

Rightist group fights SDS plan by keeping file on job applicants

By Jerry De Muth

A right-wing organization based in suburban Wheaton has moved with alacrity to counter plans of student radicals to infiltrate the working class.

The rightist group, the Church League of America, hopes to block such infiltration of industry by Students for a Democratic Society by identifying SDS members who seek employment.

SDS earlier this year announced plans for its "summer work-in" — an effort to enlist the working man in radical causes and to discuss such issues as war,

peace and racism on the assembly line.

In response, Edgar C. Bundy, 53, executive secretary of the Church League, said his group is stepping up a service it sells to businesses — the running of background checks on job applicants.

Bundy boasts that his organization has "over 7,000,000 cross-indexed cards on individuals, organizations, publications and movements which have been attempting the destruction of the United States by way of internal subversion."

He is offering to use these files to check into the backgrounds of job applicants and other persons "to determine their philosophy of life" for donations of \$25 and more from individuals and \$1,000 or more from businesses.

Bundy refused to talk to a reporter but copies of letters, pamphlets and other material obtained by The Sun-Times spelled out his program.



EDGAR C. BUNDY

E. Edgerton Hart, executive vice president of the Illinois Manufacturers Assn., called the league's service "a very worth while thing." Hart said he has warned manufacturers of SDS plans for its student summer work-in in a bulletin mailed to all 5,400 factories and plants that belong to the association.

"They (SDS students) could do a lot of damage just by pushing the wrong button," he explained.

Jay A. Miller, executive director of the Illinois Division of the American Civil Liberties Union, called the service "a morally reprehensible thing in a democracy." But he said there is nothing illegal about it, so long as it doesn't grow into an industrywide blacklist.

Andrew W. Hunter, of Gibbsboro, N.J., who has been soliciting businessmen for the league, said, "I think businessmen should look

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into the background (of a prospective employe) and see if he has a criminal record and see if he belongs to the Black Panthers or SDS or SNCC or any of these other groups.

"They're taking a new tactic. They're going in and dressing up respectable so they can do the greatest amount of damage. These kids will come in and take these places apart."

Warning to businessmen

Bundy, in a letter mailed to Chicago area businessmen, warned:

"American businessmen are faced with a grave problem, the extent of which most are not fully aware. Our working forces include more than a few radicals, Socialists, revolutionaries, Communists and troublemakers of all sorts. The colleges and schools are educating and training thousands more who will soon be seeking employment."

"For 32 years," Bundy continued, "we have been intensely researching the activities of troublesome individuals, groups and publications, about which management would be well advised to be aware."

A check of Church League literature reveals that these "troublesome individuals, groups and publications" include the major religious denominations, National and World Council of Churches, World Day of Prayer, Revised Standard Version of the Bible, United Nations, UNESCO, UNICEF, the PTA, civil rights groups, liberal and radical student groups and individuals ranging from Upton Sinclair — who the league calls the "grandfather" of SDS — to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and folksingers Pete Seeger and Chet Mitchell.

Bundy recently attacked an appearance by Mitchell at Wheaton College because Mitchell "advocate(s) a political immorality," opposes the Vietnam war, supports "Communist causes" and had previously appeared at a "Rush Street night club."

Bundy explained that his files are kept current through the league's infiltration of New

Left and Black Power organizations. Last December, according to a league report, he met in Wheaton with "undercover agents" who have infiltrated the New Left.

Police department ties?

Bundy also claimed a "working relationship" with many of the country's "leading law enforcement agencies," including the Chicago Police Department.

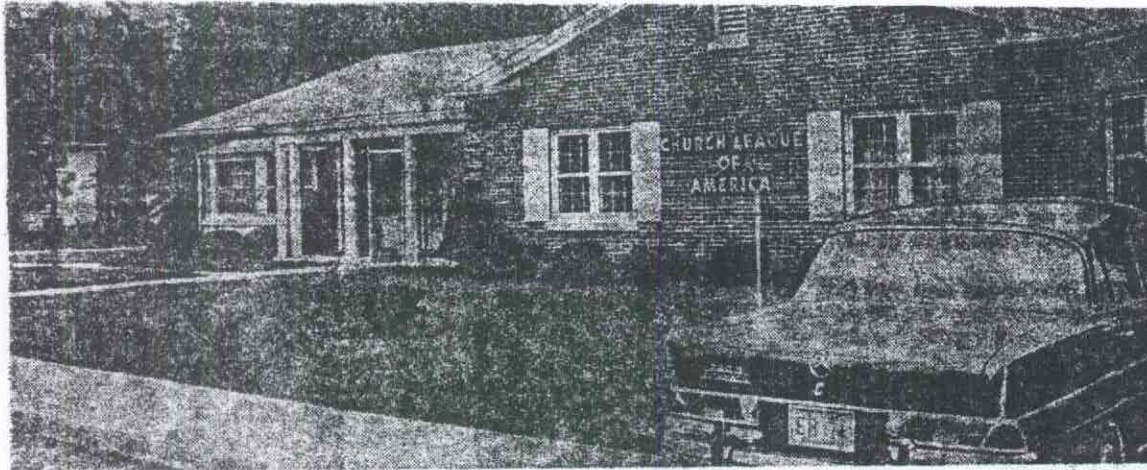
Lt. William Olson, head of the subversive unit of the Chicago Police Department's intelligence division, said, "We know him (Bundy) very well, and he knows us. We feel the work he is doing is very good."

But Olson said Bundy is not allowed access to his unit's files, which he said are confidential. Nor does the unit make use of Bundy's files, he said. "We have our own intelligence," Olson explained.

A pamphlet issued by the Church League explained that the group keeps files on persons who sign advertisements in newspapers espousing liberal causes and also has records on everyone who has made a speech or written an article or book "attacking or ridiculing . . . the American way of life."

The files include, according to the pamphlet, "one whole section built around John Dewey, the educator, whose philosophy of pragmatism softened many intellectuals in America for the acceptance of communism."

Bundy's records include the files of the late E. B. Matthews, who was Sen. Joseph McCarthy's research aide, and the files of John G. Naguan, a former FBI agent.



Headquarters of the Church League of America in Wheaton. (Sun-Times Photo by Bob Kotalik)

Keenan's files were used in the blacklisting of many actors and other performers during the late 1940s and early 1950s.

Dogs guard the files

Bundy is also informing businessmen that the league can make checks on persons at a cost of \$150 a day plus expenses or infiltrate organizations for them at a cost of up to \$200 a week.

The league files are kept in a vault-like wing of the rambling, one-story red brick colonial building at 422 N. Prospect which is league headquarters. Police dogs guard the files.

The files, according to Bundy, are "the world's most complete reference source on leftist individuals and groups, outside of the FBI files — which, of course, are not open to the public."

The wing, named the J. B. Matthews Memorial Library, was completed last year at a cost of more than \$82,000. Bundy said it contains 400 fireproof steel files and space for 50,000 bound volumes.

The league is microfilming all of its files, Bundy said, for "total security."

Last year the Church League received contributions totaling \$253,853 plus other receipts totaling nearly \$30,000. Contributions, which are tax deductible, include the payments received for checking out names, according to Bundy.

Mastodon bones found in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — The bones of a mastodon that roamed the continent more than 10,000 years ago have been found on the 250-acre construction site of a business and industrial park, it was announced Saturday.

The bones were found by a bulldozer operator excavating 23 feet below the ground level Wednesday afternoon and identified by the Museum of Science and Natural History.

James Houser, curator of the museum, said, "There were several vertebrae, some ribs, long bones, parts of tusks, scattered bone fragments and also parts of teeth."

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