

Agency Information

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Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-107261)

DATE: 2/14/64

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FROM : SAC, DALLAS (105-1280) (P)

SUBJECT: "MINUTEMEN"
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(IS)
(OO: KANSAS CITY)

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.~~

Rebuairtel 1/16/64 to SAC, Albany.

A review of the files of the Dallas Office, and investigation conducted to date through informants, sources, and reliable contacts, has revealed no evidence of any unit or organized activity on the part of subject organization in the Dallas Division either currently or in the past.

As a consequence no report is being submitted at this time but investigation is continuing in this case, and in what may be related cases as mentioned hereinafter.

There follows possibly pertinent information gleaned from a review of the Dallas files and current investigation which will serve as a basis for continued investigation to determine specifically whether captioned organization is active in any manner, or has any adherents of moment in this territory making effort, overt or otherwise, to establish activity here.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Kansas City (62-7797) (RM)
- 1 - Houston (62-1802) (Info) (RM)
- 1 - El Paso (Info) (RM)
- 10 - Dallas (2 - 105-1686)
(2 - 105-1264)
(2 - 105-1475)
(2 - 157-218)
(2 - 105-1280)

RLW:em
(16)

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Declassify on: OADR 5/20/83
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DECLASSIFIED BY 5668 SLO/GCL
ON 4/25/97 (JFK)

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if conducted, will be appropriately reported and followed in the "Minutemen" file.

On 9/3/63, Mr. DONALD G. KEMP, 10047 Lake Highlands Place, Dallas 18, Texas, (protect), advised SA JAMES P. HOSTY, JR., on a highly confidential basis that EDWARD C. SCHWILLE is a leading member of a secret organization similar to the "Minutemen". Mr. KEMP advised that SCHWILLE keeps large amounts of ammunition and weapons secretly stored in his house and that he, KEMP, has seen this ammunition and weapons which included a sub-machine gun. KEMP advised that ASHLAND FREDERIC BURCHWELL, (Bufile 152-40, entitled "ASHLAND FREDERIC BURCHWELL, Switchblade Knife Act," OO: DL, Dallas file 152-2) who was arrested by the Dallas Police Department with a large amount of ammunition in his car allegedly destined for Oxford, Mississippi, to assist former Major General EDWIN A. WALKER, had obtained this ammunition from the residence of SCHWILLE. BURCHWELL also had in his car papers indicative of some type organizational structure or operation, but he said these belonged to a friend whom he did not care to identify, and he disclaimed knowledge of their significance. KEMP advised that SCHWILLE is the leader of this group that BURCHWELL had the membership cards for. It should be noted this organization is subject of Bufile 100-439412 and bears caption "UNNAMED ORGANIZATION OF DALLAS, TEXAS PATRIOTS, INFORMATION CONCERNING - INTERNAL SECURITY".

ASHLAND F. BURCHWELL was interviewed on December 17, 1962, and reinterviewed on December 26, 1962. Results of these interviews were sent to the Bureau in the case captioned "DESEGREGATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI - EDWIN A. WALKER," Bufile 157-401.

The following information was obtained during these interviews:

The members of this organization, in addition to other security precautions, use code names and not their true names when attending meetings, and exercise extreme security precautions. From the interviews of BURCHWELL, VANCE BEAUDREAU and FELIX G. BOTELLO (former DL-18-S) who have been identified as members, it appears that individuals in this organization

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appear to be extremely fearful that the United States is in imminent danger of a communist take-over either directly or through surrender of the United States surrendering its armed forces to the United Nations. These fears appear to be based upon information being put out by the American Eagle Publishing Company of Dallas, Texas, owned by former General EDWIN A. WALKER and based upon the State Department document "Freedom from War." All of these individuals insist that they have no intention of overthrowing the United States Government at any time, however, admit that if this organization came under the control of an unreliable person it could become a possible danger to the United States. It was noted that in recent interviews with these individuals they appeared to be somewhat relieved by the strong action taken by the present administration in Cuba and are no longer as firmly convinced that the present administration is preparing to betray this country.

It was admitted by ^(u) BOTELLO and ^(u) BURCHWELL that this organization at one time had considered affiliation with the "Minutemen"; however, they are no longer connected with this organization but are acting independently in the Dallas area since they were not satisfied with the leadership of ROBERT DE PUGH.

The Dallas file in the case entitled "UNNAMED ORGANIZATION OF DALLAS, TEXAS, PATRIOTS; INFO CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY); OO: DL; Bufile 100-439412, Dallas file 105-1475, is being reopened for a determination of the present status of this group and a reinterview of DONALD G. KEMP and others as warranted and appropriate. Any information pertinent to instant investigation which is obtained will be reported in the instant case, as well as in the Unnamed Organization file.

On 11/16/61, WILLIAM JAMES LOWERY, JR., a member of the Communist Party from 1943 to 1963, and who furnished information to the FBI during this period, and DL-16-S, ^(u) advised SA W. HARLAN BROWN that they had no information concerning the "Minutemen" organization and that this organization was unknown to them.

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DL 105-1280

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On 11/27/61, DL-6-S was contacted by SA W. HARLAN BROWN and reported no knowledge of the "Minutemen" organization operating or organizing in this area.

On 11/30/61, former DL-17-C and former PCI (RAC) EARL E. HARVEY, advised SA JAMES P. HOSTY, JR., they had no information to the effect that there was any organization known as "Minutemen" in this area. Both advised that in the event information of this kind was obtained it would be transmitted to the Dallas Office of the FBI.

On 12/6/61, JACK REVILL, Intelligence Unit, Dallas Police Department, advised SA JAMES P. HOSTY, JR., his office had no record of "Minutemen" and knew of no branch of that organization operating in this area. Lt. REVILL stated that an article appeared in one of the Dallas daily newspapers to the effect that an organization had been formed in the Los Angeles area, but that no information had been received that the organization was operating in Dallas.

On 8/23/62, former DL-18-S was being interviewed in connection with an applicant investigation by SA JAMES P. HOSTY, JR., at which time he volunteered the information that he had been in contact with the National Indignation Convention (NIC), which has been identified as being affiliated with the John Birch Society. X(u)

Former DL-18-S advised that he was able to determine that ROBERT DE PUGH of Missouri was in contact with the NIC on several occasions attempting to solicit the aid of that organization and to recruit members of the NIC to his group. He indicated that the leadership of the NIC did not want to have anything to do with DE PUGH and refused to cooperate with him; however, some individuals, whose names he did not care to divulge did indicate a desire to form an organization similar to the "Minutemen." X(u)

According to former DL-18-S, most of these individuals are either members of the John Birch Society or former members of the John Birch Society who have become disgusted with merely writing letters and similar type activities, and they feel X(u)

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this nation is in imminent danger of invasion by the Soviet Union, and they wish to be prepared to resist such an invasion. They also fear that traitors within the United States will attempt to surrender this country to communism by turning this country over to the United Nations which in turn would give this country over to the communists, and they intend to resist this. (u)

According to former DL-18-S, most of these people even feel that Senator BARRY GOLDWATER is too liberal, and they are mostly anti-Semitic. These individuals insist, however, that they will not violate the constitution of the United States, but are merely attempting to protect the United States from communist enemies from within and outside the United States. (u)

It would appear the above information is probably with regard to some of the same groups involved in the "Unnamed Organizations of Dallas, Texas, Patriots" and it will be considered with respect to bringing that investigation up to date as mentioned hereinbefore.

On October 20, 1962, CAROLYN SUE EASTMAN furnished the following information to the Dallas Office.

EASTMAN resides 769 East 70th Terrace, Kansas City 32, Missouri, telephone DE 3-9825. EASTMAN is first assistant and secretary to ROBERT DE PUGH, National Chairman, "Minutemen". All business is conducted from EASTMAN's apartment. EASTMAN is also National Coordinator of American Freedom Riders and a member and worker for the NIC. EASTMAN advised that the organizations operating from her apartment are taking an active part in politics and are holding numerous rallies in the Kansas City area. EASTMAN stated DE PUGH had been interviewed on numerous occasions by agents and that she would be willing to furnish any information which her files contain to the FBI. EASTMAN's purpose for contacting the Dallas Division was to determine if there was any information available regarding any threats against

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a news reporter of the "Dallas Times Herald" who inquired of him as to existence of a group in Dallas known as "Minutemen."

On 1/4/64, DL-119-R, reported that BILL WILLIAMS, Texarkana, Texas, Grand Dragon, Association of Arkansas Klans of the Ku Klux Klan, had been asked by one CHANDLER of the Arkansas State Police for an up-to-date list of active Klan members so that these could be considered in the police auxilliary known as the "Minute Men."

On 1/22/64, (DL-119-R) advised that the organization associated with the Association of Arkansas Klans of the Ku Klux Klan is not affiliated with any other organization except the Klan in Arkansas even though it is known by the name of "Minutemen." (DL-119-R) stated that this group had no affiliation or association with any other organization of the same name, and he stated he had never heard of the organization in Missouri.

On 2/6/64, Lt. JACK REVILL, Intelligence Unit, Dallas Police Department, advised SA RICHARD L. WIEHL, that he had no knowledge of any "Minutemen" organization in the Dallas area. He advised, however, that on October 17, 1963 two individuals were questioned in reference to a quantity of narcotics found in their possession. These individuals advised they were delivering the narcotics as a part of a medical build-up of "Minutemen" supplies. They advised they were en route from the western United States and making pick-ups of these supplies en route to Florida. No details were obtained from these individuals regarding point of pick-up or location of final destination.

Lt. REVILL identified these two above listed individuals as LORAN EUGENE HALL and WILLIAM HOUSTON SEYMOUR. HALL is subject of Bufile 105-78016, entitled "LOREN EUGENE HALL, INTERNAL SECURITY - NICARAGUA, REGISTRATION ACT - NICARAGUA," Dallas file 2-68. Communications mentioning SEYMOUR have also been directed to the Bureau in the HALL case.

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Will report results of inquiry being made through established sources and reliable contacts throughout the RA territories as to the existence of any units or known adherents of subject organization in those areas.

Will correlate information obtained through checking the current status and activity of the organizations on which Dallas files are being reopened, and report this as pertinent in instant file.

Will contact former DL-18-S ^(u) for any additional information he is able to furnish at this time with respect to possible activity of subject organization in Dallas Division.

msd Will reinterview DONALD G. KEMP for any new information he may have and any information available to enlarge upon that previously furnished by him.

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