

RCL:ACB

November 13, 1917

30749

F. B. Curtis, Jr.,
28 Yale Sta.,
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:-

Replying to your letter of the 26th 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
N.Y.
New York/for his attention.

Yours very truly,

Chief.

SOURCE INFORMATION

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 investigated real and perceived threats to the nation and its citizens.

Collection Title: Investigative Reports of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

Roll: boi_german_257-850_0011


Series: Old German Files, 1909-21

Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 28

Original data from:  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

2004
11-10-77
2
Oct. 26, 1917

28 Yale Sta.

New Haven, Conn.

A. Bruce Bielaski

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.

Yours very truly

F. S. Curtis Jr.

REPORT MADE BY: Arthur J. Barkay	PLACE WHERE MADE: Buffalo, New York	DATE MADE: Nov. 5, 1917	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: Nov. 2, 1917
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TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION:
In re The People's Council 307498

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.

At Buffalo, New York.

The following is a copy of a letter turned over to me by Postoffice Inspector Joseph Viok:

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

Denver, Colo, Oct. 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 500 copies to your address prepaid. Will you kindly persuade a few friends to flick you a dime each, 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 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 enclosed circular mentioned in the above letter is a four-page 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.

COPIES OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:
Buffalo, Denver and New York

44-27
-2-

"Thou Shalt Not Kill"

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 ostrich-like 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.

"No man can serve two masters." Christianity and war are opposite extremes of belief

Freedom is well, but freedom at the price of murder is not well.—Elbert Hubbard

PRO-HUMANITY

We are not pro-German, nor, 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!

It does not take half the courage to die for your country that it does to live for a principle.—Dr. Alexander J. McIvor-Tyndall

Ujjust 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 Poverty."

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.

Freedom and Justice will dominate America if you as an individual will do your share



30749

COPY FOR CHIEF OF BUREAU.

WMO-JPD

Nov. 12, 1917.

R. O. Samson, Esq.,
P. O. Box 1491,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sir:

I enclose for your information and such investigation as you may consider necessary letters addressed by Mrs. H. Behrend and William A. Payne, of this city, to the Secret Service and this Bureau, respectively, together with enclosures, concerning a certain endless chain scheme and the circulation of a pamphlet, "Killing the Wrong Men", which propaganda seems to have originated in Denver.

Very truly yours,

Wm. W. OFFLEY
Division Superintendent.

Encs.

REPORT FORM NO. 1 MLB 30749

REPORT MADE BY: James W. Melrose	PLACE WHERE MADE: Denver, Colo.	DATE WHEN MADE: Nov. 9, 1917	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: Nov. 3, 1917
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TITLE OF CARD AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION:

In re: Denver Branch: Peoples Council of America for Democracy and

RECEIVED
NOV 22 1917
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, OFFENSES CHARGED:

Denver:

City Detective Frank Hollarin telephoned the following information to this office today:

That he had received a card turned out by a printing office at 15th and Arapahoe Streets, as follows:

"Dear Fellow Citizens:
 You are cordially invited to attend a mass meeting of the Peoples Council of America for Democracy and Terms of Peace. Meeting will be held Sunday, November 4, 1917 in the lower hall at 1536 California Street. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss free speech, free press and free assemblage. All real lovers of Liberty ought to attend this meeting.
 Yours for Peace,
 Peoples Council of America,
 Denver Branch."

COPY OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO: _____

30749

COPY FOR CHIEF OF BUREAU

WMC-JFD

Nov. 12, 1917.

William A. Payne, Esq.,
20 Hamilton Terrace,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

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

Very truly yours,
W. M. C. JFD

Division Superintendent.

SOURCE INFORMATION

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

Short Description: NARA M1085. Before it was called the FBI, the Bureau of Investigation investigated real and perceived threats to the nation and its citizens.

Collection Title: Investigative Reports of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

Roll: boi_german_257-850_0011


Series: Old German Files, 1909-21

Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 92

Original data from:  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

30749

WMO-JFD

Nov. 12, 1917.

R. O. Samson, Esq.,
P. O. Box 1491,
Denver, Colo.

Dear Sir:

I enclose for your information and such investigation as you may consider necessary letters addressed by Mrs. H. Behrend and William A. Payne, of this city, to the Secret Service and this Bureau, respectively, together with enclosures, concerning a certain endless chain scheme and the circulation of a pamphlet, "Killing the Wrong Men" which propaganda seems to have originated in Denver.

Very truly yours,

W. W. OFFLEY
Division Superintendent.

Encs

30749

<small>REPORT MADE BY:</small> James W. Melrose	<small>PLACE WHERE MADE:</small> Denver, Colo.	<small>DATE WHEN MADE:</small> Nov. 13, 1917	<small>PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE:</small> Nov. 7, 1917
<small>TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION:</small> In re: Peoples Council of American for Democracy and Peace			
<small>STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED, ETC.:</small> <p>Denver:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In addition to the above, there was also transmitted to this office a communication received by Mr. J. Goodall, Pearce Bldg., St. Louis, Mo., with the following enclosures: a circular letter with the following headlines:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"BEN. J. SALMON SECRETARY DENVER BRANCH THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL OF AMERICA FOR DEMOCRACY AND PEACE DENVER, COLO. Denver, Colo. Oct. 29, 1917</p> <p>Dear Friend:</p> <p>This letter will be short; sweet or sour according to how the enclosed circular impresses you.</p> <p>We want to cobweb 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 simoleon, 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.</p> <p>I hope you will not think me too optimistic when I tell you that three days after tomorrow I will receive your reply. Many thanks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sincerely, (Signed) Ben J. Salmon.</p> <p>Address envelope: Ben J. Salmon 222 Guardian Trust Building, Denver, Colo."</p> <p>The enclosure above referred to is a pamphlet of which the writer is Ben J. Salmon and which is entitled "Killing the Wrong Men".</p> <p>Agent also received another letter addressed to Mrs. R. Griswold, 4334 Grear Avenue, St. Louis, Mo., containing same enclos-</p>			
<small>COPY OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:</small>			

RECEIVED
NOV 26 1917
Bureau of Investigation
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SOURCE INFORMATION

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

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 investigated real and perceived threats to the nation and its citizens.

Collection Title: Investigative Reports of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

Roll: boi_german_257-850_0011


Series: Old German Files, 1909-21

Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 353

Original data from:  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

Report Form No. 2
MLB
November 7, 1917 continued.

In re: Peoples Council of America for Democracy & Peace: ---5---

ure, transmitted by the Post Office Inspector in charge of the Chicago district, Wm. L. Reid, to the Post Office Inspector in charge of this office. Agent would say in connection with this same matter that Mr. Ben J. Salmon was recently called to the office of U. S. Attorney Tedrow respecting the circulating as well as the issuing of the above referred to pamphlet "Killing the Wrong Men", and as the result of that conference with Mr. Salmon, U.S. Attorney Tedrow today handed me the following communication dated Denver, Colo., Nov. 5, 1917:

"Hon. H. B. Tedrow,
U.S. Dist. Attorney,
Denver, Colo.
Dear Mr. 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 be beneficial to America's cause at this time, and I will not be used to aid any propoganda of anti-Americanism.

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

Hoping this will be satisfactory,
Very truly yours,
(Signed) Ben J. Salmon."

In addition to the above matters agent also today received from Special Agent in Charge Eberstein, Omaha, Nebraska, an envelope addressed to Mrs. S. F. Erskine, Norfolk, Nebraska, containing an endless chain pamphlet heretofore referred to in my report of the 5th.

Also there was transmitted to this office under date of November 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 pamphlet.

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

RECEIVED
NOV 28 1917
Bureau of Investigation
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

47-211

In re: Peoples Council of America for Democracy & Peace: ---6---

Courier Democrat, Seneca, Kansas, 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.

REPORT FORM NO. 1

MLB 56749

REPORT MADE BY: James W. Melrose	PLACE WHERE MADE: Denver, Colo.	DATE WHEN MADE: Nov. 5, 1917	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE: Oct. 20, 1917
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TITLE OF CASE AND OFFENSE CHARGED OR NATURE OF MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION:
In re: Denver Branch, Peoples Council of America; Ben J. Salmon, Secretary.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS, EVIDENCE COLLECTED, NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED, PLACES VISITED:
 Denver:
 Agent today received a letter from Chief Bielaski 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", "Pro-Humanity", etc.
 This office has received from time to time, handed in by local persons, samples of these pamphlets which are now 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.

NOV 6 1917
Bureau of Investigation
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPY OF THIS REPORT FURNISHED TO:
U.S. Attorney, Denver

71-67

SOURCE INFORMATION

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

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 investigated real and perceived threats to the nation and its citizens.

Collection Title: Investigative Reports of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

Roll: boi_german_257-850_0011


Series: Old German Files, 1909-21

Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 427

Original data from:  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

Mr B -

✓ Found out
from P.M.

How does matter

mailed to a Postmaster

come to us this Naval

Intelligence

OTB

SOURCE INFORMATION

Image url: <https://www.fold3.com/image/804466>

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 investigated real and perceived threats to the nation and its citizens.

Collection Title: Investigative Reports of the Bureau of Investigation 1908-1922

Roll: boi_german_257-850_0011


Series: Old German Files, 1909-21

Case Number: 30749

Case Title: Various

Suspect Name: Various

Page: 536

Original data from:  [The National Archives \(http://www.archives.gov\)](http://www.archives.gov)

In reply refer to No.

WLB-McC

CONFIDENTIAL.NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTONNovember 13, 1917.
Barbours
11/20/17
at

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. Chandler Stewart, of Atlantic City, N. J., transmitting the same.

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

Very truly yours,

*Roger Welles*Captain, U. S. N.,
Director of Naval Intelligence.

Mr. John Lord O'Brien,
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 - 1917

Postmaster,
Atlantic City.

Dear Sir,

I believe it my duty to call
your attention to the enclosed circular
and letter which I received through the
mail to-day.

Cordially yours,

W. Harold Jewett

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 simoleon, 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.

Sincerely,

Ben J. Salmon

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