

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall *WRW*

FROM : F. J. Cassidy *FJC*

SUBJECT: SENSTUDY 75

- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
- 2 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
(1 - Mr. J. B. Hotis)
- 1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall

DATE: 12/8/75

- 1 - Mr. W. O. Cregar
- 1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
- 1 - Mr. R. L. Shackelford
- 1 - Mr. F. J. Cassidy
- 1 - Mr. D. Ryan

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Wannall* _____
- Laboratory _____
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- Director Sec'y _____

This is to advise of a briefing afforded staff members of the Senate Select Committee (SSC) on 12/1/75 regarding FBI notional organizations.

Mike Epstein and Barbara Banoff of the SSC staff were referred to Supervisor David Ryan of the Intelligence Division for this briefing by the Senstudy Unit. Epstein opened the meeting by requesting he be provided a detailed summary regarding FBI activities involving proprietary, fictional and notional organizations. Ryan advised this was a broad area and requested Epstein be specific. Epstein asked that the three types of operations be defined and examples provided.

Ryan described proprietary organizations as usually of a commercial enterprise character that are used to support or cover covert intelligence activities. Epstein was advised Ryan had no knowledge of the use of proprietary organizations in connection with the investigation of domestic subversive or extremist organizations although it was possible such operations were used in our criminal and foreign counterintelligence investigations. Epstein was advised fictional organizational titles had been used infrequently for limited duration in connection with mailings utilized in the discontinued Counterintelligence Programs (Cointelpros). Notional organizations were described as involving the use of an organizational title supported by a post office box address and/or operating sources for

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Re: Senstudy 75
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intelligence-gathering purposes. In response to his specific question, Epstein was advised Ryan was not aware of any current use of a notional organization targeted against domestic extremists or subversive organizations.

Epstein questioned regarding the use of notional Marxist-Leninist organizations. Ryan indicated this technique had been used in the foreign counterintelligence field in the past with some success, but that he would not comment regarding the current use of notional organizations in connection with our foreign counterintelligence responsibilities. Epstein persisted in seeking this information and he was advised by Ryan if he desired further details, he should submit his request in writing through proper channels. (It is noted we currently have one notional organization operating with the objective of uncovering Chinese communist political and intelligence thrusts against this country).

Thereafter, Epstein and Banoff asked a number of specific questions relating to the FBI's use of notional or fictitious titles in connection with its security investigations and responses were provided as noted in the attached.

Epstein indicated a specific interest in the use of a notional organization in connection with the investigation of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP). He asked whether such techniques were used at the beginning of the interview, during the middle of the interview, and at the interview's conclusion. In the first two instances, he was advised Ryan had no knowledge of the use of this technique in the SWP investigation, and in the instance of the third question Ryan indicated it was repetitive. Ryan received the impression Epstein was dissatisfied with the briefing.

ACTION:

None. For information.

Jan K
W.R. Wannall
PLW
JAM
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RR *wob*

FBI NOTIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The following comments were furnished to Senate Select Committee staff members Mike Epstein and Barbara Banoff on 12/1/75 regarding specific areas of possible interest as relates to notional organizations.

W. E. B. DuBois Clubs

In July, 1964, the New York Office suggested establishing a notional chapter of this organization which was in effect at the time the youth group of the Communist Party, USA. The suggestion of the New York Office was furnished to other offices, two of which disagreed with the proposal. Review of our files has determined this proposal was never effected.

Socialist Workers Party (SWP)

No information has been located indicating a notional organization with operating informants was ever formed or considered for use in connection with the investigation of the SWP or other Trotskyite organizations.

Committee for Expansion of Socialist Thought in America (CESTA)

In 1965 the CESTA operation was approved as an effort to attack the Southern California District Communist Party for its lack of democracy and rigid interpretation of Marxism-Leninism utilizing a Post Office box return address. A number of issues of the CESTA publication "Socialist Dialogue" was mailed to local Communist Party

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members. By late 1967 the operation had been terminated. Although it is impossible to completely assess the results of this operation, - suspicions and dissension was generated within the local Party district, and in later months widespread defections in the Party were noted.

Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (CKKKK)

In 1967 an influential informant in the United Klans of America (UKA) became involved in a dispute with the UKA and subsequently defected from the group, establishing the CKKKK. The field suggested the CKKKK, through its informant-leader, be directed to cause dissension and defections in the UKA. The field also suggested a second informant be directed to set up an anti-UKA "Citizens Council" consisting of defected UKA members. FBIHQ refused to authorize any monies to be paid to the informant to finance the CKKKK or to authorize the second informant to establish an anti-UKA "Citizens Council." Our informant's activities in the CKKKK, until the organization's demise in 3/70, contributed to the crippling of the UKA although his efforts were not part of a notional organization directed by the FBI.

Red Star Cadre (RSC)

Former FBI informant Joseph Burton was the prime mover behind the RSC which had for its objective the development of intelligence relating to CHICOM liaison with and influence of the domestic Marxist-Leninist-Maoist movement. The RSC evolved from the Red Star Swap Shop, an effort developed by Burton entirely on his own, and continued generally from late 1972 until the summer of 1974. Burton was unable to establish contact with significant foreign pro-Maoist communists and he voluntarily ceased his duties in behalf of the FBI when he was rejected by the Revolutionary Union, the leading domestic pro-Maoist-Marxist-Leninist organization.

Red Collective

This title was utilized by two former New Orleans informants, Jill and Gi Schafer, during the approximate period 1972-73 to support their widespread contacts with subversives and extremists. No other informants participated and the use of the title was disbanded at the instructions of FBIHQ.

Antiwar or "Peace" Covers

The use of titles relating to the antiwar or peace effort was considered in the late 1960's to assist our sources in developing contacts abroad. One informant's association with the antiwar effort was of assistance in establishing contact with a hostile foreign communist government and valuable intelligence resulted. Other sources utilized their actual or alleged association with antiwar or peace groups to support their travel abroad to participate in international conferences under the influence of communist elements or to contact communist elements abroad. No formal antiwar or peace group was formed by the FBI as a notional organization for intelligence collection.

News Media Covers

An informant who was active with a domestic newspaper supporting a foreign hostile communist country and a photographer who had broad association with domestic extremists were considered in connection with the establishment of possible notional organizations to be targeted against foreign communist elements. These efforts never came to fruition.

National Committee for Domestic Tranquility

In the mid-1960's, the above title and a Post Office box was utilized for several anonymous mailings to Ku Klux Klan organizations. The newsletters urged Klan members to desist from violence and renounce their affiliation based upon patriotic, religious and moral motives. No informants were included in the operation.

Miscellaneous

No significant notional organizations targeting domestic extremist groups were developed in the New Left area, including the Students for a Democratic Society, or relating to militant black extremists such as the Black Panther Party.