

[c 1964?]

Report on the
Committee of One Million Caucasians

This group was set up early in 1964 by James Venable and Wally Butterworth. Venable, an attorney, is head of the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He also serves as a lawyer for the Black Muslims and has received \$25,000 in fees from this group. Butterworth has worked closely with Venable in the Klan and is head of the Christian Voters and Buyers League. He was formerly an announcer for NBC in Atlanta but was fired for drunkenness. He is at present in Montgomery, Alabama, working for the Committee there and working with Shelton who is involved with the Committee. When a person visited Venable at his office in the Walter Brown Building, one of his associates mentioned that he had just returned from Montgomery, and mentioned how much interest there there was in the Committee and its March. Butterworth's drinking has led him into conflicts with Venable (who is almost a teetotaler) and this is the reason he has left Atlanta and is in Montgomery. Butterworth, under his ~~sk~~ anti-Negro and anti-Semitic Christian Voters and Buyers League, has issued many hate records. These include an interview with Charlie Lebedin, owner of Leb's restaurant. Butterworth interviewed "Leb" using a fictitious name of Henderson, taping the interview. The interview was made shortly after demonstrations at the restaurant and was a fairly "moderate" one having to do with property rights, etc., in other words it had no racist overtones. However, when X Butterworth issued it on record he preceded and followed it with an inflammatory, hate-filled talk of his own, which turned it all into a recruitment record for the Klan.

The Committee first exposed itself publicly with a full-page advertisement in the Decab New Era, for either Thurs April 23, or Tues, April 28. An abridged and less hate-filled version of this ad appeared in the May 2, 1964 issue of the Atlanta Constitution. The full-page ad was also run in ~~some~~ a Glendale, California, newspaper. However the Committee itself did not place this ad. A group ~~organized~~ in the Los Angeles area which is roughly affiliated with Venable's Klan group ran the ad without Venable's prior knowledge. When Venable found out about this, he was "delighted".

The Committee has been following Wallace across the country, flooding areas with literature after Wallace has left, trying to get support and local groups to sponsor the March. It has been quite successful to date. Much of its support has come in the form of letters, with "I'm all with you" type notes and small contributions enclosed. In this manner, the Committee has become quite a financial success.

Because of this financial success, the Committee has been de-emphasizing its original viciousness. Venable himself has been playing it very cool and not trying to show that he heads to Committee.

A four-page mimeographed sheet in the Freedom Bookstore in Jackson, Mississippi reeked with vicious, venomous hate and white-supremacy. The address at the end was: National Committee of March on Congress, Walter R. Brown Building, Pryor and Hunter Streets, Atlanta, Georgia, Hon. James R. Venable, President.

When the aforementioned person called on Venable and identified him with the Committee, Venable was somewhat defensive and would not admit that he was behind it. He tried to give a more moderate picture of the group. This sheet then must have been an early piece of literature distributed by the group, before it took on its "moderate-tinged" facade.

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The Committee's national headquarters are at 4553 Riverdale Road, College Park, Georgia. This is a vacant lot next to a supermarket. On it is a small frame structure, just large enough ~~to~~ for the desk and two card table chairs it contains. A sign on the outside reads: Register here for March on Congress, July 4, 1964. There is no other information on the building, nor is there any information posted on the walls inside. When a person called at this office a middle-aged woman ~~xxxxxx~~, heavy-set, was inside and she registered persons. She left shortly after three in the afternoon presumably to go home and meet her school-age children as shortly after she left, a nearby school was dismissed and children filled the area.

Across the street from the structure is an A&W Root Beer stand. Painted (in red and blue on a white background, as on the headquarters building) is Committee of One Million Caucasians to March on Congress, July 4, 1964 Register across street (white,..)

This A&W stand is owned and operated by James B. Cruse, who is chairman of the Committee's finance committee. It is not known who owns the lot on which the headquarters structure is located.

On Sunday, May 17, the Committee held a strategy meeting at the Henry Grady Hotel in Atlanta.

Venable is doing some touring, to increase interest in the Committee. Saturday night, May 23, he is scheduled to speak ^{in Columbus, Ok.} before a meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of White People--a Cincinnati-based group.

Jerry DeHuth
May 19, 1964