

lk [REDACTED]  
March 27, 1965 19446

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

Concerning: Myles Horton  
Director of the Highlander Folk School  
Monteagle, Tennessee

During a recent World Cultures class unusual circumstances surrounding the above and Dr. Martin Luther King were brought to light. It was mentioned that Dr. King had received training at a Communist school. The only information available was through an "unbias, nonpartisan" paper issued before the last election. It contained a photo showing Dr. King, Myles Horton and several other people together in front of the school. The caption mentioned that the school was to be closed by an act of the Tennessee Legislature and Carl Prussion, a counter-spy for the FBI for 22 years, was quoted to have said that Dr. King belonged to 60 Communist organizations.

I would be grateful for any pertinent information concerning Dr. King and Myles Horton of the Highlander Folk School.

Respectfully,  
lk [REDACTED]

REC 36

61-7511-301

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
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245525

April 1, 1965

REC 36

61-4511-207

b7c

[REDACTED]

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Dear [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/clg  
245032

Your letter of March 27th has been received, and the thought which prompted you to write me is appreciated.

Although I would like to be of service, 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 that I cannot be of assistance in this instance but trust you will understand the reasons for this policy.

For your information, Mr. Karl Prussion furnished information concerning subversive activities on a confidential basis to this Bureau from 1949 to 1958 during which time he was compensated; however, he was not a Special Agent of the FBI. His opinions and comments are strictly his own and do not represent this Bureau in any manner.

Enclosed is some material which I hope you will find of interest.

Sincerely yours,



J. Edgar Hoover

REC'D-READING ROOM  
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Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosures (5)

"Our Heritage of Greatness"

U. S. News and World Report, 12-21-64

Communism, the Incredible Swindle

Faith in God-Our Answer to Communism

Let's Fight Communism Sanely!

sg (3)

(See NOTE next page.)

APR 1 1965  
TELETYPE UNIT

*bx* [REDACTED]

**NOTE: There is no record of correspondent in Bufiles. The individuals Martin Luther King and Myles Horton are well known to the Bureau as is the Highlander Folk School.**

C  
31

bx

March 26, 1965

Dear Sirs:

Could you please send me information concerning the Highlander Folk School with regard to Martin Luther King and his presence there? Could you tell me why the school was closed on charges of being a subversive organization? In the publication Tennessean's Voice, a newspaper put out in the past election, it was stated that Karl Prussion charged that King belonged to 60 Communist front organizations. Would I be allowed to know the reasons behind this charge? Also could you supply information on Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School for Communist training in Monteagle, Tennessee? This would be of great help to me, as we are discussing this in school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours

B7C

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Ack 3-30-65  
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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/a

245085

CORRESPONDENCE  
15 APR 5 8 1965

TRUE COPY

[REDACTED] b7c  
March 25, 1965

Dear Sirs:

Could you please send me information concerning the Highlander Folk school with regard to Martin Luther King and his presence there? Could you tell me why the school was closed on charges of being subversive organization? In the publication Freedom's Voice, a newspaper put out in the past election, it was stated that Karl Prussion charged that King belonged to 60 Communist front organizations. Would I be allowed to know the reasons behind this charge? Also could you supply information on Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Folk School for communist training in Monteagu, Tennessee? This would be of great help to me, as we are discussing this in school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours  
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REC 26

61-7511-308

APR 2 1965

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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8BJD/ML  
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March 30, 1965

REC 36

61-7511-308

Mar 30 2 04 PM '65  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
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b7c

[REDACTED]

b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 25th 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. I regret I cannot be of help in this instance but trust you understand the necessary reasons for this policy.

Enclosed is some literature which I trust you will find informative.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 2  
MAR 30 1965  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (4)  
U.S. News & World Reports 12-21-64  
U.S. News & World Reports 12-7-64  
Our Heritage of Greatness  
St. Louis Globe-Democrat 11-25-64

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NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
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Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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*C.P.*

United States Senate

April 1, 1965

*Encl 2*

Respectfully referred to  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

for such consideration as the communication  
herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report  
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of  
inclosure.

By direction of

THOMAS H. KUCHEL,

U. S. S.

re: letter and attached copy of a photograph regard-  
ing Martin Luther King, from [REDACTED]

K:CA

34 APR 5 1965

EXP. PROC.

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713-6121

Sen Thomas H. Kuchel

3-26-68

Dear Sir:  
Please advise if the enclosed photograph and information  
is true.

I would appreciate your official viewpoint regarding  
this enclosure.

Very truly yours

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

b7c

[Redacted]

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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8BTJ/KW  
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Originals Returned  
to Kuchel

61-7511-309

ENCLOSURE



# MARTIN LUTHER KING.... A COMMUNIST TRAINING SCHOOL



The above picture was made by an employee of the State of Georgia, at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee during the Labor Day week-end of 1957. The photograph was sent to the Highlander Folk School by the Georgia Commission on Education. The Highlander Folk School was abolished by an act of the Legislature of the State of Tennessee at a later date because it was charged with being a subversive organization.

Those numbered in the picture are:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr., of the Montgomery boycott and the Birmingham riots. E. Prussion, a counterspy for the FBI for twenty-two years, charges that Martin Luther King belongs to sixty Communist-front organizations — more than any Communist in the United States. He is promoted and encouraged by the Kennedys.

2. Abner W. Berry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party.

3. Aubrey Williams, President of the Southern Conference Education Fund, Inc., The Trunion Belt in the South for the Communist Party.

4. Myles Horton, Director of Highlander Folk School for Communist Training, Monteagle, Tennessee.

These "Four Horsemen" of racial agitation have brought tension, disturbance, and violence in their advancement of the Communist doctrine of "racial nationalism."

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DATE 3/5/84 BY 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REC-11

61-7511-309

April 6, 1965

Honorable Thomas H. Kuchel  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

My dear Senator:

I received your communication of April 1st *b7c*  
enclosing a letter and circular from [redacted]

*b7c* While I certainly would like to be of service  
to your constituent, information contained in the files of the  
FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with  
regulations of the Department of Justice. Therefore, I trust  
[redacted] will understand why I am not in a position to  
comment on the material he forwarded.

In response to your request, I am returning  
his letter and the circular to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 4  
APR 6 - 1965  
COMM-FBI

Enclosures (2)

NOTE: We have had cordial relations with Senator Kuchel. There is no information in Bureau files to preclude this letter concerning [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aw  
245582

APR 6 3 56 PM '65  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Belmont \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

64 APR 14 1965 TELETYPE UNIT

4/6/68

1 - Mr. [REDACTED]  
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]  
1 - Mr. [REDACTED]

AIRTEL

To: SACs, Atlanta (100-5586)  
Knoxville

From: Director, FBI (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/11/80 BY SP4/9/24/et  
6076

Recently nationwide publicity has been given to a photograph of subject King purportedly taken at the Highlander Folk School (HFS). Others in the photograph have been described as communists and the allegation has been made that King's presence at the HFS proves his having attended a "communist training school." King has publicly answered this criticism by claiming that the photograph was taken at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the HFS in 1957. He claimed that that was his only appearance at the HFS and that he was there for only about one hour in order to make an address which lasted about 45 minutes.

Bureau files reveal that the HFS, later known as the Highlander Research and Education Center, held its 25th Anniversary Celebration over the Labor Day weekend, 8/30-9/2/57.

The Bureau, of course, is aware of the nature of the HFS. It is desired, however, that available facts be obtained relative to King's presence at the HFS in order to substantiate or prove false his answer of the criticism.

Atlanta is instructed to immediately review its file concerning King and any other appropriate files for information which would tend to prove or disprove King's claim. Particularly note information indicating King's presence at the HFS on any occasions other than the single time he claims. If file review uncovers the identities of established reliable sources who might be helpful, leads should be set out for contact provided same can be done with full security insofar as preventing King's or unauthorized individuals becoming aware of the Bureau inquiry.

① 61-7511 (Highlander Folk School)

DUPLICATE YELLOW

60 APR 14 1968

61-7511-  
NOT RECORDED  
29 APR 1968 PAGE TWO



Airtel to SACs, Atlanta  
Knoxville  
RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
100-106670

Knoxville is instructed to promptly review its file concerning the NPS and any other files for information which would prove or disprove King's claim. Be alert to the possibility of having established reliable sources contacted as indicated above for Atlanta.

Both offices should expedite this matter and reply by airtel. If information along the lines indicated have previously been submitted, furnish date and caption.

NOTE:

If we can obtain information disproving King's claim which he recently made before "Meet The Press," we would have some counter-intelligence possibility.

FBI

Date: 4/13/65

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Type in plain text or code)

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (100-3537)

STUDENT MARCH ON WASHINGTON,  
4/17/65INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

OO: WFO

Classified by SP8 BTG/CL  
Declassify on: OADR 3/6/84  
245532

Re Knoxville teletype to Bureau 4/13/65.

Enclosed are 8 copies of letterhead memorandum reporting information contained in referenced teletype. Two copies have been designated for the Washington Field Office and one copy of letterhead memorandum is being forwarded to Baltimore.

The source referred to is [REDACTED]

Source in characterizing Highlander Research and Education Center are [REDACTED] and House of Representatives Select Committee to investigate foundation and other organizations which committee advised the Bureau by memorandum reflecting interviews with various witnesses including Eudenz.

NOT RECORDED  
162 APR 20 1965DATE FORW: 4-15-65  
HOW FORW: [REDACTED]  
BY: [REDACTED]

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 8) (RM)
- 1 - Baltimore (Enc. 1) (RM) (Info.)
- 1 - Washington Field (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 2 - Knoxville

/arb

11 APR 15 1965

ENCLOSURE

50 APR 22 1965

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

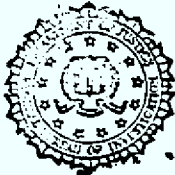
M

Per

**CONFIDENTIAL**APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP OF  
DATE 3/7/84

ORIGINAL COPY





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Knoxville, Tennessee

April 13, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

STUDENT MARCH ON WASHINGTON,  
APRIL 17, 1965  
INFORMATION CONCERNING -  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)

On April 13, 1965, a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised [REDACTED]

Source stated [REDACTED]

The Knoxville Journal, Knoxville, Tennessee, a local, daily newspaper, in issue of 3/9/65, reported that the Highlander Research and Education Center and the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee were sponsors of the organization. This news release states that it was reported by AEPAC that the organization was formed to "help organize jobless and under-paid white and Negroes in Appalachia. The Appalachian Economic and Political Conference will work in ten Southern States which lies partly in Appalachia. This mountainous region has been harder hit by unemployment and poverty than most other areas of the nation." It was reported that AEPAC feels "that Government program to meet these problems are inadequate and temporary and do not get at the basic causes of poverty. We hope to give the people of Appalachia a persuasive voice in economic and political decisions affecting their lives".

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/6/84 BY SP8 BTG/CA  
245520

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

61-7511-  
62-11000-24

On October 14, 1952, a source advised that the Highlander Folk School was an institution located near Monteagle, Tennessee; that it was an institution with classes on a seminar basis supported primarily by donations from individuals and from labor unions in the form of payment for students who attend, and to some extent by the Farmers' Union. It offered courses of instruction in labor organization, official economics, parliamentary procedure, and the general field of labor education.

This source added that this school has had Communist Party members on its staff and as instructors, and has followed the practice of welcoming Communist Party members as students, but to the source's knowledge the school has never offered courses of instruction in Communistic matters nor has the Communist element ever completely controlled the institution.

A second source advised that LOUIS BUDNEZ, admitted former editor of the "Daily Worker", an East Coast Communist newspaper, and former official of the Communist Party, advised on November 21, 1952, that the Highlander Folk School was pro-Communist. BUDENZ did not give further details regarding this school.

The October 8, 1961 issue of the Knoxville News-Sentinel, a local daily newspaper published at Knoxville, Tennessee, contained an article reflecting the Highlander Folk School had announced plans for a similar school at Knoxville to be located at 1625 Riverside Drive. The article identified MYLES HORTON as Director of Highlander.

The December 17, 1961 issue of the Knoxville News-Sentinel contained an article reflecting that on December 16, 1961, assets of Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, were auctioned by the State of Tennessee under a court decree after the school was convicted of violating three Tennessee laws and failed in appeals to the State and United States Supreme Courts.

The July 8, 1962, issue of the Knoxville News-Sentinel contained an article reflecting the land on which Highlander Folk

School was formerly located had been sold at public auction under Court decree. The article stated that MYLES HORTON, Director of Highlander, during its entire existence, has moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, and has been granted a State Charter for an organization called Highlander Research and Education Center.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

F B I

Date: 4/14/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

DATE 12/17/79 BY 9803 RDD/gra

TO: Director, FBI (100-106670)

FROM: SAC, Knoxville (157-253) (RUC)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - C

ReBuairtel to Atlanta and Knoxville 4/6/65.

A review of appropriate Knoxville files fails to reflect any information indicating KING'S presence at the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn., other than the occasion of the 25th Anniversary celebration at Highlander on the Labor Day weekend of 1957. File contains the photograph circulated by the Georgia Commission on Education, Atlanta, reportedly made of KING at Highlander Folk School (HFS) on this occasion. It is noted that file contains an article in the New York Times dated 7/7/57 reporting that HFS would hold its 25th Anniversary on the Labor Day weekend of 1957. It is reported that an interracial group of consultants and speakers have been invited to participate, among those being Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., Dr. ALONZO MONRON, president of Hampton Institute, and AUBREY WILLIAMS, Montgomery Farm Magazine, and former director National Youth Administration, Rev. C. K. STEELE, RALPH HELSTEIN, president of the United Packing House Workers, and C. CONRAD BROWNE of Koinonia Farms, described as an interracial religious settlement near Americus, Ga.

The Knoxville News-Sentinel, Knoxville, Tenn., a daily publication, in issue 10/5/57, reported testimony by "an undercover agent" before the Georgia Commission on Education, pertaining to the meeting at Highlander. A member

- 3 - Bureau  
1 - Atlanta (100-5586) (info)  
2 - Knoxville (1 - 157-253)  
(1 - 61-12)

(6)

70 APR 20 1965  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

NOT RECORDED

202 APR 20 1965

APR 16 1965

ENT. SEC. 1



KX 157-253

of the Commission stated that KING was one of those present and he described a photograph of KING. This photograph apparently was the one that was later circulated by the Georgia Commission on Education.

Pamphlet distributed by Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tenn., entitled "Highlander Clippings" contains excerpts from newspaper articles reporting the visit of Mrs. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT at Highlander on 6/17/58 and also items concerning the 25th Anniversary of the school. One item in this pamphlet contains an excerpt of an address by KING. This item is headed "The Look to the Future" by MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., Montgomery, Ala.," (an address delivered at the 25th Anniversary of HFS, Monteagle, Tenn., Labor Day 9/2/57) (transcribed from a tape recording). Mr. Chairman, Mr. Horton, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: It is a great privilege and a distinct honor for me to have the opportunity of being a part of the 25th Anniversary observance of the Highlander Folk School. I have long admired the noble purpose and creative work of this institution. For twenty-five years you have stood with dauntless courage and fearless determination. You have given the South some of its most responsible leaders in this great period of transition, and so I am happy to congratulate you today for all of your great work, and hope for you many more years of creative and meaningful work...."

Chattanooga News-Free Press, Chattanooga, Tenn., in issue 9/29/59 contained a news item reporting that HFS, whose main educational building had been padlocked as a "public nuisance" was trying to organize a "protest" by "friends" to the Tennessee Governor. It was reported that earlier in the month Highlander was found to have been selling beer to minors and adults without a license. It was reported the Rev. S. S. SEAY, Negro Executive Secretary of the Montgomery Improvement Association, Montgomery, Ala., had condemned the padlocking. It was noted in the article that KING was president of this association. The news item stated that in a publicity release from the MIA it was stated "the NAACP and its official family, MYLES HORTON and Highlander Folk School, MARTIN LUTHER KING,



MM 157-253

Jr., and all who subscribe to principles of life advocated by these organizations and persons will not go unmolested by the opposition".

Reference is made to Memphis letter to Director dated 4/2/59 entitled "HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, IS - C", wherein it was transmitted a letterhead memo containing information obtained on a confidential basis from

a Confidential Source.

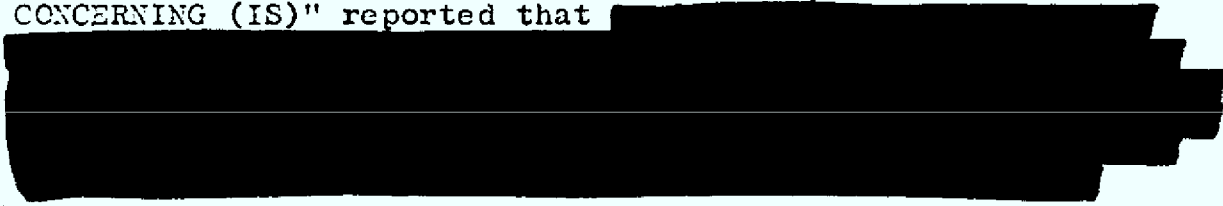
(7D)

An article appearing in the Chattanooga Daily Times, Chattanooga, Tenn., in issue 2/23/61 datelined Atlanta, reported that the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Highlander Folk School had joined forces to train Negro leaders for the Civil Rights struggle. It was reported that KING was head of the SCLC and a conference spokesman was reported to have said eleven Negroes had completed a week's training at Highlander and another class was expected.

The article continued that some observers had said the affiliation of Dr. KING'S organization with Highlander raised serious questions of prestige for KING'S group. JAMES R. MOOD, Administrative Assistant to Dr. KING, said the SCLC is

KX 157-253

aware of the problem but he asserted "we find no reason not to cooperate with any organization that is interested in the development of full citizenship for Americans which cannot be proved to have conducted itself in a manner which is not American or patriotic". It is noted that the article contained no information that KING was engaged in any capacity at the school.

Knoxville letter to Director 8/13/63 entitled "HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER, INFORMATION CONCERNING (IS)" reported that 

Knoxville files also contain a photostatic copy of a letterhead of the Highlander Education and Research Center dated May, 1964, reflects among approximately 90 Highlander sponsors listed on the letterhead the name Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. A review of the file reflects that the names Highlander Education and Research Center and Highlander Research and Education Center are used interchangeably. A pamphlet of HREC indicates that among approximately 90 sponsors in the fall of 1963 KING is also listed.

The file review fails to reflect the identity of any established reliable source who might be contacted in connection with the matter of KING'S presence at the school.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET3

Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.



Deleted under exemption(s) b7C; b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.



Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.



Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.



Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies), \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



For your information: \_\_\_\_\_



The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

61-7511-NR, 10/17/55, 10/27/55

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 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
 X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
 XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FBI

Date: 5/7/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)  
 FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH (100-596)  
 SUBJ: *0* HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
 IS - C  
 (Savannah file: 100-596)

RACIAL SITUATION,  
 CHARLESTON, S. C.  
 (Savannah file: 157-92)

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of the following articles appearing in the "Charleston News and Courier", a daily newspaper, Charleston, S. C., as follows:

Article entitled, "Rights Workshop Gets Under Way", 4/27/65

Article entitled, "Highlander School", 4/27/65

Article entitled, "It Can Happen Here", 4/28/65

Article entitled, "Role of Church Discussed at Civil Rights Workshop", 4/28/65.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 8)  
 2 - Savannah

(1 - 100-596)

(1 - 157-02)

ENCLOSURE

*lsw*  
 (5)

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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/aw

245502

EX 109  
 REC-29

61-7511-310

5 MAY 10 1965

Approved: *JM*  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Rights Workshop Gets Under Way

About 60 persons yesterday attended the first two sessions of a civil rights educational workshop being held this week in Charleston and Summerville.

The workshop is sponsored by the Highlander Research Center of Knoxville.

Esau Jenkins, director and coordinator for the workshop and president of the Citizens' Committee of Charleston County, said the sessions are being held in hopes of creating an atmosphere for better race relations, improved economic status for Negroes and a means of seeking ways to terminate marches and similar demonstrations.

Jenkins said the workshop is being held primarily for ministers in Charleston and Dorchester County but added they are open to all interested persons.

A 2 p.m. session held at Zion Olivet Presbyterian Church here and a 5:30 p.m. session at Emanuel Baptist Church in Summerville, featured an address by the Rev. Eugene Kelly, instructor at Bishop England High School and assistant pastor at St. John's Roman Catholic Church.

Speaking on social justice, Father Kelly told the group that since mankind is essentially a social being, that the environment in which an individual is raised determines to a large extent the type of person he becomes. He added:

"You can't legislate morals" is only half-true. "You can

make laws that will change the environment and thereby change men's hearts."

"To advance the cause of social justice, one must associate himself with groups working for change. It isn't enough to have good intentions. Effective work is what is required," he said.

Following Father Kelly's address, folksinger Guy Carawan led the group in several spirituals, after which there was a discussion period.

The discussion was led by Father Kelly; the Rev. U. Z. McKinnon of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta; and the Rev. J. T. Enwright, pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church, Charleston chairman of the workshops.

Addressing an audience of about 25 persons in Summerville yesterday, Father Kelly said the basis of discussion in any society is "the dignity of the individual human person."

He quoted excerpts from the Declaration of Independence, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from the U. N. and an Encyclical Letter written by the late Pope John XXIII as a basis for this consideration.

He pointed out that one of the characteristics of social justice is "concern for the common good of all society." This characteristic is not one of the considerations of many of the states, he asserted.

"State governments complain sometimes that the federal gov-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

7A

The News & Courier

Charleston, S.C.

Date: April 27, 1965

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor: Thomas R. Waring

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

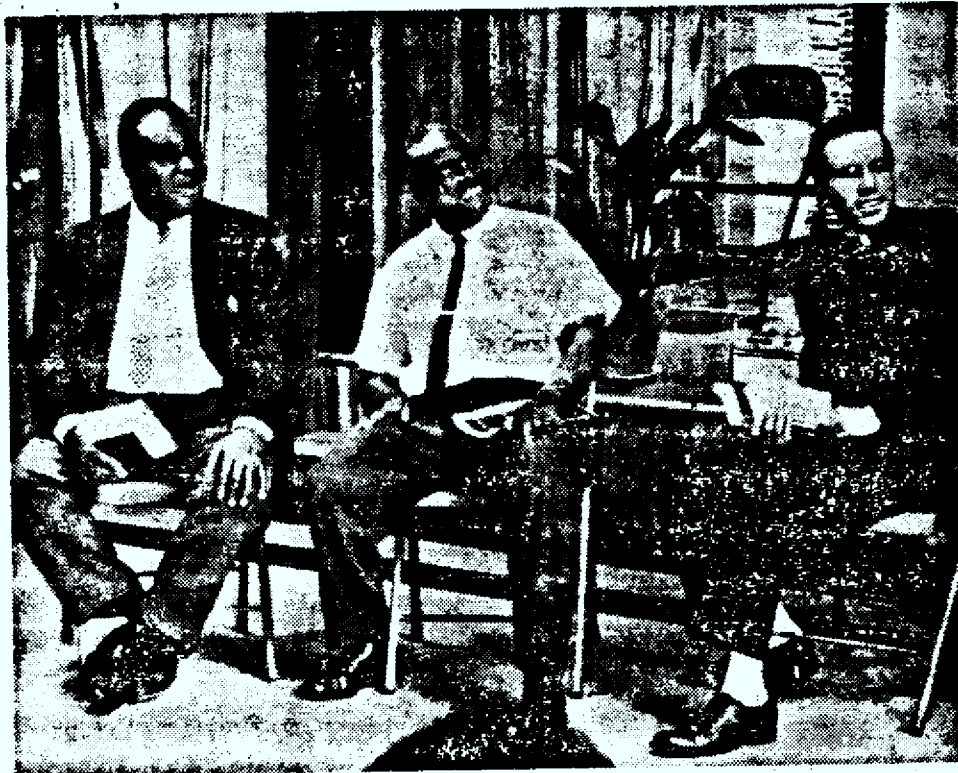
Submitting Office:

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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/OL  
245032

61-7511-310  
ENCLOSURE





#### DISCUSSION LEADERS

Leading the discussion in the workshops yesterday at Zion-Olivet Presbyterian Church were (left to right): the Rev. J. T. Enwright, Charleston chairman of the workshop and pastor of the Plymouth Congregational Church; the Rev. U. Z. McKinnon of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta; and the Rev. Eugene Kelly, pastor of St. John's Roman Catholic Church. (Photo by Workman.)

ernment is doing too much," Father Kelly said. "They aren't doing too much, they're just doing what the states fail to do." "The point is, who can and who will do. If the state won't help the individual to vote, and that's what our government is based on, then they leave the door open to others to come in and help."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Highlander School**

To The News and Courier:

I note from an item April 15 that Father Eugene Kelly of St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Charleston has been named a moderator of a 5-day workshop April 26-30 in Charleston and Summerville under sponsorship of the Highlander Research Center of Knoxville, Tenn.

It is to be hoped that Father Kelly's ordinary, Bishop Unterkoefer, will make himself acquainted with the character and background of the Highlander Research Center. Would he care to scrutinize the personnel of an organization called the High-

lander Folk School, which lost its charter in Tennessee, and give reassurance to his anxious Charleston flock — if such is possible — that Father Kelly is not now identifying himself with the outfit of Abner Berry, James Dombrowski and Aubrey Williams, whose recent death inspired a tearful eulogy in the Communist People's World?

I invite Bishop Unterkoefer to make a detailed study of Report No. 4 of the Joint Legislative Committee on Un-American State of Louisiana. He may make his comparisons, come to his conclusions, and issue a statement which the people of Charleston, Protestant and Catholic, are awaiting, as to whether these two groups named Highlander have a relationship to each other.

C. R. NICHOLS

893 Beaverbrook Dr., N.W.,  
Atlanta.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

BA

The News &amp; Courier

Charleston, S.C.

Date: April 27, 1965  
Edition: Morning  
Author: C. R. Nichols  
Editor: Thomas R. Waring  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aw  
245562

ENCLOSURE

61-7511-310

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# If Can Happen Here

Responsible Charlestonians should take note of the "civil rights educational workshop" being held here under Highlander Center sponsorship, and look to the future.

For years, the Highlander organizations have been deeply involved in radical political action. One can be sure that the latest operation has not been set up without some long-range political goal in mind. Of significance is the presence on the Highlander program of a member of the Charleston County Anti-Poverty Committee.

What lies in store for this community may be indicated by an editorial in The Richmond News Leader on a new political revolution now brewing.

"The outlook for local governments in cities and towns throughout the country is not good," said The News Leader. "A new political coalition now being quietly organized may well displace the workings of local governments without ever challenging local leadership in a legitimate election."

The News Leader also pointed out that organizers of the new left-wing political coalition "would seek to use community action groups being set up under the poverty pro-

gram to weld voting blocs among persons in low-income and slum areas."

In this connection, local government agencies should exercise caution in giving funds or facilities to the "war on poverty." They may be paying for the political indoctrination of slum dwellers.

The experience of New York City is instructive. In that metropolis, anti-poverty and youth aid programs have become political action groups. They have sponsored rent strikes and other revolutionary moves. Charlestonians shouldn't be quick to say; "It can't happen here." It can.

While overcoming poverty and promoting education are worthy goals, programs designed to advance these causes should not be a mask for full scale social, economic and political revolution. Insofar as the City and County of Charleston are concerned, public officials and other concerned citizens should keep a close watch on the spending, plans and programs developed in connection with the anti-poverty effort.

To be specific, the community should make certain that individuals hired to fight poverty do not serve as a new breed of political ward-healers.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6A

The News & Courier

Charleston, S.C.

Date: April 28, 1965  
Edition: Morning  
Author: Unknown  
Editor: Thomas R. Waring  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/10  
24353

ENCLOSURE

61-7511 310

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Role Of Church Discussed At Civil Rights Workshop

Churches need to concern themselves more with saving the whole man rather than saving his soul, a professor of theology said here yesterday.

The concept was advanced by the Rev. U. Z. McKinnon of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta, at the second session of a five-day civil rights educational workshop being held this week at Zion - Olivet Presbyterian Church.

The workshop is sponsored by the Highlander Research Center of Knoxville, Tenn. Coordinator for two sessions held daily here and in Summerville at Emanuel Baptist Church, is Esau Jenkins.

Mr. McKinnon yesterday served as moderator for a discussion entitled "The Role of the Church in Implementing the 1964 Civil Rights Bill."

He charged that one of the faults of the Negro church for years has been the emphasis placed upon the soul rather than the entire body.

"I don't know how you can save my soul without saving all of me," he wondered.

"We've been concentrating on the soul and letting the body go to the devil," he continued.

Mr. McKinnon emphasized he refers to the individual church and not the church universally, when raising the question, "What can the church do to implement the Civil Rights Act of 1964?"

"Let's start preaching and setting up programs designed to save the whole man," he challenged.

"Man cannot be too good a soul if his body is all shot to pieces with disease and hunger," he told a group of about 40 persons.

About one third of the participants in the Charleston session were white.

Yesterday's session opened

with the showing of a documentary film entitled "The Streets of Greenwood" (Miss.). The film depicts the struggle of Negroes in Greenwood to become registered voters.

Following the showing of the film, Mr. McKinnon divided the participants into groups to discuss the theme of yesterday's seminar. Each group reported results of its respective discussion, with recommendations for adoption of a number of programs in which churches could aid in implementing the Civil Rights Act.

A similar format was followed at the 5:30 p.m. session in Summerville, where about 20 persons attended.

The Rev. Henry Grant, director of St. John's Community Center and local coordinator for the federal government's Job Opportunity Program, will discuss the advantages of the Economic Opportunity Program at today's sessions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

9A

The News & Courier

Charleston, S.C.

Date: April 28, 1965  
Edition: Morning  
Author: Unknown  
Editor: Thomas R. Waring  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8BTG/cd  
245530

ENCLOSURE

105-11-310



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

May 24, 1965

Dear Mr. Hoover:

In a recent speech on the floor of Congress, Rep. Dickinson, of Alabama, referred to the Highlander Folk School, in Tennessee, as having been a Communist training school; but "Time" magazine stated in response to a reader's letter that U. S. Government investigators cleared the school of Communist activities.

Would you please clarify this situation for me? Any comment you can make concerning the nature of the school will be appreciated.

Respectfully,

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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/aw  
24 0532

REC 30

61-7511-311

JUN 2 1965

EX-105

JUN 10 1965

CORRESPONDENCE

May 28, 1965

REC 30

61-7511-811

EX-103

*b7c*

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/a  
245582

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of May 24th has been received.

In response to your request, information in our files must be maintained as confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice and is available for official use only. I am sure you will understand the reason for this policy and why I am not in a position to comment as you desire.

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI  
MAY 28 2 45 PM '65

I am enclosing some material I hope you will find of interest.



Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

Enclosures (5)

Communism--The Incredible Swindle  
Let's Fight Communism Sanely  
The U. S. Businessman Faces the Soviet Spy  
Time for Decision  
Our Heritage of Greatness

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles and the Highlander Folk School has been the subject of numerous allegations that it is a communist school and the headquarters of communism in Eastern Tennessee due primarily to its racial character. These allegations have not been substantiated. The Bureau is cognizant of the numerous communist affiliations of personnel affiliated with the Highlander Folk School. The Bureau has not investigated this organization. (61-7511-266,267).

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*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

FBI

Date: 8/9/65

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_

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(Priority)

DATE 12/5/80 BY SP4 Jem/eb

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (100-4105) (RUC)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SM - C

Highlander Folk School

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are two original news clippings, plus two Xerox copies of each clipping. Also, one Xerox copy of each clipping is enclosed for the Knoxville Division since it contains information regarding the Highlander Folk School. One Xerox copy of each clipping is enclosed for Atlanta, origin in instant case, and for Jackson since Dr. MEDFORD EVANS is a paid consultant of the national office of the Citizens' Council, headquarters Jackson, Miss.

These clippings are as follows:

- 1) Clipping of story by Staff Correspondent NAT CALDWELL, "Nashville Tennessean," Nashville, Tennessee, captioned: "A 3-Time Visitor Reports: It Was 'Different,' but Not Red," issue of 7/25/65.
- 2) Clipping of story by Dr. MEDFORD EVANS, Consultant, Citizens' Council, appearing in the "Nashville Tennessean," issue of 7/25/65.

- 3 - Bureau (Encs. 6) (RM)
- 1 - Atlanta (Encs. 2) (100-5586) (RM)
- 1 - Jackson (Encs. 2) (RM)
- 1 - Knoxville (61-12) (Encs. 2) (RM)
- 3 - Memphis (1 - 100-4105)

(1 - 61-34, Highlander Research & Education Center)

(1 - 157-207, Nashville Citizens' Council)

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ENCLOSURE

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140 AUG 16 1965

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Special Agent in Charge

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# A 3-Time Visitor Reports: It Was 'Different,' but Not Red

By NAT CALDWELL  
Staff Correspondent

TRACY CITY, Tenn.—Merchants up this way say if an election could be held on whether Highlander Folk School was a Communist training school, most Grundy County folks would vote they think it was.

For 30 years Highlander operated in this mountainous region and had some famous visitors and supporters, including Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Strange things—strange for their time—went on at Highlander in the years before it was closed in 1962 after a state court found beer was served on the premises.

The aura of mystery that surrounded the school and what went on there stimulated the belief by some local people that what was taught at Highlander was communism. This fear now has been fed by leaflets and billboards which have been distributed across the South by the White Citizens Council.

These publications carry a picture of Dr. Martin Luther King seated beside Myles Horton, Highlander director in a classroom at Highlander. The caption on the picture reads:

"Martin Luther King at Communist training school."

Ten years after the picture was taken Horton can laugh about the Communist caption.

"Highlander wasn't Communist then. It never has been," said Horton during a recent visit to Nashville where he attended the Race Relations Institute at Fisk University.

"The Citizens Council knows that too," he added.

Horton was and is a man who involved himself in the labor movement and in the civil rights movement—sometimes when he wasn't wanted.

## Denies Reports

Back in the early 1950's there were reports circulated among some liberal groups that Horton was admitting FBI men and McCarthy committee investigators to Highlander to train them to spy on Communists.

Horton, who denied this at the time, says today: "While the Citizens Council knows we weren't Communist, the doctrinaire liberal must have known we would not have used our facilities to train professional government spies."

Off and on during the years various charges were aimed at Highlander and Horton, who now runs a successor school at Knoxville. A 1959 state legislative committee hearing took a look at Highlander—and that probe left the impression that Horton was an opportunist but not a communist.

On three occasions during its 30-year existence, in 1936, 1947 and again in 1960—this reporter visited Highlander.

What went on there certainly might have been unusual to the mountain folks who lived nearby. For one thing, there were integrated meetings—whites and Negroes attending seminars together, singing together, square dancing together, their children swimming together in the lake.

There were lectures and round table discussions. The talk may have drifted over the heads of the farmers and miners, some of whom brought their children to the kindergarten Horton operated. There was talk of government and politics, labor versus capitalism; socialism versus fascism.

Very early it was a place where some labor unions sent some of their officials to discuss their problems. Still later the emphasis moved to civil rights, as opposed to work in fields of labor.

## Not Un-American

Certainly there was the discontent of the working class expressed in the 1930's by representatives of organized labor who represented men struggling out of the depression just as in the 1950's there was discontent expressed by Negroes who were beginning to struggle for equal rights.

But there was never the feeling that this was subversive or un-American, even when some ideas which seemed impractical, hair-brained or half-baked were offered.

Much of the thinking and talking at seminars and at informal discussions around the dinner table centered on the needs for an urban, industrial society. Horton constantly tried to keep a light note on the conversation, but frequently when he told stories that were supposed to be funny he would forget the punch line. He was an incessant name dropper, talking of some association he was supposed to have had with Walter Reuther, Reinhold Niebuhr, Mrs. Roosevelt or James Carey.

There was a good deal of singing—songs like "Solidarity Forever" and "Picket Line Rhyme" and "Samuel Hall." Later such songs as "We Shall Overcome" and "Free-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3-B

THE NASHVILLE  
TENNESSEAN  
Nashville, Tennessee

Date: 7/25/65

Edition:

Author: NAT CALDWELL

Editor: JOHN SEIGENTHAL

Title: HIGHLANDER FOLK  
SCHOOL - IS-C

Character:

or

Classification: 61-34

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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DATE 12/7/80 BY SP4 jpm/ab

61-7511

ENCLOSURE



dom" became favorites as the emphasis switched to civil rights.

In a library of 8,000 volumes there were a few books on communism — perhaps 20, including a well-worn copy of *Das Kapital*.

Merchants of this town of 1,547 sold groceries and other supplies at Highlander — but they don't want to talk for the record about the school. One of them that I had interviewed a few years back when I was up this way, told me recently he doesn't think that the changes of time—in the area of labor and civil rights—have helped Highlander's local reputation.

People up here, he said, still have the general impression



**Nat Caldwell**  
*Tells how it was*

that Highlander was Communist. And, he said, it doesn't change anybody's mind because "President Johnson now says the same things that Miles Horton used to say."

Last Thursday was the fourth anniversary of the auction sale that disposed of the school's Grundy County property for \$43,700.

That sale came after a Grundy county jury found the school "guilty" of being a de-segregated institution in defiance of state laws, and ruled Horton was guilty of running the school for his personal gain and guilty also of selling beer without a license. Communism was not involved in the jury's verdict.

A circuit judge, on the basis of these findings by the jury ordered the school's charter revoked. The Tennessee Supreme Court upheld the judge on the grounds of operating for personal gain and selling beer — but threw out the segregation count. In October, 1961 the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal or review the case.

## No Question

There was never any question about Highlander being an inter-racial school. And there was never any problem either about getting a drink of beer.

The school was located in a remote, if not private, part of the county. It was just twelve miles from Tracy City — about three fourths of the way to Monteagle by Highway 56, a right turn up a country lane and on about a mile to Summerfield.

Summerfield, before Highlander started in 1932 and after it left in 1962, was just a little rural community like Allardt and Rugby and Pleasant Hill — other Cumberland plateau towns.

In Highlander's 30 years School President Horton always boasted — and weather records back up his claim — that no northern visitor ever failed to call for blankets on the hottest summer night.

"Our money always goes for books, food, instruction or scholarships," he would say. "Air conditioning is for Lake Junaluska."

The Tracy City businessman I talked with said he is proud that "for years I kept the FBI and the American Legion current on Highlander."

He did not smile at the recollection of Horton's famous warm-up introduction to Highlander for visitors. Often, he said, it was a prelude to an appeal for donations.

"Everybody wants to forget we had that mess up here," the businessman said.

Horton has never denied that the school he ran was "different," but he offers to reporters who ask about the Communist charge the fact that when he applied for a passport to England in the

middle of the 1959 Tennessee legislative committee probe of "communism" at Highlander, he got his passport quickly and without a hitch. He was going to England to act as chairman at an international educational conference.

Horton also points out the Treasury Department revoked the school's tax exempt status after the U.S. Supreme Court's 1962 refusal to hear an appeal from a Tennessee Supreme Court decree revoking its charter.

But Internal Revenue agents checked the charges of subversion as well as the charges of operating the school for personal gain. After a few months the tax exemption for school supporters was restored for the succession Highlander school. Horton now runs in Knoxville. Also the exemption was made retroactive so the school could collect on its past due foundation grants.

Horton, while denying the Communist charge, boasts of Highlander's achievements "as a training center for civil

rights workers and, earlier, for union labor organization."

## Proud of Kindergarten

Horton was proud of the kindergarten at Highlander. It was for those under 8 years old, not unlike today's Operation Headstart.

He boasted to visitors about the kindergarten as he did about the weather. It was staffed, he claimed, by the nation's top instructors, vacationing at Highlander and paying their own way. They were, he said, regular staff members of the nation's most famous kindergarten, the Chase School.

There were other Horton boasts in addition to weather and kindergarten. He maintained his school had done a better job than the labor movement in training labor leaders. And probably because of this criticism of labor he was squeezed down to two or three minutes on a state CIO convention program, a state labor federation meeting and a railroad brotherhood's program. This was in the late Forties.

## A Loud Griper

During that very period Horton griped louder and more and more publicly as he called attention to his school's "right to be heard" in labor circles. The more the unions tried to ignore him, the more he complained.

Highlander was switching during this period from labor leadership training to integration leadership training. Most of the Tennessee unions, at the time, took a dim view of combining the two. Most labor leaders thought union desegregation in the South would wreck their organization.

When Congressional committee investigators placed Horton on their grill in the following years as though he was a well known Communist Horton entered into a name-firing contest with investigators. He nearly panicked the Eastland Committee's New Orleans hearing in 1953. He was ejected from hearing rooms for upsetting hearings, as a nuisance, and once as a disturber of the peace.

This reporter questioned him at a Tennessee labor convention after the New Orleans hearings. About that time, probably based on his weird performances, information spread that Highlander might be a training base for professional FBI and committee informer-infiltrators.

Following the New Orleans hearings this reporter questioned him at a Tennessee Labor Convention about whether he had accepted funds from J. Edgar Hoover or Senator Joseph McCarthy. Horton's reply was:

"No."

### The Real Reds

Horton and the school had some difficulty in successfully refuting such charges at the time. The reason: the only two well known Communists seen fairly frequently around Highlander in the early days, Paul Crouch and M. E. Ross, were by this time making the rounds of the congressional committee hearings. Like scores of other professional Communists they were singing their hearts out for pay. They —and Horton— were suspect among the Communists.

In those years hard-core Communists were trying to infiltrate the labor movement, just as they are trying to infiltrate the civil rights movement today, and this may account for the presence of such known Communists as Crouch and Ross at Highlander.

Today a revived Highlander exists under a new name at Knoxville. It has under way training schools for civil rights workers and literacy courses at half a dozen sites across the South. And soon it will come up with a program for Appalachian poverty areas.



This is the main building of the old Highlander Folk School.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Defending the Billboards ... Was Highlander Communist?

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 3-B  
THE NASHVILLE  
—TENNESSEAN  
Nashville, Tennessee

## A Council Leader Speaks His Piece

By DR. MEDFORD EVANS  
Consultant, Citizens' Council

"THERE'S such divinity doth hedge a king—" said Shakespeare. Yet pretenders have fallen. Let us not be intimidated by a name and an image.

In September 1957 Martin Luther King was present at the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee, and was photographed by an agent of the Georgia Commission on Education. Someone has asked if Highlander was a Communist training school—the photographer was a Communist also. The answer is that he probably passed for one at the time. One of the pictures he took shows Martin Luther King making a speech.

In another, which was to become famous, King is seated in an audience which included also Myles Horton, director of Highlander; the late Aubrey Williams, then president of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc.; and Abner Berry, of the Central Committee of the Communist party, USA. Berry is a Negro.

Horton and Williams white. Highlander and SCEF are far-left institutions with characteristically ambiguous relationships with the Communist party.

This group photograph has been widely circulated for many years. Initially it was distributed by the Georgia Commission in a circular showing racially integrated activities at Highlander. In 1963 Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett showed it before a televised hearing in Washington. Thousands of letter-size copies have been distributed by the Nashville Citizens' Council.

### In Billboard Form

Recently it has been prepared in billboard form by the Citizens' Council of Louisiana office in Shreveport and made

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DATE 12/2/80 BY SP4 JRM/eb  
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Date: 7/25/65  
Edition:  
Author: DR. MEDFORD EVA  
Editor: JOHN SEIGENTHAL  
Title: HIGHLANDER FOLK  
SCHOOL  
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Character:  
or  
Classification: 61-34  
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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available for general public. The authenticity of the photograph has not been questioned. What has been questioned is the propriety of publishing it. Or, more exactly, of displaying it on a billboard. For even such a critic as THE TENNESSEAN has published it more than once as a news photo. There is a fine line there somewhere.

In general, the critics are like Hamlet when he said, "All of which I most powerfully and potentially believe, but I hold it not honest to have it thus set down."

Civic leaders are reported in the press as deploring exhibition of the billboards, but none challenge the authenticity of the photograph. There seems to be little interest in whatever truth is back of the sign, but excited concern for its possible effect on some commercial or political image.

### Intemperate

Often the criticisms are as intemperate in style as they are irrelevant to the substantive issue. A Chamber of Commerce official falsely characterizes the Citizens' Council as "clandestine," and speaks of "hooded Ku Klux Klanners." THE TENNESSEAN of June 13 continued a front-page story about the Nashville billboards to Page 8-A, where the continuation lies under a photograph of a Klan group in Natchez, Miss. There is no line between the picture of hooded men standing under one of the nationally distributed billboards and the two-column head "Citizens' Council," which does not include the usual catch line, "continued from page one."

The effect is that here is a photograph of the Citizens' Council in Nashville, Tenn., when it is actually a photograph of the Klan in Natchez, Miss. This is either very sloppy make-up, or very good. Be that as it may, the Council and the Klan have no connection with each other. If THE TENNESSEAN and the Chamber of Commerce official imagine that their own obvious imputation of guilt by association is merely paying the Council in its own kind, they may have failed to reflect that while the Citizens' Council has no control over who stands under one of its signs to be photographed, Martin Luther King certainly did have control over whether he went to a Communist training school or not.

The Chamber of Commerce man is as absurd as he is pompous when he delivers the dictum, "No good can ever come from maligning a race through one of its leaders." Of course, Martin Luther King associating with a predomi-

nantly white group is not to malign a race—certainly not the Negro race. Incredibly, this spokesman for the Nashville area business community, in affecting to deplore the creation of "ill will," says that the Citizens' Council billboards remind him of the "era of hatred which existed in Dallas before President Kennedy's murder." The Chamber of Commerce's own image is hardly going to be helped either in Dallas or Tennessee by that kind of immoderate outburst.

(Editor's Note: The Chamber official quoted here was Ed Shea, executive vice president.)

### Better Balanced

Better balanced is the comment of the Metro Human Relations Committee chairman, as quoted in THE TENNESSEAN of June 20, for he observes correctly that no action could be taken to prevent display of the billboards without infringing the "right of free speech under the first amendment." Yet

this dignitary too deplores the billboards, "which serve no purpose other than to cause strife and tension in the community."

(Editor's Note: The official quoted here was Robert J. Warner Jr.)

Perhaps he has not followed the career of Martin Luther King. King has stated that his basic method of operation is the development of "creative tension." And from the Montgomery bus boycott of 1956 to the Selma march of 1965 he has done a remarkable job of creating tension. If you are against tension, it is hard to see how you can be for Martin Luther King.

It should be added that the billboards do serve another and a very useful purpose, which is the presentation of an important fact about an important man. The lawyers have a saying, "Res ipsa loquitur," the thing speaks for itself. The basis of Anglo-Saxon justice, the basis of the doctrine of freedom of the press, is that citizens may judge of and from facts.

If the photograph of Martin Luther King at Highlander were fake, the billboards should come down. Since it is genuine it should be studied for its meaning, not avoided with a shudder. If interpretations vary, let the dispute go on. Nothing is gained by fearful or obstinate silence. Not even communism is more ominous for the future of America than the reluctance of leaders to face facts.

### Image of Piety

Not that it is pleasant to face all the facts about Dr. King. The man has an image

of piety, which it may seem impious to deface. But Director J. Edgar Hoover has a good image too. And either, Martin Luther King or J. Edgar Hoover is a liar. A hard choice, but we have to take one or the other. We can't have both. Mr. Hoover called Dr. King a liar. Therefore, if Dr. King is not a liar, Mr. Hoover is one. Vice versa, if Mr. Hoover is not a liar, then Dr. King is one. Yes, it may be said, but do we have to talk about it? Since not only our way of life but our lives may be at stake, we should.

But it needs no blast from J. Edgar Hoover to raise questions about King's veracity. When the billboards first appeared in Louisiana and Alabama, Dr. King was quoted by the Associated Press as saying of the Highlander Folk School, "I spent exactly one hour there back in 1953. If I was trained there it was mighty short training." That the visit seems to have been in 1957, rather than 1953 is not important, and there is no need to quibble over the probability that it lasted "exactly one hour." But several things about this statement are important:

First, King does not deny that the Highlander Folk School was a Communist training center.

Second, what he does deny—which is that he could have received a significant amount of training in the short time he was there—is something which the billboard never said. It says simply, "Martin Luther King at Communist Training School." He could have been there not to receive training but to give it. Another photograph exists, as noted above, showing him at a sort of lectern. He could, of course,

have given a significant lecture in an hour.

Third—and most important—the spirit of King's ostensibly facetious remark is totally misleading. However brief the time he spent at Monteagle, he has collaborated over a period of years with the Highlander institution. The following appeared in the New York Times of Feb. 23, 1960 under the by-line of Claude Sitton:

"Atlanta, Feb. 22 — The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Highlander Folk School have joined forces to train Negro leaders for the civil rights struggle. The program was disclosed here by conference headquarters. The conference is made up of various anti-segregation groups and is headed by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A conference spokesman said eleven Negroes had just completed a week's training course at Highlander. Another class of fifteen or more will be held in about two



**Dr. Medford Evans is a paid consultant for the national office of the Citizens' Council. In this letter to THE NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN he defends the council's billboard attacks on Martin Luther King, and defends the policies of the council.**



**Dr. Medford Evans  
Quotes Shakespeare**

is situated in the Cumberland Mountains near Monteagle, Tenn., between Chattanooga and Nashville. It is headed by Myles Horton and has been involved in several controversies because of the political affiliations of persons connected with it."

Then Times reporter Sitton went on to say, "Some observers said the affiliation of Dr. King's organization with Highlander raised serious questions of prestige for the conference. They contended that because of the delicacy of the racial problem and Highlander's controversial status, it would be difficult now for Southern whites of liberal or moderate persuasion to deal with the conference." The accuracy of this estimate of Southern whites of liberal or moderate persuasion may be questioned but there is no question that Dr. King's association with Highlander has not been a brief or trivial affair.

The school at Monteagle was closed down shortly after the above dispatch appeared, but activity continued from an address in Knoxville called "Highlander Center." An appeal for financial support signed by Myles Horton under date of May 15, 1963 speaks poetically of "the Highlander idea like a Phoenix rising from the ashes," and claims as part of the Highlander program "the Citizenship Schools now being spread throughout the South by Dr. Martin Luther King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference and student civil rights organizations." The letterhead carries the name of "Rev. Martin Luther King Jr." as one of the "Highlander Sponsors."

Just how derogatory the Highlander association may be to Dr. King remains a matter of opinion, but what ill accords with the saintly image of him is that he himself should undertake to contract to one hour an association which on the record is spread over five or six years, and to minimize the importance of that association when on the record it involved collaboration at the top echelon on policy and program.

Back of all the controversy over Dr. King's veracity, and back of the concern over the billboards, is the basic question of the nature of his relationship with communism. The liberal attitude seems to be that this question must not be raised, much less answered. The thoughtful and informed citizen, however, cannot avoid raising it. Anthony Lewis reported in the New York Times Nov. 20, 1964, "It was learned today that Mr. Hoover also had said during the interview"—in which he had called King the most notorious liar in the country—"that Dr. King had Communist connections." Mr. Hoover did not specify the connections, but it seems unlikely that he was making it all up, and some of King's Communist connections can be specified from the public record.

### His Associates

His personal and professional associations have included Bayard Rustin, Hunter Pitts O'Dell, alias Jack H. O'Dell, and Carl Braden—all important figures in the Communist movement in this country. More famous Communist associates of King are Ahmed Ben Bella, the former dictator of Algeria, and Kwame Nkrumah, the "Saviour" of Ghana. When Nkrumah was installed at the helm in Accra, King was there on the platform with his friend. When Ben Bella came to the United States in October 1962, he saw John Kennedy in the White House and Martin Luther King in the Barclay hotel in New York. To show the pecking order, perhaps, King

changed the time of his appointment with Ben Bella, and the latter accepted the change. My source is the Harlem edition of the Pittsburgh Courier. On points, King seems further ahead of Ben Bella today than ever.

King makes no secret of his admiration for leaders round the world in the so-called "wars of national liberation," with which the "Negro revolution" in the United States may be classed. It is so classed by the Communists. That is why they support it. It is so classed by the Citizens' Council. That is why we oppose it.

Besides his associations—and those with Rustin and O'Dell could well be the subject of a separate article—King has put into "the file" a record of signing Communist petitions and supporting the Communist line on important issues of foreign policy. The Communist "Worker" of Nov. 27, 1960 listed King as signer

of a petition to free Morton Sobell, convicted along with the Rosenbergs of wartime espionage, whose case became a Communist cause celebre. Another petition signed by King urged a pardon for Julius Scales, the North Carolina Communist violator of the Smith Act. This information was carried in the August 25, 1961 issue of "New America," a Socialist publication.

### Foreign Policy

As to support of the Communist line on foreign policy, the UPI reported on October 10, 1961 that King had urged admission of Red China to the United Nations, and Allen and Scott reported in early December 1964 that King had wired President Johnson to demand a halt to aid to Congolese Premier Moise Tshombe. "King sent this forceful message," said the columnists, "after the President authorized the use of U.S. planes to drop Belgian paratroopers on Stanleyville to rescue hundreds of white hostages in rebel hands." There have been few clearer choices between Communists and anti-Communists than that between the Stanleyville "rebels" and Tshombe. King chose the Communists.

I appreciate this space in THE TENNESSEAN. (I am assuming as I write that I shall get it.) I have not used much of it to defend the Citizens' Council. Actually, I thought your attack on us lacked luster. You raised a little doubt as to whether I really have a Ph.D. from Yale. I do, but I don't see that it matters very much.

What matters more is that you neglected the substance of Dr. Henry Garrett's important remarks on "The Reality of Race." You know, the race controversy in this country at present could pretty well be summed up by the questions, Do Negroes exist? and, Should they? Ashley Montague says, No, they don't exist, not really; it's all in your mind. Lyndon Johnson says, They do exist, but they ought not to. The Citizens' Council says they do exist, and they ought to continue to exist. Dr. Garrett supported the first of these propositions with weight of scientific evidence; while American tradition supports the second with respect for human diversity.

Your chief complaint against us seems to be our "air of petitions and supporting the secrecy." We just have that Communist line on important issues of foreign policy. The number of our members, and the identity of individuals

whom we ask to sign something—a general area of administrative reticence which we share with the NAACP and with Dr. King's own SCLC. Before me as I write is a copy of a plea on Martin Luther King's personal letterhead for his dear friends to send checks payable to the SCLC. For their convenience a business-reply envelope was enclosed, and on the reverse side under the flap there was space for four names and addresses, with this heading: "I suggest that you send your appeal to the following persons without mentioning my name." Some of these techniques are just about universal, aren't they?

## MARTIN LUTHER KING... AT COMMUNIST TRAINING SCHOOL



PICTURED (Foreground),

- (1) Martin Luther King of the Montgomery Boycott and the Birmingham riots, backed up by the Kennedys,
- (2) Abner W. Berry of the Central Committee of the Communist Party
- (3) Aubrey Williams, pres. of the Southern Conference Education Fund Inc., the Transmission Belt in the South for the Communist Party
- (4) Myles Horton, director of Highlander Folk School for Communist Training, Monteagle, Tenn.

These "four horsemen" of racial agitation have brought tension, disturbance, strife and violence in their advancement of the Communist doctrine of "racial nationalism."

This photo of "Martin Luther King . . . At Communist Training School" was a reprint from the "Georgia Commission on Education."





Myles Horton, right, gestures as he answers a question during the 1959 investigation of Highlander Folk School. At left is Horton's attorney, Jordan Stokes III.

## Domestic Intelligence Division

## INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date **10-18-65**

Attached reports information received from State Commission on Human Rights, Nashville, Tennessee, to effect that swastika stickers had been placed on windows of Highlander Research and Education Center, Knoxville, Tennessee, and that other acts of vandalism occurred.

The Highlander Research and Education Center is a very controversial school because of its inter-racial character. It is not under investigation and Knoxville was previously instructed not to make any investigation of school or individuals connected with it.

Since local authorities are conducting investigation and are aware of complaints from Human Rights Commission and in absence of indication of Federal violation, no investigation being ordered by the Bureau.

Information in attached will be furnished to the Civil Rights Division.

chb

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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8BTA/aw 245532



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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (61-12)

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CONCERNING

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES  
AND FIELD OFFICES  
ADVISED BY ROUTING  
SLIP(S) OF  
DATE 3/18/84

Re Knoxville teletype 10/18/65.

Enclosed herewith are the original and seven copies  
of a letterhead memorandum bearing above caption. Copies  
have been disseminated locally to Secret Service and Army  
Intelligence authorities.

Sources used to describe Highlander Research and  
Education Center are:

T-1 is [REDACTED]

T-2 is the House of Representatives Select Committee  
to Investigate Funds and Other Organizations, which committee  
advised the Bureau by memorandum reflecting interviews with  
various witnesses, including LOUIS BUDENZ. The Bureau  
furnished copies of this memorandum to the New York Office by  
letter dated 2/24/53 entitled "Use of Benevolent Trust Funds,  
Philanthropic and Eleemosynary Instructions to Implement the  
Progress of Subversive Groups; IS - C".

REC-42

61-75113

[REDACTED]

3 - Bureau (Enc. -8) (RM)  
1 - Knoxville

cyp lcc & cc LHM  
(4) 808 RB

Classified by 388

Declassify on 6400

OCT 21 1965

Approved: [Signature] 5 1965  
Special Agent in Charge

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

M Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

KX 61-12

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b7D [REDACTED]

The Bureau is aware of the fact that Highlander is a very controversial subject in Knoxville area and local feeling against this school is so strong that any individual or any group of individuals could be responsible for above acts. Bureau has previously instructed the Knoxville Office to make no investigation concerning Highlander or individuals connected with the school. This school is continually receiving unfavorable press publicity by one of the local papers, who have alleged Communist connections.

No investigation is being conducted by the Knoxville Office.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

October 19, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chief  
United States Secret Service  
Department of the Treasury  
Washington, D. C. 20220

Dear Sir:

**CONFIDENTIAL**

The information furnished herewith concerns an individual who is believed to be covered by the agreement between the FBI and Secret Service concerning Presidential protection, and to fall within the category or categories checked.

1. ☐ Has attempted or threatened bodily harm to any government official or employee, including foreign government officials residing in or planning an imminent visit to the U. S., because of his official status.
2. ☐ Has attempted or threatened to redress a grievance against any public official by other than legal means.
3. ☐ Because of background is potentially dangerous; or has been identified as member or participant in communist movement; or has been under active investigation as member of other group or organization inimical to U. S.
4. ☐ U. S. citizens or residents who defect from the U. S. to countries in the Soviet or Chinese Communist blocs and return.
5. ☒ Subversives, ultrarightists, racists and fascists who meet one or more of the following criteria:
  - (a) ☐ Evidence of emotional instability (including unstable residence and employment record) or irrational or suicidal behavior;
  - (b) ☐ Expressions of strong or violent anti-U. S. sentiment;
  - (c) ☒ Prior acts (including arrests or convictions) or conduct or statements indicating a propensity for violence and antipathy toward good order and government.
6. ☐ Individuals involved in illegal bombing or illegal bomb-making.

Photograph ☐ has been furnished ☐ enclosed ☐ is not available  
☐ may be available through \_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

*John Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

1 - Special Agent in Charge (Enclosure(s)-2) (RM)  
U. S. Secret Service, Nashville, Tennessee

Enclosure(s)

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form  
becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)



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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

1-7511-313, end. p. 1

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HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Agc  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

KX T-2 advised that LOUIS BUDENZ, admitted former editor of the "Daily Worker", an East Coast Communist newspaper, and former official of the Communist Party, advised on November 21, 1952, that the Highlander Folk School was pro-Communist. BUDENZ did not give further details regarding this school.

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HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER

Drive. The article identified MYLES HORTON as Director of Highlander.

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17c On November 16, 1961, [REDACTED] Office of Secretary of State, State of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, made available records which reflect that a charter of incorporation for the Highlander Research and Education Center, Inc., was certified by the Secretary of State on August 28, 1961.

It is noted that a letterhead stationery of the organization also carries the name as the Highlander Education and Research Center.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Knoxville, Tennessee  
October 19, 1965

Title	HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER
Character	MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING
Reference	Letterhead memorandum, captioned as above, dated October 19, 1965.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



FBI

Date: 11/5/65

**CONFIDENTIAL**Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTELAIR MAIL  
(Priority)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (61-12)

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CONCERNING

Re Knoxville airtel to Bureau 10/19/65.

Enclosed herewith are the original and seven copies of a letterhead memorandum bearing above caption. Copies have been disseminated locally to Secret Service and Army Intelligence authorities.

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AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI (SEC. SER.)

DEPT: ISD, CRD, REC 30

DATE FORW: 11-9-65

HOW FORW: R/S MCT-46

BY: Bureau (Enc. 3) (RM)

1 - Knoxville

cyp

(4)

1cc & cc LHM  
808 RB

9 NOV 8 1965

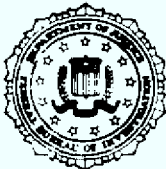
Approved: 6912

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Classified by SP-3 J/K  
Declassify on GDS 3108  
24032**CONFIDENTIAL**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535  
November 5, 1965

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Chief  
United States Secret Service  
Department of the Treasury  
Washington, D. C. 20220

Dear Sir:

The information furnished herewith concerns an individual who is believed to be covered by the agreement between the FBI and Secret Service concerning Presidential protection, and to fall within the category or categories checked.

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  - (c) ☒ Prior acts (including arrests or convictions) or conduct or statements indicating a propensity for violence and antipathy toward good order and government.
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Photograph ☐ has been furnished ☐ enclosed ☐ is not available  
☐ may be available through \_\_\_\_\_

Very truly yours,

  
John Edgar Hoover  
Director

1 - Special Agent in Charge (Enclosure(s) - 2)  
U. S. Secret Service, Nashville, Tennessee

Enclosure(s)

(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)

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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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14 5  
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[REDACTED]

KX T-1 advised that LOUIS BUDENZ, admitted former editor of the "Daily Worker", and East Coast Communist newspaper, and former official of the Communist Party, advised on November 21, 1952, that the Highlander Folk School was pro-Communist. BUDENZ did not give further details regarding this school.

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2

court decree. The article stated that MYLES HORTON, Director of Highlander, during its entire existence, has moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, and has been granted a State Charter for an organization called Highlander Research and Educational Center.

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It is noted that a letterhead stationery of the organization also carries the name as the Highlander Education and Research Center.

Sources of this Bureau whose identities are concealed in this document have furnished reliable information in the past

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the F. B. I. It is the property of the F. B. I. and is loaned to your agency, it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency

FBI

Date: 12/7/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ AIR MAIL

(Priority)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (61-12)

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER  
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING

Classified by SP8 BJA/Ch  
Declassify on: DATE 3/5/8  
24553

Enclosed herewith are the original and seven  
copies of a letterhead memorandum bearing the above  
caption. Copies have been disseminated locally to  
Army Intelligence authorities.

Sources used to describe Highlander Research  
and Education Center are:

T-1 is [REDACTED]

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which committee advised the Bureau by memorandum reflecting  
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The Bureau furnished copies of this memorandum to the New  
York Office by letter dated 2/24/53 entitled "Use of  
Benevolent Trust Funds, Philanthropic and Eleemosynary  
Instructions to Implement the Progress of Subversive Groups;  
IS - C".

T-3 is [REDACTED]

3 - Bureau (Enc. -8) (RM)  
1 - Knoxville

ENCLOSURE

cyp

C. G. WICK

51 DEC 9 1965

Approved: [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES

AND FIELD OFFICES

ADVISED BY SLIP(S)

DATE

DATE

61-7511-315

DEC 9 1965

INT. SEC.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Knoxville, Tennessee  
December 7, 1965

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION  
CONCERNING

[REDACTED]

The Knoxville Journal, a daily newspaper, Knoxville, Tennessee, on November 20, 1965, contained an article stating that a fire, apparently deliberately set, heavily damaged the front portion of the Appalachian Political Action Center, 511 Clinch Avenue, Knoxville.

On December 7, 1965, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was furnished the above information.

[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/aw  
245502

61-7511-315  
ENCLOSURE

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER

872 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

KK T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that LOUIS BUDENZ, admitted former editor of the "Daily Worker", an East Coast Communist newspaper, and former official of the Communist Party, advised on November 21, 1952, that the Highlander Folk School was pro-Communist. BUDENZ did not give further details regarding this school.

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HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER

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It is noted that a letterhead stationery of the organization also carries the name as the Highlander Education and Research Center.

b7c [REDACTED]

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Optional Form No. 10  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
M E M O R A N D U M

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: *J. J. [unclear]*, SAVANNAH

DATE: 3/18/66

RE: HIGHLANDER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

BUFILE NO: 61-7511  
SAVANNAH FILE NO: 100-5125  
COLUMBIA FILE NO:

Due to the opening of the Columbia Office, the following action is being taken in the captioned matter:

A. LOCATION OF FILE

1. (x) Entire file transferred to Columbia herewith.
2. ( ) File transferred to Columbia except one copy of following serials retained at Savannah:
3. ( ) File retained at Savannah but one copy of the following serials transferred to Columbia.

B. OFFICE OF ORIGIN

- ( ) Savannah  
(x) Columbia  
( ) \_\_\_\_\_

C. STATUS

- ( ) Pending  
(x) RUC to Columbia  
( ) Closed to Columbia

- ① - Bureau  
1 - Columbia (Enc. 1)  
1 - Savannah  
(3)

60 MAR 24 1966

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8BTJ/cl

24 05 32

61-7511-  
NOT RECORDED  
2 MAR 21 1966

INT. SEC.

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XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
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☐ For your information: \_\_\_\_\_  
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☒ For your information:

LETTER FROM THIRD PARTY

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

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## E-T ACLU Branch Defends Rights of Highlander

**Mayor Rogers Says  
Center Is Entitled  
To Full Protection**

The East Tennessee Branch of the American Civil Liberties Union has condemned recent attacks, both verbal and physical, on the Highlander Research and Education Center on Riverside Drive as "attacks upon the right of free speech and free association."

Mayor Leonard Rogers has been informed by letter of a recent resolution adopted by East Tennessee Branch, which is headed by Harry Wiersema, a retired TVA engineer. The mayor agreed that Highlander is entitled to protection.

### Attacks 'Unwarranted'

"We are aware of recent events," the letter said, "concerning the Highlander Research and Education Center, including bombings, irresponsible attacks by a local newspaper and handbills, insurance cancellation and attempts to revoke the state charter, with veiled reference to undisclosed information in City Council meetings. These are considered unwarranted attacks upon this institution."

The resolution states:

"The Board of Directors of the East Tennessee Civil Liberties Union takes note of recent attacks upon the rights of free speech and free association of all citizens of our community and state. We affirm that any locally constituted school or other organization must be protected from violence against its property, no matter how controversial its activities, and we command the efforts that have been made to protect the property of the Highlander Research and Education Center. We further affirm the right of such an organization to pursue its education program under its state charter and we call upon other citizens to stand with us in supporting this basic American freedom."

### Should Have Evidence

Mayor Rogers said that while he does not condone all the activities of Highlander, the center is entitled to full protection under the law.

"I swore to uphold the law and protect the rights of any citizen whether I agree or disagree with him."

"Some have made charges against Highlander and as often is true, they are not restricted to facts. The FBI and the Internal Revenue Service both have cleared Highlander Center. Those citizens who level charges should come forth with evidence. Until such evidence is presented, I shall see that Highlander's property and rights are protected from those who would take the law into their own hands," Mayor Rogers said. "This I would do for any citizen."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/cw  
245562

ENCLOSURE

61-7511-317

RA

REC 22

61-7511-317

November 29, 1966

ST-110

Nov 29 3 53 PM '66  
REC'D-READING ROOM

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of November 22nd, with enclosure, has been received.

It is a pleasure to learn you have found our publication, the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, of interest. With respect to your request to have it sent to you, it is published primarily for law enforcement officers, and it has been necessary to restrict its distribution. I regret I cannot be of help but trust you will understand.

Regarding the article to which you refer stating the FBI has cleared the Highlander Research and Education Center, this Bureau does not furnish clearances or nonclearances of any type. The FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and neither makes evaluations nor draws conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Knoxville-- Enclosures (2)

NOTE:

The FBI has never investigated the Highlander Research and Education Center. It is very controversial because of its interracial character,

Continued next page

DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

gda (4)

b7c

[REDACTED]

and the Knoxville Office has been instructed not to make an investigation of the school or individuals connected with it.

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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☒ For your information: LETTER FROM THIRD PARTY

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

January 30

*(Handwritten initials)*

*(Handwritten "D2D 5-")*

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

Dear Mr. Hoover:

We in the Knoxville area have a problem concerning the Highlander Center. This is a tax-exempt organization. We are having to support it with our tax dollars. It has gained support with teachers who teach our children, area churchmen, the Knoxville Mayor, on the University of Tennessee campus. Yet it seems that there is no possible way to find out if it is alright, or not alright? Most people do not believe things unless the FBI says so. Yet the FBI is simply an "investigative body", the local police do not have the authority to say. There seems to be no way to find out.

Is there no organization that you can report to in this area to give the people a reliable answer?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*(Redacted signature area)*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/OW

/k

*(Handwritten "etc")*

REC-35

MCI-18

ENCLOSURE

61-7511319

2 FEB 1967

*(Handwritten "ack 2-3-67" and other marks)*

# Highlander Defended At Meeting

BY RALPH GRIFFITH

Those who attack Highlander Research Center are destroying themselves, for Highlander is doing nothing more than speaking out for Negroes, Rev. Frank Gordon said last night.

Mr. Gordon, pastor of Shiloh Presbyterian Church and former state president of NAACP, warned that Knoxville could become another Atlanta, Harlem or Watts unless Negroes get economic equality.

He was on a panel of four at a meeting booked as one on "Freedom of Speech in Knoxville and the Highlander Center." About 300 attended the meeting, which had to be switched from the American Red Cross Chapter House to Hotel Andrew Johnson when Red Cross officials decided the meeting was controversial.

Serving on the panel with Mr. Gordon were Dr. Scott Bates, French professor at University of the South, Dr. Forrest Lacey of the University of Tennessee Law School, Lewis Sinclair, TVA economist, and Dr. Fred Wendt, associate professor in the

Continued on Page 2, Col. 8

## Highlander Defended

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

College of Education at UT, was moderator. UNIVERSITY OF

While the meeting had been billed to explain Highlander to the community, much of the time was spent castigating The Knoxville Journal for the articles it has published about the center.

Myles Horton, Highlander founder who was in the audience, charged that in The Journal articles there is "never a conclusion and never a word of truth."

During a question and answer session following the reading of prepared statements by all but Mr. Gordon, the panelists were asked from the audience if they were Communists.

Mr. Gordon, Dr. Lacey and Sinclair said they were not Communists. Dr. Bates said he first went to Highlander when it was at Monteagle hoping to meet a Communist so they could exchange ideas. "I was disappointed when I went to Highlander and didn't find a Communist. I am not a Communist."

### NOT IMMUNE

John Lockridge, a Knoxville lawyer, said he had heard the words libelous and slanderous used in connection with The Journal's treatment of Highlander. He said he knew The Journal was not immune to the laws of Tennessee and asked if these charges were true why hadn't the newspaper been sued.

"The papers never say it in such a way you can sue," Mr. Gordon answered.

Dr. Bates gave a history of Highlander. Dr. Lacey gave his version of what is meant by freedom of speech and Sinclair told of the troubles Highlander has had through the years.

Dr. Bates said that Highlander had been cleared by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but during the question and answer session he conceded that the FBI does not clear or condemn questionable organizations.

### DEFENSE

But it was Mr. Gordon who came the closest to talking about what he believes the center accomplishes.

"It teaches us how to organize and get ready," he said. "We are going to stick with those who try to free us. Ask those who castigate Highlander if they are willing for a Negro to buy a home next to theirs."

"We are not against any organization which seeks to raise the Negro from slavery to freedom," he said. "It teaches Negroes how to read and write so they can vote."

"Negroes don't believe anything is Communist unless the FBI says so," he said.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/a

245531

61-7511 319  
ENCLOSURE

February 3, 1967

REC-35

MCT-18

61-7511 319

AD 5

(ma)

b7c

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/cj  
245522

I have received your letter of January 30th, with  
enclosure, and understand and appreciate the concern which  
prompted you to write.

While I wish it were possible for me to be of  
assistance, I am unable to make any comment regarding the  
matter to which you referred since the files of this Bureau are  
maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the  
Department of Justice. I trust you will understand the reason  
for this policy and why I cannot be of service in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 19  
FEB 3 1967  
COMM-FBI

FEB 7 9 33 AM '67  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

b7c

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with [REDACTED]  
The Highlander Research Center was formerly known as the  
Highlander Folk School, which is well-known to the Bureau.

Ref @

emm

(3) emm

BEC. 5 DE OVCH

REC'D MICK  
FBI

MAR

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Wick \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_

FEB 5 4 15 PM '67

R425

77 FEB 20 1967

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

[REDACTED]

172

HA 2/10  
b7c  
[REDACTED]  
MARCH 16 1967

DEAR MR. HOOVER:

COULD YOU ASSIST ME IN FINDING  
INFORMATION TO WRITE A SPEECH ON  
THE HIGHLANDER SCHOOL IN KNOXVILLE  
TENNESSEE.

I HAVE FOUND SOME INFORMATION  
ON ITS PAST HISTORY BUT I CAN'T FIND  
ANYTHING ON ITS PRESENT OPERATIONS.

IS MYLES HORTON A COMMUNIST? IF SO  
WHEN AND WHO IDENTIFIED HIM?

ANY DOCUMENTS THAT YOU CAN REFER  
ME TO WILL BE DEEPLY APPRECIATED.

SINCERELY  
[REDACTED]  
b7c

ITC:cle 3-20-67  
ACK 3-21-67  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/OLW  
245532

CORRESPONDENCE  
[REDACTED]



TRUE COPY

*bx*  
[REDACTED]  
March 16 1967  
*(no re yellow)*

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Could you assist me in finding information to write a speech on The Highlander School in Knoxville, Tennessee.

I have found some information on its past history but I can't find anything on its present operations.

Is Myles Horton a communist? If so when and who identified him?

Any documents that you can refer me to will be deeply appreciated. *ll*

Sincerely  
*h/* [REDACTED]  
*bx*

*110 alc 3/20/67*

REC-100

*61-7511-32*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/cy  
*245882*

MAR 21 1967

*3-21-67*  
*[REDACTED]*  
*[REDACTED]*

*8/11*

REC-100

March 21, 1967

61-7511-320

5-1

*Ju*

X

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of March 16th has been received.

While I certainly wish it were possible for me to be of assistance to you, the data contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. I am sure you will understand the reason for this policy and why I cannot be of service in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE:

[REDACTED] Myles Horton is well known to the Bureau as the Director of the Highlander Research Center, which was formerly known as the Highlander Folk School.

:mmj (3)

Knoxville, Tennessee

REC'D NICK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY 808379/a

MAILED 2  
MAR 21 1967  
COMM-FBI

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Wick
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel

MAR 27 1967

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

*WPA V. Ken B.*  
*new*

FBI

Date: April 13, 1967

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-103337) *61-7511-*FROM: SAC, LOUISVILLE (100-197) *BH*SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
IS - C

OO: KX

Reference Memphis tel to Director and Louisville, dated 4/12/67, captioned "Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc." (SCEF), copy of which is enclosed with Knoxville copies of this airtel. *a*

Referenced tel concerns a vote by the Tennessee House of Representatives to start a second legislative investigation of the Highlander Research Center, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Although there has been some contact between SCEF staff members and Highlander Research and Education Center,

4 - Bureau (3-61-7511) RM  
(1-100-10355) *100 921*

2 - Knoxville (61-12) (Enc. 1) RM

2 - Memphis (1-100-92) RM

(1-100- ) (Highlander Research  
Educational Center)2 - Louisville (1-100-197)  
(1-61-42)

REC 46

61-7511-321

APR 14 1967

pab  
(10)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 12/1/80 BY SP4 JHL/MLD

54 APR 24 1967

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

INT. SEC.

LS 100-197

Louisville has no information indicating that Highlander is not still an independent organization.

UAC, Memphis advise Knoxville of developments regarding Highlander.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/13/67

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (62-0)

SUBJECT: HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14,  
TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,  
EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION PROVIDING FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE  
THE ACTIVITIES OF THE HIGHLANDER RESEARCH  
CENTER OF KNOX COUNTY AND ORGANIZATIONS  
AFFILIATED THEREWITH  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed is one copy of captioned Resolution  
as introduced in the Tennessee General Assembly by State  
Representative O'DELL CAS LANE of Knoxville, Tennessee.

One copy is also enclosed for the Knoxville  
Office for information.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/OK  
245132

REC-72

61-7511-322

2-Bureau (Enc. 1)  
1-Knoxville (Enc. 1)  
1-Memphis

wp

APR 25 1967

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 14

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/CR  
245672

A RESOLUTION to provide for a committee to investigate the activities of the Highlander Research Center of Knox County and organizations affiliated therewith.

WHEREAS, It has been reported that the Highlander Research Center of Knox County, and persons and organizations affiliated therewith, may be involved in activities subversive to the government of our State and that it is in the interest of the State and its people that a committee of this General Assembly be constituted for the purpose of investigating such reports and be granted full power to subpoena witnesses, to take testimony, to impound records, and to do all things necessary to ascertain the nature of the activities of the said Highlander Research Center and of such persons and organizations as are affiliated with it;

NOW, THEREFORE,

SECTION 1. BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That a joint committee of five members composed of two senators and three representatives be and the same is hereby created, the members of the committee to be appointed by the Speakers of the respective Houses; and that the committee hereby created shall have complete

SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the full expense of the investigation conducted by this Committee be included in the Miscellaneous Appropriations Bill.

SECTION 6. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said Committee be directed to report the result of its investigation to the Senate and House of Representatives with such recommendation as may be deemed advisable and proper at the earliest practicable moment.

SECTION 7. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said Committee shall make at least an interim report to both Houses of the General Assembly at least ten days before its sine die adjournment which report shall embody a detailed statement of the progress made by said Committee, the course being pursued and the result of said investigation to that date, and the expenses incurred by the Committee to the date of said report; that the total expense of the investigation provided for by this resolution be limited to \$5,000.00, such limitation of expenditures to be effective until the making of said interim report, at which time the General Assembly shall determine whether what funds, if any, shall be made available for the further work of the Committee.

authority to investigate the Highlander Research Center of Knox County, and to investigate its activities and the activities of all persons and organizations associated therewith.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said Committee shall have full and complete power to subpoena and compel the attendance of witnesses, to adopt rules of procedure, to order and compel the production of all records and documents pertaining to the Highlander Research Center and its activities and the activities of all persons and organizations connected therewith, and to do all things necessary to the end that said investigation shall be full and complete; said Committee shall be clothed with all the powers and authority conferred upon legislative committees by Sections 3-301 to 3-325, Tennessee Code Annotated.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said Committee shall have the authority and is hereby directed to employ and contract for the services of not more than two attorneys of ability and known integrity to aid and assist the Committee in the making of said investigation.

SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said Committee shall have the authority to employ such clerks and clerical and other help as it may deem advisable and to provide office space and equipment for Committee personnel, to appoint a sergeant-at-arms and any assistants necessary with full authority to execute any and all legislative process in any county of the State, including but not restricted to subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum as may be authorized by the Committee. The Committee shall likewise be empowered to incur for itself or members of its staff necessary expense in connection with travel, stenographic services, court reporters, et cetera.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)

DATE: 4/19/67

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE (61-12) (C)

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
MISCELLANEOUS -  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of a letterhead memorandum bearing above caption. This information is submitted to the Bureau for inclusion in its files.

100 924 94D  
② - Bureau (Enc. -4) (RM)  
1 - Knoxville

cyp  
(3)

CO TO: Internal Revenue  
REC'D: 4-16  
MAY 6 1970  
BY: BUC S

ENCLOSURE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/04  
245502

REC

61-7511-323

5-1  
17 APR 22 1967

MAY 8 1967



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Knoxville, Tennessee

April 19, 1967

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
MISCELLANEOUS  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The Knoxville News-Sentinel, a daily publication, in the Home Edition issue of April 12, 1967, reported that the House of the Tennessee Legislature had passed a resolution calling for a legislative investigation of the Highlander Research and Education Center. It was reported that the Senate of the Tennessee Legislature had delayed action on the resolution. It was reported there was growing opposition to the measure among State Senators. One representative, who was opposed to the resolution, stated that in the early days Highlander was really a labor school, teaching workers in the South how to organize and there was still some anti-labor people in the county he represented. He also claimed that persons sympathetic to Highlander planned to boycott against a local Knoxville supermarket chain which did not hire Negroes. A representative in favor of the resolution stated that the Mayor of Knoxville is upholding the school and an opponent replied the Legislature is being put in a most unusual position in considering the resolution if the Mayor of Knoxville is upholding the school. The East Tennessee Civil Liberties Union has urged the State Senate to reject the resolution.

It has previously been reported that the 1959 State Legislature sought to revoke the school's charter following an investigation in March, 1959, by a Legislative committee.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTM/04  
245862

61-7511-323

ENCLOSURE

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER

In August, 1959, a hearing was held in Grundy County to decide whether the school, then known as the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, should have its tax exemption charter revoked and the school padlocked as a public nuisance.

The Chattanooga News-Free Press, a daily publication, Chattanooga, Tennessee, reported in issue November 3, 1959, that efforts to obtain a permanent padlock injunction against the school had been dropped and efforts would be made to seek revocation of the school's charter.

This same paper in issue February 16, 1960, reported that the Circuit Court in Grundy County revoked the General Welfare Charter of the school and would appoint a receiver for the school. The ruling was subsequently appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court, which upheld the revocation of the charter. Subsequently, the school appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which denied a hearing.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

F B I

Date: 5/24/67

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)  
 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (61-34) (P)  
 SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
 IS - C

(00: Knoxville)

Re Memphis teletype to Bureau 4/12/67 captioned  
 COMINFIL, SOUTHERN CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.,  
 BUFILE 100-10355, Memphis file 100-92.

For the information of the Bureau and Knoxville,  
 The "Nashville Tennessean", a Nashville, Tenn., daily  
 newspaper, in the 5/24/67 edition, page 12, carried an article  
 indicating the House resolution regarding a second  
 investigation of Highlander Research and Education Center  
 was approved by the Tennessee State Senate 5/23/67. The  
 article contained no details relative to the actual  
 investigation.

- 3 - Bureau (RM) *1cc 924*  
 2 - Knoxville (RM) (61-12) *94*  
 1 - Louisville (Info) (RM)  
 2 - Memphis (1 - 61-34)  
 (1 - 100-92 SCEF)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 4-18-80 BY SSA TAP/28

*OK* [redacted] cjs  
 (8)

Airtel ✓

Teletype \_\_\_\_\_

A. M. \_\_\_\_\_

A. M. S. D. \_\_\_\_\_

Spec. Del. \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Registered \_\_\_\_\_

REC-23

61-7511-324

MAY 26 1967

INT. SEC.

57 JUN 7 - 1967

C C • X

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies), \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☒ For your information: LETTER FROM THIRD PARTY

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

61-7511-325

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
X FOR THIS PAGE X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

June 5, 1967

REC 33

61-7511-325

EX-109

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear [REDACTED]

I have received your letter of May 30th and understand and appreciate the concern which prompted you to write.

While I wish it were possible for me to be of assistance, I am unable to make any comment regarding the matter to which you referred since the files of this Bureau are maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. I trust you will understand the reason for this policy and why I cannot be of service in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

NOTE: Correspondent is not identifiable in Bufiles. The Highlander Folk School is well known to the Bureau.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CL

REC D MICK  
E B I

MAILED 5  
JUN 5 1967  
COMM-FBI

SEC. D. KEYDING ROOM  
JUN 11 1967

51 JUN 14 1967

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

WPA  
SEM/Jan  
J  
1721

FBI

Date: 6/9/67

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)  
FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (61-12) (C)HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
MISCELLANEOUS -  
INFORMATION CONCERNINGEnclosed for the Bureau are the original and  
three copies of a LHM bearing above caption. This  
information is submitted to the Bureau for inclusion  
in its files.ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP3 BTG/CA

*Photo Encl Internal Revenue*

CC TO:	IN
REQ. REC'D	4-16
MAY 6 1970	
BY:	BVG TS

③ - Bureau (Enc. -4) ENCLOSURE  
1 - Knoxvillecyp  
(4)

REC-49 EX-103

61-7511-326

AGENCY: ACSI, ONI, OSI; SEC. SMT  
BOST (ISD), ORD, RAO

DATE FORW: 6-14-67

HOW FORW: RB

BY: WNP: RAK

JUN 12 1967

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



UN

TES DEPARTMENT OF J

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Knoxville, Tennessee  
June 9, 1967

HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER  
MISCELLANEOUS -  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The Knoxville Journal, Knoxville, Tennessee, a daily publication, in issue of May 24, 1967, reported that the Tennessee General Assembly will investigate "the widespread reports of subversive activity" of the Highlander Research and Education Center, Knoxville, Tennessee. It was reported that the State Senate on May 23, 1967, voted 24 to 3 in concurring with the House in the decision to delve into the activities of the controversial center. The article stated, "Highlander, founded by (Myles) (ed) Horton and others, had (sic) long been one of the most controversial issues in the country and Tennessee. It lost its charter in Monteagle when it was found that beer was being sold illegally there and that Horton was operating the tax exempt school for his own benefit.

It was reported there was no indication as to when the investigating committee would be named or commence its work in carrying out the resolution.

In the same issue of the Knoxville Journal, it was reported that C. Conrad Browne, a director of Highlander, reported that Walter Bishop, President of the East Tennessee Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had advised that the ACLU would go into court in an effort to block the investigation. It was reported that the East Tennessee Civil Liberties Union labeled the resolution by the General Assembly as a front to the orderly conduct of government since a proposal "was initiated on the basis of vague and unsubstantiated charges and provides less for legitimate investigation than for punitive prejudicial inquisition . . . ."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 RTO/MD



HIGHLANDER RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION CENTER

The Knoxville News-Sentinel, Knoxville, Tennessee, a daily publication, in issue of May 31, 1967, reported that Myles Horton, Director of the Highlander Research and Education Center, had made the statement that the center will go to Federal Court to seek an injunction prohibiting proposed State legislative investigation. He reported that the injunction would be sought by the American Civil Liberties Union attorneys on the grounds that investigation of subversive activities was within the power of the Federal Government only and not in the States. Horton reported that the injunction would not be sought until the investigative committee was named. According to Horton, ACLU officials had informed that the local case would be handled by Charles Morgan, described as the defense counsel for Army Captain Howard Levy, identified in the article as on trial now at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, at a court-martial on charges of disloyalty.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FBI

Date: 6-16-67

Transmit the following in **Plaintext**

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via **Airtel**

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (61-34) (P)

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
Knoxville OO

Memphis airtel to Director dated 5-24-67.

The 6-14-67 edition of the Nashville Banner, a Nashville daily newspaper, contained on Page 11 an article captioned Highlander Prob Panel Members Set which indicated in part that committee announcements were announced 6-14-67 by both speakers of the General Assembly relative to a five-member team to investigate the Highlander Folk School near Knoxville.

The article indicated the committee members will serve in advisory and investigative functions authorized by the legislature and report findings to the General Assembly in 1969.

The article indicated that the committee members were Senator FRED BERRY, SR., Republican, Knoxville, Senator CLAYTON ELAM, Democrat, Memphis, Representative ODELL CAS LANE, Republican, Knoxville, Representative ROBERT BOOKER, Democrat, Knoxville, and Representative W. E. MICHAEL, Republican, Sweetwater.

Memphis will follow and keep Bureau advised of any pertinent developments.

REC 6

3- Bureau (RM)  
2- Knoxville (61-12) (RM)  
1- Memphis  
:FJ

61-7511 327

Airtel

Teletype

A. M.

A. M. S. D.

Spec. Del.

Reg. Mail

Registered

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/CLD  
24 J33/2

JUN 19 1967

JUN 29 1967

Sent

M

Per

Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 6/22/67

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)  
 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (61-34) (P)  
 SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
 IS - C

The Nashville Tennessean, a daily newspaper in Nashville, Tenn., in the 6/21/67 edition on page 3 carried an article which in part indicated that the Tennessee legislative investigation of the Highlander Research Center at Knoxville was temporarily blocked on 6/20/67 by a suit charging the probe was authorized to "intimidate frightened and coerced Negroes." The article indicated that U. S. District Court Judge WILLIAM E. MILLER issued a limited temporary restraining order shortly after the American Civil Liberties Union filed the suit contending the probe violates the Center's constitutional rights.

The article indicated Judge MILLER set 6/30/67 as the date for the hearing in this case.

Memphis will follow and keep the Bureau advised of any developments.

- 3 - Bureau  
 2 - Knoxville (61-12)  
 2 - Memphis  
 LF

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/5/84 BY SP5 BTG/10

JUN 23 1967

Teletype

A. M.

P. M. S. D.

Spec. Del.

Reg. Mail

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Wick

JUL 3 1967

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

JUN 23 1967

100 924 94 DEX-108  
 REC-25 61-7511-328

FBI

Date: 6/21/67

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)  
 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (61-34) (C)  
 SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
 IS - C

For the information of the Bureau and Knoxville, the Nashville Tennessean, a Nashville daily newspaper, on page one, 6/20/67 edition, had an article which in part related that the American Civil Liberties Union will go into Federal Court at Nashville, Tennessee, 6/20/67, to seek a restraining order to prevent the Tennessee State legislative investigation of Highlander Research Center in Knoxville.

The article related that CHARLES MORGAN, JR., attorney and Director of ACLU southern regional office in Atlanta, arrived in Nashville 6/19/67 and is expected to file the petition in USDC, Nashville, 6/20/67.

The article quoted him as saying that ACLU's interest in the issue is "because of the effect of the resolution of the General Assembly on the rights of free expression in Tennessee and the nation as well as their effects on equal civil and political rights of Negroes."

Memphis will follow and keep the Bureau advised of any pertinent developments.

Information copy being furnished Atlanta in view of ACLU attorney CHARLES MORGAN, JR., of Atlanta, interest in case.

- 3-Bureau (RM)
- 2-Knoxville (61-12) (RM)
- 1-Atlanta (INFO) (RM)
- 1-Memphis

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CA

3 JUN 23 1967

30 JUL 3 1967  
 Special Agent in Charge



F B I

Date: 7/3/67

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)  
 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (61-34) (P)  
 SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL  
 IS - C

Re Memphis airtel 6/16/67.

For the information of the Bureau and Knoxville, The Nashville Banner, a Nashville, Tenn. daily newspaper, on page 26, June 30, 1967, edition, had an article captioned "KING: HIGHLANDER NOT SUBVERSIVE". The article in part indicated that in Federal Court an affidavit filed bearing the signature of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING on 6/30/67 indicated that the Highlander Research Center at Knoxville is not subversive and it never has been. KING in his affidavit, according to the article, indicated that the philosophy and activities of Highlander Center are similar to those of SCLC.

The article indicated that the second affidavit was from MYLES HORTON, described as Highlander Head. In the affidavit HORTON reportedly indicated he was a loyal citizen of the United States and indicated that the school's activities concerned programs designed to obtain full and equal political freedom in civil rights for Negroes and other minority groups. He claimed Klan harassment.

The article indicated that arguments before U. S. District Judge WILLIAM E. MILLER were expected to concentrate on whether suit should be heard by three judge Federal panel or only by MILLER.

Memphis will follow and keep the Bureau advised of any pertinent developments.

Airtel

Teletype

A. M.

A. M. S. D.

Spec. Del.

Reg. Mail

Registered

3-Bureau  
 2-Knoxville (61-12)  
 2-Memphis  
 2-Atlanta

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

REC 3 61-1511-330

EX 101

JUL 5 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/CL

245581

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (61-7511)

FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (61-34) (C)

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL;  
IS - C

OO: KX

DATE: 8/23/67

Re Memphis airtel to Bureau, 7/3/67.

For the information of Knoxville and Bureau, there has been no recent publicity relative to the Tennessee State Legislative Committee investigation relative to captioned school.

Should there be any new developments in this matter, Memphis will immediately advise the Bureau and Knoxville.

EX-115

REC-48

2 Bureau RM  
2-Knoxville (61-12)  
1-Memphis

61-7511-331

:PEH

(5)

AUG 25 1967

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/66  
2455320

EX-115

57 AUG 29 1967

 *b7c*  
October 30, 1967

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C. 20530,  
(Ninth Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.)

Dear Mr. Hoover:

A writer to a forum in a newspaper recently stated with  
regarding the Highlander Folk School that, to quote:

"Racts — The FBI declares that Highlander is not now  
nor ever was a Communist training school".

Does the letterwriter have the facts correct or not?

I shall appreciate an early response.

Cordially yours,

 *b7c* *q*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/du  
245532

EX-102

REC-50

67-7511-332  
NOV 14 1967

*mk*  
*6-11-67*  
CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

November 6, 1967

REC-50

61-7311 332

BH  
5-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

DTC  
EX-102

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of October 30th has been received.

In response to your inquiry, this Bureau has never issued any such statement concerning the Highlander Folk School as that which was attributed to the FBI in the publication you mentioned. I am unable to furnish you any information concerning this school since data in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. I am sure you will understand the reason for this policy.

Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

Classified by ~~Multiple Source~~  
Declassify on: OADR 8/6/84  
245532

MAILED 3  
NOV 6 - 1967  
COMM-FBI

NOTE:

[REDACTED]

The Highlander Folk

School is well known to the Bureau.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

54 NOV 21 1967

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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CONFIDENTIAL

16B/10

sem/gm

ex [REDACTED]



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

- ☒ Deleted under exemption(s) b7c with no segregable material available for release to you.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- ☐ Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- ☐ Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies), \_\_\_\_\_, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) referred for consultation to the following government agency(ies); \_\_\_\_\_ as the information originated with them. You will be advised of availability upon return of the material to the FBI.

\_\_\_\_\_ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

☒ For your information: LETTER From THIRD PARTY

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

61-7511-333

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 X DELETED PAGE(S) X  
 X NO DUPLICATION FEE X  
 X FOR THIS PAGE X  
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Nov. 4, 1967

10

Sun Bulletin UL  
Hollis, N. H.

# F U L L

## Ask For It - It's Free!

To the Editors: The above is the title to my recent "Pardon Me, but . . ." newsletter which carefully outlines the Communist connections of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. Mrs. Nicholas Paul, of Nashua has challenged in these columns my statement that Highlander Folk School formerly of Monteagle, Tenn. was a Communist training school.

She states that the "FBI declares that Highlander is not now nor ever was a Communist Training School."

First, you must understand the role of the FBI. By law, they can not issue clearances nor label as subversive, but must report any findings only to the attorney general or as a sworn witness before Congress. This is the reason for the attorney general's list and why it is not called the FBI subversive list.

Highlander Folk School was founded by Don West, district director of the Communist Party in North Carolina, and by Miles Horton, director of "Commonwealth College" cited as Communist by the U.S. attorney general April 27, 1949.

Miles Horton, in sworn testimony by a student, William Eldridge is quoted as telling a Highlander class, "Only revolution will bring about a change from our present form of government to the Russian form of government."

As a result of this and other testimony, Highlander Folk School was cited subversive by the State of Tennessee and closed down by court order in 1960. With this and other evidence provided in my newsletter, Mrs. Paul maintains that the school was not Communist.

She does not suggest what it might be and offers no supporting documentation. If you want to know what I really wrote, write and ask for it. It is free.

NORD DAVIS JR.

Box 48, Hollis, N.H.

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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/OK  
245562

ENCLOSURE

61-1511-333

November 16, 1967

REC-60

61-7511-333

[REDACTED] b7c

Dear [REDACTED]

b7c Your letter of November 8th and its enclosure have been received.

In response to your inquiries, this Bureau has never issued any statement concerning the Highlander Folk School. I am unable to furnish you any information regarding this School since data in our files must be maintained as confidential in accordance with regulations of the Department of Justice. I am sure you will understand the reason for this policy.



Sincerely yours,  
J. Edgar Hoover

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 3/5/84 BY SP8 BTG/KC  
245830

NOTE: [REDACTED]

b7c [REDACTED] mel (3)

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60 NOV 28 1967

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