggested inasmuch as the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and are available for official use only. I hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have information in our files relating to the subject of your inquiry.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 19

MAR 23 1964

COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)

4-1-61 LEB Intro

4-17-62 Internal Security Statement

Let's Fight Communism Sanely

Faith in God - Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. There have been allegations by various critics of the National Council of Churches of Christ, without access to factual data to support their assertions, that this group is communist controlled or influenced. The FBI, of course, has not investigated this group.

DFC:ejc

Tolson _____
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Mohr _____
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Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
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Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[REDACTED]

March 16, 1964

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

Cap 8-

Dear Mr. Hoover:

① One of my church members is disturbed over claims that the National Council of Churches has been infiltrated by known Communists. Will you please write me a letter stating whether or not this is true?

I know, of course, that it is not true but I have seen statements from FBI leaders to this effect and if there is any printed statement that the FBI has on this matter, I would be so happy to receive it.

Many thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

FED:k

EX-114.

REC-21

100-50861-1087

MAR 24 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

act 3-23-64
D7C: [signature]

REC 7. 100-508691086 March 23, 1964

MAR 23 4 34 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 17th and I appreciate knowing of your confidence in me.

Although I would like to be of service, we are not able to make any comment regarding the National Council of Churches or the Board of Christian Social Concerns. Information in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret we cannot help you and trust you will not infer that we do or do not have data regarding the subjects of your inquiries.

Enclosed is literature I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 19
MAR 23 1964
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (5)
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
"Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism"
The Communist Menace: Red Goals and Christian Ideals
"Faith In Freedom"
"Keys To Freedom"

NOTE: Correspondent cannot be identified in Bufiles.

JH:sls
(3)

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MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

March 17, 1964

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

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Evans	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Dear Sir:

The question of communism in the churches is not a new one to you, I feel sure. However, it is one with which we at the grass roots level are continually confronted. Because of the thoughtless remarks of a few, many of the fine programs of the church are being seriously hampered.

To attempt to defend the church has become a difficult undertaking. Many people suspect a "whitewash job" whenever someone in the church makes a statement concerning this matter of communism.


Therefore, I would like sincerely to have your own frank appraisal of the situation. Specifically, I am concerned with two major groups. First is the Board of Christian Social Concerns of our own Methodist Church. Do you have any information which would indicate untoward actions or affiliations of this group or its members?

Secondly, I would like your candid remarks concerning the National Council of Churches. To give you an example of the type propaganda being expounded here, one radio personality is quoted as having said that sixty percent of the persons associated with the NCC are members of Communist-front organizations. Please comment on the National Council.

I am a simple Methodist minister. My faith in the church is strong. I cannot accept the ideas which are now running rampant. However, if there is something I do not know, I would like to be informed.

11 MAR 1964

CORRESPONDENCE



Sir, I respect your opinion and your judgment. This is the reason for my inquiry. I look forward to hearing from you and receiving any information you may deem helpful to me.

Sincerely,



REC-41

100-50869-1085

March 18, 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

I received your letter of March 11th and want to thank you for your generous comments concerning my administration of the FBI. It is hoped that our future endeavors will continue to merit your support and approval.

With respect to your inquiries, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the groups or individuals you mentioned.

The Communist Party in this country has attempted to infiltrate and subvert every segment of our society. Its efforts are being thwarted by the FBI's internal security programs, by investigation, arrest and prosecution of Party functionaries, and by widespread, intelligent public opposition to the communist philosophy. These achievements are being accomplished through orderly, legal procedures.

Despite the above, the world communist conspiracy and its advocates in the United States continue to pose a basic threat to our country. It is important that our citizens educate themselves concerning the true nature of this atheistic philosophy in order that they will be able to resist its eroding influence. At the same time, opposition to communism must be careful and constructive, and kept within the due process of law. It is not enough to be merely against communism. We should exhibit in positive ways the superiority of our form of government over any foreign ideology.

DTP:eo (3)

SEE NOTE AND ENCLS NEXT PAGE

MAILED 19
MAR 18 1964
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68 APR 1 1964

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Regrettably, there is a tendency on the part of some to make exaggerated charges as to the extent of communist success in gaining influence within legitimate organizations and segments of our society, such as our religious institutions. We must continually be alert to communist attempts to penetrate and influence; however, our efforts must be rational and objective.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (4)

4-17-62 Internal Security Statement

4-1-61 LEB Intro

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

March 11, 1964

Dear Mr. Hoover:

First I want to say that I think the F.B.I. and you are doing a wonderful job of protecting our country.

I am [redacted] of Dayton, Ohio and I belong to a study group that is studying communism and some ways to combat it. It is very interesting to me and I must say I am finding things that are happening in this country that I don't want to admit.

I would like some information from you if you would be so kind to help. I have done quite a bit of reading lately and I find the name National Council of Churches comes up quite often.

They are named by the committee on Un-American Activities, in the Congressional Record by Mr. Thurmond, by Dan Smoot, The American Council of churches, and Fundamental Bible Church. They are also named by Mr. Norman V. Peal and in a book by Billy James Hargis, entitled The Facts about Communism and our Churches.

I must say that none of this literature makes the N.C.C. sound very good. In fact if these people are correct in their charges the N.C.C. is a disgrace to our country.

I have written to the N.C.C. and received material from them. I have read it and they say all the charges are false. I must say I am confused. Being a christian I want to believe in the N.C.C. but, at present it is very difficult.

I am asking for help in this matter and wonder if you might help me. I have a lot of respect for your judgment and thought if anyone could give me any facts about this matter it would be you. If possible I would like to have your opinion of the N.C.C. I hope this is possible. If it is impossible to give me information please advise me as to what material to read on this matter. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

[redacted]

REC-41 100-50869-1085
4 Mar 20 1964

CORRESPONDENCE P18

ack.
4/10/64
3-18-64
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**Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation**

**Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division**

**BM:DRO:ab
72-41-89
15,730**

MAR 19 1964

**Mr. Joe Sylvester, ASAC
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Attached is a copy of a letter from Jack Pratt of the National Council of Churches on certain of their activities. Please note the last paragraph of the letter which is very complimentary of Mr. Joe Sylvester, ASAC in your New Orleans Office, and the agents working under him. Mr. Sylvester deserves this compliment, and an added commendation from this Division for the work he has done for us.

**100-50869-
NOT RECORDED
133 APR 1 1964**

100-50869-100

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST in the U.S.A.

475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10027

telephone: 870-2438

Bishop Heusen H. Mueller, President

R. H. Edwin Espy, General Secretary

Robert W. Spike
Executive Director

February 12, 1964

The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Sir:

The National Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Race has had, as you know, considerable involvement in the various attempts which have been made to attain equal justice by White and Negro citizens in the State of Mississippi during the past several months. Two areas are of particular concern to us, and I should like to enquire, if I might, as to the actions, if any, which the Department of Justice intends to take in regard to them.

1. U.S. v. Leflore County, Mississippi, et al. -- Suit seeking release of 45 residents of Itta Bena, Mississippi.

On June 28, 1963 the Department of Justice filed a complaint seeking the release of 45 residents of Itta Bena who were arrested after they marched downtown to seek police protection after persons unknown had allegedly released noxious substances into a church where they were holding a voter registration meeting. On or about July 19, 1963 the District Court ruled that the Government had not established a violation of 1971(b). The Government appealed this ruling and applied for an injunction pending its appeal. The injunction was denied by the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. The Government, we understand, has now withdrawn its appeal to the United States Court of Appeals. A trial de novo of these 45 defendants was held in the County Court of Leflore County during the week of January 20-24, 1964. Forty-four of the forty-five defendants appeared for the trial and were convicted; a forfeiture was taken on the bond of the one absent defendant. Their sentencing, which was scheduled for January 27, was postponed 48 hours so that I might obtain new appeal bonds which would allow the defendants to remain at large pending an appeal to the higher courts of Mississippi.

The National Council of Churches, through its Commission on Religion and Race, arranged for the bonds which effected the release of these 45 Negroes last August, after they had been imprisoned for nearly two months. At that time \$10,000 from our Emergency Bail Fund was paid to the insurance company

ENCLOSURE

100-50869-

February 12, 1964

which wrote the bonds as collateral and premium payments, and in addition we have a moral obligation to the company to make good any loss over and above that amount. An additional \$450 was paid to the company on January 27, 1964 for the new bonds.

It appears to me unlikely that the courts of the State of Mississippi will reverse the decision of the County Court. I am not in a position to know whether certiorari to the United States Supreme Court will be sought by the defendants. It is my belief that the interest of the defendants and the financial interest of the National Council of Churches' Emergency Bail Fund would best be protected by the Department's suit, if it could be brought to a favorable termination. I would appreciate knowing, therefore, what further steps the Department contemplates in regard to its action.

II. State of Mississippi v. Moses, and State of Mississippi v. Guyot

On January 23, 1964 Robert Moses was convicted in the Justice of the Peace Court of the City of Hattiesburg on charges of obstructing a sidewalk and refusal to obey the lawful command of an officer. At the time of his arrest, Mr. Moses was engaged in directing a voter registration drive in Forrest County, Mississippi. Mr. Moses' defense was conducted by J. Robert Lunney, Esq., of New York, representing the Lawyers' Committee on Civil Rights Under Law, and by myself. The Department of Justice provided a stenographer who recorded the proceedings. I am requesting you, sir, to order the stenographer to make a transcript of the trial and asking the Department to examine the transcript for the purpose of determining whether the Government has enough evidence to initiate a suit to protect Mr. Moses' rights.

Mr. Robert Guyot was tried on January 30, 1964 before the County Court of Leflore County, Mississippi, a court of record, on a charge of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He was found guilty, fined the sum of \$500 and sentenced to six months in prison, five months of which were suspended. I served as defense counsel for Mr. Guyot in that case. In my judgment, the record demonstrates ample proof that Mr. Guyot's arrest was an attempt to intimidate and suppress the voter registration drive in Hattiesburg and that Mr. Guyot's conviction was contrary to the weight of the evidence. I would like to know whether the Government has any present intention of initiating an action which would protect Mr. Guyot's rights.

III. Alleged Police Brutality Against Oscar Chase

On or about January 22, 1964 Oscar Chase was arrested and incarcerated in the County Jail of Hattiesburg, Mississippi on a charge of leaving the scene of an accident. This charge was subsequently passed into the files after the private citizen whose truck had allegedly been damaged withdrew his complaint. While in jail Mr. Chase was severely beaten by another

February 12, 1964

prisoner. Mr. Chase has alleged that the beating was done in the presence and with the encouragement of the jailer and two or three members of the Hattiesburg Police Department. The beating allegedly took place at approximately 8:00 P.M., and Mr. Chase was given no medical treatment until the following morning when he called the voter registration headquarters and informed them of the beating and requested to be released on bail. It is my understanding that an investigation of this incident has been conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and I am enquiring as to what, if any, actions the Department contemplates in this matter.

May I say, sir, that during my two weeks in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, I was deeply impressed with the efficiency and thoroughness of the operations of the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation working under the direction of Mr. Joseph Sylvester, Assistant Chief Agent of the New Orleans office. Realizing that some people in the civil rights struggle frequently charge the Federal Bureau of Investigation with being on the side of the local authorities and with doing too little to protect the rights of the demonstrators, I wish to take this opportunity to commend Mr. Sylvester and the agents who worked under him in Hattiesburg for their efforts.

Respectfully yours,

John M. Pratt
JAS

John M. Pratt
Counsel to the Commission

JJP:bas

cc: Senator Hubert H. Humphrey
Burke Marshall, Esq.

Mr. Burke Marshall
Assistant Attorney General

March 27, 1964

Director, FBI

100-50869-

CIVIL RIGHTS MATTERS
IN MISSISSIPPI

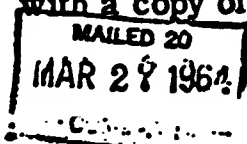
Your memorandum of March 19, 1964, captioned, "Mr. Joe Sylvester, ASAC, New Orleans, Louisiana," has been received together with the enclosed letter from Mr. Pratt. It is always gratifying to learn that the efforts of FBI personnel have been appreciated, and it was thoughtful of you to bring Mr. Pratt's comments to my attention.

It was kind of you to add your own commendation and your remarks, as well as those of Mr. Pratt, will be brought to the attention of Mr. Sylvester and the Agents who have worked with him on these matters.

1 - SAC, New Orleans (Enclosures - 2 - Copy of incoming from Department with a copy of its enclosure)

1 - Personnel File of J. T. Sylvester, Jr., ASAC of New Orleans Office. (Enclosures - 2 - Copy of incoming from Department with a copy of its enclosure.)

WLM:ers
(6)



NOTE: Civil Rights Division forwarded a copy of a letter to the Attorney General from John M. Pratt, Counsel to the Commission on Religion and Race, National Council of the Churches of Christ. Pratt discussed the status of various civil rights matters in Mississippi and concluded with the following paragraph:

"May I say, sir, that during my two weeks in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, I was deeply impressed with the efficiency and thoroughness of the operations of the Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation working under the direction of Mr. Joseph Sylvester, Assistant Chief Agent of the New Orleans Office. Realizing that some people in the

SEE NOTE CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

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33 APR 7 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MAR 27 2 17 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

MAILED 30
MAR 30 1964

Handwritten signatures and initials, including "J. Pratt" and "J. Sylvester".

NOTE CONTINUED:

civil rights struggle frequently charge the Federal Bureau of Investigation with being on the side of the local authorities and with doing too little to protect the rights of the demonstrators, I wish to take this opportunity to commend Mr. Sylvester and the agents who worked under him in Hattiesburg for their efforts."

Burke Marshall states:

"Mr. Sylvester deserves this compliment, and an added commendation from this Division for the work he has done for us."

March 19, 1964

MAR 19 2 53 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

100-50761-1084

REC-6

EX-103

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 12th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiries, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the groups and individuals you mentioned.

The Communist Party in this country has attempted to infiltrate and subvert every segment of our society. Its efforts are being thwarted by the FBI's internal security programs, by investigation, arrest and prosecution of Party functionaries, and by widespread, intelligent public opposition to the communist philosophy. These achievements are being accomplished through orderly, legal procedures.

Despite the above, the world communist conspiracy and its advocates in the United States continue to pose a basic threat to our country. It is important that our citizens educate themselves concerning the true nature of this atheistic philosophy in order that they will be able to resist its eroding influence. At the same time, opposition to communism must be careful and constructive, and kept within the due process of law. It is not enough to be merely against communism. We should exhibit in positive ways the superiority of our form of government over any foreign ideology.

Regrettably, there is a tendency on the part of some to make exaggerated charges as to the extent of communist success in gaining influence

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MAR 19 1964
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MAR 26 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[REDACTED]

within legitimate organizations and segments of our society, such as our religious institutions. We must continually be alert to communist attempts to penetrate and influence; however, our efforts must be rational and objective.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosures (4)
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
4-61 LEB Intro
4-17-62 Internal Security statement
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Bufiles reflect we have had limited but cordial correspondence with Presbyterian life. Since [REDACTED] has not linked Mr. Smoot with the FBI, no explanation as to Smoot's prior connection with the Bureau is being set out.

March 12, 1964

[REDACTED]

Mr. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington 25, D. C.

R 8-1

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am a Presbyterian minister here in [REDACTED] I, along with some other ministers in our city, have become quite concerned about charges being made by Billy James Hargess and Dan Smoot that the National Council of Churches is a 'left-wing' organization.

For example, yesterday I listened to the Christian Crusade broadcast. Dr. Hargess was telling why Dr. Charles J. Poling, outstanding Presbyterian minister for fifty years, left the Presbyterian Church. One of the reasons was that the Presbyterian Church belonged to the NCC. During the course of this March 11, 1964 broadcast he called he called Presbyterian Life (official publication of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America) a 'left-wing' publication. K

Now we are getting this program twice daily five days a week here in [REDACTED] Also people are writing Dan Smoot and Christian Crusade for printed materials. After reading these they are claiming to have done intensive study regarding the 'left-wing' activities of say the National Council of Churches. In my judgment the time has come for us to present a level-headed, intelligent, and accurate report concerning these matters to the people of this community.

Therefore I write hoping you may be of some help. Do you have any information available to the public regarding charges that the National Council is a 'left-wing' organization? Have you written any articles along these lines? Is there any information available on the Dan Smoot organization and Christian Crusade? Is there any information available from other sources?

44-64
11/120

EO 1-17 REC-6 100-50961-1084

We need accurate information and we need authoritative information. If you can help us we would greatly appreciate it.

Thanking you for your time and interest, I am

Sincerely yours,

[REDACTED]

CORRESPONDENCE

EX-114

REC-40

100-102691083

March 18, 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 9th, with enclosure, and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiry, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the groups and individuals you mentioned.

The Communist Party in this country has attempted to infiltrate and subvert every segment of our society. Its efforts are being thwarted by the FBI's internal security programs, by investigation, arrest and prosecution of Party functionaries, and by widespread, intelligent public opposition to the communist philosophy. These achievements are being accomplished through orderly, legal procedures.

Despite the above, the world communist conspiracy and its advocates in the United States continue to pose a basic threat to our country. It is important that our citizens educate themselves concerning the true nature of this atheistic philosophy in order that they will be able to resist its eroding influence. At the same time, opposition to communism must be careful and constructive, and kept within the due process of law. It is not enough to be merely against communism. We should exhibit in positive ways the superiority of our form of government over any foreign ideology.

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MAR 18 1964
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MAR 26 1964

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

STP
LHM
B.L.

Regrettably, there is a tendency on the part of some to make exaggerated charges as to the extent of communist success in gaining influence within legitimate organizations and segments of our society, such as our religious institutions. We must continually be alert to communist attempts to penetrate and influence; however, our efforts must be rational and objective.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

**John Edgar Hoover
Director**

Enclosures (4)

**Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
4/61 LEB Introduction re/Communism
4/17/62 Internal Security Statement**

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

**DTP:mc
(3)**

March 9, 1964.

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Inclosed is the Dan Smoot Report of January 13, 1964.

We have written to the National Council of Churches and they have denied any knowledge regarding the publication of a pamphlet written by William Graham Cole on page 11 of the above report being sponsored by them.

Our understanding is that they are a Communist infiltrated organization. What do you advise, as church members, we can do to convince our Ministers this is a very serious matter and should be thoroughly investigated.

We are very concerned about this matter and we would like an opinion from you regarding the above article.

Very truly yours,

EX-114
REC-40

ENCLOSURE

108
1964
CORRESPONDENCE

REC-134

March 12, 1964

100-50869-1082

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 6th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

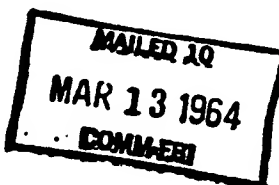
With respect to your inquiry concerning the National Council of Churches, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of this Bureau must be maintained as confidential in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to this group.

Enclosed is some literature I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

4/1/61 LEB Intro

4/17/62 Internal Security

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. Since [REDACTED] mentions no specific church and may well be a member of Jehovah's Witnesses or the Church of Christ, title of Reverend is not being used. The telephone directory fails to reflect [REDACTED] associated with any church.

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MAR 27 1964

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TRUE COPY

March 6, 1964

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of Public Information
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sirs:

As a Christian minister I have been confronted with frequent condemnations of the National Council of Churches. The accusation seems to be this: that the National Council of Churches is either a communist front or a communist infiltrated organization. They seem to say this because the NCC is active in the move toward racial equality.

If you have any information, therefore, regarding the loyalty of the National Council of Churches relating to communism and race relations, would you please send it to me. If I need to contact another source for said information, would you be kind enough to direct me to it.

My sole aim in desiring this information is that I may serve to clarify much confusion and misdirected criticism.

Thank you for your help. /

Sincerely,



EX-117
100-134

861-1

March 6, 1964

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Office of Public Information
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

As a Christian minister I have been confronted with frequent condemnations of the National Council of Churches. The accusations seem to be this: that the National Council of Churches is either a communist front or a communist infiltrated organization. They seem to say this because the NCC is active in the move toward racial equality.

If you have any information, therefore, regarding the loyalty of the National Council of Churches relating to communism and race relations, would you please send it to me. If I need to contact another source for said information, would you be kind enough to direct me to it.

My sole aim in desiring this information is that I may serve to clarify much confusion and misdirected criticism.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

APC

P11

REC-26

100-50869-15

March 16, 1964

EX-115

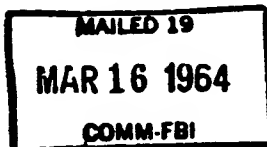
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 9th and want to thank you for your generous remarks concerning my administration of the FBI. It is hoped that our future endeavors will continue to merit your support and approval.

With respect to your inquiries, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of this Bureau must be maintained as confidential in accordance with the regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the individuals and groups you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature which I trust will be of interest to you.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
Internal Security statement, 4-17-62
LEB Intro - 4/61

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

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59 MAR 16 1964 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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FBI

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Handwritten initials

[REDACTED]
March 9, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am inquiring for facts concerning members of the Governing Body of the National Council of Churches.

At a recent Church meeting, a representative of this organization stated that a letter was in their files from you stating flatly that there are no Communists in the organization's leadership.

I have in my possession literature printed by the Circuit Riders, Inc., 110 Government Place, Cincinnati 2, Ohio, which is in conflict with this. According to this literature, at least thirty men who helped write "The Standard Revised Version of the Bible" under the auspices of the National Council of Churches, are, or have been affiliated with various Pro-Communist projects, fronts, and publications. Specifically, I would like information concerning Leroy Waterman, University of Michigan; W. Russell Bowie, Grace Church, New York; Fleming James, University of the South, Seawane, Tenn.; Frederick C. Grant, Seabury-Western Theological Seminary; Luther A. Weigle, Yale University Divinity School. Even though these men may not be actually members of the Communist Party, they are reported to be consciously serving the Communist cause. (1

If you are not permitted to release information on individuals, any information that you can furnish substantiating ties between Communist activities and individuals associated with the National Council of Churches would be most helpful.

We who are most seriously concerned about the menace of Communism deeply appreciate your dedication to duty and exemplary performance in the high office which you hold.

This is most urgent, and a prompt reply would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

115
REC-26 100-50819-1111
12 MAR 17 1964
CORRESPONDENCE
P16

3-16-64 jby

March 12, 1964

REC-3

100-508171080

EX-103

[REDACTED]

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

MAR 19 4 26 PM '64

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 9th has been received, and I regret I am unable to comment on your inquiry.

I would like to point out that information in our files must be maintained as confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data concerning the National Council of Churches in our files.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

CJJ:cal

MAILED 32
MAR 9 4 1964
COMM-FBI

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

18 MAR 21 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



[REDACTED]

Department of Communications

March 9, 1964

Federal Bureau of Investigation
House Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

The March 1964 issue of the Church News carried an item stating that investigation of the National Council of Churches had revealed no basis for charges that the N.C.C. harbors Communist sympathizers.

We would like to receive any data your organization has concerning your latest disposition of this matter.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

EX-103

12 MAR 16 1964

1080

March 13, 1964

REC 5

161 - 1077

103

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 8th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiries, I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. Information contained in the files of this Bureau must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I regret I am unable to be of help in this instance and hope you will not infer either that we do or do not have data in our files relating to the groups you mentioned.

Enclosed is some literature which I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



MAR 13 5 03 PM '64
REC'D - READING ROOM
FBI

Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Saneely!

Internal Security statement, 4-17-62

LEB Intro, 4-61

Faith in God - Our Answer to Communism

DTP:jlg (3)

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

(See Bunote next page)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. His question ~~labeled~~ 4(a) is being intentionally ignored. The attached copy of page A4057 of the Congressional Record - Appendix for 1961 sets forth the data to which he referred. The quoted letter of the Director pertains to the film, "Operation Abolition" and enclosed the pamphlet "Communist Target - Youth." To make reference either in support of this letter or opposed to this letter would reawaken interest in the pamphlet, "Communist Target - Youth," which is no longer being disseminated by the Bureau.

the money of the laity and we have twice as many members on the board as do the laity. We are determined to control these things. We are very generous of you to give your money into our keeping. We know we have your souls. And if we were to mess up your souls the way we mess up your money, may God have mercy upon your souls.

Well, the National Council of Churches of Christ has found itself, in the last several days, the object of ridicule—the object of questioning. And I do not plan to get into whether or not there are Communists in the National Council of Churches. Where you have 40 million people there is the bare possibility that a Communist might sneak in. We have on the board 10 bishops, we have 10 priests, we have 6 laymen, and 6 laywomen. We have 22 votes—again the clergy out voting the laymen and the laywomen 20 to 12. Some of the bishops who represent us on the National Council of Churches is the controversial bishop of California; another one is the bishop of Bethlehem who is taking J. Edgar Hoover to task about capital punishment. And I assure you, of the two, I imagine J. Edgar Hoover knows "just a bit more" about capital punishment than does the bishop of Bethlehem, Pa. Two of the clergy who are on this board are extreme liberals, and one belongs to 14 organizations which are on the un-American activity list, which are known not to be sympathetic toward the American way of life. There are 32 people speaking for 2,123,110 Episcopalians. These 32 people have more say and more authority than the general convention. See, it is like the U.N. The U.N. has more say for us than our own Government.

We find ourselves in a group that started out glorious. It was to be an exchange of ideas. Christian brothers were to get together and have a mutual exchange. The Episcopal Church is in it. Do they speak for me? Do they speak for us? I would say since we have 32 voting members, since we have been in it for over 10 years, since we have paid \$500,000 a year, I would say yes, they probably speak for us.

Now, there are several things that are controversial. I do not plan to debate socialized medicine, people more capable than I can do that. I do not plan to debate the ethnic problem, that has been debated by people not as intelligent as I. One of the problems that the National Council of Churches of Christ has sponsored is "the breaking down of neighborhoods." I would buy a nice home in Tanglewood or wherever your nice home might happen to be, then I would move into this home my Negro custodian, if I had one. I do not have one. I do not plan to do that, but we have been told how to break down your neighborhood.

Now, there is one problem that worries me, brethren, and that is the problem of literature. The NCC has put out a bulletin, a reading list, suggesting some of the reading which would be "good for our children to read." It is called "The Negro American—A Reading List." I will have this back at coffee. I will also have one of the books on that list back at coffee, this book is called "Color Blind" and I direct your attention to pages 104-105. I recommend that mothers not read it, or high school boys and girls, not read it, but I will bring it back to coffee and I will keep it under guard because I have slept with it under my pillow for 3 days so that my teenagers wouldn't even see it. It is disgusting. Another one of these famous books is "Without Manners." These books are in the public library. Then another book "The Walls Came Tumbling Down." This literature has been recommended to our young people, they have been asked to read it. It's silly, it's disgusting. Men at the 19th hole at the country club wouldn't even mention these subjects.

Another thing that the National Council of Churches has done is that they have asked that the clergy not show the movie "Operation Abolition" because they maintain that the Un-American Activities Committee and the FBI have "framed" this film. Now, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover is not running for any job, he has it made I think. Read his book "Masters of Deceit" and you'll find out whether or not any Communists have gotten into the church. The bishop of the diocese got quite concerned about the movie "Operation Abolition." He wrote Mr. J. Edgar Hoover. May I quote his letter from Mr. Hoover:

"Dear BISHOP MANN: I have received your letter dated March 2, 1961, with its enclosures, and your interest in writing to me is indeed appreciated.

The film "Operation Abolition" has been sponsored and distributed by the Committee on Un-American Activities, U.S. House of Representatives, and the FBI had no connection with its preparation. Therefore, I cannot comment on this film.

You may be interested, however, in reading the enclosed pamphlet entitled "Communist Target—Youth" which contains my report concerning the disturbances in San Francisco, Calif., in May 1960, in connection with a hearing of this Committee. Additional copies of this pamphlet can be made available to you upon request. I am sure you will agree after reviewing this pamphlet that it clearly illustrates the Communist tactics and strategy involved in these disturbances.

In addition to the above pamphlet, I am enclosing some material on the menace of communism available for general distribution by the FBI.

I trust the above information and the enclosed material will be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

J. EDGAR HOOVER.

I have that pamphlet. In the back of the pamphlet are pictures from the film "Operation Abolition" showing Archie Brown and Brodsky calling out "open the door." I've shown the movie twice, and if there are enough people interested I shall show it again.

On the matter of literature there are two things that I want to read to you. One is a very slipshod Lord's Prayer. This is a beatnik type prayer which is sponsored by the National Council of Methodist Youths. I quote:

"LORD'S PRAYER—TEENAGE VERSION"

"O, daddy, O
Who are the most
Hurrah for your support

My personality integrate,
All my physique develop,
My nervous system calm,
In body as in mind.

Prepare me new tempo,
Our daily jive, and
Release us from our parents
And other repressed victims.

Lead us into more self-expression,
And much less boredom,
For you are the coolest,
Gonest, and hepest drive
From now on."

That is the Lord's Prayer. I quote another one. This is by Langston Hughes. Langston Hughes is one of the authors that the National Council of Churches of Christ recommends. They list no less than six books of his that you should read if you are to be intelligent. I am afraid that I shall die ignorant. This one is called "Goodby, Christ":

"Listen, Christ, you did all right in your day, I reckon, but that day's gone now. They ghosted you up a swell story, too; called it the Bible, but it's dead now. The Pope and

the press, they've made too much money from they've sold you too many kings, generals, robbers, and killers; even to the Czar and the Comanches; even to Rockefeller's church, even to the Saturday Evening Post. You ain't no good no more. They've pawned you till you're done were out. Goodby, Christ Jesus Lord God Jehovah, beat it on away from here now. Make way for a new guy with no religion at all—a real guy named Marx Communist Lenin Present Stalin worker me—I said, me; go ahead on, now. You're getting in the way of things, Lord, and please take St. Gandhi with you when you go, and St. Pope Pius, and St. Alms McPherson, and big black St. Doctor of the consecrated dime. And step on the gas, Christ. Move. Don't be so slow about movin'. The world is mine from now on, and nobody's gonna sell me to a king, or a general, or a millionaire. Goodby, Christ, good morning, revolution."—Langston Hughes.

It is very hard to give an impartial appraisal of people who are tearing down my God and my Jesus! I have had enough of it! I don't plan to ask the Bishop to get me out of the National Council of Churches. I plan to tell him I am out of the Council of Churches. Like the Pennsylvania Dutch say "I Want O-u-t, Out!" "I want to be shut of it!" They didn't ask me if I wanted to get in, and I think I have the privilege of telling them I don't want to belong.

The Church is on the spot, Brethren! The days ahead will try our souls. It's going to call for days of consecration. Maybe I don't speak for you. Maybe you'd rather pray "O, daddy, O". But I've had enough of it! I was ordained 28 years ago to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have been a priest 28 years. I have had three parishes in 28 years. So, you see, I don't run around! The time has come when consecrated Christians, those who love their Lord and Saviour Jesus, must press on to the goal.

The diocesan convention will meet in May. I will tell you how this thing will go. A man named Dr. Hamilton, from Dallas, will get up and make a motion that the Episcopal Church come out of the National Council of Churches. Then there will be a substitute motion brought on by the clergy. You see, we must not "hurt" people. And the substitute motion will ask the National Council to "please not speak for us". Then some of us will get up on the floor and say, "St. Rev., Sir, this doesn't answer the purpose. Our petition is that we come out of the National Council of Churches". If withholding our money is the only way we can come out of the NCC then we will withhold our money. But we are coming out.

I do hope that in the days that lie ahead I will have your prayers, that I will have your best wishes, and that as a united front we will go forward in the name of our Lord Jesus. And that we may preach the Good News of the Gospel and of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified! What a golden opportunity in a world that is torn asunder, in a world that is sick, in a world that needs Jesus. And we say "O, daddy, O" and "Get Going, Christ!"

I'm prejudiced, I have very definite feelings, I have very definite feelings about very definite things. I was made that way. I'm sorry. I have not been a good priest. This sermon should have been preached 10 years ago. I ask your forgiveness.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

What is it? It is an agency through which Protestant and Orthodox churches express their common faith in Jesus Christ and cooperate to focus the light of that faith on all phases of American life.

How are Council policies decided? These policies are expressed through pronouncements. A pronouncement is a statement of policy, or a position, or an affirmation of con-

111-508611079
ENCLOSURE

March 8, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing you as a member and Ruling Elder of the [redacted] Presbyterian Church, [redacted]. Our local church is under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States, which for some years has been affiliated with the National Council of Churches of Christ. Literature criticizing the N.C.C. and implying that it is a Communist-front organization prompts this letter to you. As an active Christian, I know you must have experienced some situations where your particular denomination has been hurt by apparently unfounded denunciations relating it or allied organizations or individuals to Communism or as being "pink", red, or some other shade of the popular color for Communists. Knowing that answers coming from my own church or from my Congressional representatives may be biased and so would be ineffective as a countermeasure against the undermining of faith in our church leadership, I am asking you to assist me in this matter in order to give clarification to either me or those who condemn my churches affiliation with the N.C.C. and the World Council of Churches.. Specifically:

- (1) Is the National Council of Churches of Christ considered a Communist-front organization?
- (2) Have any of its leaders been active or inactive Communists?
- (3) Do organizations or individuals publishing literature which attempts to discredit or cast doubt on the patriotism of certain religious groups normally come under the scrutiny of the F.B.I. for the possibility of themselves being subversive? (by dividing the church). Such literature would be as follows:
 - (a) Copy of 1961 Congressional Record-Appendix, pages A4056 and A4057, "Extension of Remarks of Hon. Dale Alford of Arkansas in the House of Representatives, June 6, 1961. (Copy made available by "The Network Of Patriotic Letter Writers- P.O. Box 2003D- Pasadena, California.) Cost: 60 for \$1.00.
 - (b) "Deceivers", an 11-page booklet written by Ebenezer Myers, 210 Vance Street, Lenoir, N.C., dated Sept. 6, 1958. Mr. Myers is a retired Methodist minister-Western N.C. Conference. The booklet was apparently published by the "Circuit Riders, Inc.", an organization of "fine sound Methodist laymen" who Mr. Myers says checked on Methodist preachers who have Communist-front records and this corporation, he says, "has a list in a book of 2,109 Methodist preachers with more than three citations by the Congressional Committees - - - -."

ENCLOSURE

EX-103

REC 5

12 MAR 16 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

P-11

- (4) The questions concerned with the foregoing paragraphs are:
- (a) Does Mr. Hoover agree with the way his name and letter has been used in the quoted pages of the copy of the Congressional Record?
 - (b) Are the "Circuit Riders, Inc" accurate in their accusations of the 2,109 Methodist preachers?

Mr. Hoover, my reasons for wanting clear information on this subject is to be able to defend my church and what it stands for. Without having adequate information on this subject which I can believe, I am at a loss to talk, much less refute this issue with those around me who are condemning the N.C.C. If the N.C.C. needs condemning, I want to know that too!

Will appreciate all information or clarification you can give me on this matter.

Respectfully yours,



March 10, 1964

REC-131

100-51467-1078

MAR 10 5 39 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 3, 1964, has been received.

With respect to your inquiry concerning the National Council of Churches, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. You may be assured, however, that this Bureau has not investigated this group.

Enclosed is some literature I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

4-1-61 LEB Introduction

4-17-62 Internal Security

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

DTP:jba

MAR 17 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

com

B.1

[REDACTED]

Dear Sirs:

I would like to know if your records show Communist infiltration of any sort within the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. If you are not permitted to release materials or statements on this subject, would you please suggest to whom I may write.

Particularly vulnerable

8277

March 10, 1964

REC 12

56847-1077

EX-103

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 5th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiries, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. You may be assured, however, that the FBI has not investigated the National Council of Churches.

Enclosed is some literature I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

A. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 10

MAR 10 1964

COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

4-1-61 LEB Introduction

4-17-62 Internal Security

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism.

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:jba

57 MAR 17 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
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Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
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Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

March 5, 1964

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, F.B.I.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover,

I am a member of a local Methodist Church that finds itself, along with its' sister churches in this area, in the midst of a well organized "smear" campaign. It is concerned with accusations toward the National Council of Churches - of which the Methodist Church is a member.

The National Council of Churches is accused of being Communistic, that members of its' policy-making boards and heads of the organization either belong to Communist groups, or are members of the Communist Party itself. There are many documents, photostats of checks, court records, and other such "records", that are shown with the literature being distributed.

Along with this type of accusation goes the charge of aiding in racial violence, and furthering integration. While we may or may not agree with the stand the National Council of Churches has taken on race, we feel it is unjust to allow an organization made up of 34 different denominations to be called Communistic. If there be any truth in these charges, then, it is only right that those of us interested in justice and fair play, be informed.

We find that as a result of these charges our members are withdrawing their presence and support. Not just for the Methodist Church are we concerned and fearful, but we fear for all the Christian churches in our land who will be silenced and unjustly condemned.

We have been told that an independent group known as the "Circuit Riders" have printed some of the material distributed. I would also like to know the background of Carl McIntyre, who is one of a group dedicated to destroying the Methodist Church by his unrelenting charges that the Methodist Church, and the authors of their literature, are Communists, or are Communistically inspired.

I would appreciate your prompt reply. It seems to me that groups causing dissension and rifts in the churches in our land are working with the Communist scheme of things themselves. I am heartsick over the havoc these groups are causing.

Yours sincerely,

REC 12

EX-103

6 MAR 11 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

File

March 10, 1964

REC- 56 100-50869-1076

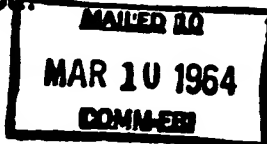
EX-108

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 4th, and I want to thank you for your generous remarks concerning this Bureau. It is hoped that our future endeavors will continue to merit your support and approval.

With respect to your inquiry about the National Council of Churches, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. You may be sure, however, that this Bureau has not investigated this group.

Enclosed is some literature which I hope will be of interest to you.



Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (4)

4/17/62 Internal Security Statement

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

FBI LEB Intro 4/1/61

"Faith In Freedom"

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:hed (3)

59 MAR 22 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[REDACTED]
March 4, 1964

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

The purpose of this inquiry is to find out if there is currently any communistic activity within the National Council of Churches of Christ of America. If so, how much effect does it have on the authority of the Council's work.

I am included in the lay leadership of a Methodist Church here in [REDACTED] and quite naturally it is our job to lift Christ before men, not one iota of anything communistic.

If the National Council of Churches is adversely involved we must look for methods to correct this immediately and what can be more effective than effort on the local church level?

My thanks to the Bureau for its patriotic vigilance and determination.

Yours very truly,
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

REC-56 100-508191

EX-108

10 MAR 11 1964

1076

CORRESPONDENCE

ack
3/11/64
JH jic
[initials]

March 10, 1964

REC-56

100-50869-1075

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 4th and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

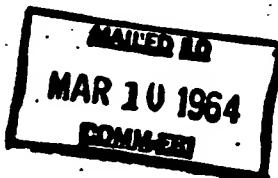
With respect to your inquiries, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. You may be assured, however, that this Bureau has not investigated the National Council of Churches.

Enclosed is some literature which I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (5)

Let's Fight Communism Sane! Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism
LEB Intro, 1-61

Internal Security Statement, 4-17-62

Communism: The Bitter Enemy of Religion

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:jig (3)

Tele. Room
Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

9 MAR 10 1964

TELETYPE UNIT

MAR 10 3 53 PM '64
REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

Handwritten signatures and stamps, including "MAR 10 4 07 PM '64" and "MAILED 10 MAR 10 1964".

[REDACTED]

March 4, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am interested in some information concerning a book by Edgar C. Bundy entitled Collectivism in the Churches.

I really dislike having to bother you with such a trivial matter, but this does have degrees of vital importance in my work in the ministry. I wish you would give me any information you have as to the validity of the comments made in this book concerning Communism infiltrating into the National Council of Churches and other areas of church life in the Christian religion in America. I would like to know if you have any character references of the author, Mr. Bundy.

I am interested to gain this information for my own personal use, as you are well aware of the problems that are developing in the churches in America. As one minister within the midst of many, I am sincerely interested in being able to evaluate what is happening in our day in the trends of church life.

I would certainly appreciate all the attention that you can give this matter.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,
[REDACTED]

P.S. If you have any recent information or articles related to whether Communism has or has not infiltrated much into our churches, or church related organizations, I would certainly be grateful for this additional information.

REC-56

100-58869-1075

10 MAR 11 1964

P10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

MR. J. E. BELMONT

DATE: March 9, 1964

FROM: R. C. SULLIVAN

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. J. A. Sizoo
1 - Mr. R. W. Smith

SUBJECT: BISHOP PAUL MARDIN, JR.
METHODIST CHURCH
1420 ... STREET
COLLETON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Bishop Mardin called me to advise that the Methodist Church
under his leadership in South Carolina, Alabama and western Florida
will be holding some seminars on communism this summer. He said he
long been concerned about the dangers of communism in the United States
and this is one reason why he and other Methodists like him are
taking an active interest in educating the people concerning the
dangers stemming from communism.

by Bishop Mardin if I could give two or three
lectures at the seminars which he is organizing. As the Bureau knows,
I feel that I ought not be lecturing any more than is absolutely
necessary, say two or three times a year. In view of this, I took
the liberty of explaining to Bishop Mardin it would be very unlikely
that I could get away to accept any such invitation.

... of the Methodists, Presbyterians,
and other churches, as well as the National Council of Churches, are
under constant bombardment and all his Methodist clergymen are accused
of being communists. He said he would like to have me clear up this

57 MAR 25 1964

NOT RECORDED

INT. SEC.

59693-1

ORIGINAL FILED IN

Memorandum For Mr. Belmont
Re: BISHOP PAUL MORDIN, JR.

whole matter and also explain that the National Council is not a communist front. I explained to Bishop Hardin that we do not evaluate publicly persons or organizations and that in regard to the National Council we have never investigated the Council. He wondered about the "front" accusation. I told him the National Council of Churches has not been designated under Executive Order 10450, which contains a list of organizations declared subversive by the Attorney General. Again I pointed out we had not investigated the National Council of Churches. He replied that this is understandable for certainly there could be no reason to do that. Bishop Hardin referred to my lecture at Lake Shalaska and mentioned that at that time I had said in regard to a question that the overwhelming majority of the clergymen in this country were loyal to our Nation and I told him that was right, I did say so and I also said that the churches had been a communist target for many years and would remain so and there had been some infiltration down through the years, but the overwhelming majority of clergymen were anti-communist.

Memorandum for Mr. Belmont
RE: BISHOP PAUL HARDIN, JR.

RECOMMENDATION:

That I be authorized to call Bishop Paul Hardin and tell him the matter has been considered very thoroughly but because of the extremely heavy burden placed on the Bureau it is not possible to furnish a speaker for the seminars which he plans.

I concur.

W.C.S.

H V

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Handwritten notes:
5-11-64
W.C.S.

REC-43

March 2, 1964

100-508691074

R. W. Dinitz

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of February 21st and want to thank you for your kind remarks about my administration of the FBI. It is hoped that our future endeavors will continue to merit your support and approval.

With respect to your inquiries, I have been misquoted if I have been identified as being either in support of or against the statements you mentioned. The FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. In addition, information contained in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to comment along the lines reported in the material referred to by you. You may be assured, however, that this Bureau has not investigated the National Council of Churches.

As you may know, UNESCO and UNICEF are affiliated with the United Nations. For this reason, I am taking the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to The Honorable, The Secretary of State, Washington, D. C., for any information he may be able to furnish you.

I am enclosing some material which I hope will be of interest

to you.

MAR 3 - 1964

COMM-FBI

Enclosures (5)

DTP:lch (3)

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Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
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Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAR 17 1964

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

(See NOTE and ENCLOSURES next page)

MAR 17 1964

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
MAR 3 3 20 PM '64

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. The copy of correspondent's letter sent by form this date to State Department.

4/1/61 FBI LEB Intro

"Faith in God--Our Answer To Communism"

"Faith In Freedom" 12/4/63

4/17/62 Internal Security Statement

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

Dear Mr Hoover:

Several members from various denominations of protestant churches in the La Jolla area, have become increasingly concerned about a trend we think is developing; emphasizing legislative programs and the over-emphasizing of the National Council of Churches.

Because of this concern, we have formed a study group, primarily to investigate the influence; if any; of the N.C.C. on our churches: in regard to legislative matters, and as to it's stand on communism.

I would like to stress that we are not extreme in our views; we have no feelings of racism; nor do we necessarily agree with the views of Billy Hargis or Carl Mac Entire. Our group is made up of doctors, lawyers, housewives, business men, but most of all Christians.

We are diligently seeking all points of view on the subject, so that we can constructively learn the facts.

In seeking one point of view, I attended a church meeting of Lutherans: to hear their minister discuss "Christians, Communists, and the N.C.C." The minister made the following statements, not only in his name, but in the name of the Lutheran Church of America. I quote from printed material he distributed.

"Americans who know what communists believe and how they conduct themselves and who have real knowledge of the organizations and persons listed below will agree with the following statements:

There are no communists or communist sympathizers in the leadership of the N.C.C.

There are no communists or sympathizers in responsible position in any denomination having membership in the N.C.C.

There are no communists or communist sympathizers on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union. (A resolution, adopted in 1940, bars

REC-43 1074
10 MAR 10 1964

supporters of communist or other totalitarian doctrines from serving.)

There are no communists or communist sympathizers in the leadership of the N.A.A.C.P.

There has never been a communist or a communist sympathizer in the Presidency or on the Supreme Court.

UNESCO is not "communist or communistic".

UNICEF is not "communist or communistic". "

We will certainly agree about the Presidency, and the Supreme Ct. But we do question some of these other organizations, not so much from the leadership point of view, but rather from the communist sympathizer point of view.

The reason for writing to you about this is that ~~he~~ you were listed as one of the Americans who agrees with these statements.

Realizing you cannot often answer these types of problems, if these statements are in part un-true could you recommend where we might find further factual material regarding this subject. If on the other hand you agree completely with these statements, would you let us know this?

We appreciate all you have done and are doing for our Country.

Sincerely,



March 6, 1964

REC 12

EX-102

100-1-1073

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI
MAR 6 3 53 PM '64

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of March 2nd and can understand the concern prompting your communication.

With respect to your inquiries, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, this Bureau has not made a statement either in support of or against the National Council of Churches. I have, however, assured individuals that the FBI has not investigated this group.

Enclosed is some literature which I hope will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (5)

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

4-17-62 Internal Security Statement
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

4-1-61 LEB Intro

Faith in Freedom

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

2 1964

DTP:lch (3)

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MAR 6 4 13 PM '64
RECEIVED DIRECTOR
LCH
B.L.

March 2, 1964.

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

My dear Mr. Hoover:

This area is being badly divided over the part that the Bureau of Investigation has taken in the controversy as to the Communistic influence in the National Council of the Churches of Christ in America and only you can settle it so far as I can see.

First: The statement has been widely published that the Bureau of Investigation did investigate the National Council of Churches and exonerated it, and its members, of any Communistic leanings or influence.

Second: the above statement is being countered by those who claim to have seen an official statement by you that no such investigation was ever made.

Would you please be good enough to tell me which of the above is correct? And if any investigation or report was made by you or the Bureau I would much appreciate a copy, or reference to where a copy might be consulted.

I am very truly yours,

REC 12

12 MAR 9 1964

COMM-FBI-100

1073

P6

EX-108

REC-28 100-1869-1072

March 3, 1964

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of February 23rd and enclosure have been received.

In response to your inquiry regarding the National Council of Churches, the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations nor draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. The FBI has not investigated the group you named, and I am unable to comment regarding it.

With reference to "The Dan Smoot Report" you forwarded, you may be interested in knowing that Mr. Smoot was employed in the FBI as a Special Agent from March 23, 1942, until June 15, 1951, when he voluntarily resigned for personal reasons. Since his writings at the present time are personal ventures of his own, it is not possible for me to comment concerning them. Your enclosure is being returned.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

MAILED 10

MAR 3 - 1964

COMM-FBI

Enclosure

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. He enclosed a copy of the January 13, 1964, issue of "The Dan Smoot Report" which is an attack on the National Council of Churches. It is to be noted that in this issue, Smoot does not, as previously, refer to himself as a former Administrative Assistant to Mr. Hoover but his wording has been changed to "two years on FBI Headquarters staff in Washington."

DCL:rsp (3)

Tolson _____
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Gandy _____

66 MAR 10 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

2/23/64

Dear Mr. Hoover

Enclosed is a report on the N. C. C., Could you please tell me if there is any truth to this.

If there is, what can you advice us to do about it.

Thank You

Yours in Christ

[REDACTED]

P. S. I am a member of the [REDACTED] Church of America.

Reformed

J. Del

REC-26

100-50867-1072

EX-108

MAR 4 1964

ENCLOSURE

ITC 2-28-64
bal

act 3-2-64
DC:bal/101/nap

2-23-64



Dear Mr. Hoover

Enclosed is a report on the
N. C. C., could you please tell me
if there is any truth to this.

If there is, what can you
advise us to do about it.

Thank you

Yours in Christ

[REDACTED]

P. S.

I am a member of the
Church of America.

Reformed

~~1~~
ack 3-2-64

17C 20-28-64

DC Liberal life / nsp

THE Dan Smoot Report



DAN SMOOT

Vol. 10, No. 2 (Broadcast 438) January 13, 1964 Dallas, Texas

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

In a speech at Grand Rapids, Michigan, on January 6, 1964, Senator Barry Goldwater, saying that a "mind fed by communism" produced the assassination of President Kennedy, declared:

"To anyone who blames America for the tragedy which struck in Dallas, I say you libel our people and purposely misread our politics. It was not a mind nurtured by American philosophy that turned to violence

"Mark this well — the day we permit anyone to equate protest with hate, we will set the stage for one-party tyranny and the end of open debate. To anyone who says that honest opposition breeds hatred, I say you lie — that you pervert the very basis of our government."⁽¹⁾

America urgently needs leadership which expresses such wholesome national pride and such simple, forthright accuracy in evaluating momentous events. Compare the tone of Goldwater's remarks — in a fund-raising political speech — with that found in the pronouncements of America's "religious" leaders just a month before, when the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. met in its Sixth General Assembly at Philadelphia, December 1 to 7, 1963.

Much of the speech-making at the Assembly was devoted to commentary on the assassination of President Kennedy. J. Irwin Miller, retiring President of the National Council, said:

"And now in this last shocking week, like birds of ill-omen, all our fears, our unharnessed hates, our selfishness which we have tried to rename 'Liberty' — they have all come home in one dreadful act, and have forced us to our knees in shame"⁽²⁾

In a formal "Message To The Churches," the Sixth General Assembly of the National Council of Churches said:

"With the loss of our President we see . . . the disclosure of mounting hatreds in the nation which threaten our very structure as a democracy In recent days we have looked upon the incredible horror of hate in our nation the full extent of which remains unknown Surely we are under the judgment of God."⁽³⁾

THE DAN SMOOT REPORT, a magazine published every week by The Dan Smoot Report, Inc., mailing address P. O. Box 9538, Lakewood Station, Dallas, Texas 75214; Telephone TAYlor 1-2303 (office address 6441 Gaston Avenue). Subscription rates: \$10.00 a year, \$6.00 for 6 months, \$18.00 for two years. For first class mail \$12.50 a year; by airmail (including APO and FPO) \$14.50 a year. Reprints of specific issues: 1 copy for 25¢; 6 for \$1.00; 50 for \$5.50; 100 for \$10.00 — each price for bulk mailing to one person. Add 2% sales tax on all orders originating in Texas for Texas delivery.

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Page 9

Original encl. returned to correspond.

ENCLOSURE 100-5117-1072

The Reverend Dr. Frank B. Pittell (official of the National Council who has a communist-front record) alleged that criticism of the National Council comes from "America's spiritual underworld" and compared it with "attacks" which can be found in communist newspapers and in the "captive press under the Nazis."¹¹

The "racial question" in the United States was the principal topic of discussion and action at the National Council's Sixth General Assembly. The Assembly endorsed all provisions of the proposed Civil Rights Act of 1963, including specifically the controversial "public accommodations" section. It demanded that Congress "take every step necessary" to pass the Bill. It urged all Christians to write, call, or telegraph their representatives; and it sent busloads of Assembly delegates to call on U. S. Representatives in Washington and demand speedy vote on the measure.¹²

The National Council of Churches represents church organizations whose total lay membership is estimated at 40 million. The implication is that 40 million American Christians approve of lobbying, on the part of their churches, for the Civil Rights Bill.¹³ The implication is false. The National Council of Churches utilizes the prestige of 40 million American Christians and of their churches, but does not express their will. It expresses the will of officials who control the National Council. Indeed, many activities of the Council are objectionable, if not repulsive, to the millions of Americans whose church donations help support the Council.

The Council Created Itself

The Federal Council of Churches was organized in 1908. By the middle thirties, it was so heavily infiltrated with communists that the Office of Naval Intelligence branded it a subversive group.¹⁴

By 1950, pro-communist extremism in the Council was so apparent that the organization

was losing public support. A change of name — but not of policy leadership — was effected. In November, 1950, the Federal Council merged with 7 other church organizations¹⁵ and formed the National Council of Churches. The old Federal Council leaders became the leaders of the National Council. The Federal Council *Bulletin* for December, 1950, officially announced that "All the work of the Federal Council will continue under the new auspices."¹⁶

This "constituting convention" was held in Cleveland, Ohio. Delegates of 28 church denominations took their whole church families into the National Council. Thus, denominational churches with a total membership of something like 28 million people became members of the National Council of Churches by the arbitrary action of a few score delegates at the Cleveland convention. The question was never submitted to individual church congregations for approval or ratification. Today, the National Council represents the hierarchy of 33 cooperating Protestant and Eastern Orthodox denominations¹⁷ whose total lay membership is estimated at 40 million.

The Repulsive

In 1957, the department of racial and cultural relations of the National Council of Churches published a 40-page pamphlet entitled "The Negro American — A Reading List." It was a recommended reading list of 240 books for church people — both children and adults.

On April 20, 1960, United States Representative Donald L. Jackson (Republican, California) discussed the National Council's reading list in a speech to the House. Some books on the list contain passages so filthy that Mr. Jackson, in deference to good taste, refused to put sample passages into the *Congressional Record*. He told of a California housewife who, trying to alert other adults, quoted passages from some of the books, but was told by Postal officials that the material was too obscene to mail. Mr. Jackson did, however, discuss a few of the authors:

(1) One of Victor Perlo's books is on the National Council's reading list. The book was published in 1953 by International Publishers, major communist book-publishing firm in the United States. Victor Perlo, a communist, was at one time head of a Soviet espionage group inside the U. S. Government.⁽¹⁰⁾

(2) One of Herbert Aptheker's books is on the National Council's list of recommended books for church people. Aptheker is one of the chief theoreticians of the communist party in the United States.⁽¹¹⁾

(3) The late W. E. B. Du Bois was for many years the leading negro communist in the United States, a hero of international communism. A few years before his death, Du Bois told an audience of Chinese communists, in Peking, that the United States is an enemy of Africa, saying, "Beware, Africa, America bargains for your soul." He urged Africans to "arise" and join the Soviet bloc. Commenting upon the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg (Soviet spies), Du Bois said of the American people:

"We are the murderers hurling mud. We are the witchhunters drinking blood."⁽¹²⁾

In a poem praising communist China, Du Bois wrote these lines:

"Down then, religion and church . . . ! away myth and miracle, creed and dogma. Rejoice, honesty, God lives again! But not your God, Europe and America! Not that, not that; No Christ to kill, no faith to fan. What China worships is a man. A workingman."

One of W. E. B. Du Bois' books is on the National Council of Churches' list of "best" books "safe to recommend for children."

(4) Shirley Graham, wife of the late W. E. B. Du Bois, was also a leading American communist. The National Council of Churches' reading list recommends six of her books.⁽¹³⁾

(5) Gene Weltfish, who has an extensive communist front record, was dismissed from Columbia University in 1953 after she had accused the United States of waging germ warfare in Korea. The late Ruth Benedict also had an extensive communist record. A book by Weltfish and Benedict is on the National Council of Churches' recommended reading list.⁽¹⁴⁾

(6) Gunnar Myrdal is a Swedish socialist. His son is an official of the communist party in Sweden. Myrdal's book, *An American Dilemma*,

criticizes the United States Constitution as "impractical and outdated for modern conditions." It accuses the Founding Fathers of intrigue which made the "Constitutional Convention . . . nearly a plot against the common people." *An American Dilemma* is on the National Council of Churches' recommended reading list for American church people.⁽¹⁵⁾

(7) E. Franklin Frazier, a writer for communist publications who has been associated with dozens of communist fronts, has two books on the National Council of Churches' reading list. One of the two books—*The Negro In The United States*—has been favorably reviewed in at least two communist party newspapers, the *Daily Worker* and the *People's World*.⁽¹⁶⁾

(8) Alan Lomax has been associated with 15 or more communist fronts and has been active as an entertainer at communist meetings. A book by Alan and John Lomax is on the National Council of Churches' reading list.⁽¹⁷⁾

(9) Benjamin A. Botkin, who has been associated with 15 communist fronts, has one book on the National Council's reading list.⁽¹⁸⁾

(10) Langston Hughes, for years a leading communist,⁽¹⁹⁾ who wrote the blasphemous poem "Goodbye Christ," has 9 books on the National Council's reading list.⁽²⁰⁾

William Graham Cole wrote a pamphlet entitled *Called To Responsible Freedom: The Meaning of Sex In The Christian Life*. The Office of Publication and Distribution of the National Council of Churches (475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York) published the pamphlet in 1961 for The United Christian Youth Movement.

There are words in this National Council of Churches pamphlet which I will not, in respect to the good taste of my readers, repeat in my *Report*; but I have extracted enough to reveal not only a preoccupation with erotica, but a falsification of the meaning of Scriptures. The pamphlet is written as a dialogue between the author and a teenager, in a style and language which the author, apparently, considers suitable for American youth.

Here is some of the author's counsel to the im-

imaginary teenager about sex, freedom and the Word of God: -

"We are asking you to take a look at what the Bible has to say about this whole problem You may be surprised to discover how much sense this dusty old book makes. For instance, I am sure you think the Bible takes a dim view of sex in general - all that jazz about 'Thou shalt not' and anybody who even thinks about sex is already guilty. The fact is, however, that the Bible as a whole is not only strongly in favor of sex, but also surprisingly frank about it There is no suggestion anywhere that anyone should be celibate

"Jesus had his greatest difficulty with a group of characters known as Pharisees If they were around today (and some of them are!), they would have your relationships with the opposite sex regulated totally. Holding hands in the back seat of a theatre would be permitted as would a chaste good night kiss at the door, providing only the lips met without further bodily contact. You could neck in a parked car for six minutes and thirty seconds, but no longer, and there would be carefully detailed rules about what you could and could not do

"Well, both Jesus and the Apostle Paul were seeking to set men free from this sort of legalistic bondage

"You're being pulled in two directions today. One group says to you, 'Be free!' No rules, no holds barred, anything goes. On the other side, you are told, 'Be responsible!' Live according to the rules of society, the dictates of your parents, and the faith of your church. Now 'the Christian life' occupies a point in no-man's land between these two opposing camps. It says a yes and a no to both sides. For the Christian there are no laws, no rules, no regulations But this does not mean that the Christian is irresponsible, selfish, and capricious. He must always be concerned about the effect of his actions on those around him

"Do you think there are definite rules governing your behaviour on a date? If so, then you can stop right here. You have no problem. You know all the answers But if you are just a little bit unsure . . . then we can continue our discussion

"The trouble with most of society's codes of sexual morality is that they are almost entirely concerned with the group, forgetting about the needs and the problems of the individual

"Officially, Western civilization has for some

time now blocked all sexual activity . . . before marriage and decreed that monogamous fidelity until death shall be the standard governing all men. It has tried to block irresponsible sexual activity by building up walls of guilt and shame and anxiety about the whole business, seeking to frighten the young into conformity with the rules. The net effect has been to make people feel that sex is 'dirty,' unclean, shameful - something nice people never discuss and seldom do except in strictest privacy and then primarily for purposes of parenthood.

"It is against this shadow of silence and shame that many a modern has revolted This revolt is, of course, correct. Sex is a God-given fact of nature

"Our culture declares that all sexual activity within marriage is legal, proper, and good, while any such activity outside marriage is illicit, sinful, and wrong. This is to ignore the personal dimension of life You and I know perfectly well that there are many marriages that are simply matters of convenience, that such sex as goes on within in them is selfish, exploitative, and evil. We know further that there is sexual contact between unmarried couples that is motivated by love and which is pure and on occasions beautiful

"The real essence of immorality, from the biblical standpoint, is for one human being to treat another as a thing and not as a person

"The crucial question to be asked about any sexual contact - from holding hands to complete intercourse - is not so much what is done as what is meant. A relatively mild necking session can mean a crude and selfish abuse of a person as a mere object while a more intense type of petting can mean that two human beings are expressing a genuine and deep love for each other. This is why the attempt to set up elaborate rules governing dating behaviour is so silly. Is it all right to hold hands but wrong to pet? Society seems to say so, but then society has only its external concern. It cares little or nothing for any motivation, only for results But as Christians we are very much concerned with inner motivation

"In the personal, individual sense, then, what justifies and sanctifies sexuality is not the external marital status of the people before the law but rather what they feel toward each other in their hearts. Measured in such a way, holding hands can be very wrong indeed while intimate sex-play can be right and good. . . .

"Christian freedom . . . involves inner transformation, a free acceptance of the law of love When you live by the law, there is no bondage and no struggle but spontaneous self-fulfillment You are not bound by detailed rules of behaviour, telling you it is 'all right' to go so far in expressing affection for a member of the opposite sex and all wrong to go farther. No one outside yourself can tell you that — not really. That is a decision you must make for yourself in each concrete situation. With one person it may be wrong to do anything at all because it would be false and cheap, while with another you may find yourself entering into a gradually deepening intimacy in which you discover yourself

"You have got to make up your own mind, in the best light of your own conscience, what your own standards of conduct are going to be, and then do your best to live up to them. No one else can tell you. And face it, you may be wrong

"The Christian faith is based on forgiveness, so this is not our real problem the Epistle to the Hebrews would have us continue to run the race, looking to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith, rather than look back in remorse over the times that we stumble"

The Objectionable

There is probably no activity of the National Council of Churches more objectionable to most Americans than the Council's debunking of American patriotism and its relentless propaganda for a one-world socialist super-state which would eliminate not only the independence of our Republic but our identity as a nation.

Years before the Council adopted its present name, it was clearly on record as an advocate of reducing America to the status of a province in a socialist one-world.

On March 16, 1942, *Time* magazine reported the highlights of a report adopted by 375 delegates of the Federal Council of Churches attending a National Study Conference held that month at Ohio Wesleyan University. The report, submitted by the Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace, called for:

"Ultimate: a world government of delegated powers. Complete abandonment of U. S. isolationism. Strong immediate limitations on national sovereignty. International control of all armies & navies. A universal system of money Worldwide freedom of immigration. Progressive elimination of all tariff and quota restrictions on world trade A 'democratically controlled' international bank 'to make development capital available in all parts of the world without the predatory and imperialistic aftermath so characteristic of large-scale private and governmental loans.'"

The conference concluded:

"Many duties now performed by local and national governments 'can now be effectively carried out only by international authority.' Individual nations . . . must give up their armed forces 'except for preservation of domestic order' and allow the world to be policed by an international army & navy

"The ultimate goal: 'a duly constituted world government of delegated powers: an international legislative body, an international court with adequate jurisdiction, international administrative bodies with necessary powers, and adequate international police forces and provision for enforcing its worldwide economic authority.'"

Three years later — 1945 — the Federal Council of Churches was one of 42 national non-governmental organizations invited to send delegates to the international conference, at San Francisco, which founded the United Nations.⁽¹⁾ Support for the United Nations, and for efforts to "strengthen" and expand U N functions, has been a major policy goal of the National Council of Churches since the Council was formed.⁽²⁾ The UN represents a step toward a one-world socialist super-state, which is a primary goal of the Council (just as it is the primary goal of the international communist conspiracy).

The United Nations is a godless organization in which no Christian would ever be permitted to testify officially to the saving grace of Jesus Christ; in which no Jew would be permitted to expound the principles of his own religious faith. The governmental principles expressed in the

United Nations Charter are **open**, and sharply inimical, to the governmental principles expressed in the American Constitution and Bill of Rights. Yet, large numbers of American Christians and Jews—and Americans of other faiths or of no faith—believe that the UN is a noble organization deserving praise and militant support. Responsibility for this wide-spread ignorance can be attributed in large measure to propaganda of the National Council of Churches (together with that of other "religious" organizations, Jewish and Catholic, which cooperate with the Council's political ecumenism).

National Council officials realize that mass support for world government can never be created in the United States until Americans abandon their *national* pride. Hence, debunking patriotism—subtly inculcating the notion that love of one's own country is somehow evil—is an insistent refrain in the National Council's pronouncements. This fact can be seen in speeches of Council officials at the December, 1963, meeting of the Sixth General Assembly. *America is a land of hate, violence, and bigotry, whose people have shown insufficient concern for the rest of the world*: this is a theme which can be found in major speeches to the Sixth General Assembly of the National Council of Churches.

Christians generally feel that their faith lays upon them a responsibility to share their material blessings—to give aid to others in need; but giving is an individual responsibility, which must be discharged voluntarily. The decision to give (when, how much, and to whom) must be made by the individual, prayerfully and in response to his own conscience. When the federal government confiscates the earnings of people for "giving" to someone else (at home or abroad) it not only violates the Constitution, but also robs individuals of the means of giving in response to conscience.

All of this should be obvious; but the National Council of Churches distorts the obvious. The Council supports every totalitarian welfare-state and foreign aid program, with the spurious argu-

ment that "we" as a nation have a Christian responsibility to **help** others less opulent. Some of the Council's most ludicrous misrepresentations of Scriptures are in its arguments for foreign aid. Note this passage from "The Message To The Churches" adopted by the Sixth General Assembly of the National Council:

"As churches, we must actively support the United Nations and adequate aid for developing nations . . . bearing in mind our Christian injunction to feed our enemies as well as our friends and neighbors."

Robbing Americans of the fruits of labor for aid to godless dictators abroad is a *Christian* commandment?

What To Do

The National Council of Churches is a powerful political and legislative lobby for socialism, hiding behind the facade of a Christian name. As a "religious" organization, it enjoys tax-exemption, which means, among other things, that contributions to the Council are tax deductible.

On page 7 of *Instructions for Preparing Your Federal Income Tax Return Form 1040 for 1963*, the Internal Revenue Service says that gifts to a religious or any other organization are not deductible for federal income tax purposes if the organization "conducts propaganda or otherwise attempts to influence legislation." Was the National Council not attempting to influence legislation in sending busloads of people to Washington to lobby for the Civil Rights Bill, and in urging all church people to lobby for it? If the Internal Revenue Service would apply, to the National Council of Churches, this rule which it enforces upon tax-paying citizens and other organizations, the National Council of Churches would die from want of revenue. The organization is not legally entitled to its tax-exempt status.

The people, through Congress, could compel the IRS to require National Council compliance with the Revenue Code; but it is unlikely that this will ever be done.

In a Resolution adopted by the Sixth General Assembly, the National Council of Churches urged all churches (in their corporate investments as well as in their purchasing and contracting) to institute an economic boycott against all business firms whose employment practices are not pleasing to officials of the National Council.

Church members could use this same weapon of economic boycott. If your church supports the National Council, a portion of everything you give to your church goes to the Council. If all Church members who do not agree with policies of the National Council of Churches stopped their church giving until their churches withdrew from the Council, the National Council of Churches would probably die very soon, from lack of support. This can be done. In a small way, it has already been started.

You who want to help should make maximum effort to get copies of this *Report*, and similar material, into the hands of church people throughout the United States.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) AP dispatch from Grand Rapids, Mich., *The Dallas Morning News*, January 7, 1964, Section 1, p. 1
- (2) Press Release C-69 GA, National Council of Churches, December 7, 1963, 4 pp.

- (3) "The National Council of Churches, from the 6th General Assembly of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.," December 6, 1963, 3 pp.
- (4) Press Release C-68 GA, National Council of Churches, December 6, 1963, 8 pp.
- (5) Press Release C-70 GA, National Council of Churches, December 7, 1963, 2 pp.
- (6) For detailed discussion of the Civil Rights Bill, see this Report, "Civil Rights Act of 1963," July 1, 1963
- (7) Remarks of U. S. Representative Clare E. Hoffman (R., Mich.), *Congressional Record* (daily), March 3, 1960, p. 3993-4
- (8) *The Encyclopedia Americana*, 1961 Edition, Volume XIX, p. 729
- (9) *The Triennial Report*, 1960, of the National Council of Churches lists the following 33 "Member Communions," on page 261:
 - 1) African Methodist Episcopal Church
 - 2) African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
 - 3) American Baptist Convention
 - 4) American Evangelical Lutheran Church
 - 5) Armenian Church of America Diocese (including Diocese of California)
 - 6) Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church
 - 7) Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ)
 - 8) Christian Methodist Episcopal Church
 - 9) Church of the Brethren
 - 10) The Evangelical United Brethren Church
 - 11) Five Years Meeting of Friends
 - 12) Greek Archdiocese of North and South America
 - 13) Hungarian Reformed Church in America
 - 14) The Methodist Church
 - 15) The Moravian Church in America

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Born in Missouri, reared in Texas, Dan Smoot went to SMU in Dallas, getting BA and MA degrees in 1938 and 1940. In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for a doctorate in American Civilization.

In 1942, he left Harvard and joined the FBI. As an FBI Agent, he worked for three and a half years on communist investigations in the industrial Midwest; two years on FBI headquarters staff in Washington; and almost four years on general FBI cases in various parts of the nation.

In 1951, Smoot resigned from the FBI and helped start Facts Forum. On Facts Forum radio and television programs, Smoot spoke to a national audience, giving both sides of controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his present independent publishing and broadcasting business — a free-enterprise operation financed entirely by profits from sales: sales of *The Dan Smoot Report*, a weekly magazine; and sales of a weekly news-analysis broadcast, to business firms, for use on radio and television as an advertising vehicle. The *Report* and the broadcast give only one side in presenting documented truth about important issues — the side that uses the American Constitution as a yardstick. The *Report* is available by subscription; and the broadcasts are available for commercial sponsorship, anywhere in the United States.

If you think Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for Americans fighting socialism and communism, you can help immensely — by helping him get more customers for his *Report* and broadcasts.

- 16) National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.
- 17) National Baptist Convention, U.S.A., Inc.
- 18) Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
- 19) Polish National Catholic Church of America
- 20) Presbyterian Church in the United States
- 21) Protestant Episcopal Church
- 22) Reformed Church in America
- 23) Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America
- 24) Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America
- 25) Serbian Eastern Orthodox Church
- 26) Seventh Day Baptist General Conference
- 27) Syrian Antiochian Orthodox Church
- 28) Syrian (Orthodox) Church of Antioch
- 29) Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America
- 30) United Church of Christ: Evangelical and Reformed Church; General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches

- 31) The United Lutheran Church in America
- 32) United Methodist Church in the U.S.A.
- 33) Unity of the Brethren
- (10) Remarks of U. S. Representative Donald L. Jackson (R., Calif.), *Congressional Record* (daily), April 20, 1960, pp. 7842-6
- (11) *Review of the Scientific and Cultural Conference for World Peace*, House Committee on Un-American Activities, 1950, p. 36
- (12) *Report on the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America*, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 908 Rutherford, Shreveport, Louisiana, May, 1961
- (13) *Report to the President on the Results of the San Francisco Conference*, Department of State Publication 2349, June 26, 1945, p. 264
- (14) *Triennial Report, 1960*, National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, pp. 17, 235-7
- (15) "A Call to the Churches for Action to Meet the Crisis in Race Relations," Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, December 6, 1963, 3 pp.

THE DAN SMOOT TELEVISION BROADCASTS ARE PRODUCED ON FILM. HENCE, WE HAVE 16 MM SOUND FILM RECORDINGS COVERING ALL SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN THIS REPORT. THE FILM IS NOW AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. WRITE FOR FREE FILM CATALOGUE.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Washington officialdom uses your taxes for programs that are creating vast cesspools of waste and corruption — and dragging our Republic into the quicksands of socialism. What can you do about it?

You can help educate and arouse the people who elect men responsible for harmful programs of government. When enough other Americans know and care as you do, political action to restore our Republic will come.

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THE DAN SMOOT REPORT, BOX 9538, DALLAS, TEXAS 75214 TAYLOR 1-2303

February 28, 1964

100-50867-

[REDACTED]

Bar Brindley
Quaker

REC'D-READING ROOM

FEB 28 3 12 PM '64

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of February 22nd has been received.

With respect to your inquiries, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. You may be assured, however, that this Bureau has not investigated the National Council of Churches.

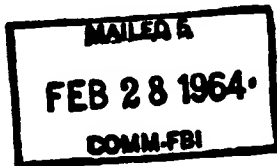
Mr. Dan Snoot was employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent from March 23, 1942, until June 15, 1951, when he voluntarily resigned. His personal ventures and his opinions and comments are strictly his own and this Bureau is unable to comment on these in any way whatsoever.

Enclosed is some literature I trust will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director



Enclosures (4)

DTP:jba

66 MAY 10 1964

See enclosures and note on next page.

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten signature]

CA:MM
B.L.

Enclosures:

Let's Fight Communism Sanely

4-1-61 LEB Intro

4-17-62 LEB Intro

Faith in God--Our Answer to Communism

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

Dear Sir:

Any information you can give me in regard to the following would be greatly appreciated.

Twice in the last year a man and his opinions have greatly disturbed me.

Last summer my sixteen year old son won a trip to the U.N. in competition sponsored by the Odd Fellows. We recieved at that time anti-U.N. cards that were unsigned and referred to the U.N. as the House that Miss built. Printed by Life line.

This year my husband is a deacon in our church and the members are being aroused by a report against the National Council of Churches.

The man whose literature and ideas are being advanced is a Mr Dan Smoot of Dallas, Texas.

In his reports he identifies himself with your organization and uses you as a character reference and to establish his love of country.

Does this man just like to be important and cause a stir?

Is he honest in his beliefs and doing what he feels needs to be done to help the U.S.A.?

Is he working against the U.S. and merely causing confusion and destroying what he can?

I don't know the man or how to judge what he says. Can you help me?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

112-276
1964

100-50867-

NOT RECORDED
191 MAR 3 1964

MAR 2 1964

CORRESPONDENCE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: 2-27-64

FROM : Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
CHURCH LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Attached is a letter dated February 25, 1964, which has just been received from the captioned individual in which he makes reference to a news release of January 30, 1964, to the Associated Press by the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA. This Commission ^{allegedly} stated that members of their study committee had met with a representative of the FBI and were not able to discover facts that support charges of communist penetration of the National Council of Churches.

The Bureau's attention has heretofore been directed to this news release as is reflected in my memorandum dated January 31, 1964, which answered the Director's question in this connection. Attached is a copy of this memorandum which adequately describes the circumstances which were involved.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RECOMMENDATION:

That [REDACTED] letter not be acknowledged. **MAR 9 1964**

ENCLOSURE

Enclosures

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

JAS:jdd
(8)

ATT. ETC



PHONES (312) 668-3350

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

CHURCH LEAGUE OF AMERICA

422 NORTH PROSPECT STREET • WHEATON, ILL.

February 25, 1964

NATIONAL LAYMEN'S COUNCIL

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Edgar C. Bundy

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- Mr. H. Dillon Winship
- Mr. Gladys Zuidema

Airmail

Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U. S. Department of Justice Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

There have recently come into this headquarters a deluge of letters from every corner of the United States, many from members of the Protestant-Episcopal Church, questioning a news release which was given out on January 30, 1964 to the Associated Press by a group calling itself the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations of the General Convention of the Protestant-Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

This commission stated "the members of our study committee met with personnel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but were not able to discover any fact or record that would support such charges", meaning charges that the National Council of Churches had been penetrated by communist influence or propaganda.

Perhaps you will recall that the House Committee on Un-American Activities conducted a full hearing for Secretary of the Air Force, Dudley Sharp on February 25, 1960 in relation to certain statements in the Reserve non-commission officers training manual on Internal Security.

At that time it was stated by the Chief Counsel of the House Committee, Mr. Richard Arens, that a check of committee sources and files showed that more than one hundred persons in leadership positions in the National Council of Churches had been associated with communist enterprises running into the thousands.

When the House Committee, under the chairmanship of the late Congressman Francis E. Walter, invited leaders of the National Council of Churches to appear under oath before this same committee, and deny the committee's documentation, these leaders of the National Council of Churches refused to do so

ENCLOSURE

3-6

You will also recall that during your testimony before the Subcommittee on Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1961 you were asked the question by Congressman Elford Cederberg of Michigan why the National Council of Churches and its leaders were "so naive toward the threat posed by communism in this country."

This question was followed by a detailed answer by yourself.

Although you did not mention the National Council of Churches specifically in your reply, the question was concerned, in the main, with the National Council of Churches.

Over a period of years the Church League of America, its officers, Board of Directors, and the countless thousands of members and supporters we have throughout the United States in every branch of the Christian faith, have whole-heartedly supported the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its Director. We have defended it from the public platform, over radio and television, and in debates with communists and communist sympathizers throughout our country. We have avoided hysterical, unsupported, and undocumented charges or statements. We have reproduced the statements of the Director and his testimony before the various committees of the Congress, starting with his "Menace of Communism" given to the House Committee on Un-American Activities on March 26, 1947.

— not true 5-1-6

We have written resolutions in the Illinois Department of the American Legion, in the Sons of the American Revolution and for other patriotic groups in this country supporting the F.B.I.

Consistently, we have told all of our audiences, orally and in print, that the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not furnish evaluations or comments on any organization or individual. We have cited your own letters to us, your statements to the Committees of the Congress, and your statements to the press in this regard. We have told them that the F.B.I. can only gather data, process it, and send reports to the Executive Agencies entitled to receive such information.

We cannot believe that the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S. would be given evaluations or comments on the National Council of Churches by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, from personnel which are not identified in the press dispatches. This, of course, would be in violation of the rules governing the conduct of the Bureau as stated by yourself time and time again.

In order to answer the many hundreds of letters which have come into this headquarters from concerned Episcopalians and members of other branches of the Christian Church, we would appreciate a statement of clarification in regard to the meeting of the Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. with "personnel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Very sincerely yours,

[redacted signature]

February 27, 1964

100-50869-

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received the letter of February 21st from you and your husband, and want to thank you for the kind sentiments you expressed.

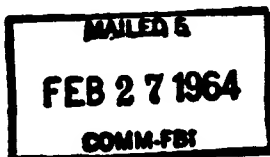
With respect to your inquiries, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, I trust you will understand why I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. / You may be assured, however, that this Bureau has not investigated the National Council of Churches.

Mr. Dan Smoot was a Special Agent of the FBI from March 23, 1942, until June 15, 1951, when he voluntarily submitted his resignation. His personal ventures and his opinions and comments are strictly his own and this Bureau is unable to comment on these in any way whatsoever.

I am enclosing some material I hope will be of interest.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover



Enclosures (4)
1 - Philadelphia - Enclosure
JBS:jf (4)

See note and enclosures next page.

MAR 6 1964

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ORIGINAL FILED IN 62-10723-1623

REC'D-HEADQUARTERS
FBI
MAR 27 3 38 PM '64
JBS/TP

Enclosures:

4-17-62 LEB Intro
3X-1-61 LEB Intro
Let's Fight Communism Sanely!
Faith in Freedom

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. The National Council of Churches has not been investigated by this Bureau, however, we have kept abreast the efforts of the Communist Party to infiltrate this organization. Dan Smoot, former Special Agent, resigned

TRUE COPY

Fri. Feb. 21-1964

Dear Sir.

For years we have been concerned about the activities of the National Council of Churches. At frequent intervals, we read in our newspaper of the support and lobbying that National Council is forever giving to promote liberal and socialistic plans. We utterly dis approve of most of the stands they take.

We are educated people who read much and diversely, and not uninformed fanatics, as National Council chooses to call all those who fear its activities.

We have read Carl McIntire's publications and find no reason to disbelieve them - his writings are completely documented. If this man is a lying "hate monger", as liberal ministers love to say, will you please let us know. If his facts are facts, why is not the questionable activity of this group given more exposure.

I am enclosing a paper by Dan Smoot. We have no reason to disbelieve such documented evidence, unless you can tell us the man is a liar and a fake. We would not take any liberal minister's word, because they are as fanatic in defense of this Council, and as full of hate for conservatives as they say conservatives are for them.

Frankly, in this day of political black mail, immorality, deceit and "peace at any price," we are disillusioned and fearful. We are convinced the liberal policies of the past three years have hurled us down the road to disaster, and wonder if there is enough real courage left, to shout a warning loud enough to save us.

You are one of the few government officials from whom we expect an honest and straight forward answer. We would appreciate a considered reply.

We pray for your continued good health, as we honestly fear a worse turn to the "left", if you should no longer hold your position.

Sincerely,

12 MAR 2 1964

ENCLOSURE

163

February 26, 1964

REC-23

EX-112

100-50869-1071

REC'D-READING ROOM
FBI

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of February 21st and want to thank you for your expression of confidence in me. It is hoped that my future endeavors will continue to merit your support and approval.

With respect to your inquiries, the FBI being an investigative agency of the Federal Government neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. Therefore, I trust you will understand I am not in a position to comment along the lines you have suggested. You may be assured, however, that this Bureau has not investigated the National Council of Churches.

Enclosed is some literature I hope will be of interest to you.

MAILED 5
FEB 26 1964
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

[Handwritten signature]

- Tolson _____
- Belmont _____
- Mohr _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- DeLoach _____
- Evans _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

Enclosures (4) Let's Fight Communism Sanely! (Reprinted from "Christian Herald," January, 1962), April, 1961, LEB, April 17, 1962, Internal Security and "Faith in God--Our Answer To Communism" (Reprinted from June, 1961, "Crusader.")

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

DTP:smg (4)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1071

February 21, 1964

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Remember the child "Virginia" who wrote to the New York Times, asking them if there really was a Santa Claus? She said she was writing to them because her Daddy told her that if the Times said there was a Santa Claus, then she could believe it.

Mr Hoover, that is just the way I feel about you and the FBI. You are the one person I trust explicitly and if you answer the questions that are worrying me (and they are just as real and important to me as Virginia's question) then I can believe it!

Our whole church has been split apart by the influence of liberal-socialist-communist ideas (it appears to be a combination of all three melded together) coming through our church literature, programs, study-courses, suggestions and outlines. Our church leaders tend to cover over any criticisms with the "liberal" label, explaining that it is a changing world and a changing planet, and ideas change and we must grow with them (sometimes this even includes changing our minds about what the Bible really means, or what Christ really taught, or even about the importance of these things at all.) They seem to have put all of the emphasis in our church school literature, magazines and study courses on "social concerns", and our obligations as Christians to actively concern ourselves in this field.

I'm sure you have been aware of the criticism heaped upon the National Council of Churches. The Methodist Church, of which I am a member, and the National Council, are closely related and inter-related. We are supplied with a great deal of literature through the National Council, and the Methodist Church is the largest denomination in the organization, representing about ten million people. I could not possibly go into detail about all of the statements, pronouncements, and suggestions that have emanated from the National Council, or even, indeed, from the Methodist Church, that have caused this upheaval, not only in Nashville churches (of all denominations) but churches all around the country. The glaring consistency continues to stand out! They always take the liberal-socialist-communist stand, however one wants to title it.

1071
CORRESPONDENCE

Our contention is that the church does not need to take a stand at all on these issues, but if they think they must, should they tell their people how they should think, urging them to write Congress or to pressure various other groups to get these things enacted?

Do you feel the idea of communist influence in the National Council of Churches is far-fetched, impossible, unlikely, ridiculous, or at all possible or probable? I do not mean necessarily actual members of the Communist party, but at least sympathizers who might be causing great influence upon other unsuspecting members of the organization.

Do you believe that there is a possibility of strong influence in the theological schools, changing the whole concept of Christianity in a subtle, clever way?

Do you believe that any organization such as the National Council of Churches should set themselves up as authorities to decide the Christian answer to all of these economic and social concerns?

Do you feel a church member is disloyal to his church if he demands answers to things already mentioned, or should he continue to accept the answers of the church officials, even though he cannot in all honesty believe they are right. One can leave the church (and many have) but it would not eliminate the problem, only evade it.

I realize these questions would be difficult for you to answer in a frank way. You probably won't even answer them at all. I'm sure in your vast, efficient organization you are aware of a lot more than we realize. But I beg you to help us if you can, in any way, to come up with some answers to these questions.

Many churches in Nashville have formed committees to study the National Council of Churches of Christ in America, and their influence on the churches. Many will probably demand withdrawal (However, that is easier said than done, since individual churches do not belong, members being denominations). I am serving on a committee at present, appointed by the Board Chairman, from [redacted] Methodist Church, to study the National Council. I do not know what our recommendation to the Board will be. We are searching for answers. They are not easy to find. We are also searching our hearts because we love our church and our country. We have no goal in mind except to help both.

If you tell me we have nothing to fear, I will believe you. I pray for your prompt answer.

Respectfully yours,
[redacted]