



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**HIGHLANDER FOLK
SCHOOL**

PART 4 OF 7

FILE NUMBER: 61-7511

Highlander Folk School

Section 4 of 11 Sections

61-7511

4
J. Edgar Hoover
Director



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CC-287

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

alo'd

Date: October 27, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MUMFORD

RE: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

Attached hereto is photostatic material concern-
ing the captioned matter obtained by the Washington Field
Office from the files of Walter Steele of the National
Republic Magazine. This material was made available gratu-
itously by Mr. Steele and was forwarded to the Bureau by
letter from the Washington Field Office dated August 27,
1942.

Respectfully,

K. R. McIntire
K. R. McIntire

Enclosures



180
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/OL
278852

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7511-117
F B I
16 OCT 28 1942

FIVE [redacted] LX

present status is to bring the institution up to date as it is now meeting the needs of the community. It is not only meeting the needs of the community but also the needs of the state. The institution is now a part of the state and is being treated as such.

Those at the school now, it is reported, are doing apparently without cash or any other aid at any rate. They are for the property of the state and the state is now a part of the state and is being treated as such.

Others have expressed the belief that the "trust" which is now for the institution by the state of the institution is simply the same as that of the state. They say that the state of the institution is the same as that of the state. They say that the state of the institution is the same as that of the state. They say that the state of the institution is the same as that of the state.

Those protesting the grant and others are expressing their interest at the present of the institution. They are now meeting the needs of the community. They are now meeting the needs of the community. They are now meeting the needs of the community. They are now meeting the needs of the community.

Many take the attitude that publicity regarding the school and its progress is unnecessary. They say that the school is now a part of the state and is being treated as such. They say that the school is now a part of the state and is being treated as such. They say that the school is now a part of the state and is being treated as such.

Others expressing a belief that the publicity is not the right one. They say that the school is now a part of the state and is being treated as such. They say that the school is now a part of the state and is being treated as such. They say that the school is now a part of the state and is being treated as such.

Those who have visited the school say that they have met with certain results and that the institution has no "good results". One of the "good results" was the frequent arrival of the state and the state is now a part of the state and is being treated as such.

They make it plain here, too, that the attention to the institution is not sufficient. They say that the institution is now a part of the state and is being treated as such. They say that the institution is now a part of the state and is being treated as such. They say that the institution is now a part of the state and is being treated as such.

Socialist School Established
in Tennessee.

On November 1, 1937, The Highlander Folk School located at Monteagle, Tennessee, came into existence. A

letter to the Christian Century signed by Myles Horton and Don West states: "For class and reference work we especially need books dealing with the problems of labor, socialism, communism, and books throwing light upon the general economic and social problems of the day. The purpose of the school is to educate rural and industrial leaders for a new social order."

The Advisory Committee of the school consists of Reinhold Niebuhr, Norman Thomas, Alva W. Taylor, George S. Counts, Sherwood Eddy, Arthur Swift, Carl C. Taylor, Joseph K. Hart and E. E. Alexander. A nice mixture of Communist sympathizers and Socialists.

24 HIGHWAY 1011 YORK

11/21/33
LEFT WING SCHOOL GIVES
SCHOLARSHIPS

The Red "Highlander Folk School" at Monteagle, Tennessee is giving 12 scholarships of \$100 dollars each to help train needed leaders and active workers for the Southern Labor movement. The scholarship consists of a two month term commencing January 6th. The school is patterned after the Commonwealth College at Mona, Arkansas.

On the 11th of the month of June, 1940.

When I read the article in the New York Times, I was very much interested in the school which was mentioned in it.

I don't know if it is the same school which is mentioned in the article or not. I don't know if it is the same school which is mentioned in the article or not. I don't know if it is the same school which is mentioned in the article or not.

I spent the summer in Europe and during that time I saw many of the conditions in which the people were living. I saw the conditions in which the people were living. I saw the conditions in which the people were living.

An article from your paper which I read from the edition of June 11th, 1940, contains a very interesting article. I am very glad to see that you are not willing to accept the suggestions which are being made by the representatives of the I. O. O. F. and the other organizations. I am very glad to see that you are not willing to accept the suggestions which are being made by the representatives of the I. O. O. F. and the other organizations.

has covered several months of organization. I have been working
has powered these talks here in Baltimore. I have been working
of the League and I have been working in the League of Women
The first year and I have been working in the League of Women
in our city high school. When we were in the League of Women
that was refused by the League of Women. I have been working
protested there. So they are called by the League of Women
the high school. To protest but I have been working in
creation and it was too late but I have been working in
if there was anything that was destructive of the League of Women
let alone have the school auditorium again. I have been working
objectionable and I have been working in the League of Women
member and I think will do me right. I have been working
life keep my life. I have been working in the League of Women
for all life etc. I have been working in the League of Women
of the school building to put over their propaganda.

I called Mr. William this morning and he said I have been working
occurred at the forum the school for the League of Women
the patriotic organizations and people who objected to the League of Women
being in the list. I have been working in the League of Women
back in the League of Women. I have been working in the League of Women
League of Women. I have been working in the League of Women
November 11 of the League of Women. I have been working in the League of Women
on the forum but it was impossible to get a League of Women. I have been working
I have been working in the League of Women. I have been working in the League of Women

THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH WILL MEET THE CHALLENGE

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, COME OF
AGE IN TIME OF WORLD CRISIS,
WILL HELP WITH INCREASING EFFECT

7131

These Friends Join with the School in Calling Your Attention to a Program for
Democracy Which is Hastening the Winning of the War and Making Greater
the Likelihood of a Just and Lasting Peace

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

MRS. HUGO BLACK

MRS. MARY T. NORTON
Chairman, Committee on Labor,
House of Representatives

MISS HILDA SMITH
Consultant on Labor Education,
Federal Works Agency

ELBERT D. THOMAS
Chairman, Committee on Education and Labor,
U. S. Senate

CLIFFORD Durr
Federal Communications Commission

VIRGINIA Durr
National Committee to Abolish the Poll Tax

ROGER BALDWIN
American Civil Liberties Union

JAMES B. CAREY
Secretary, C. I. O.

MRS. ETHEL CLYDE, Huntington, New York

WILLIAM F. COCHRAN, Baltimore

GEORGE EDWARDS
Member City Council, Detroit

MRS. EDITH FIELD, New York City

DR. GEORGE GUEST
Past President, Society for Pediatric Research

MARY DUBLIN KEYSERLING, Washington, D. C.

MRS. HARRY M. GERSHON, Atlanta

FRANK P. GRAHAM
President, University of North Carolina

A. D. HENDERSON
President, Antioch College

DR. LILIAN W. JOHNSON, Memphis

CHARLES S. JOHNSON, Fisk University

MARGARET LAMONT, New York City

GEORGE MARSHALL
National Federation for Constitutional Liberties

MRS. GEORGE MARSHALL

WILMA McFARLAND
Editor, CHILD LIFE

CAREY McWILLIAMS
Chief, Division of Immigration and Housing,
California

LUCY SPRAGUE MITCHELL
Bank Street School

REINHOLD NEIBUHR
Union Theological Seminary

JAMES G. PATTON
President, National Farmers Union

MICHAEL STRAIGHT, Washington

ALVA W. TAYLOR, Nashville

MRS. HELEN W. WILSON, Bethesda, Md.

GEORGE N. MAYHEW, Vanderbilt University

31 NOV 18 1942

& INDEXED

61-7511-118

5 NOT RECORDED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

100-100000-118

HIGHLIGHTS OF TEN YEARS IN THE NEW INDUSTRIAL SOUTH

1932 School opens its doors in November on 40-acre mountain farm. ● Classes are held for people of Summerfield community. ● Beginning of ten-year program in home area.

1933 First series of annual residence terms for union leaders. ● Field program begins with assistance to striking coal miners at Wilder, Tennessee.

1934 Library begins sending packages of books to union halls. ● Field program in Knoxville. ● Founding meeting of FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTHERN CHURCHMEN held at school.

1935 Staff and students tour southern cities with program of labor plays, puppets, songs. ● ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR CIVIL AND TRADE UNION RIGHTS held at school: first conference of the kind in the south. ● Cooperative farm garden and cannery begun in community. ● Study groups in Chattanooga for hosiery and textile workers.

1936 TVA outlines reforestation plan for school. ● School broadcasts to England, via BBC, program of ballads, workers' songs, stories, dances.

1937 Making of "PEOPLE OF THE CUMBERLANDS," film on the work of the school. ● Staff members loaned for textile and shirt-workers organizing drive.

1938 First annual work camp for college students, conducted jointly with Friends Service Committee: community improvement work combined with study of the south. ● School organizes Grundy County Political Conference, which succeeds in electing labor candidates. ● School assists in setting up the SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FOR HUMAN WELFARE.

1939 First of yearly workshops for student writers, to focus creative talent on southern problems. ● Music director edits "LABOR SONGS" for Textile Workers and leads mass singing at union's national convention. ● Anti-poll tax case started in name of Henry Pirtle of Grundy County.

1940 Mrs. Roosevelt meets with staff and students at Chattanooga and gives annual scholarship at school for worker student. ● Summer work camp builds pottery kiln for Summerfield Cooperative. ● Workers' education conference held for Business and Professional, and Industrial Y. W. C. A. Secretaries.

1941 Field programs in New Orleans, Memphis, Clinton, Tennessee. ● Staff teachers are discussion leaders in United Auto Workers' first southern educational conference. ● Traveling library circulates a thousand books in Grundy County.

1942 Third and fourth Junior Union Camps for children of rural and industrial workers. ● Publication of "UNDERSTANDING UNIONISM," an analysis of year long field program in New Orleans. ● Founding of research department to service organizers, unions, Highlander alumni. ● Completion of 18th regular residence term for union students.

● **AN UP AND COMING DEMOCRACY** is not possible with only supine, uncritical carrying out of orders from above; a democracy demands full awareness from all people concerned and full exercise, by all, of the rights of citizenship. Willingness for sacrifice will be common only if there is common confidence that the benefits of the future will not be restricted. Realistic education of group leaders will produce intelligent, responsible group action. Therein is assured democracy's preservation and growth.

● For ten years **HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL** at Monteagle, Tennessee, has been carrying on a training program for leaders that has tangibly extended economic and political democracy in the south. Today that program is increasing the yield of the south's production lines, clarifying the war reasons and objectives, making more certain the creation of a better future for the common man.

● **FROM THE VERY BEGINNING** the school's teaching was limited to the immediate needs and interests of the students.

A discussion class in child psychology grew out of problems facing community parents.

A class in cultural geography came from informal inspection of some European snapshots: the Tennessee mountain folk, many of them rare travelers even to so near a city as Chattanooga, found their own customs and conditions full of meaning when contrasted with those of foreign peoples.

Discussion of the Presidential election paved the way for a class in political analysis, with study of the poll tax as it affected class members, the south, the nation.

Teachers and students traveled to observe first hand a bitter strike in the coal fields.

The handicrafts native to the region were revived and stimulated: chair making, whittling, pottery, quilt making. A cooperative farm garden was started. Unions were formed among the timber cutters and road workers. The workers studied the principles and techniques of unionism, learned of their opportunities and rights restored by the New Deal. Education for use, for action.

● **THE SCHOOL HAD A HARD BEGINNING.** Gradually, through the efforts of Reinhold Niebuhr, Alva Taylor, Sherwood Eddy, Frank Graham, people began to hear of it. Financial support increased until contributions were coming from all over the country. Some were large; most small — a dollar, five, ten, twenty. The school began then, and has continued to be, the active expression of its contributors' creative ideals.

"One of the most important social-educational projects in America," wrote John Dewey.

Walter Rautenstrauch, noted industrial engineer: "I have found two



17c

61-7511-

December 7, 1942

71187

~~71186~~

SAC, Knoxville

RE: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

Dear Sir:

Kindly refer to my letter of October 23, 1942, and advise by return mail what action you have taken in compliance with my requests contained therein.

Yours truly,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

T
Fonic

RECORDED

61-7511-119

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DEC 9 1942

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Kramer _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECEIVED
MAIL ROOM
DEC 8 1942 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
STAMP

DEC 11 1942

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/ka
245582

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

FILE NO. **61-34**

REPORT MADE AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE	DATE WHEN MADE 12-3-42	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10-31-42 11-18, 21, 25-42	REPORT MADE BY <i>b7c</i> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em; margin: 2px 0;"></div> MLV
TITLE 0 HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C
<p>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 20%;"><i>b7c</i></div> <div style="width: 80%;"> <p>Investigation at Nashville, Tennessee, fails to reflect any indication of Communist activities or sympathies, on the part of [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]. American Legion file on subject organization is reported to have been lost. Very little activity reported at the Tenth Anniversary celebration of Highlander Folk School, held at Monteagle, Tennessee, on October 25, 1942.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED - RUC - DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CW 245585</p> </div> </div> <p>REFERENCE:</p> <p>Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated October 22, 1942, at Memphis, Tennessee</p> <p>Letter from the Knoxville Field Division to Memphis Field Division, dated November 26, 1942</p> <p>DETAILS:</p> <p>AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE</p> <p><i>b7D</i> [REDACTED] whose identity has been previously made known to the Bureau, advised that [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] have long been associated with the above institutions and to his knowledge have never been connected with any Communist movements and neither have identified themselves with any Communist organizations. It was the opinion of [REDACTED] that both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were loyal Americans and free from any Communist activities or sympathies.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <div style="text-align: center;"><i>[Signature]</i></div>		SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <div style="text-align: center;">[REDACTED]</div>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Knoxville <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">COPIES DESTROYED 75 APR 25 1961</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">55 JAN 4 1943</div>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">11-17571-128</div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">3 1942</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">RECORDED</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">INDEXED</div> <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">EX-38</div>	

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; 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:

61-7511-120

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

672
67D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised that the file regarding Highlander Folk School compiled by the committee of the American Legion for the State of Tennessee, had been turned over to [REDACTED] of the American Legion.

[REDACTED] American Legion for the State of Tennessee, was contacted regarding the aforementioned file, and [REDACTED] advised that this file had been misplaced, and although he had made several attempts to locate it, he had met with negative results; however, he indicated that the file was outmoded and contained very little information subsequent to 1939.

On October 26, 1942, [REDACTED] was contacted by Special Agent (A) [REDACTED] and at that time, a list was furnished to Agent [REDACTED] of those persons who had attended the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Highlander Folk School, held at Monteagle, Tennessee, on Sunday, October 25, 1942. This list is being retained in the files of this office. [REDACTED] reported that there was very little activity of interest during the celebration, and that no speeches or addresses were made, except one by Dr. ALVA W. TAYLOR of Nashville, Tennessee, this address being very little more than a sermon.

672

[REDACTED] further informed that he had learned that the Extension School, sponsored by the Highlander Folk School, is presently in Atlanta,

Georgia, and expected to remain there for a period of five or six months.

Reference letter of W. A. MURPHY, Special Agent in Charge, Knoxville, Tennessee Field Division, dated November 26, 1942, advises that after reviewing the file of instant organization, the Bureau has stated that further active investigation of this school is not warranted, and that outstanding leads should be covered immediately, in order that this matter may be brought to a logical conclusion.

In view of the above facts, no further investigation is contemplated in this case, and it is being referred upon completion to the office of origin; however, the Bureau will be kept currently advised of any change in the control or policy of this school which might indicate its connection with subversive activities.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET1

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:

61-1511-120, p. 5

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

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Knoxville, Tennessee
December 14, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

71185

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the Bureau letters of October 23, 1942 and of December 7, 1942, 61-7511.

This is to advise that in accordance with Bureau instructions, the file of this case was reviewed, at which time it was ascertained that there were outstanding leads for the Baltimore, Boston, Chicago and New Orleans Field Divisions. On November 26, 1942 a letter was directed to these offices requesting that this case receive immediate attention in order that it might be brought to a logical conclusion. Arrangements have also been made whereby current literature of the Highlander Folk School will be received by the Knoxville Field Division.

It is anticipated that upon receipt of reports covering the outstanding leads in this case, the file will be carried in a closed status, and information furnished to the Bureau regarding current activities from time to time.

There is being enclosed herewith a mimeographed sheet entitled "Research Department, Highlander Folk School," which is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

W. A. MURPHY
Special Agent in Charge

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CH

AT
61-12
Enclosure COPIES DESTROYED
28 APR 25 1961



ORIGINAL FILE
DEC 21 1942 89

61-7511-121
P
1 DEC 15 1942
FIVE



RESEARCH DEPARTMENT HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

71186

To meet the responsibilities placed upon it by the war, Highlander Folk School recently set up a Research department for its alumni, organizers and union members in the South. The purpose of this Research Department is to put out material with interpretative information on labor legislation and government agencies in pamphlet and outline form; to serve as a news exchange center between different locals; and to contact union officials and union members individually about some of their own problems as affected by the war.

We have just published a short pamphlet on labor-management committees. Its real value is demonstrated by the enthusiastic response we are receiving from both government officials and union members. Mr. Reginald Raymond, War Production Board, wrote us, "Your pamphlet on production committees is deeply appreciated. It is frank and cogent."

A district director of the United Steel Workers, ordering a number of copies, wrote, "(Your booklet) contains excellent material and I believe it will be of great value to us."

Upon general request, we are now sending out simplified charts and outlines on government agencies of importance to labor, on which unions are or can be represented---outlining the steps that should be taken to obtain labor representation. To these activities we plan to add the mailing of up-to-the-minute newsletters to those who request our services, as well as to our extension workers and educators in the field.

The Research Department is Highlander's latest development. Its successful beginning encourages us to build up a research service can call at any time.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8/10/a
245532

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Knoxville, Tennessee
January 29, 1943

[Handwritten signature]

Director, FBI

①
HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the Bureau's desires as expressed by letter of December 7, 1942, 61-7511, the auxiliary offices receiving copies of this letter are requested to complete pending investigation and submit RUC reports in the immediate future in order that this case may be brought to a logical conclusion.

Very truly yours,

[Handwritten signature]
W. A. MURPHY, SAC

WAM:AT
61-12
CC - Louisville
Baltimore
Boston
Chicago
New Orleans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8BST/CK
245582

RECORDED

61-7511-122



COPIES DESTROYED
28 APR 25 1961

55 FEB 9 1943

303

[Handwritten initials]

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

633 Federal Building
Louisville, Kentucky

February 12, 1943

Director, F.B.I.

RE: ⁵ HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

In connection with an investigation of the above captioned institution, Knoxville, origin, it was ascertained as a result of interviews with two individuals who attended the Highlander Folk School, summer session in September, 1942, that remarks had been made by some of the instructors at this school to the effect that Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt was a contributor to the school. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised it was stated in class that Mrs. Roosevelt contributed to the school and would be in attendance on the last day of session April 13, 1942.

[REDACTED] advised writer on January 20, 1943 in an interview to ascertain information concerning subject organization that Mrs. Roosevelt offers a \$100 scholarship for subject organization each year.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 5/21/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CM
245502

Very truly yours,

Herbert K. Moss
HERBERT K. MOSS
Special Agent in Charge

61-42



COPIES DESTROYED
28 APR 25 1961

20 1943

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

61-7511-123

FEB 15 1943

gskw

71179

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

ORIGIN: KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

LVLE. FILE 61-42

Louisville, Ky. 2-13-43 10-14-42-1-22,
23, 25, 26, 27-43

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS: Group of Louisville labor union members attended session of Highlander Folk School September, 1942 at Monteagle, Tennessee. MILES MORTON recruited these students on his visit to Louisville in summer of 1942. Interviews with these union members reflected the general opinion that the subject organization is dominated by CIO influence and teaches radicalism similar if not identical with Communism. Names of teachers and labor organizers who visited subject school are set forth. Notebook addresses of [REDACTED] set forth for information of interested field offices. Residents of Monteagle, Tennessee distrust subject organization. Local CIO Financial Secretary at Louisville favorably impressed by subject organization.

AGENCY OSI DIST OFF 4
REG. REC'D.
NLP. L. FORK.
BY

ACCTOV
REL. RECD.
REL. I.
BY

- R U C -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent C. [REDACTED] dated October 22, 1942 at Knoxville, Tennessee.

DETAILS: In referenced report the names of several local union members were set forth indicating that they had attended the summer session of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee from September 1 to September 13, 1942.

COPIES DESTROYED
28 APR 25 1961

APPROVED AND
FORWARDED

SAC

Herbert K. [REDACTED]

61-7511-124

- 1 - Bureau
- 2 - Knoxville
- 2 - New York
- 1 - Cleveland (Info)
- 1 - Birmingham (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (Info)
- 1 - New Orleans (Info)
- 2 - Louisville

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/ch

366
2 FEB 1943

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET5

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:

61-7511-124, p. 2-6

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

FILE NO. **100-1878**

REPORT MADE AT Baltimore, Maryland	DATE WHEN MADE 2-23-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-10, 16-43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c cmc
TITLE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Investigation reflects [REDACTED] not presently engaged in Communist Party activities in the Baltimore Field Division. No criminal record.

2125
b7c

RECEIVED
FBI BALTIMORE
MAR 1 1943

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated December 30, 1941, at Knoxville, Tennessee.
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated March 21, 1942, at Baltimore, Maryland.

DETAILS:

[REDACTED] b1

A check of the indices of this office, of the Baltimore City Directory, the telephone directory, and a review of the known members of the Communist Party, were negative in result.

A review of the records of the Baltimore Police Department reflected no information.

COPIES DESTROYED **REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN**
10 APR 25 1961

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>E. A. Sauer</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 61-7511-125 RECORDED INDEXED Classified by SP5 BTB Declassify on OADR 2/29/84 245532
COPIES OF THIS REPORT <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">5</div> <div>Bureau</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">2</div> <div>Knoxville</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-right: 5px;">2</div> <div>Baltimore</div> </div>	<div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> CONFIDENTIAL </div>

50 MAR 2 1943

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

Knoxville, Tennessee
March 15, 1943

Director, FBI

Re: ① HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Knoxville letter to the Bureau dated January 29, 1943, indicating that a closing report in the above-captioned matter would be submitted as soon as all outstanding leads are covered.

This is to advise that the offices receiving copies of this letter still have undeveloped leads in this case outstanding. As soon as these leads are covered, a closing report will be submitted.

Very truly yours,

W. A. Murphy
W. A. MURPHY, SAC

cc - Boston
Chicago
New Orleans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/02
245582

RECORDED



COPIES DESTROYED
28 APR 25 1961

CR: *Q*
MAR 30 1943

to

61-7511-126

3	MAR 17 1943
<i>[Signature]</i>	
FILE	

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET7

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) _____ 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) U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE, 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:

61-7511-127

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

FILE NO. **100-1288**

REPORT MADE AT NEW ORLEANS, LA.	DATE WHEN MADE 5-6-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 3-2, 22, 23, 24-43	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] b7c
TITLE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Names checked against New Orleans Field indices with negative results, except for [REDACTED] b7c

[REDACTED] but who is not believed to be engaged in Communist or subversive activities. Highlander Folk School extension courses last conducted in New Orleans in the Fall of 1942.

- RUC -

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/C**

REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated December 30, 1941 at Knoxville, Tennessee. b7c
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated February 13, 1943 at Louisville, Kentucky. b7c
Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] entitled [REDACTED] dated March 5, 1943 at New Orleans, Louisiana. b7c

DETAILS: AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA:

The following names were checked against the indices of the New Orleans Field Division with negative results: [REDACTED] b7c

FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>[Signature]</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 3 - Knoxville 1 - Atlanta (Inf) 2 - New Orleans		61 7511 128 25 MAY 21 1943 <i>[Signature]</i>	RECORDED & INDEXED

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET1

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:

61-1511-128, p. 2

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

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) b 7 D 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:

61-7511-129

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE**

FILE NO. **61-12**

REPORT MADE AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE	DATE WHEN MADE 7-4-43	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 7-3-43	REPORT MADE BY WILLIAM A. MURPHY (SAC) AT
TITLE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

As leads outstanding in Charlotte and Chicago Field Divisions relate more to individual activities on the part of persons previously listed as lecturers and on mailing list of Highlander Folk School, and do not relate to the activities of the school itself, investigation being closed, since there is no proof of Communist control or domination in the conduct of the school, although there are many indications of liberal if not radical interests in it.

- C -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated 10-23-42, Bureau file 61-7511.

DETAILS:

A review of the outstanding leads in this case reflects that they relate more to determining the present activities of persons who at one time or another may have been either lecturers or recipients of correspondence from the Highlander Folk School, rather than to any activity on the part of the school itself. It is considered that further investigation of these leads is not warranted at this time.

The Charlotte and Chicago Field Divisions may therefore RUC their files in the instant matter upon the receipt of this report.

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/CH**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>W. Murphy</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 245532
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Charlotte 2 - Chicago 2 - Knoxville		<div style="text-align: center;"> RECORDED INDEXED </div>

The Bureau by letter of October 23, 1942 ^{b7c}
in reviewing the summary report of Special Agent [redacted] Knoxville, Tennessee, dated September 12, 1942, advised that they concluded that the investigation failed to reflect Communist control or domination in the conduct of the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee, although there are many indications of liberal if not radical interests in it.

The Knoxville Field Division will maintain contact with informants in the vicinity of Monteagle in order to be kept advised of any change in the control or policy of the school, as well as its activities, officers and sponsors.

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the Highlander Folk School held at Monteagle March 28, 1943, the council recognized that the present struggle to defeat the Axis required the school to intensify its activities "in behalf of democracy." The meeting of the council was rather fully written up in the Highlander Fling, official publication of the school in the following editorial:

"Members discussed the work done in the Summerfield Community by the school—work which continues to have widespread results even though many of our neighbors have left for the armed services and some have temporarily left the community to work in defense plants. The school functions as a rural settlement house here in this Cumberland community and as a training school for labor leaders in its extension activities.

Consideration was given to proposed recreation programs for Tennessee trade unions. Other subjects discussed included revival of the research and publications department when a suitable person can be found to replace Bill Elkuss, drafted; establishment of a nursery school demonstration project, and the setting up of a nation-wide Highlander Association to provide support for the school's activities.

Eva Zhitlowsky reported that more than \$70 of the necessary \$200 had been realized for the Bill Buttrick Memorial Cabin through the sale of Bill Buttrick's picture. When sufficient money is raised, a cabin for boys will be built in memory of this young HFS teacher, who was one of the pioneers in Southern labor education.

Miss Zhitlowsky also reported that Maria Stenzel had made a trip to Knoxville when CIO unionists held the dedication

for the remaining two of Maria's murals. These murals, commemorating the rise of the labor movement, now hang in regional CIO headquarters at Knoxville.

Carolyn Finklestein reported that the great need of HFS is direct and substantial union support to implement the work of the office force in raising funds to carry on the school program. At its highest efficiency, the office force can only raise money to equal one large grant. A committee was appointed to consider this matter.

Council members were Bill Crawford, Paul R. Christopher, James Dombrowski, Myles Horton, Zilphia Horton, Alton Lawrence, Mary Lawrence, Eva Zhitlowsky, and Carolyn Finkelstein.

This matter is being closed on the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

- C L O S E D -

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) 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:

61-7511-131

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

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
DAVID L. HAZELTON



February 14, 1947

Dear Ed:

I am enclosing herewith all the material I have received in connection with Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn. I mentioned this matter to you in the dining room the other day and you were good enough to offer to look into it for me.

I would be grateful for any information you could give me. Will you kindly return the enclosed material at your convenience.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/81 BY SP8 CJS/CA
94850

sup
D. L. B. *R*

RECORDED

61-7-11-132

1947

7-11-132

*ack
Holt
4-2-47 R*

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR THE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

1822 Jefferson Place, N.W.

Washington, D.C.

February 13, 1947

Executive 8446

North 4564

Mr. David Bazelon
Assistant Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Bazelon:

Enclosed you will find some literature on Highlander Folk School, about which Mrs. Evelyn Cooper talked to you. We will be very grateful for your assistance in our fund raising effort.

I have talked to your wife about Highlander and I look forward to having you both come to our home Tuesday evening, February 18th. William E. Rusk, a staff member of the school, will describe how the school functions and what it is doing to further democracy in the South.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. Rusk

W. E. Rusk
Executive Secretary
(Mrs. E. Bowen Smith)

Enclosures

61-7511-132

ENCLOSURE

Editorial
JEWISH WEEKLY TIMES
Brookline, Mass.
Nov. 7, 1948

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

A dramatic experiment in democratic teaching is being conducted by the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee. National attention is being focussed on this vital project by the I.F.L. and C.I.O. "Operations Mix" throughout the Southern states as the Highlander Folk School is an institute for the training of Southern men and women for union leadership.

Union problems frequently arise from the quality of its leadership. Most union leaders have come from the ranks of labor as former pants pressers in clothing factories, beach house workers in tanneries, stevedores, longshoremen and miners. Some of them have attended only grammar school, few have had the benefit of a college or university education. They are well-trained in the handling of union men and women, but some lack other qualities of good leadership: education, integrity and public relations know-how. This sometimes creates distressing crises not only in labor-management dealings, but also in the union's relations with the general public.

The Highlander Folk School trains union people in history, economics, public relations, public speaking, legislation, politics and leadership. Characteristically, its students come from various unions, including farm laboring, and after they have absorbed the school training, they go out into the field and teach others. They try to solve the problems of living not only for their own unions, but for the South and the Nation as a whole.

The School is a model of democracy in action. Its students, stemming from all races and religions, guest lecturers come from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Southern Conference of Human Welfare, and other similar organizations.

School committees for the purpose of maintaining the Highlander School are being established in the larger cities of the country. The Boston Committee, which is now in the process of formation, is in the interest of every progressive and liberal in this area.

Workers Institute Backed by Union

Tennessee School Trains Students to Use Strength For Betterment of Their Lot—Courses in Leadership

By E. A. Behymer

Staff Correspondent of The Post-Dispatch

MONTEAGLE, Tenn., Sept. 25.—At Highlander Folk School it was night and the autumn moon shone bright. Warmly the windows glowed and from within came sounds of melody, shuffling of feet and the clear calling of a strong young voice—

Take your body by the paw,
And lead her around the lady
from Arkansas;

Into the center with a good now,
We've, we've, we've,
And around that old from Tennessee.

More shuffling of feet and sounds of prompting and carefree laughter, and again the clear young voice singing—
Ladies join your little hands,
Gents your brown and tan;
The ladies know and the gents
know how, so you can
lead by that ain't happen now
—ends now.

The students of Highlander Folk School had studied while it was day and now, for their reward, they were having a frolic. For this is a school where work isn't all. Square dancers were doing the Tennessee running set as Ermon Payne Johnson called the figures and they were all as happy as children at play.

It was not as children that they came to school. For the Highlander bell calls grown folks from factories and fields and they are taught not the ABCs but how to be winners in the strife and gain a better way of life.

Highlander Folk School teaches that in union there is strength and students come to learn how better to use their strength in the workers' unions for the betterment of their lot.



IT'S NOT ALL WORK AND NO PLAY



A CLASS IN LEADERSHIP. UNDERLYING THEME OF THE SCHOOL IS, "IN UNION THERE IS STRENGTH."

Ermon Payne Johnson, the school's dynamic leader, spoke earnestly in a strong voice. "The students went on strikes for the workers' need of keeping prices down as well as keeping wages up. What good was it, he asked, to get high wages if they had to spend it all for high-priced consumer goods?" he explained.



MYLES HORTON, FOUNDER AND HEAD OF HIGHLAND FOLK SCHOOL, MONTEAGLE, TENN.

The new school was looked upon with disfavor and distrust. Horton and his associates were called communists. Folks who sojourned at the Montecagle Assembly in the summer time still call them that. From here all the way down Mississippi people can be told who guff or snort whenever Highlander School is mentioned. Laboring people thought there many unions in the South and they are strong. One of the strongest is that of the Hot Workers. They were the first ranked group who endorsed the school. Now all the unions The American Federation of Labor in 1935 declared by resolution that any attack on Highlander School was an attack on the labor movement. Horton, who always believes that the trade movement was the soundest basis for democracy in the South, beholds what has happened in 1936 and is a happy man.

The Highlander Flin

PUBLISHED BY THE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL, MONTEAGLE, TENN.

STORY OF A SOUTHERN PEOPLE'S SCHOOL



Little Boy, Now for Democracy—Plant of Mine

ORE MINERS STUDY ABC OF UNIONS

Montana, Utah and West called that, a state product of the... The purpose of the Highlander Folk School is to assist in the defense and expansion of political and economic democracy... The purpose of the Highlander Folk School is to assist in the defense and expansion of political and economic democracy... The purpose of the Highlander Folk School is to assist in the defense and expansion of political and economic democracy...

December 5, 1936, marked a turning point in the lives of the... This was an ambitious statement in 1932, when... Highlander's program during the first year was... with the people of its own community. Clubs for the young... classes in arts and crafts, a community library. Meetings... in the evenings for discussions...

THE BEGINNING—A FAITH IN DEMOCRACY

In 1932 working people were not talking much about democracy. They were talking about jobs, how the grocery bill, the rent. There was little to talk about in the South. There was plenty of hard work. Grundy County, Tennessee, was one of the poorest counties in the United States—a foothill of slashed-out timber, worked-out mines, worn land.

But in Grundy County, at the southern tip of the Cumberland Mountains, two young men came to an idea that economic and political democracy was possible. They believed that farm and factory workers, together through their own organizations, could change about.

The Tennessean Myles Horton and the Georgian George Meigs, with a two-story frame house, a mountain farm and a faith in the workability of democracy, opened Highlander Folk School in November 1932. While a few cabins have been added and the school grown to 200 acres, the idea and the faith are the same.

The purpose of the Highlander Folk School is to assist in the defense and expansion of political and economic democracy. Beyond the statement of policy, unions are basic to the achievement of democracy. Strengthening of unions through education is the primary task.

This was an ambitious statement in 1932, when there was no union organization in the South.

Highlander's program during the first year was to work with the people of its own community. Clubs for the young, classes in arts and crafts, a community library. Meetings in the evenings for discussions.

People Are Always Asking...

How did Highlander get started? In this issue we have tried to present the background of the School and show how the present program developed.



Barwood miners' strike, 1933. 15 cents a day

In the summer of 1933, a spontaneous strike of unorganized barwood cutters took place in the community. Cut-over timber known as barwood, used for its chemical content, was being cut at 15 cents a day. Henry Thomas, who had made good in logging in his youth, led the first group of strikers out with the words "It takes a sharp axe a strong mind to cut barwood at 15 cents a day."

A public meeting was held in front of the school and the community's mountain workers' needs were organized. Within a short time, the school became the center of the community and a place to be loyal to one another and to the purpose of the community which was to be built.

To prevent the wholesale destruction of our forest and to better the condition of the community by raising the standard of living, the school became a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

As a result, members of the union lost their jobs on projects. As the men were laid off, they moved into county certification office. The men and their families were out of work for a week.

Staff and students of a resident farm in the school helped organize committees to collect groceries and make blankets and oil stoves. A daily sheet, very evening singing, games and skits provided an outlet for the at down strikers. The union elected sheriff as union leaders to keep order.

Our Community Rights for the School. The people of Grundy County had learned that the Folk School was to help them raise a decent life. They inspired a march of vigilantes on the school. Community rallied to its defense. The immediate and support of our neighbors and of unions all over Tennessee. Crusaders to withdraw and the march was called off.

This community support was to become more important when Highlander began holding interracial sessions.

Beginning the first winter, the school extended it beyond Grundy County. The plan realized that the problems of this mountain community could be solved on same problems were solved for all workers and farm South.

Highlander's field work program dates from the 1932-33, when teachers and resident students were striking coal miners in Wilder, Tennessee. The school with the union committee assisted in securing relief with union officials a cooperative garden project and publicizing the workers' side of the strike.

The strike was broken when Barney Graham, its leader, was murdered. Myles Horton had warned Graham would be killed and went with a committee to convince the governor and state commissioner of labor. Refusal of state officials to take action to prevent the murder of Barney Graham must be contrasted to the fact that the state sent to protect the property of the coal owners.

Highlander's Role in the Pickering

In 1936 the organizers in Grundy County a pickering strike. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school. The school was a place where the people who don't understand from taking the job of the school.

Highlander's program away from the school has never been ready-made or stereotyped. It is based on requests for services to help with actual problems.

Weekly classes on parliamentary law, steward training, political action and legislation are held in such nearby centers as Nashville and Chattanooga. Following the race trouble in Columbia, Tennessee, early in 1946, a representative of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers asked Highlander to conduct a series of classes for the union's members in the surrounding area on the non-discrimination policy of the CIO.

For unions further away, three to ten-day institutes are held. A three-day institute was held for members of a new local of the United Furniture Workers in Thomasville, N. C., with the emphasis on building a strong and effective union. A nine-day school was held in co-operation with the IUMMSW for ore miners in Picher and Miami, Oklahoma, and Joplin, Missouri.

The School Goes to the Workers

Marj Lawrence, Extension Director, served as Tennessee CIO Educational Director for two years and has directed educational programs for unions in Atlanta, New Orleans and St. Louis.

Highlander has taken its program to unions in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North and South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. No two programs are exactly alike. Each is planned to meet the demands of the particular local union.

Staff members have been called on to assist in planning, conducting discussions and classes, directing singing at numerous union educational conferences.

Other groups, such as the Southern Negro Youth Congress, draw discussion leaders from the School. The Industrial Division of the National YWCA has for a number of years used Highlander staff members for special services in music and educational techniques.

A member of the staff was on the Civil Rights Committee which started the anti-poll tax fight in the South and arranged for Henry Firth, a Grundy County neighbor, to make a test case in the courts. The staff helped plan and participated in the first Southern Conference for Human Welfare in Birmingham.

In 1935, when the All-Southern Conference for Civil and Trade Unions, the first of its kind in the South, was driven out of Chattanooga, it found a meeting place at Highlander. The Congress of Young Churchmen of the South, which became the Fellowship of Southern Churchmen, held its first meeting at the school in 1934.

Many organizations have found Highlander to be one of the best places in the South where all members, regardless of race and color or national origin, can meet.

The backbone of the School's program are the sessions at Highlander for training local union leaders. More advanced and intensified work can be done during these one-to-six sessions. A typical program will be described in a later issue of the FLING.

Unions Use Highlander to Train Their Members

Since 1933 Highlander has held sessions open to all union members in the South who are endorsed by their union. As unions grew, they asked for special sessions for their own members. In most cases the participating union and the School, the program jointly and union officials help with the teaching. An example of these union-sponsored sessions is the Annual South CIO School.

Highlander calls on experts from the unions, from government and from progressive organizations to supplement the teaching of its staff. Students are sent by local unions all over the South to prepare themselves to better serve their membership.

Specialized training is given, such as the one-week session in labor journalism which began in 1943. It grew out of an American Writers Workshop co-sponsored by Highlander and The League of American Writers, which sought to focus the attention of writers on the South.

Camp for Union Kids

A Junior Union Camp for the children of union members is usually held for a week or ten days during the summer. For the successive years the school co-operated with the American Friends Service Committee and Work Camps for America in conducting summer work camps for college students.

The School's labor library of over 6,000 books and pamphlets is used not only by resident students and the community, but provided the basis for a traveling library in the county and lots of books to unions in Nashville, Knoxville, Oak Ridge, Memphis, Huntsville, Birmingham, Louisville and New Orleans. A collection of newspaper clippings, union papers and other labor material is used by organizers, local union leaders, writers and students doing research for southern labor.

A film library is now being built up and arrangements made with unions and other organizations to show educational movies in meetings. The Research Department answers all requests for information and prepares educational leaflets and pamphlets which speak the workers' language. Each year Highlander's song book is enriched by contributions from the students—acquired from picket lines and from their own lives. Zilphia Horton, M. Director, is now preparing a song book for the National CIO.

The School's goal from the beginning has been to educate both rural and industrial leaders. Staff members helped set and teach classes for sharecroppers in Arkansas, Mississippi,



Memphis, Tennessee. Since 1945, with an increase in staff, concentrated work has been done with rural leaders. Since there were few farm organizations and co-operatives in the South to serve as a base for working in rural areas, the School has set out to help organize the small farmers.

The School furnished the initial organizing and educational staff of the Farmers Union in Tennessee. All industrial unions in the state have given support to the drive to organize the small farmer and the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen has assisted financially in the campaign and in the publication of a monthly paper, edited by Tom Ludwig of the Highlander staff.

Roosevelt Grants \$15,000 for Farmers Union

The rapid growth of the Tennessee Farmers Union has resulted in full status within the National Farmers Union as a Territorial Union.

A grant of \$15,000 was made in December, 1946, to Highlander by the Julius Roosevelt Fund to develop a rural education program.

Myles Horton and those who are co-operating with him at the Highlander Folk School, said James Patton, National Farmers Union President, have under way a very important development among rural people in the South. Highlander has made, in his opinion, more fundamental progress toward building rural leadership and the development of co-operatives than any single group has in the South.

The State Committee of the Tennessee Territorial Farmers Union voted to hold a leadership training session at Highlander in February, 1947, and to sponsor a Rural Health Institute.

Program Combats Intolerance

The School's program has been guided by the belief that the division fostered by reactionary interests between small farmers and industrial workers, between white and Negro, constituted the most dangerous threat to democracy. From the beginning Highlander has worked to promote understanding and co-operation and to combat prejudice. Since 1944 it has been able to have interracial sessions where Negro and white union members work and study together and through discussions of their common problems find the necessity of unity of all workers.

On January 11, 1947, 34,000 of the proceeds of the Frank Sinatra film, "THE HOUSE I LIVE IN," Malcom Ross, Chairman of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practices, wrote: "The picture spreads the message of tolerance throughout America. It was because Highlander Folk School has that objective at heart that it was named among those for whose moral and physical benefit this picture was made."

Policy Made by Executive Council

The policy of the School is formulated by an executive council made up of Southern union leaders and liberals and the staff. The School is owned co-operatively by the staff, but the control and direction of its program is in the hands of the Executive Council, men and women committed to the idea that democracy can best be achieved through a strong, intelligent labor movement.

Members of the Executive Council are: Paul R. Christopher, Tennessee CIO Director; W. H. Crawford, District 25 Director, United Brotherhood of Carpenters; C. W. Dapenbury, Organization Director, United Chemical Workers; James Dembrowski, Executive Administrator, Southern Conference for Human Welfare; Charles Gillman, Georgia CIO Director; Carey Haigler, Alabama CIO Director; Lewis Jones, Editor; Alton Lawrence, International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers; Matthew Lynch, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Tennessee CIO Council; John J. McCoy, Southern Director, American Federation of Hosiery Workers; Lucy Randolph Mason, CIO Public Relations Representative; George Mitchell, Director of Veterans Affairs, Southern Regional Council; Fred O. Fisher, Louisiana CIO Director; Holts Reid, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen; Thomas Starling, District 3 Director, United Automobile Workers of America; Arthur Williams, Publisher, The Southern Farmer; Charles Wilson, International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

The staff brings to their teaching, in addition to college and vocational training, their experience in the field of Southern labor as organizers, educational directors, writers and speakers.

Members of the staff are:

Mary Lawrence Elkus, Extension Director, Duke University, joined staff in 1938. Served as education director for CIO, Orleans and Atlanta and as Tennessee State CIO Education Director. Author of "How to Build Our Union," "Under Unionism" and "Education Unlimited," a Handbook of Union Education in the South. Selected as Rosenwald Foundation for 1946-47 to make survey of workers education in the South.

William Elkus, University of Paris, University of Columbia University. Joined staff in 1942, on leave of absence three years while serving in U. S. Army. Returned March 1945.

Myles Horton, Director, Cumberland University, Unionological Seminary, University of Chicago. Organized for 1934, for CIO Textile Workers in 1937-38. Became State Education Director for Tennessee Farmers Union in 1945. Co-ordinator of Highlander Folk School in 1932.

Zilphia Horton, College of the Ozarks, joined staff in 1934. Member of N. W. C. A. National Sub-Committee on Music. 1940. Organized for Amalgamated Clothing Workers, CIO, 1940. Edited song book for CIO Textile Workers and for N. C. CIO.

Betty Ludwig, University of California, Berkeley, Com. Activities Director for Chabot Terrace, Vallejo Housing City, in 1942. Organized for ILWU CIO in 1945. Joined 1946.

Tom Ludwig, Field Representative, Tennessee Territorial Farmers Union, University of California, Berkeley. Served 1942-46 in U. S. Army. Joined staff in 1946.

Catherine Winston, Berea College, Secretary to the CIO Regional Director, 1942. Joined staff 1943. Granted leave of absence in 1944 to serve as Editor of Tennessee CIO News. Returned to Highlander in 1945.

Program Endorsed by Unions

The School has been endorsed by the National CIO, AFL and CIO local unions and city and state bodies.

The School is run on a co-operative basis. Each year has voted to pay actual expenses rather than salaries. Staff share in the household work. Hence all contributions devoted to the actual maintenance of the School and its program of resident sessions, and community and extension work. Contributors are unions, religious groups, student and educational foundations and liberal men and women throughout the country. Friends of the School have set up fund-raising drives in Chicago, New York, Washington, Atlanta and Chattanooga and committees are in the process of formation in Boston, Louisville, Memphis and Knoxville.

Education for Leadership

More than 9,000 workers and labor education leaders have been trained at resident sessions and institutes. And over 100,000 union members have been reached by the field or extension numbers. However, it is of less importance than the fact that the Highlander program is for leaders. Educating local union leaders to the rank and file enables the School to influence the vast majority of Highlander students are shop stewards, officers of local unions and are therefore in a position to practice immediately the things they have learned.

Follow-up surveys of Highlander students, writes Kennedy in his book SOUTHERN EXPOSURE (Oct. 1946) revealed the truly miraculous extent to which they have a top-notch native leadership for the Southern union movement.

Nowhere else in America today, with all the good city labor schools," says Alden Stephens in THE NATION (J. 1946). "Is there any place like this backwoods Southern which brings together the city industrial worker and the far a continuous, active program. It opens its doors to white Negroes, experienced and inexperienced workers, old and young, and trains them to be leaders in their locals, the communities, and the nation. Monticello is a focal point for labor forces gathering in the South."

February 21, 1947

THE HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

RECORDED 61-7511-132

For your confidential information.

I am returning herewith the literature which was forwarded to you by the Washington Committee for the Highlander Folk School that set out considerable information concerning the background and activities of this school.

Enclosure

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
JUN 24 9 38 AM '47

EB 21 32 311 1

Tolson _____
L. A. Tamm _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Carson _____
Egan _____
Gurnea _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Pennington _____
Quinn Tamm _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 11
★ FEB 24 1947 P.M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

February 21, 1947

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

Origin

The Highlander Folk School which is located on the highway between Monteagle, Tennessee, and Tracy City, Tennessee, was founded on a plot of land donated by Lillian Johnson, Ph.D. in 1932. Dr. Johnson came to Monteagle in the early 1920's at which time she showed a great deal of interest in the community of Summerfield, Tennessee, which is located very near Monteagle, especially the school system and the public health of the community. She was very much interested in and attempted to help the underprivileged class of people who reside in Grundy County. To this end she donated the tract of land which is now used by the Highlander Folk School. The two people she chose to establish this school were Myles Horton and Don West. Horton had been the State Chairman of the Socialist Committee in Tennessee for the campaign of 1932, while Don West was reported to openly state that he was a Communist.

On July 31, 1934, the Highlander Folk School took out a charter of incorporation under the Code of Tennessee of 1932. This charter states that the particular purpose for which this charter is sought is the support of the Highlander Folk School adult education, the training of rural and industrial leaders, and general academic education. The incorporators were Myles Horton, Elizabeth Hawes, James Dombrowski, Rupert Hampton, and Malcolm Chisholm.

Early Sponsors

The school at its inception was supported by members of the Socialist Party of national prominence, including Norman Thomas.

Aims and Purposes of the School

In a pamphlet published by the Highlander Folk School it is stated that the school was founded "to provide an educational center in the South for the training of rural and industrial leaders and for the conservation and encouragement of the indigenous cultural values of the mountains." Activities of the school have been primarily in the education of labor organizers. This school has conducted six weeks courses known as the spring and fall terms. At these sessions workers who have been selected by their various unions are given courses in History, economics, union publicity, parliamentary law, public speaking, dramatics, and are taught how to organize a union, conduct union meetings, present grievances, how to call and organize strikes and to effectively bargain with employers. The Highlander Folk School also conducts an extension program by sending various members of its faculty to any union who asks for their services to help them put on a drive for new membership or to more effectively bargain for wage increases and better working conditions.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/10

245032

61-7511-132

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Egan
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Pennington
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Attacks Made on the Highlander Folk School

When the Highlander Folk School first moved to Monteagle, Tennessee, Myles Horton, together with the others of the Highlander Folk School, was introduced to members of the community by Dr. Lillian Johnson who asked that they help them in their endeavors. The Highlander Folk School staff includes individuals who are well educated and seem to have a sincere desire to help the people of the South. In this connection they strongly followed the Socialist-Communist united front program of the early 1930's. Most of the literature passed out by the school at that time was of a Socialistic nature. In connection with their program, however, they soon developed a theory of using militant labor strikes in an effort to solidify the workers in a common cause and to impress upon them the necessity of organizing in order to gain the power of numbers. In this connection the school issued pamphlets entitled "Why We Need the Union." These pamphlets state that there is always a conflict between labor and capital and that what is good for the management and capital must of necessity be bad for labor.

The Highlander Folk School was also instrumental in organizing the Workers Alliance in Grundy County which was later declared by its president and secretary, David Lasser and Herbert Benjamin, to be controlled by the Communist Party. In connection with the Workers Alliance, Myles Horton, James Dombrowski, and the Highlander Folk School faculty encouraged the sitdown strike at Monteagle, Tennessee, in February, 1939. This strike was one of the factors which brought the growing resentment of the community to a head and it brought into prominence an organization known as the Grundy County Crusaders who bitterly opposed the school and made every effort to drive it from the community.

In the early fall of 1939 John McDougal Burns, a reporter for the Nashville Tennessean newspaper, visited the Highlander Folk School for approximately one week at which time he also talked with residents in the community in an effort to determine whether the school was Communistic or Communist controlled. Burns reported in newspaper articles that: the Highlander Folk School is the center for spreading Communist doctrines in thirteen outstanding states; that connected with its leadership are persons who have been charged with being Communists; its faculty spreads Communism and sends its alumni to labor organizations where they maintain contact with their alma mater and spread its teachings over a wide area; holds conferences at the school between regular sessions where it teaches Communist theories to labor leaders and others; it is a source of plays for use by "progressive" labor groups, which plays include Communist propaganda.

On November 13, 1940, a march on the Highlander Folk School was averted by holding a meeting of the representatives of the Grundy County Crusaders and members of the faculty in a session held at Sewanee University. At this time the Grundy County Crusaders hurled accusations at the Highlander Folk School, stating that it was a "hotbed of Communism." James Dombrowski of the Highlander Folk School faculty answered for the school and explained that the school was purely a labor school and stated that in the event that the crusaders could prove the school was Communistic, it would immediately move from the county. The Grundy County Crusaders were unable to produce sufficient evidence which would indicate that the school was controlled by the Communist Party.

Charter Members

As indicated previously, the Highlander Folk School at its inception was founded by Myles Horton who was known to be a Socialist at that time and by Don West who had openly stated that he was a Communist. Don West was described in an article which appeared in the Daily Worker as a young mountaineer poet who became revolutionary and studied Marx and Lenin for the purpose of organizing Negroes and white farmers in Georgia.

Walcolm Chisholm, a charter member of this school, was killed fighting with the Spanish Loyalists during the Spanish Civil War.

James Dombrowski was a charter member of the Highlander Folk School and a faculty member of the school until the spring of 1942 when he resigned his position to become secretary for the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. It has been reported that Dombrowski has expressed himself as being in sympathy with the Russian form of government, that he thought that revolution was inevitable, and that the capitalistic system should be overthrown. He is also reported to have been a member of the Communist Party in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and to have attended many meetings in that city in the years 1938 to 1940. Dombrowski is reported to be imbued with a philosophy of saving mankind and has been particularly interested in helping southern labor and attempting to improve labor conditions in the South.

Indications of Communist Influence in the Program of the School

A study of the program of the Highlander Folk School indicates that the school followed the Communist Party line to a certain degree. The school was organized at a time when the Communists and Socialists had a program for united front organizations for persons who were dissatisfied with the country's political and economic conditions. Well-known Communists such as Robert Hall of Birmingham, Alabama, and Ted Wellman of Chattanooga, Tennessee, frequently visited this school. The Workers Alliance was formed in Monteagle by the Highlander Folk School and the militant strike policy advocated by the Communists for the purpose of organizing labor was adopted by the school. It was during this period that James Dombrowski and Myles Horton were reported to have been seen with Young Communist League cards in their possession and to have made statements which would indicate their sympathy for the Russian form of government.

Literature received by and distributed by the Highlander Folk School consists of labor pamphlets and magazines, Socialistic literature, and to some extent Communist literature. The Highlander Folk School is not believed to have passed out pamphlets of the Communist Party such as literature protesting the deportation of Bridges, freeing of Earl Browder, etc., but has contented itself with providing publications such as "Soviet Power," "Communist Manifesto," and literature which presents the broad picture of Communism rather than that representing the various turnings of the Communist Party line.

Endorsers of the Highlander Folk School

Many individuals of high government, labor, and social standing have endorsed this school from time to time, including Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mrs. Hugo L. Black, John L. Lewis, Mrs. Harold L. Ickes, Sidney Hillman, and others.

To raise funds for this school, Myles Horton and others have spent a great deal of time in the north trying to enlist the aid of prominent educators and political figures. This school has also presented community programs and benefits in Monteagle in an effort to gain the support of the local citizens as well as to educate the persons in the surrounding communities. Although the school has been branded by many as Communist, there is no substantial evidence indicating that it is controlled by the Communist Party. However, there are numerous indications that the school is liberal and radical and, therefore, opposed by conservatives.

(61-7511)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: March 18, 1948

FROM : SAC, Knoxville

SUBJECT: LOYALTY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Reference is made to section A of SAC letter 36, dated March 2, 1948. There are no recognized "Communist Front" organizations active within the territory of the Knoxville Division. The only three groups, suspected of Communist affiliation, which have members in this district, are set out herewith.

NO 100 — The Southern Conference for Human Welfare, cited in the House Un-American Activities Committee pamphlet, has its headquarters for this area at Nashville, Tennessee, within the Memphis district, and therefore no attempt will be made by this office to summarize its nature. There is no local group of Southern Conference for Human Welfare organized and active in the Knoxville area, although there are a few known members residing in this district.

on Alab — The Southern Negro Youth Congress has some members in Chattanooga but is not listed and has no organized group or activity in this area. On the possibility that this group may be affiliated with the National Negro Congress and as this group has its headquarters for this area in Birmingham, Alabama, it is being assumed that the Birmingham office will furnish a sketch if it is proper.

local — One purely local group which might be considered as a "front organization" within this area is the Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tennessee. A thumbnail sketch of this school is attached hereto.

(RSD)
Enclosure

JW
121-00

CC: Memphis
Birmingham
File 61-12

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-28-83 BY SP6 Ljap/ab

release # 55,078

121-151-153
F B I
31 MAR 20 1948

263
52 JUL 13 1948

RECORDED COPY FILED IN

G.I.R. 4

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Loyalty of Government Employees
Knoxville - March 18, 1948 -

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL

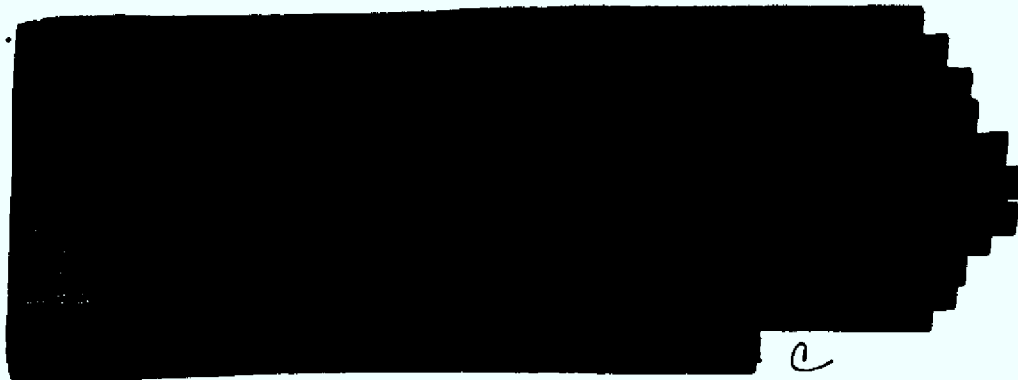
Monteagle, Tennessee

OK

1. Knoxville

1. Not cited by the House Un-American Activities Committee

2.



b1

b1

c

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY ROUTING
SLIP(S) OF Class
DATE 3/5/84

Classified by SP8 BTJ/cw
Declassify on: OADR 2/29/84
245532

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

61-7511-133

ENCLOSURE

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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:

61-7511-134

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

September 22, 1948

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/OL
245562

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter of September 9, 1948, has been received and the contents carefully noted. Your courtesy and interest in making this information available are indeed appreciated.

I regret, however, that I am unable to comply with your request as this Bureau is precluded from furnishing information to other than authorized sources through a long-standing policy promulgated by the Attorney General. I am sure that you will realize the necessity for such a procedure.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

100-33049-4

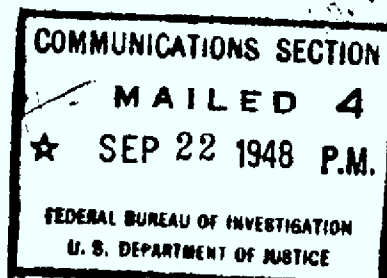
cc - Birmingham (with copy of incoming)
Mobile (with copy of incoming)
New Orleans (with copy of incoming)
Atlanta (with copy of incoming)
Memphis (with copy of incoming)

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Egan _____
Mr. Gurnea _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Mumford _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

jmf:dbb

837

1 OCT 12 1948



RECEIVED-10150N
FBI
SEP 22 5 29 PM '48

SEP 22 5 00 PM '48
RECEIVED-10150N
FBI
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten notes]

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: November 8, 1948

FROM : SAC, Birmingham

SUBJECT: ✓
BIG LANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(Bureau File 100-33049-4)

Reurlet 9-22-48 to [REDACTED]

b7c [REDACTED] forwarding copy of letter received from him. It is noted that no copy of [REDACTED] letter appears to have been furnished Knoxville, which office is office of origin in this matter.

A copy of [REDACTED] letter is, therefore, being sent Knoxville for information. The files of this office are negative as to [REDACTED]

fc
100-647

cc: Knoxville (encl)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/21/84 BY SP8 BTG/CH
345892

NOV 17 1948

RECORDED - 14

61-7511-135
19 NOV 12 1948

DSD

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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:

61-7511-136

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

RECORDED-9

SAC, Washington Field

March 24, 1949

Director, FBI

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
Bureau file #61-7511

The Bureau is in receipt of a letter from the Louisville Office dated March 3, 1949, setting forth information with regard to the subject organization. The Louisville letter, a copy of which is attached hereto, advises that its letter is in response to a request received from the Washington Field Office dated February 4, 1949, to have [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] interviewed regarding the Highlander Folk School.

The Bureau is not in possession of any information regarding the subject organization reflecting why this organization is of interest at this time. Therefore, it is requested that you advise the Bureau as to reasons why that inquiry was made of the Louisville Office concerning the subject group.

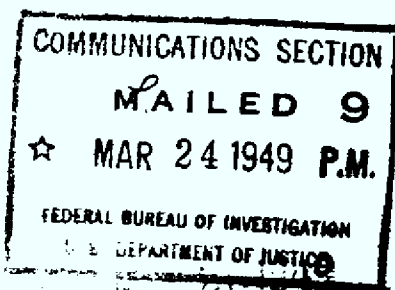
Attachment

cc: Louisville
Your file #61-42

GAS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/CB
245882



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 3-9-49

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to Louisville letter to the Director dated March 3, 1949.

Considerable investigation has been conducted by the Knoxville Office in the case entitled "Highlander Folk School; Internal Security - C" (Bureau file number 61-7511). This investigation disclosed no proof of Communist control or domination in the conduct of the school, although there were many indications of liberal, if not radical, interests in it. MYLES MORTON, Director of the school, is reputedly a Socialist and runs the school primarily as a training school for labor leaders. The school is ostensibly supported by the CIO.

During the period in 1941 in which [REDACTED] states that he had conversation with an unknown individual at the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, no investigation conducted by this office at that time developed any information that the Highlander Folk School was utilizing wire-tapping equipment, or that they were in any manner engaged in such activities.

As the incident referred to in referenced letter took place a number of years ago and, as before stated, investigation at that time does not substantiate information furnished by him now, the case is not being reopened at this time and no further action will be taken by this office unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau.

Should [REDACTED] call at the Knoxville Office, as is indicated by referenced letter, he will, of course, be received, and any further information which he cares to offer will be duly recorded. The indices of the Knoxville Office were checked with negative results for any previous references to [REDACTED]

at
61-12
CC: Washington Field
Louisville

RECORDED - 32

INDEXED - 52

61-7511-137
F B I

23 MAR 11 1949

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/OW

24582

5 MAR 23 1949

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET2

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:

61-7511-138

XXXXXX

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

DO-4

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Recording Telephone Call or Visitor
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/21/84 BY SP8 BTJ/CA

Mr. Secretary to Judge David L.
Baselon - phoned.

Phone No. _____

Hour 12:50pm Date February 10 19 50

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Mr. Jones _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

REMARKS

The secretary stated that Judge Bazelon has received a request for a donation to the Highlander Folk School, Monteagle, Tennessee, and he, Judge Bazelon, would like to know if the Bureau can furnish him any information concerning this School. After checking, the secretary was referred to Mr. Laughlin, in Mr. Fletcher's office.

Mr. Laughlin advises that files are being checked and appropriate action will be taken.

2 - 10 - 50 61-754-139
to Mr. Fletcher

RECORDED - 117

INDEXED - 117

52 FEB 23 1950

EX-100 PM

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : MR. H. B. FLETCHER

FROM : MR. L. L. LAUGHLIN

SUBJECT: HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DATE: February 10, 1950

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

By reference from the Director's Office I took a telephone call at 12:50 P.M. today from [REDACTED] who said she is secretary to Judge David L. Bazelon of the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals. [REDACTED] said that the Judge had received a letter from the Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tennessee, requesting a donation, and the Judge wanted to know whether the Bureau had any information in its files regarding this institution which might be made available to him.

I told [REDACTED] that I would look into this matter and call her back.

The Bureau files show that we have conducted an extensive investigation of the Highlander Folk School. On February 21, 1947, pursuant to a request made by Mr. Bazelon of Assistant to the Director E. A. Tamm on February 14, 1947, we forwarded to Mr. Bazelon a memorandum summarizing information contained in our files as of September, 1942, pointing out that no subsequent information had been received since that time which would materially change the data contained in that memorandum.

[REDACTED]

The Highlander Folk School of Monteagle, Tennessee, is mentioned in several places in the Dies Committee Report (Volumes 1 and 10 - 61-7582). However, the School has not been cited as being Communistic.

In a statement made by Mr. Walter S. Steele before the Special Committee on Un-American Activities on December 29, 1934, FEB 7

RECORDED - 117

INDEXED - 117

Classified by

Declassify on: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

52 FEB 23 1950

245532

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

appears the following: "Of the other separate Communistic and radical 'theatrical' branches in the U.S. we shall mention: (e) Highlander Folk School Dramatics Club, its purposes, labor plays."

ACTION:

It is recommended that I be permitted to call [REDACTED] and tell her that the Bureau previously had submitted a memorandum regarding the Highlander Folk School to Mr. Bazelon when he was with the Department on February 21, 1947, and also to tell her for the Judge's information that while there are several references to this group in the Dies Committee Reports, it has not been cited by that body. If you agree [REDACTED] will be so advised.

l7c

l7c

Done 2-13-50

2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[REDACTED] LK
September 2, 1950

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

Dear sir: ^O HILL GILLET FOLK SCHOOL

In Monteagle, Tennessee, there is an organization known as the "Highlanders". It is supposedly a school in which labor is taught.

It is a generally accepted fact in the community that it is a Communist camp.

Undoubtly you are already aware of this organization but I feel that it is my duty to write to you concerning the matter.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED] LK

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTJ/aw
245332

RECORDED - 67

161-7511-141
SEP 11 1950
3 21
Bauman 2/Bom
5-20

September 15, 1950

RECORDED - 67

INDEXED - 67

Dear [REDACTED]

Your letter dated September 2, 1950 has been received.

Your courtesy in forwarding this information is appreciated and I am grateful for the interest which prompted your communication.

In the event you receive additional data which you believe to be of interest to the FBI, it is suggested that you communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge of our New Orleans Office located at 1300 Masonic Temple Building, New Orleans 12, Louisiana.

cc: SAC, Knoxville (With copies of incoming)
SAC, New Orleans (With copies of incoming)

Bureau files reflect no identifiable information concerning correspondent. This is being furnished for your information and possible future reference.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Nichols _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Harbo _____
Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Tele. Room _____
Nease _____
Gandy _____

50 SEP 20 1950

CMC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/CW
24550R

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE

December 10, 1950

Mr. Hugh H. Clegg
Assistant Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Clegg:

I was pleased to read from the International Labor News Service that you feel that the "success of communism" can be measured by the weaknesses of democracy. I am lead to believe by your analysis of the situation that you would approve the enclosed statement of policy of the Highlander Folk School.

In the South people are often criticized who believe as we do here at Highlander that discrimination is incompatible with democracy. In fact I was told recently by one of your agents that the contents of the enclosed news release would be considered communistic by a majority of Southern people.

I sincerely trust that the position taken by you in the New York Herald Tribune forum is the official position of the F.B.I., and not the position implied by the activities of your representatives who have questioned our neighbors regarding visits of Negroes to the School.

Would you clear this matter up for me?

Sincerely yours,

Myles Horton
Myles Horton
Director

28
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/29/84 BY SP8 BTG/aw

245522

1-27-50
12-27-50
hob
RECORDED - 28

INDEXED - 2

100-2011-142
DEC 15 1950

34

FILES

Highlander Folk School
Monteagle, Tennessee

for immediate release

Monteagle, Tennessee . . . November 20, 1950 . . . "Our Christmas bells could be freedom bells if we dared include all minorities in our circle of brotherhood," Myles Horton told a conference of church leaders at the Highlander Folk School.

"Freedom bells ringing in the cabins of Negro sharecroppers, ringing for eager minded students with opportunities limited by accident of birth, and freedom bells echoing in distant lands could fill the troubled world with thoughts of peace on earth and good will toward man," he said.

"Highlander's democratic program is based on the brotherhood of man. Democracy to us means that membership in the human family entitles all to the freedom of thought and religion, to equal rights to a livelihood, education and health; to equal opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the community and to equal access to public services," the religious leaders were told.

"We hold that democracy is inactive unless workers are given a full voice in industry through unions; or farmers are given a voice in the market place through cooperatives; or where freedom of thought and discussion is limited; and that democracy is outlawed by legally entrenched discrimination and segregation.

"The times call for an affirmative program, based on a positive goal," said Horton. "An army of democracy deeply rooted in the lives, struggles and traditions of the American people must be created. By broadening the scope of democracy to include everyone, and deepening the concept to include every relationship, the army of democracy would be so vast and so determined that nothing undemocratic could stand in its path."

61-7511-142

HIGHLANDER FOLK SCHOOL
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, PROGRAM AND POLICY

We reaffirm our faith in democracy as a goal that will bring dignity and freedom to all; in democracy as an expanding concept encompassing human relations from the smallest community organization to international structure; and permeating all economic, social, and political activities.

Democracy to us means that membership in the human family entitles all to freedom of thought and religion, to equal rights to a livelihood, education and health; to equal opportunity to participate in the cultural life of the community and to equal access to public services.

We hold that democracy is inactive unless workers are given a full voice in industry through unions; or farmers are given a voice in the market place through cooperatives; or where freedom of thought and discussion is limited; that democracy is outlawed by legally entrenched discrimination and segregation; that there must be diversity of approach but each step must be in conformity with the goal, which is dishonored by each undemocratic act.

With a democratic goal, we are in a position to fight anything that gets in the way, whether it be totalitarian communism, or fascism or monopoly dominated capitalism.

The purpose of the Highlander Folk School is to assist in creating leadership for democracy. Our services are available to labor, farm community, religious and civic organizations working toward a democratic goal.

The nature of a specific educational program will be determined by the needs of the students.

Use of the services of the School by individual organizations will be in accordance with their own policies so long as these policies do not conflict with the purposes of the School. A staff member will assist in planning and coordinating all programs.

The Highlander Folk School is a chartered institution, cooperatively owned by the teaching staff. It has no affiliations. The policies and program of the School are wholly determined by an Executive Council composed of the staff and recognized Southern leaders.

Highlander Folk School is supported by contributions from individuals, organizations served by the School, foundations and tuition.

The times call for an affirmative program, based on a positive goal. An army of democracy deeply rooted in the lives, struggles and traditions of the American people must be created. By broadening the scope of democracy to include everyone, and deepening the concept to include every relationship, the army of democracy would be so vast and so determined that nothing could stand in its path.

Approved by the Executive Council, April 3rd, 1950

61-7511-142

Inasmuch as it was felt that it would be more desirable for this letter to be answered by Mr. Clegg over his own signature rather than to have an answer over the Director's signature, the memorandum was routed to Mr. Clegg on the afternoon of December 22, 1950, in order that he might prepare the letter. Mr. Clegg returned the memorandum for preparation of a reply by the Security Division. It was received on the afternoon of December 26, 1950, (after the Christmas holidays) by the Security Division for this purpose. Immediately another reply to Horton was prepared dated the following day, December 27.

On January 3, 1951, the letter was returned to the Security Division, requesting that another reply be prepared for Myles Horton, this time deleting a sentence that was in the previous letter. This was done immediately and the revised letter was approved and mailed on January 3, 1951.

JFM

*This was badly
handled thru out*

1-8

*2 I most certainly
concur.*
H.