RCL:ACB F. S. Curtie, Jr., 28 Yale Sta., Hew Haven, Conn. Dear Sir:-Replying to your letter of the 86th ultimo with which you enclosed a circular issued by the Peoples Council of America, you are advised that the matter has been referred to the representative of this office at New York/for his attention. Yours wory bruly. Chief.



Image url: https://www.fold3.com/image/802213

Publication Number: M1085

Publication Title: Investigative Case Files of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

Publisher: NARA

Short Description: NARA M1085. Before it was called the FBI, the Bureau of Investigation

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Roll: boi_german_257-850_0011

Series: Old German Files, 1909-21

Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 28

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Oct.26,1917

28 Yale Sta.

A. Bruce Bielaski

New Haven, Conn.

Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

Knowing that you are at the head of government investigation of matters of the sort I am taking the liberty of sending you a sample of the stuff with which the pacifists are at present bombarding Yale University and hope that it may prove of some use in checking their activities.

If I can be of any further use to you in this or any other matter I shall be greatly pleased to receive your orders.

Fourth fr.

Page -2 **EXPOST MANY ST.** PLACE WHERE HARE Nov. 5, 1917 Hov. 2,19 arther L. Burkey Buf Tale, He TITLE OF CAME AND OFFERSE CHARGED OR A Council

STATEMENT OF DPENATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED.

At Buff do. How York.

The following is a copy of a letter turned over to se by Postoffice Inspector Joseph Vick:

> "Ben J. Salmon Secretary Denver B. mch. The People's Council of America for Democracy and Peace Denver, Colo.

> > Denver, Colo, Cot. 29th, 1917

"Dear Friend:
This letter will be short; sweet or sour according to how the enclosed circular impresses you.
We want to cob-web the nation with these circulars.

Five dollars will bring 600 copies to your address prepaid.
Will you sindly persuade a few friends to flick you a simpleon, sent me an order for \$5.00 worth? The object: flood congress with a desand that wealth be taxed to pay for the war, and that the United States strive for an early peace.

I hope you will not think me too optimistic when I tell you that three days after tomorrow I will reserve your reply.

Many thanks.

Many thanks.

Since ely, (Signed) Ben J. Salmen

Address envelope Ben J. Salmon, SE2 Guardian Trust Building Benver, Colo.

The enclosed circular mentioned in the above letter is a four-pase pamphlet entitled "Killing The Wrong Man" by Benjamin J. Salmon. Secretary of the Denver Branch of America for Democracy and Peace. I am forwarding the circular to the Department with this report.

COPY OF THIS REPORT PHRHIAMED TO

Buffielo, Denver and New York



KILLING THE WRONG MEN

By BEN J. SALMON

Secretary Denver Branch The People's Council of America for Democracy and Peace

If, believing you were repelling entrance of a burglar into your home, you shot and killed your brother, think of the horror that would grip your soul when the grim fact became known!

Impossible to kill the Kaiser and his generals—we kill the wrong men whom he forces to guard him. Four million already slaughtered; he will feed the cannon millions more. Eventually the Kaiser's life will be in jeopardy; he will hoist the white flag, later sit at a banquet table after signing the document binding his subjects to pay a crushing war debt, then drink to the health of his erstwhile diplomatic foes, walk away carefree, burdenless, wealthy. Likewise the presidents and kings.

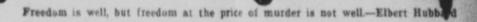
THOSE WHO SUFFER MOST

In all nations women and children are the innocent victims. Easy for a man to die in battle, large percentage of soldiers experience no death agony; an instantaneous flash hurls them into eternity. Crushing burdens and poignant grief bequeathed to mothers, widows and orphans, happiness snatched by the sequence of war profits, their hearts torn asunder, mutely suffering indescribable tortures. Truly an ostrichlike manner of protecting women and children.

Newspaper misrepresentation causes people to misunderstand the motives actuating, and the aims of The People's Council. This circular explains our position.

That Americans are against war was unmistakably evidenced when they re-elected President Wilson "because he kept us out of war." We are sacrificing American lives to settle an European family quarrel. Why not make those cousins and aunts patch up their own squabbles? Of course this would be less profitable for American financiers. Were we to demand that our representatives adjust differences by negotiation—which is the ultimate of all wars—or to themselves engage in physical combat while we do the watchful waiting, international problems would be solved amicably.

[&]quot;No man can serve two masters." Christianity and war are opposite extremes of belief



PRO-HUMANITY

We are not pro-German, ner, like the newspapers, pro-English. We are pro-humanity. Regardless of nationality, we regard all men as our brothers. God is "our Father who art in heaven."

President Wilson, addressing the New York Press Club, voiced our sentiments when he said:

"I have not read history without observing that the greatest forces in the world and the only permanent forces are the moral forces. We have the evidence of a very competent witness, namely, the first Napoleon, who said that as he looked back in the last days of his life upon so much as he knew of human history, he had to record the judgment that force had never accomplished anything that was permanent."

We believe that love is more potent than armies, charity more efficacious than military strategy.

We are striving for REAL Democracy—not the kind that stultifies its name.

We detest Kaiserism so vehemently that we will exert ourselves strenuously to resist its establishment in America. The system of which the Kaiser is a personification is taking root in the United States; it must be repressed. Americanism has become a myth, while the most glaring anomalies are substituted for the standards purchased with the blood of our forefathers.

OURS IS THE LAND OF TYRANNY AND INJUSTICE

America is the land of pauperism. Destitution reigns supreme. To first correct the evils at home, thus setting Germany an example, is a surer way to "make the world safe for Democracy" than by entering our neighbor's domicile demanding he adopt rules that we ruthlessly disregard in our own household. Forcing Democracy on Germany while we stifle it at home! Ridiculous.

While President Wilson was leading the line of conscripted poor men's lives down Pennsylvania Avenue, the Senate was voting 4 to 1 against the conscription of rich men's dollars. Democracy? Unjust criticism never really injured an Honest Cause, while Just Criticism often vanquished scoundrels.—Roycroft

Under the guise of expediency we are denied the constitutional right of peaceful assemblage; our meetings have been dispersed, meeting halls closed against us, our newspapers suppressed. Hence the necessity of distributing this circular.

WHO BENEFITS?

The war profits of the big trusts last year amounted to \$4,000,000,000. The average mind cannot comprehend the enormity of these figures. It is a notorious fact that a fusion of English and American financial interests precipitated our entrance into the conflict. How many American newspapers are free from British dominancy?

WHY NOT TAX THE RICH?

Senate reports state that the first year's cost of the war will total \$18,000,000,000. In addition to this the landlords of the United States charge us \$6,000,000,000 annually for permission to live on God's earth. Tax this one item of extortion 100% as a war necessity, just as we tax a poor man's life 100%, and wires will be pulled so sternly that official Washington will declare peace peremptorily. If the "interests" find it cheaper not to have war, it will cease. The poor man gives his life; the rich man reaps a harvest. War profit is the basis of all wars. Remove the cause—the effect will vanish.

WILL YOU ACT?

The People's Council urges an immediate, general and democratic peace to be secured through negotiation in harmony with the principles outlined by the President of the United States and by New Russia, and accepted substantially by the Democratic forces of France, England, Italy, Germany, Austria and other countries, namely:

- (a) No forcible annexation of territory.
- (b) No punitive indemnities.
- (c) Free development of all nationalities.

We urge international organization for the maintenance of world peace. We demand repeal of the draft laws. We demand conscription

It was the energy of ancient freedom that, the moment it had gained unity, made Spain the mightiest power of the world, only to fall to the lowest depths of weakness when tyranny succeeded liberty.—Henry George in "Progress and Prverty."

Our slogan: Loyalty! First to God, then to our country



of every dollar of surplus wealth to pay current war expenses and all war debts.

We pledge ourselves to continue working for the safeguarding of labor standards, and to preserve and extend democracy and liberty within the United States.

ELIGIBLES

The People's Council wants only men and women of the type of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and William Penn to join its ranks. We are striving to help the government—not hinder it. The government is the whole people. Politicians are merely representatives—at the present time misrepresentatives.

WILL YOU HELP?

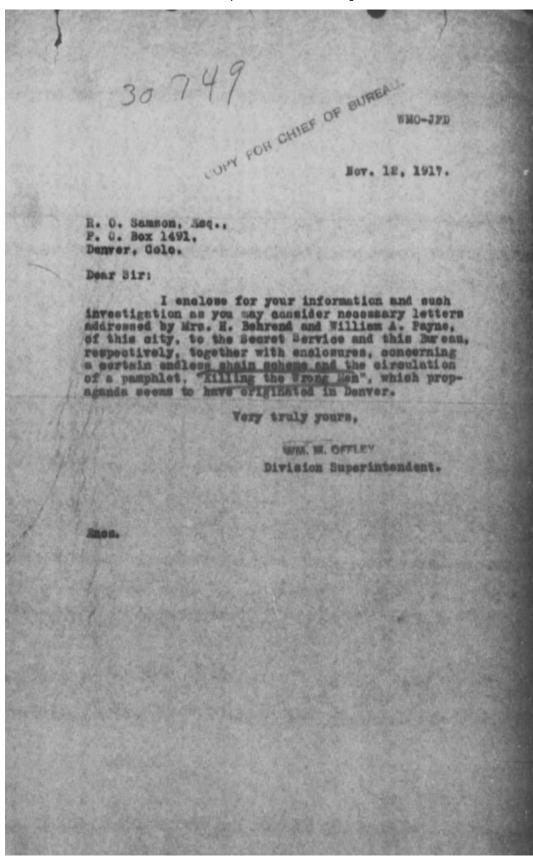
First, write a postal to your Congressman urging that excess profits of all businesses be taxed 100% to finance the war and to liquidate all war indebtedness when hostilities cease; also urge that the United States strive in every possible manner to establish peace throughout the world.

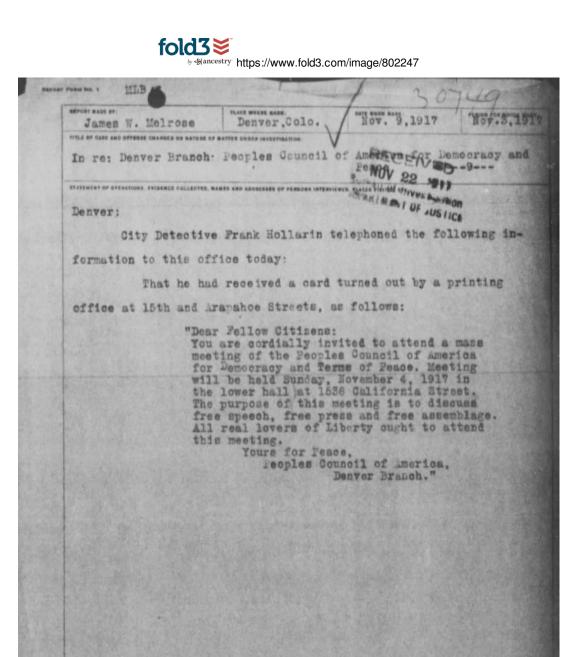
Secondly, send one dime to Ben J. Salmon, 222 Guardian Trust Building, Denver, Colorado; he will mail you a supply of this circular for free distribution among your friends. The 10c will pay postage, printing, etc. Somebody else paid to get this circular into your hands. Reciprocate by helping us reach others. "Do your bit." If you prefer not to order these circulars for yourself, order for a friend.

We urge you-act quickly!!! A crisis is upon us. Your efforts and our efforts will accomplish the desired results.

Since its inception a few months ago, The People's Council of America has enrolled over two million members. Help us to exert an influence by distributing some of these circulars, thus circumventing the war-profiters' attempts to crush us. They have succeeded in preventing our meetings, but they cannot stop our work if you will procure some of these documents and pass them among friends.

For any additional information write to the National Headquarters of The People's Council, 2 West 13th Street, New York City, or to Ben J. Salmon, Secretary of the Denver Branch, Denver, Colo.





COPY OF THIS REPORT SPREIGHED TO

LIFY FOR CHIEF OF BUREAU Nov. 12, 1917.

William A. Payne, Msq., EO Hamilton Terrace, New York, M. T.

Dear Sir:

I beg to asknowledge receipt of your recent communication enclosing certain literature of the People's Council for Democracy and Peace, of Denver, Colorade, and to thank you for bringing the same to the attention of this office.

Division Superintendent.



Image url: https://www.fold3.com/image/802525

Publication Number: M1085

Publication Title: Investigative Case Files of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

Publisher: NARA

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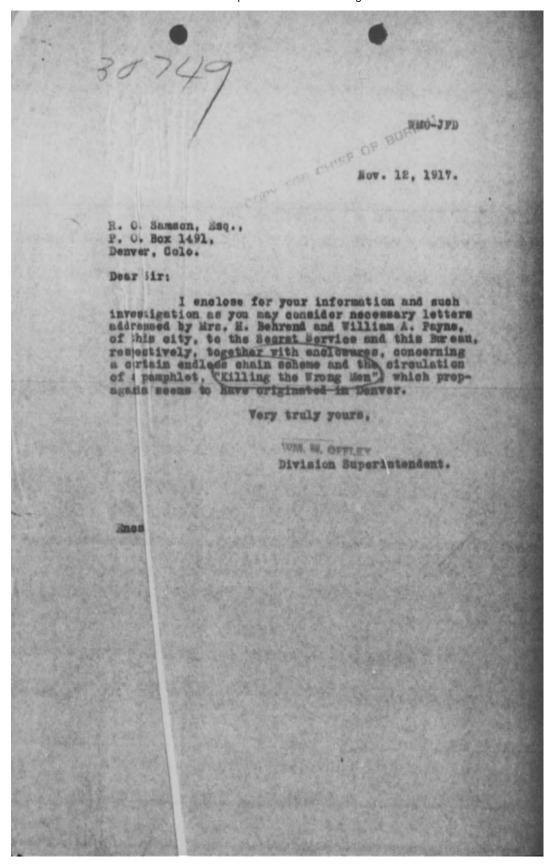
Series: Old German Files, 1909-21

Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 92



MEB BEFORE MADE BY Nov.7,1917 Nov. 13, 1917 James W. Dielevon and Council of American for Democracy and Poppor 26 Denver, Colo. James W. Melrose TITLE OF CAST AND OFFENER CHARGED OF NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION SPANISH OF AUGUST STATEMENT OF OPPRATIONS, PUBLISHE COLLECTES, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIENCES, PLACES & Denver:

The Post Office Inspector in Charge of the Denver Office, transmitted today a letter addressed to the Star, St. Marys, Kansas, which contained another one of the endless chain circulars referred to and set forth in my report of the 5th inst. Same had been transmitted by Post Office Inspector in Charge Clampitt of Muskogee, Okla. to the Denver office.

In addition to the above, there was also transmitted to this office a communicationreceived by Mr. J. Goodall, Pearce Bldg., St. Louis, Mo., with the following enclosures: a circular letter with the following headlines:

"BEN. J. SALMON

BECRETARY DESVER BRAUGH

THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL OF AMERICA FOR DEMOCRACY AND PRACE DENVER, COLO. Denver, Colo. Oct. 29, 1917

Dear Friend: This letter will be short; sweet or sour according to how the enclosed circular impresses you.

We want to cobweb the nation with these circulars.

Pive dollars will bring 600 copies to your address express prepaid. Will you kindly persuade a few friends to flick you a simpleon, send me an order for \$5.00 worth? The object: flood congress with a demand that wealth be taxed to pay for the war, and that the United States strive for an early peace.
I hope you will not think me too optomistic when I
tell you that three days after tomorrow I will receive your reply. Many thanks.

Sincerely (Signed) Ben J. Salmon.

Address envelope: Ben J. Salmon 222 Guardian Trust Building, Denver, Colo."

The enclosure above referred to is a pamphlet of which the writer is Ben J. Salmon and which is entitled "Killing the Wrong Men".

agent also received another letter addressed to Mrs. R. Griswold, 4334 Greer Avenue, St. Louis, Mo., containing same enclose

COPY OF THIS REPORT PURSUES TO



Image url: https://www.fold3.com/image/803633

Publication Number: M1085

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Series: Old German Files, 1909-21

Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 353

MLB November 1917 continued. council of america for Pero

agent would say in conn ction with this same matter that Mr. Ben J. Salmon was recently called to the office of U. 3. Attorney Tedrow respecting the circulating as well as the issuing of the above referred to panishlet "Killing the Wrong Hen", and as the result of that conference with Mr. Salmon, U.S. Attorney Tedrow today handed me the following communication dated Denver, Colo., Bev. 5. 1017:

> "Hon. H. B. Tedrow, U.S.Dist. Attorney, Denver, Golo. Dear Er Tedrow:

I have just destroyed five-thousand copies of the enclosed circular "Killing the Wrong Men". The janitor in this building is witness to this fact. I shall see to it that nothing more of this nature is

written or circulated by me.

I feel that the distribution of these circulars would not beleneficial to america's cause at this time, and I will not be used to aid any propagands of anti-Americaniem.

I am as much a pacifiet as I ever was, but incline to believe that I can do more good for the cause by not giving any aid to professed "patriota" who are seeking to jet myself and others into trouble.

doping this will be satisfactory,

Very truly yours."

(Signed) Ben J. Salmes."

In addition to the above matters agent also today requived from Special Agent in Charge Eberetein, Omaha, Hebraska, an envelope addressed to Mrs. S. F. Brakine, Norfolk, Bebraska, containing an engless chain pamphlet heretofore referred to in my report of the 5th.

Also there was transmitted to this office under date of Movember 6th a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Killing the Wrong Men" heretofore referred to, mailed by Special Agent C. L. Keep. Acting in Charge, Los Angeles. No mention as to who received this pample

There was also transmitted to this office by Post Office Inspector Joe P. Johnson, Kansas C ty. Ho., letter addressed to the

1

In re: Feoples

A Street Francisco. A

MLB

Bovemb 7,1917 continued.

In re: leoples Council of America for Democracy & Peace:

Courier Democrat, Sececa, Mansas, containing a printed pamphlet heretofore mentioned as the "endless chain".

Also another letter addressed to Emanuel Congregational Church, Orange Street, Springfield, Mass., transmitted to this office by the Local Post Office Inspector in Charge containing the heretofore mentioned pamphlet.

-Mancestry https://www.fold3.com/image/803916 HILB Benver, Colo Oct. 5001191 MOV. 5,1917 James W. Melrose uncil of America: Ben J. Salmon Secretary. Bura. In re: Denver Branch, Peoples O Bureau of the STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS. STITEMES COLLECTED, MANES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED PLACES VISITED. PARES VISITED. agent today received a letter from Chief Bielacki under date of October 23rd, with enclosures of photostat copies of anti-war leaflets issued by the Secretary of this Council and entitled "Killing the Wrong Men", "Iro-Rumanity", etc. This office has received from time to time, handed in by local persons, camples of these pamphlets which are new on file in this case and are receiving the attention of United States District Attorney with a view of prosecution should it develop any law is violated.

OFF OF THIS STPORT PERMISSED TO

U.S. attorney. Denver



Image url: https://www.fold3.com/image/803916

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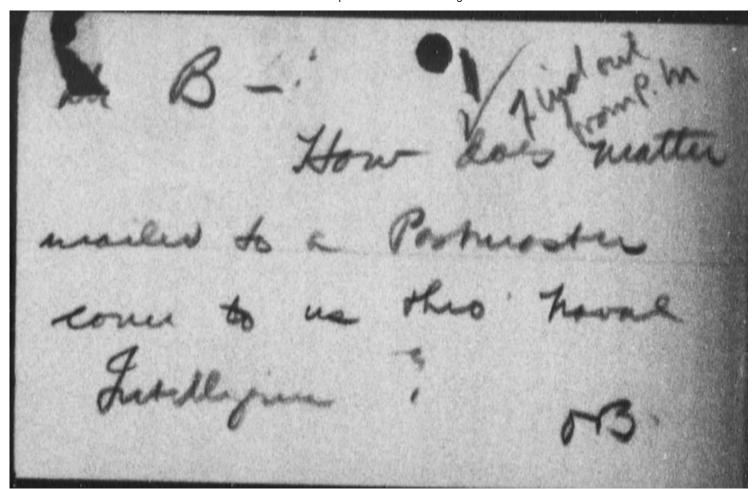




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Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 536

CONTRACTOR AT.

NAVY DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE WASHINGTON

In reply refer to No.

WHIE-MoC

November 14 1817

My dear Mr. O'Brien:

I enclose herewith circular of "The People's Council of America", together with a letter of the secretary of the Denver Branch, also letter of W. Changler Stewart, of Atlantic City, N. J., transmitting the same.

This matter is transmitted to you for such action as you may does advisable.

Very truly yours,

Hoge Welles

Captain, U. S. M., Director of Maval Intelligence.

Mr. John Lord O'Brian,

Special Asst. to the Attorney General,

Department of Justice,

Washington, D. C.



STATES GARAGE

HIGH CLASS TOURIST SERVICE

ATLANTIC AVENUE CORNER DELAWARE

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

NOV 7 - 1

Postmoster.

atlanti City.

Dear Lin.

I believe it my duty to make

you attention to the include cinca

and letter which I received Though the

maile to day

Coleep ym.

The hand Revort

Ben J. Salmon
Secretary Denver Branch
The People's Council of America for Democracy and Peace
Denver, Colo.

Denver, Colo. Oct. 29, 1917.

Dear Friend:

This letter will be short; sweet or sour according to how the enclosed circular impresses you.

We want to cob-web the nation with these circulars. Five dollars will bring 600 copies to your address express prepaid. Will you kindly persuade a few friends to flick you a simpleon, send me an order for \$5.00 worth? The object: flood congress with a demand that wealth be taxed to pay for the war, and that the United States strive for an early peace.

I hope you will not think me too optimistic when I tell you that three days after to-morrow I will receive your reply. Many thanks.

Der J. Nalmon

Address envelope: Ben J. Salmon, 222 Guardian Trust Building, Denver, Colo.