

MEMORANDUM

November 13, 1936.

To: Mr. Lester Levin
From: Mr. Harold Weisberg
Subject: Borden's

You correctly interpreted my ~~badly~~^{properly} worded memorandum. By all means contact all unions which will want copies of our hearings.

In re Borden's: the boys on Corporations Auxiliary Company and Burns tell me that Borden's are not and have not been, to the best of their knowledge, clients.

Pinkerton, however, has done work for Borden's. During the milk strike in Illinois and Southern Wisconsin in 1935 the Pinks operated eight operatives and thirty-six uniformed guards to investigate the dumping of five tank cars of milk and to protect various loading stations. Bills and reports on this job were sent to L. E. Hart, Jr., of the Bowman Milk Company, Chicago, Illinois. (Bowman and Borden's split the expenses).

This job lasted for a short while but pertinent correspondence indicates that these dairy companies had been clients of the agency before.

Seemly, R. A. & I. does most of Borden's work. In his notes of July 29, 1935, Shields lists Borden's as a current client. Some notes in our files, unsigned and undated, list Borden's among the references offered by Standard Industrial Service, 70 East 42nd Street, New York. (The reference is to Mr. Covert, Industrial Manager of Borden's). A letter from the Women's Auxiliary of the Milk Drivers Union, local 584 of New York, dated September 22, 1936, says R. A. & I. is supplying spies.

In his affidavit (sent by Frazer in 9/4) dated August 31, 1936, Al Land says:

"Around December 4 or 5, 1935, I was laid off by Brown, who was in charge of the guards and squad cars. I went up to Broadway and 41st and there I met "Big Smitty", who is Charles Smith. He told me that Boilermaker was hiring for Borden's on 18th Street. I went to West 18th Street and registered and was put on waiting time which pays \$2.00 a day."

Another unsigned and undated memorandum lists Borden's as a R. A. & I. client and indicates the contract is with Madison

Lewis, President.

On August 28, 1936 the League of Women Shoppers supplied us with a report on intimidation, espionage, and company union activity at Bordens' from which I quote:

"In 1932 eighty percent of Borden's employees formed an independent organization called the 'Early Birds' in protest against wage cuts, despite the fact that a company union was then in existence. Borden's immediately suspended ~~the~~ company union, outlawed all employee representation ~~and fired~~ ~~43~~ ~~members~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~new~~ ~~organization~~. ~~**A~~ ~~new~~ ~~company~~ ~~union~~ ~~was~~ ~~formed~~ ~~with~~ ~~H.~~ ~~A.~~ ~~Cronk~~, ~~President~~ ~~of~~ ~~Borden's~~, ~~as~~ ~~chief~~ ~~executive~~.

"In 1933 (N.R.A.) six of the discharged 'Early Birds' formed ~~local~~ ~~584~~ ~~the~~ ~~entire~~ ~~number~~ ~~of~~ ~~drivers~~ ~~joined~~ ~~in~~ ~~1934~~ ~~the~~ ~~union~~ ~~forced~~ ~~the~~ ~~company~~ ~~to~~ ~~give~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~ ~~a~~ ~~\$5.00~~ ~~increase~~, ~~seven~~ ~~men~~ ~~were~~ ~~fired~~ ~~for~~ ~~union~~ ~~activities~~, ~~and~~ ~~a~~ ~~company~~ ~~union~~ ~~was~~ ~~voted~~ ~~down~~ ~~by~~ ~~the~~ ~~men~~.

"Pressure from the men and Regional Labor Board finally forced the company to sign a contract with the union on December 13, 1934. However, during the succeeding year the company constantly failed to meet the conditions under the agreement delaying the settlement of grievances and objections to the president of union delegates.

**** In October 1934 with a group of selected men, mostly former officers of the old company union meetings were held in secret and the men were told that a new contract would not be signed with the union. Petitions for a company union were then circulated.

"(The union ordered its members to return ballots circulated) voting between a company or "a genuine A. F. of L. union" to the union, this on December 6 subsequently the union hired from 2,000 to 3,000 extra men to accompany the union men on the rounds and to intimidate them from going on strike. The intimidation here consisted of the extra men telling the drivers that they would replace them if they went on strike and that there were plenty of men to replace all union men.

**** (Then follows a short list of assaults upon pickets and veiled threats by officials of the company. There are also two affidavits in which Jim McCullough and Brother O'Donnell attested that officials of the company spoke against the union.) McCullough: (Mr. Biesner) said if any man went on strike it would mean that he was forever out with Borden's."

To the best of my knowledge all references to Borden's in our hearings were made by your New York sluggers.

I am sorry that I can provide you with no information other than what I suspect you have already.