

838 Lutz  
Canton, Mississippi  
April 7, 1965

Mr. Edwin Willis, Chairman  
House Committee on Unamerican Activities  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

We, as individual staff members of the Council of Federated Organizations in the Fourth Congressional District of Mississippi, protest the proposed investigation of the KKK by the HUAC.

We protest this investigation, as all other investigations by the committee, because the investigation serves no purpose but to intimidate the members of the KKK. We believe that any American has the right to belong to any organization and to hold any political, social, philosophical or religious theory free from intimidation by the government. We believe individuals should never be punished for their ideas or theories, but only for criminal acts against an individual or society. Thoughts, theories, or ideas should never be construed as criminal acts. One should never be punished or intimidated for belonging to any organization but only for specific criminal acts.

We are opposed to the HUAC investigations whose only purpose seems to be to discredit through guilt by association individuals and organizations whose doctrines and opinions may differ from the doctrines and opinions of individual members of the committee.

We wish to make it quite clear that we are opposed to the terroristic methods of the KKK and to its doctrines of white supremacy and racial segregation. Nevertheless, we are opposed to this intimidating investigation of the KKK, for we uphold the right of the members of the KKK to hold and express any belief. We do ask, however, that any criminal acts committed by members of the KKK against an individual or society be investigated or punished by the proper police and judiciary officials.

Sincerely yours,