

THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CIVIL DISORDERS

1016 16TH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

December 27, 1967

MEMORANDUM

TO: M. C. Miskovsky

FROM: John K. Scales

SUBJECT: Interview with Donald Lobsinger, Chairman,
Breakthrough and Vice-Chairman Robert
Piper, December 20, 1967 in Detroit.

I called Lobsinger directly and he agreed to see me at the Greyhound Bus Terminal Cafeteria, Detroit, for lunch on December 20, 1967.

I met him there at 12:00 noon; he brought with him his Vice-Chairman, Robert Piper.

Lobsinger is skinny, but not frail; Piper is plump and has a bad stutter.

They questioned me extensively on what my interest was and I indicated that the Commission was charged with the responsibility of determining the extent to which the disorder had been planned. He then asked me how I became involved in the Commission and I said that I was interested in these questions. I added that I wanted to find out about how the black militants were organizing and added that I was sure that he could tell me about that. As I sensed that he still did not trust me, I said that I was interested in his group, but that I was mostly interested in finding out what the militants were doing.

Lobsinger said that he had no doubt that there "was a conspiracy;" as he said it, his voice became hoarse and a "pathological" look came into his eyes. Gritting his teeth, he said that it was probably too late to do anything about it, but that his group was trying. He noted that whenever Breakthrough went to the FBI with information about black militants, the result was that Lobsinger was watched. Piper added that they were constantly being watched.

Lobsinger said that the Mayor's office had a document which showed that there had been a plan for disorder, but that Lobsinger had never seen it and that he could not prove that the disorder was planned. I did not ask him if his group had participated in any way, as his suspicion of me was so great.

He said that the primary purpose of his organization was to arm the whites and keep them in the city, because "once the city becomes black, then the blacks could wage guerilla warfare on the suburbs." I asked him if his speeches on blacks arming themselves might not so frighten the white man that he would leave the city and Lobsinger replied, "Yes, but what else can we do?" Piper added that they had a tremendous responsibility to the white city people since the disorder. Piper said this in a way that left little doubt in my mind that Piper questioned whether they were up to the task. Lobsinger said that they could only get two or three hundred people to their rallies before the disorder, and that "now" they get 5,000. He said that they had to step in because the police had failed. This he said with apparent sincerity and some degree of personal anxiety.

They spoke of Rev. Cleage, saying that the Negroes were splintered at one time, but that since the disorder, they had unified behind Cleage.

He said that Breakthrough was purely defensive, but that he was worried he could not hold his people back or keep them from starting something. He implied that the whites would probably lose in any confrontation with the blacks in Detroit. He added that he hoped they would have time to reach a stalemate. He said that he could not find the weapons allegedly stored by Negroes in Detroit, but "knew" that they must be there.

There were other stories told and general statements made, but they are not noteworthy. What is significant, in my opinion, is that they are being swept away by the disorder backlash and they find the responsibility awesome.

I had received material about them prior to the meeting, but time did not permit a reading. They are attached and will be reviewed. I think that Lobsinger would see me again if time permits.

Investigator

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Stanley P. Hebert

DATE: Dec. 13, 1967

FROM : Harold H. Hair

HHH

SUBJECT: Donald Lobsinger - Breakthrough, Detroit, Michigan

Today Bob Haynes, FBI Liaison, furnished what he said was the only information in FBI headquarter files on Donald Lobsinger. The information was to the effect that in July 1966, Robert O. Allen, Michigan representative of the American Nazi Party, remarked that the ANP would like to infiltrate and take over "Break Through", a legitimate right-wing group in Detroit headed by Don Lopsinger. The number two man in the organization was Ed Kelly, who was believed an ANP sympathizer.

Attached are items clipped from the Michigan Chronicle, Detroit, Michigan, December 2, 1967, relating to the picketing in Detroit by 200 white people, led by Break-through, protesting the reinstatement of Rev. Maurice Geary to his church position. Rev. Geary, and the editorial attached, accused Lobsinger of being guilty of inciting to riot by his picketing actions and by his actions at a hearing on open accupancy. Geary is quoted as accusing Breakthrough members of storing guns in basements.

Attachments



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Stanley P. Hebert

Dec. 13, 1967

Harold H. Hair

Donald Lobsinger - Breakthrough, Detroit, Michigan

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Attachments

HHH/raf

12/13/67

Dist: 1 - HHH Chron.
1 - Individuals



DENYING COMPARISONS with Fr. Groppi, the white priest who has led marches for open housing in Milwaukee, Fr. Maurice Geary is just as controversial and draws just as much white opposition, as 200 picketers led by Breakthrough pro-

tested his rehiring Sunday, in front of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, 9844 Woodward. Right-wing groups also picketed J. L. Hudson's Friday to protest open housing laws, which are under consideration by Common Council and the State Legislature.

BREAKTHROUGH COMPLIES IN FULL FORCE

Fr. Geary Rehired, Says He Wants Picketing "to Expose White Terror"

By CAROL SCHMIDT

A white priest who was fired from a northeast Detroit church for his stands on several peace and civil rights groups after considerable pressure by Breakthrough, hopes that the right-wing organization repeats its campaign now that he has been reinstated, "so that we can expose the right-wing for what it is—white terrorists."

The Rev. Maurice Geary said he was told the reasons he was fired Oct. 1 from St. David's church, 8141 E. Outer Drive, was that he had allowed a Breakthrough member to take the lectern during a sermon in Sunday mass when he was challenged on the sermon, he had over-emphasized the Vietnam issue, and he had supported West Central Organization and several peace groups.

Fr. Geary was among the clergymen arrested during a West Central Organization demonstration against urban renewal policies at a house on Hobart street in 1966.

He was, in his words, "unfired" Nov. 21 after a two-hour discussion with Archbishop John F. Bearden, who

had earlier that day spoken at the open housing hearings at the City County Bldg., which had been disrupted by Breakthrough.

Fr. Geary denied that Breakthrough or civil rights issues had had anything to do with his firing, since his superiors "are strong supporters" of civil rights, "although Breakthrough did influence many others who called for my removal," he added.

"And there is a strong dis-

tinction between support of civil rights and support of the revolution.

"I hope the Breakthrough picketing resumes, so that the right wing can be understood for what it is, white terror," he said. "This storing up of guns in basements, frightening people—this is the greatest danger in the city."

He is being honored by many groups which circulated petitions asking that he be reinstated, at a dinner

Dec. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's school, 60 Parsons, with West Central Organization among the backers of the dinner.

Fr. Geary was asked if he saw himself as another Fr. James Groppi, the white priest who has led Milwaukee rights marches. "Of course not. He is in a black parish, and I am in a white parish. But it is more difficult at a white parish, living

(Continued on P. A-4)

- DONALD LOBSINGER
- BREAKTHROUGH

Fr. Geary

(Continued from P. A-1)

in an atmosphere of non-acceptance," Fr. Geary said.

Asked why he was still working to reform society, when others who considered themselves revolutionaries were working instead to overthrow the present system, Fr. Geary said, "I hope it is not too late. We must at least try."

"I hadn't wanted to come back to St. David's, but it is a white sickness, and this is where I must work. I hope it is not too late." He admitted that he had been prepared to leave the priesthood if his conference with the Archbishop had failed, "but it was not necessary to even bring it up."

He also admitted that he had considered leaving Detroit, as other clergymen who have faced pressure over their militant views have done, "but Detroit is where the action is. We're 10 years ahead of the rest of the nation."

Fr. Geary said that homeowners groups had campaigned for his removal long before Breakthrough began. Asked if it was because of his support of open occupancy, he answered, "I guess it was because I'm me."

J.L. Hudson Picketed on Housing

Counterthrust, the right-wing organization frequently called the junior wing of Breakthrough, picketed the J. L. Hudson company Friday, the heaviest shopping day of the year, asking a boycott of the store because of Hudson's support of state and local open occupancy laws.

Hudson is chairman of the New Detroit Committee, which was assigned the task of "rebuilding Detroit," after last July. He has lobbied for open housing both with the Common Council and the State Legislature.

The 35-40 pickets chanted, "Stop forced housing" and "Boycott Hudson's." Signs said, "NDC rewards Rioters," "Black Power Means Black Racism," "Abolish the Civil Rights Commission" and "Rebuild Detroit with J. L. Jr's money."

After picketing from noon to 2 p.m., Patrick Teifer, Counterthrust chairman, and 10 members went to the 11th floor of Hudson's store to lodge a protest with Hudson. When they were denied an interview with him, their protest was made to the store manager, Richard Schroeter.

Counterthrust members then descended on the escalator chanting, "Don't shop at Hudson's" from the 11th to the 7th floor.

A counterdemonstration by three Negro youths, Andrew Jones, Steve Larkin and Rosemary Smith, who said they were not affiliated with any groups, used makeshift placards reading, "To Hell with Bigots," "Black Power," and "I Want to Live Where I Want To Live."

Hit One

PRESERVATION COPY

Lobsinger's "White Terrorists" Guilty Of Inciting to Riot

It was announced as an open hearing on open occupancy, but no one was heard. Though both sides spoke in the usual manner of a "pro" speaker followed by a "con" throughout the day Tuesday, no minds were changed in spite of the persuasive and influential "pro" speakers.

And the reason would have to be the terrorist tactics used by Donald Lobsinger, Breakthrough and the homeowners' groups which drowned out any appeal to reason or morality, engaged in vicious name-calling, and tried to destroy the hearing.

Negroes and whites who spoke out in favor of the ordinance acted in admirable restraint, although taunted and threatened at every word.

The two most vivid examples of the way Lobsinger (called by one speaker "mob-bringer") sought to polarize emotions on an already heated issue came when Robert Tindal, executive secretary of the NAACP, and the Rev. James Sheehan, director of the Archbishop's Commission on Human Relations, tried to speak.

A quiet woman from a human relations group had been the "pro" speaker previous to Tindal, and her appeal for law and order was greeted by Lobsinger's shout "We won't obey Communist laws!"

Tindal scanned the angry audience, packed except for the lower left "pro" corner with delegations from homeowner groups, and said calmly, "After seeing the animalistic behavior exhibited here I'm not at all sure I want the right to live with you." Lobsinger continued to lead jeers and hoots, and finally screamed, "We've got a lamp-post for you."

Tindal replied, still under control while Lobsinger reminded viewers of nothing so much as Rumpelstiltskin as he stomped around in his anger, that "You'd better bring two, baby, one for you," a mild response considering the provocation.

It is surprising that physical violence did not break out in the auditorium as Negro and white supporters of the bill were insulted and threatened. Rev. Nicholas Hood was physically restrained by Councilman Mel Ravitz during one Lobsinger harangue with Hood as its target.

Lobsinger was finally removed from the auditorium when he would not quiet down to allow the Rev. James Sheehan, a soft-spoken priest, to speak, because of his shouts of "Judas, Judas, Judas," the homeowners' groups joining in the chant. Presiding Councilman Phil Van Antwerp allowed Negroes and fellow councilmen to be insulted, but wouldn't allow an insult to his church.

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Meanwhile, every radio and television station had recorded Lobsinger's inflammatory remarks to be broadcast throughout the metropolitan area, polarizing racial feelings certainly as much as a Rap Brown, who is arrested for "inciting to riot" for much less havoc-wreaking speeches.

Someone found it necessary to call Archbishop John F. Dearden to come personally to the hearings to make a reasoned appeal for the bill, in his words "Not because poor housing was of the main causes of last summer's revolt, not because of political expediency, but because it is morally right."

Lobsinger and most of his followers are Catholics, and he has attacked Archbishop Dearden publicly as a communist dupe. He has called many religious and civic leaders outright communists, including the Rev. Maurice Geary, who met with the Archbishop on a related problem right after Dearden left the hearing.

Geary was fired from his parish in northeast Detroit, Lobsinger's stronghold, six weeks ago for too heavy emphasis on civil rights and peace issues, as well as attempting to take on Breakthrough during a sermon, allowing a layman to speak.

Supposedly pressure from Breakthrough members had nothing to do with his firing, but Lobsinger has put heavy pressure on the superiors of many outspoken clergymen, seeking their firing.

Father Geary put it right when he announced after his meeting with Archbishop Dearden that "white terrorists" are the real threat to this city.

He added that he hopes the pickets return, so that the "white sickness" can be exposed, "the right-wing which is storing guns in basements and is the greatest danger in the city."

The homeowners' groups returned to the Council auditorium Wednesday to attack the proposed scattered-site public housing, even more vociferous than before. Councilmen voted down the W. Chicago site which had been suggested for public housing, an obvious bow to the homeowner groups.

If Michael Lewis can be arrested for "inciting to riot", for allegedly urging people on 12th street July 23 to loot, certainly Donald Lobsinger should be arrested for his series of meetings and demonstrations that have brought thousands of white people to a fever pitch, ready to respond with violence to any real or imagined threat.

If you really want to see someone "act like a nigger," observe Lobsinger in action.

PRESERVATION COPY

December 1, 1967

MEMORANDUM TO: Robert H. Haynes
Special Agent
FBI Liaison Section

From: M. C. Miskovsky
Director of Investigations

Subject: DONALD LOPSINGER, Detroit, Michigan

The National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders has received information that Donald Lopsinger of Detroit, Michigan is a "white armist" advocating the use of arms to prevent the intrusion of Negroes into the physical area and geographical area of the white domain. He is reported to be ready to make guns--including automatic weapons--available to white people at bargain prices.

I would appreciate the benefit of any information the Bureau has on Donald Lopsinger.

HHH/raf
12/1/67

Distribution:

- 1 - HHH Chron.
- 1 - MCM Chron.
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- 1 - SPH Chron.
- 1 - Weapons
- 1 - Individual
- 1 - Detroit

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

4

LOBSITZGER

Copy to: 1 - Secret Service, Detroit (RM)
1 - G-2, Detroit (RM)
1 - NIS, Chicago (RM)
1 - OSI, USAF, Dayton, Ohio (RM)
Report of: SA BILLY E. YESSICK Office: Detroit, Michigan
Date: December 9, 1966
File Number: 157-1025 Bureau File: 157-4763
Title: ROBERT OVID ALLEN

Character: RACIAL MATTERS - AMERICAN NAZI PARTY

Synopsis: Subject continues to hold meetings of the American Nazi Party (ANP) in his residence and has the title "Assistant Party Director, Michigan Division of the ANP."

- P -

DETAILS:

On June 15, 1966, DE T-1 advised a meeting of the American Nazi Party (ANP) was held at the residence of ROBERT O. ALLEN, 1131 Eastfield Road, Lansing, Michigan, on the evening of June 11, 1966. Informant advised that at this meeting it was discussed that regular meetings be set up and dues charged.

On June 18, 1966, DELLA K. FORSTER, 1047 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan, advised by letter that ROBERT O. ALLEN, 1131 Eastfield Drive, Lansing, Michigan, told her that he was a "radical" in that he "belongs to the American Nazi Society" at Arlington, Virginia, and that "this group is working to ship all Negroes to Africa." She advised that ALLEN also advised her that he was a "Bircher" up to last year. FORSTER furnished the following newspaper clipping which is a letter to the editor of "The State Journal", a Lansing, Michigan daily newspaper:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. This is in answer to your request for a check of FBI files.

Word for the Birchers

Editor, The State Journal:

A new tirade against the Birchers is underway. First the Communist party makes the Birch Society its Number One target, then the Democrat's condemn the Birchers as being extremists (whatever that means), and now the Michigan Republicans have joined the parade. With the lineup against them, it could be the Birchers have something worthwhile.

Do not be misled into thinking that I am a Bircher just because I appear to be defending them. I am not, repeat, am not, a Bircher, and it is quite likely that I never will be. I am, however, a thinking American who looks beyond the surface of things and, as a result, I know many Birchers. I know most of them to be very nice people and, at least, they are headed in the right direction. This is more than I can say for most of their critics. If the Birchers have a fault it is that they are too nice. They are political pantywaists, but compared to the average Michigan Republican, a Bircher is a veritable demon.

The GOP is worried about a Birch "takeover." This is, naturally, a smokescreen, but if it did happen, it would be the best thing that has happened to the Republican party since Lincoln. At least they would get a few fighters and they need them. Politics is a fight with no holds barred. This is why the Democrats win most of the time. They know how to fight and they

know there is no substitute for victory (except in Viet Nam). The Republicans are like a guy in a bar room brawl up against someone with a gun, a knife and a blackjack and trying to save his life with a half melted popsicle for a weapon. At least if we had Birchers running the Republican party we would have somewhat of a contest and quit arguing over some (though not all) of the phony issues we have had crammed down our throat these many years.

It is a sorry thing to see such confusion in the "Grand Old Party" when what we really need is unity from all Americans. Of course, those who transmitted this latest blast are not really to blame. They, as well as others who share the same feelings, are simply reacting to a pre-conceived, pre-conditioned notion and condemning something they know little or nothing about. We have all been conditioned to fear the unknown rather than investigate and evaluate. The propaganda regarding the John Birch Society is a prime example of this conditioning.

I suggest that Michigan Republicans do a little more research on what the Birch Society really stands for. If they do this, they would most likely lose their fear of Birchers but, if nothing else, they would know how to combat this "menace," if they still think it necessary.

ROBERT O. ALLEN
1131 Eastfield Rd.
Lansing

PR372-616

THE STATE JOURNAL

LANSING—EAST LANSING
FOUNDED APRIL 28, 1855

Comments and Opinions Page

A-6 VOLUME 112, NUMBER 47

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1966

DE 157-1025

On July 15, 1966, DE T-1 advised meetings were held at the subject's residence on June 18, 1966, and July 2, 1966, where the discussion was mostly concerning organizing a front organization called The United Action League with the leader being the subject. The purpose of the front organization is to recruit members into the ANP and to collect funds for the ANP.

Nazi Party

On July 17, 1966, DE T-2 advised GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL, national leader of the ANP, met with approximately 20 other persons at the home of ROBERT O. ALLEN, 1131 Eastfield Street, Lansing, Michigan, on the evening of July 16, 1966. Source stated ROBERT O. ALLEN is serving as the state representative of the ANP in Michigan. Source further advised that ALLEN has organized the Lansing Patriotic Society, which is a front group for the ANP at Lansing, Michigan. This group solicits money from politically conservative persons and diverts it to the ANP.

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VA*

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900
4439*

The ANP would like to infiltrate and take over "Break Through", a "legitimate right-wing group" in Detroit, Michigan, headed by DON LOPSINGER. The number two man in this organization is ED KELLY, who ALLEN believes is a "great guy" and an ANP sympathizer.

On July 19, 1966, DE T-1 advised subject held an ANP meeting at his residence on the evening of July 16, 1966, with approximately 17 persons in attendance, including GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL, Commander of the ANP. Informant advised that subject had said DONALD ZINN had arranged for ROCKWELL to meet some influential people in Mount Pleasant. ROCKWELL advised subject that he did not like subject's idea of a "front organization" for the purpose of soliciting funds and recruiting members, so subject discontinued the "United Action League". Informant advised subject turned all the "names" he, subject, had in the Detroit area over to DENNIS KAPLINSKI (phonetic) an alleged leader of the ANP in the Detroit area, and that he, subject, had appointed KAPLINSKI "co-ordinator" in the Detroit area.

Monahan

ADD 100 N NAZI PARTY

Mich

On August 23, 1966, DE T-1 advised subject held a meeting of the ANP at his, the subject's residence, on the evening of August 20, 1966, with approximately 11 persons in attendance. DONALD ZINN was in charge of this meeting and spoke on the ANP.

On September 26, 1966, DE T-1 advised there was a meeting of the ANP at the residence of the subject on September 24, 1966, where GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL's trip to Chicago, Illinois, was discussed. ✓

On September 29, 1966, DE T-1 advised a meeting of the ANP was held at the residence of ROBERT O. ALLEN on September 28, 1966, with GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL and approximately 20 other persons were in attendance. Subject mentioned at this meeting that it was his goal to organize "dues paying chapters" in both Detroit and Flint, Michigan. ✓

On October 15, 1966, DE T-3 advised he had observed several persons known to be sympathizers with the ANP gather at the residence of ROBERT O. ALLEN, 1131 Eastfield Road, Lansing, Michigan, on the evening of September 28, 1966.

On October 28, 1966, DE T-1 advised a letter from subject which indicated subject's title as "Assistant Party Director, Michigan Division of the American Nazi Party", who advised that the next meeting of the ANP would be on October 22, 1966, at subject's residence. Subject, in the letter, also advised there was a meeting at 29915 West Eight Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan, on October 15, 1966.

On December 2, 1966, DE T-1 advised no notice of a November meeting was received and he felt the interest of the ANP in Lansing, is declining. Source stated ALLEN is having marital difficulties because of his, ALLEN's, ANP activities and at one time expressed a desire to get out of the leadership of the ANP in Michigan. Source advised

DE 157-1025

persons who have been attending the meeting urged ALLEN to continue. Source advised he feels the Lansing group will eventually discontinue any activity as they have not been successful in getting money or members and have not been able to organize any storm troopers.

A characterization of the ANP is contained in the appendix attached hereto.

APPENDIX

AMERICAN NAZI PARTY
OF THE WORLD UNION OF
FREE ENTERPRISE NATIONAL
SOCIALISTS, ALSO KNOWN AS THE
GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL PARTY

In his book "This Time The World", copyrighted in 1961, George Lincoln Rockwell identified himself as Commander, American Nazi Party of the World Union of Free Enterprise National Socialists (ANP - WUFENS), Arlington, Virginia.

The April 4, 1963, issue of "The Richmond News Leader", a Richmond, Virginia, daily newspaper, reported that George Lincoln Rockwell had, on the previous day, again applied for the American Nazi Party to be chartered in the State of Virginia, but this request was turned down by the Virginia State Corporation Commission. This action was taken pursuant to an act of the 1962 Virginia Assembly which prohibits use of "Nazi" or "National Socialism" in a Virginia charter. This article further pointed out that Rockwell's Party is presently chartered in the State of Virginia as the George Lincoln Rockwell Party.

On August 14, 1964, a source advised that the ANP - WUFENS was organized by George Lincoln Rockwell at his residence in Arlington, Virginia, on February 26, 1959, as an international "National Socialist" movement based on the German Nazi Party headed by Adolf Hitler. He added that Rockwell is the dominant force and personality in this party; that he is espousing a "line" of hatred against the Jews and Negroes; and that he is seeking, through speeches, distribution of literature and picketing, to establish a cohesive and dominant political party in the United States and in foreign countries.

According to the "Stormtrooper's Manual", an official publication of the ANP, the phases of ANP struggle for power are fourfold, namely, first "to make ourselves known to the masses"; second, "the dissemination of our program and truth about the Party"; third, "organizing the people who have been converted to our propaganda"; and fourth, "the attainment of power through the votes of the newly-won masses".

On August 19, 1966, the source advised that George Lincoln Rockwell presently believes that he has completed the first two phases in his struggle for power and is well into the third stage,

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AMERICAN NAZI PARTY
OF THE WORLD UNION OF
FREE ENTERPRISE NATIONAL
SOCIALISTS, ALSO KNOWN AS THE
GEORGE LINCOLN ROCKWELL PARTY

to wit, "the organizing of the people who have been converted to our propaganda". The source added that Rockwell had previously believed that he would be elected Governor of Virginia in November, 1965, and when defeated, he made the statement that he was not ready for stage four.



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Detroit, Michigan
December 9, 1966

Title	Robert Ovid Allen
Character	Racial Matter - ANP
Reference	Report, at Detroit, dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

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