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473-8136

Route 8
Frederick, Md. 21701

April 29, 1968

Mr. Steve Burton
Citizens' Committee of Inquiry
Box 150, 308 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, Calif. 90024

Dear Steve:

Thank you for your letter of April 25 with the information that is both worthwhile to me and to some of the British press who have asked for help. I want to add to what you quote Garrison as saying that Banister was member of the National States Right Party, first, that I don't know what Garrison's source is, it may be other than me, but I was told this back in either November or February, with the additional information that the essence of his files were sent to the Thunderbolt, which is the NSRP organ.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

CITIZENS' COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY

BOX 150 • 308 WESTWOOD PLAZA
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

STEVEN J. BURTON, National Chairman

Dear Harold,

As you know, Hal sent me a copy of his April 22 letter to you regarding the National States Rights Party. Herein you will find some information on the NSRP which has been turned up by members of our group that will, hopefully, augment Hal's information. Needless to say, a copy of this letter is being sent to Hal.

According to the Birmingham Post Herald (from which most of this information comes), the NSRP was heavily involved in the infamous church burnings in September, 1963. Following are all references to NSRP members and associates in that newspaper from September 4, 1963 to October 21, 1963:

9/4 -- Edward Fields told large crowd in Midfield, Ala. that a protest motorcade will start at NSRP headquarters at 1865 Bessemer Rd. J.B. Stoner also spoke at this meeting.

9/16 -- Police Capt. Jack Warren cites a Negro **CD** Capt, James Levy of preventing violence at church following explosion. / Edward Fields is questioned for three hours by **judors** regarding violations of Federal statutes in integration of Birmingham schools. Witnesses at the scene of anti-integration demonstrations were Police Inspector W.J. Haley, Dr. George Fisher, Police Captain G.V. Evans, Ala. public safety director Al Lingo, Police Chief Jamie Moure, Dr. Theodore Wright of the school board, School Board President **Robt.** K. Arthur, and five unnamed state investigators.

9/25 -- Fields and one Barney Carmack, Jr. were released from custody on \$2500 bond. Gerald Dutton and Ralph Lewandowski, both members of the NSRP, remained in jail. James Warner and J.B. Stoner were indicted for interfering with federal court order. David A. Stanley turned up in Canada and surrendered himself on similar charges. (Since we know that Fields, Dutton, Warner, and Stoner are NSRP, the others probably are also.)

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Also on 9/25, one Jack Cash posted a \$2500 bond on similar charges.

9/30 -- State investigators arrested two unnamed persons in connection with the church bombings.

The person who did the following research failed to note what the source was for the following citations:

9/5 -- James K. Warner, Jerry Dutton, Patrick Jerry Ryan, and Barney Cormack, Jr. were arrested during integration troubles at the Birmingham schools. After the arrests, one Henry V. Creel spoke to the remaining crowd.

9/7 -- One Harry Shaffield arrested for assaulting a policeman.

9/17 -- NSRP members Dutton, Warner, Cormack, Fields, Stoner, Albert De Shazo and David Stanley called to testify before U.S. Grand Jury.

9/18 -- John Dwyer and David Stanley convicted of inciting to riot. given suspended sentences. This article notes that Stoner used to be in the Christian Knights of the KKK, and the Christian Anti-Jewish Party.

9/21 -- Among rumors printed were that a Cuban refugee planted one of the church bombs.

Pictures of many of these people appear in the newspapers. If you want any more specific information, let me know and Jack Horrocks can re-read the articles.

One source that is not apparently used in Hal's letter is the California Attorney General (Thomas Lynch) Report on Private Armies. In that report, chapters appear on the NSRP, California Rangers, American Nazi Party, Minutemen, and (irrelevantly), the Black Muslims. Lynch says that the Rangers are the paramilitary wing of the NSRP and members overlap almost completely. Members of the Rangers that are noted are; Rev. Wesley Albert Swift, Rev. Oren Potito, Connie Lynch, Col William P. Gale, James Oviatt, William H. Garland, Bertrand Comparet, J.B. Stoner, George Joseph King, Jr., and Admiral John G. Crommelin.

The incident of Gale taking over the Signal Hill (Long Beach) American Legion Post was broken as an expose by the Long Beach Press Telegram. As soon as I am in Long Beach, I intend to get a copy of the expose.

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Hal asks in his letter if Rev. Carl McIntire was associated with the Christian Beacon. The New York Post for March 31, 1964 says that McIntire is the editor of a weekly newspaper, the Christian Beacon with circulation estimated at 42,000. The Beacon owns a large hotel, The Christian Admiral, in Cape May, New Jersey.

The chairman of our Washington State chapter used to live in Calif. and did some work for the Dept. of Defense on a group of military officers who used Civil Defense facilities for private army activities. It is probably irrelevant to our purposes, but for whatever the names are worth, here they are: Col. William C. Melton of Victorville and Maj. Richard Morse of Apple Valley. Lancaster, which was the center of much of Gale's activity, is in Apple Valley and it is possible that these persons were in touch with that group, but we don't know.

That's about all I have for now. The NSRP has turned up too often to be ignored, as you both know. Incidentally, when Garrison was here recently he said that Bannister was NSRP, which I didn't know before (I knew he was Minutemen). Is there anything on the NSRP in Dallas? That is one link that has yet to be made.

Please keep in touch, especially on this group. They are of particular interest to me.

Best wishes,


Steven J. Burton

April 25, 1968

cc:

Hal Verb