



NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE
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ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22331

IN REPLY REFER TO
NIS-02F/jas
5400
Ser U5379

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

18 JUL 1978

Mr. Drew J. Clark
Congressional Inquiry Unit
J. Edgar Hoover FBI Building, Room 8988
10th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20535

Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
(HSCA) 62-117290

Dear Mr. Clark,

Reference is made to your telephone conversation of 13 July 1978 with Mr. Roy C. Elmquist of this Service regarding a request for record information by the House Select Committee on Assassinations. Enclosure (1) is a copy of the FBI document held by this Service which was responsive to the Committee's request. Enclosure (2) is a copy of the document in the excised format which was provided to the General Counsel of the Navy for transmittal to the Select Committee, via the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The Office of Naval Intelligence information contained in the enclosed documentation has been determined to be unclassified.

Sincerely,

W.C. O'Riley
W.C. O'RILEY
Information and Privacy
Coordinator
Naval Investigative Service

Encl:

- (1) Copy of FBI-New York Report of 17 Feb 1964, Subj: "Minutemen", FBI-New York File No. 62-16299
- (2) Excised copy of FBI-New York Report of 17 Feb 1964, Subj: Minutemen

EX-110

62-117290-1037

REC 61

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2- ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED



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6177 CIA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE NEW YORK | OFFICE OF ORIGIN KANSAS CITY | DATE 2/17/54 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/24 - 2/24/54 |
| TITLE OF CASE "MINUTEMEN" | | REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] (b)(7)(C) | TYPES & PAGES 10/1 |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE INFORMATION CONCERNING (INTERNAL SECURITY) | |

REFERENCE:

Bureau airtel to SAC ALBANY; all continental offices dated 1/15/54.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

This report is classified "Confidential" since the information included in the report received from ONI was classified "Confidential".

Information copies are being furnished to the offices so designated since the report contains information relative to activity or individuals affiliated with captioned group within those divisions.

CC [unclear] 077

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| COPIES MADE: | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7 - Bureau (62-12533) (RM) 2 - Kansas City (62-7797) (RM) 1 - Cincinnati (Info) (RM) 1 - Chicago (Info) (RM) 1 - Los Angeles 152-5191 1 - Newark (Info) (RM) 1 - Philadelphia (Info) (RM) | <p>2-15-54</p> <p>3 FEB 20 1954</p> <p>REC-6</p> |
| COPIES CONTINUED 33 - New York (62-12533) | |
| Dissemination Record of this Report | Notations |

NY 62-16293

C. General Activities

The November 12, 1961 issue of "The New York Times" in the latter aforementioned article states that recruiting for the "Minutemen" is done initially through classified advertisements.

The November 5, 1961 issue of "The New York Times" on page 96, in the classified section carried the following advertisement. "Join the 'Minutemen', an organization of loyal Americans dedicated to the preservation of both national and individual freedom. Help put real strength into civilian defense. Pledge yourself and your rifle to a free America. For full details write, 'Minutemen', 613 E. Aitch, Independence, Missouri".

The November 12, 1961/ article in "The New York Times", states "the 'Minutemen's centralized affairs are largely in his, (DePugh's) hat, his head, his modest home in near-by Norborne and in liaison, he says, he carries on with the nine other founders of the movement. Five of the nine have dispersed from the Independence area to other parts of the country."

"They comprise its 'executive council', and with 350 others who joined at their invitation Mr. DePugh says, provide the modest financing for their literature distribution."

The above article further on states "We ('Minutemen') must investigate by means of our own secret memberships, the possible infiltration of communist sympathizers into American organizations of government, business, labor, religion or education."

On January 27, 1964, the ONI, Third Naval District, 90 Church Street, New York City, made available to SA JOSEPH C. MURPHY a memorandum dated February 13, 1963 from the Director of Naval Intelligence, Washington, DC, to all Naval Districts.

NY 62-16299

The following information was furnished by a former member of the "Minuteman" to the District Intelligence Office, Fifth Naval District.

This source advised that shortly after he contacted Robert DePue of Independence, Missouri, the national leader of the Minutemen, he received an application form and various pieces of literature from a bio-chemical laboratory in Independence. This literature reportedly consisted

largely of allegations of Communist infiltration of U.S. Government Offices. Somewhat later, the source received a letter listing pistols, rifles, and artillery of Swedish manufacture which could be purchased through an arms dealer in Chicago, Illinois. Other literature contained articles critical of U.S. foreign policy and indicated that the locations of Minutemen units are not divulged for security reasons. According to this source, several of the letters he has received from the Minutemen have requested financial assistance.

Literature provided source by the Minutemen reportedly claimed membership in the organization of approximately 600,000, a figure more than twenty times as large as that given by DePue himself in the not too distant past. Members receiving this literature were requested to recruit persons with special skills for 'bands', the term used to designate local groups of members. Additional information reportedly given by this material was that many servicemen were members (it was mentioned that such members 'would know what to do without direct leadership'), and that no regular meetings were held at the 'band' level, presumably for security reasons and also because leadership and direction were reportedly exercised by 'top leaders' meeting secretly and then disseminating literature to subordinates. The Minutemen have reportedly prepared a handbook for guerillas, certain chapters of which have been condensed and explained elsewhere in the organization's literature. This handbook, which has chapter titles such as 'Scoby Traps', 'First Aid', 'Survival', and 'Arms', can be purchased at the rate of \$2.00 per chapter. According to the source, the Minutemen are attempting to affiliate themselves with the 'American Freedom Movement,' possibly a reference to the American Freedom Rallies.

NY 62-16299

"In connection with the American Freedom Rallies, the records of the Office of Naval Intelligence indicate that, on 13 September 1962, Robert DePush advised that the Minutemen and the National Indignation Convention, with the cooperation of the John Birch Society, were responsible for the establishment of the national headquarters of the American Freedom Rallies in Kansas City, Missouri. DePush reportedly stated that the objectives of the organization were to organize standing rally committees throughout the nation, to develop a communications network by which these committees could be alerted to take quick, coordinated action, and to hold a series of simultaneous meetings in hundreds of cities and towns throughout the United States...to protest treasonous acts in or by the government of the United States.

"The Minutemen have recently distributed a new, bi-weekly publication, 'On Target', in the New England area, according to a report from the District Intelligence Office, First Naval District. The self-proclaimed purpose of 'On Target' is to 'identify by name, address and phone number the thousands of Communist traitors who are even now working to sell out their own country to the enemy'. This publication reportedly recommends infiltration as a tactic to combat communism, and states that in future issues it will give specific suggestions for infiltrating 'The Enemy Camp'.

II. OFFICERS

The November 12, 1961, article from "The New York Times" mentions the following as leaders of the "Minutemen".

Robert B. DePush, leader and founder, RICHARD ALBERT LAUGHLIN, Jr., Shilo, Illinois, WILLIAM F. COLLEY, San Diego, California, ROY HAROLD DUCHON also known as Doc Alderman, San Diego, California.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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| APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW |
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| COPIES CONTINUED 3 - New York (62-12533) | |

| Dissemination Record of Special Report | | | | Notations |
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| Fwd. B | 1-1-54 | 1-1-54 | | |

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