

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

April 20, 2022

MR. JOHN R. GREENEWALD JR. SUITE 1203 27305 WEST LIVE OAK ROAD CASTAIC, CA 91384-4520

> FOIPA Request No.: 1435172-001 Subject: The Citizens' Councils (1953 to April 29, 2019)

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find check boxes under the appropriate statute headings which indicate the types of exemptions asserted to protect information which is exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the enclosed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely and identify which exemptions were applied. The checked exemption boxes used to withhold information are further explained in the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions.

	Section 552		Section 552a
	(b)(1)	(b)(7)(A)	(d)(5)
	(b)(2)	(b)(7)(B)	(j)(2)
	(b)(3)	✓ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
		(b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
		✓ (b)(7)(E)	(k)(3)
		(b)(7)(F)	(k)(4)
	(b)(4)	(b)(8)	(k)(5)
	(b)(5)	(b)(9)	(k)(6)
	✓ (b)(6)		(k)(7)
Ş	page(s) were reviewed and 8 page(s	s) are being released.	
	Please see the paragraphs below for it A Addendum for standard responses	•	your request as well as the enclosed
[Document(s) were located which of Government Agency (ies) [OGA].		formation concerning, other
	This information has been refe We are consulting with anothe when the consultation is comp	r agency. The FBI will corresp	and direct response to you. bond with you regarding this information

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. "Part 1" of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. "Part 2" includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records about yourself or any third party individuals. "Part 3" includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

For questions regarding our determinations, visit the www.fbi.gov/foia website under "Contact Us."

The FOIPA Request Number listed above has been assigned to your request. Please use this number in all correspondence concerning your request.

If you are not satisfied with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's determination in response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, 441 G Street, NW, 6th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20530, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA STAR portal by creating an account following the instructions on OIP's website: https://www.justice.gov/oip/submit-and-track-request-or-appeal. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing foipaquestions@fbi.gov. If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Seidel
Section Chief
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Information Management Division

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Enclosure(s)

This is final release of information responsive to your FOIPA request. This material is being provided to you at no charge.

Due to the age and condition of the original documents, some of the reproduced copies are extremely difficult to read. Every effort has been made to obtain the best copies possible.

Records that may have been responsive to your request were destroyed. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Title 44, United States Code, Section 3301 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1228; Title 44, United States Code, Section 3310 as implemented by Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 1229.10.

A record that may be responsive to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request has been transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). If you wish to review these records, submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to NARA, Special Access and FOIA, 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Please reference the file numbers 105-HQ-52777, 105-HQ-40391, 105-HQ-45727, 105-HQ-53627, 105-HQ-44536, 105-HQ-48111, 100-HQ-423395, 105-HQ-40673, 105-HQ-33955, 105-HQ-40774, 105-HQ-46959, 105-HQ-42793, 100-BA-19339, 105-HQ-37158, 100-HQ-243140, 157-HQ-6-50, and 105-HQ-46604.

Enclosed are cross-references that are identifiable with the subject of your request. Cross-references are defined as mentions of the subject of your request in files to other individuals, organizations, events, or activities. In processing the cross-references, the pages considered for possible release included only those pages that mention the subject of your request and any additional pages showing the context in which the subject of your request was mentioned.

FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum provides information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes standard responses that apply to requests for records about individuals to the extent your request seeks the listed information. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records, searches, and programs.

Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIPA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c)]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIPA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the www.fbi.gov/foia website.
- (ii) Intelligence Records. To the extent your request seeks records of intelligence sources, methods, or activities, the FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and as applicable to requests for records about individuals, PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that any such records do or do not exist.

Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists. The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) Requests for Records about any Individual—Witness Security Program Records. The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could identify any participant in the Witness Security Program pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(3), 18 U.S.C. 3521, and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.
- (iii) Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals. The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

Part 3: General Information:

- (i) Record Searches. The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A standard search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled by the FBI per its law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization, comprising records of FBI Headquarters, FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide; Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records are included in the CRS. Unless specifically requested, a standard search does not include references, administrative records of previous FOIPA requests, or civil litigation files. For additional information about our record searches, visit www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records.
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets. The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheet. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative "FBI file." An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks. Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at www.edo.cjis.gov. For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private Citizens cannot request a name check.

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence:
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

This document is made available through the declassification efforts and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages released by the U.S. Government & Military.

Discover the Truth at: http://www.theblackvault.com

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOI/PA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET FOI/PA# 1435172-001

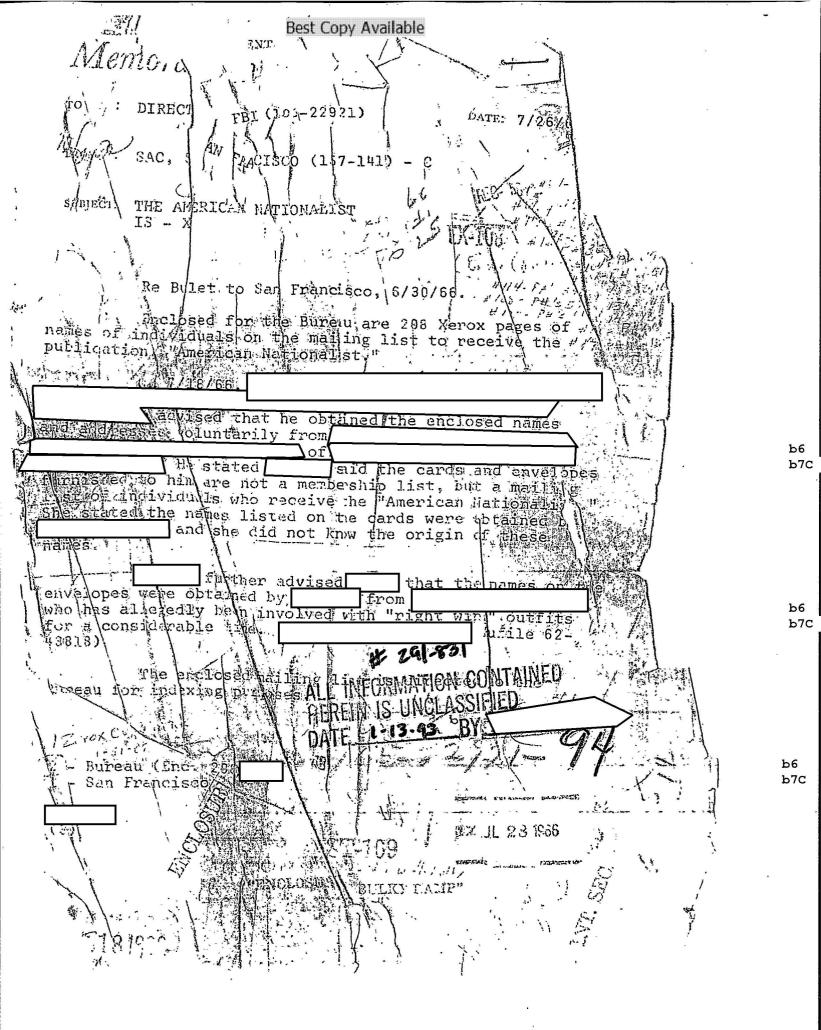
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Citizens! Councils of Ala. 1104 Ford Ave. Terrent 7, Ala.

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Income of Right-Wing Groups Reportedly Tripled in 5 Years

By Morton Mintz

Right wing organizations have been thriving Their in come apparently tripled be tween 1958, and 1963, Atlarge part of their financing is aided by the exemption and donation provisions of the tax laws.

These conclusions are found in a new study by Group Research, Inc., of Washington, which gathers information on right wing and conservative economic and political lobbies and organizations.

Other major conclusions and comments in the 25 page report:

"A reasonably conservative guess" of total spending by broadly defined right wing organizations is \$30 million a year.

a year.

• Right wing groups, many of which date back to the 1950s and even earlier have been growing financially at an average rate of 17 per cent a year, even with years of abnormally large growth excluded from the computation.

• Because of the tax laws, taxayers indirectly support for more of the political and economic right wing than they

realize.

Reliance on contributions has been falling. For the five years ending in 1962, the amount of total receipts made up of contributions dropped from an estimated 88 to 73 percept. In the same period, income from sale of publications and other materials increased from 9 to 25 per cent.

from 9 to 21 per cent,
While large contributors
are sometimes of key importance, most right wing operations lapparently have very
broadly based support.

• A substantial number of important contributors donate to a number of outfits in the study, although the organizations are strikingly dissimilar the character.

Group Research sens a senior monthly newsletter and other publications. It was founded and is headed by Wesley McCune, a former Washington reporter for Newsweek. Time and Changing Times

and Changing Times

For its report entitled. The Finances of the Right Wing?

Group Research said its sources included public records on tax exempt organizations; filings under the Fedural Corrupt Practices and Lobbying Acts records avail-

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statements made by the groups themselves.

The report says that the right wing organizations that at least aspire to some sort of national in the hundreds. At the counted in the hundreds. At the rage: and include report says that the rage: and include report says that the rage: and include report says that the rounted in the hundreds. At though they cover a wide rage: and include report sible as well as prespon sible as well as prespon to remain the remaining of interest ide logy, and personnel. The remaining of its study 30 it believed to be representative. They range on 50 counts of treason to from out and out bigots, such as Gerald L.K. Smith and the late Conde McGinley's Common Sense, as well as the Storm of the Loundation and the merican Economic Foundation at Valley Economic Education, and the merican Economic Foundation at Valley Economic Education, and the Findings about the selected American way of life free revening and preservable from for included the following:

In 1962, their combined in figures. come was an estimated \$12.2 million, 150 per cent more named as important contribu-than 1958's \$4.9 million. The tors to 20 selected right wing

1960 and 1962 shows that six organizations appeared in all three listings. The John birch organizations appeared in all net three listings. The John Dirch Also Charles Edison, for Society made the grade for the mer chairman of McGraw Edi first time in 1962

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The Group Research report years of agreatest increase groups. Barber Colman Co, were 1961 and 1960. Seventeen Harry L'Bradley chairman of were 1961 and 1960. Seventeen Harry L'Bradley chairman of had Federal tax exemptions. Allen Bradley Co. retired Du Income for 1963 was proport freezeutive. Donaldson Jected to have been \$143, mit Brown, F. Gano Chance, chair tion.

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ncome of Right-Wing Groups Reportedly Tripled in 5 Years

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Staff Reporter Right wing organizations have been thriving. Their income apparently tripled between 1958 and 1963. A large part of their financing is aided by the exemption and donation provisions of the tax laws:

These conclusions are found in a new study by Group Re-search. Inc. of Washington, which gathers information on right-wing and conservative economic and political lobbies

and organizations.
Other major conclusions and comments in the 25-page report:

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Also, the John Birch Society (\$826,100, up \$896,300, from 1959), founded by Robert Welch, who has called former President Eisenhower a ded sble elements, the points Communist consultations for the learning of interest, ide Christian Grusage (\$775,400, land terms of interest, ide Christian Grusage (\$775, is headed by the Rev. Billy its study 30 It believed to be James Hargis, who has said

ses egationist and the selected from 1958), whose awards for extending and preserving the extending and preserving the American way of life" fre-quently go to tright wing figures.... The Group Research report named as important contribu-tors to 20 selected right wing

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