



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Detroit, Michigan
June 6, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Re: Charles David Ream

On October 29, 1968

[redacted] an organization named Western Activist has been chartered at Western Michigan University (WMU), Kalamazoo, Michigan, as an officially recognized student organization. The purpose or objectives of the organization as set forth on the Charter Petition presented by the organizers of the organization to the WMU administration is as follows:

"The Western Activist will exist to provide a student-run news media on the campus of Western Michigan University free of administrative control over the content of that news media."

The name Charles Ream, 1029 Denner, appears on the Charter Petition as one of the twelve organizing members of the Western Activist, and his signature appears following the typed name.

The Western Activist for several months published a bi-monthly newspaper, also called the "Western Activist"; however, the last issue of that paper was published in February, 1969. This paper was sold in the WMU Student Center and in Sangren Hall, WMU. The masthead of the "Western Activist" states that it is a member of the Underground Press Syndicate and Liberation News Service. The name Charles Ream is listed as one of the General Staff of that paper. The "Western Activist" is a publication of the New Left Movement.

Re: Charles David Ream

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the [REDACTED] September, 1968, Chuck Ream paid \$3.00 membership dues in SDS.

A characterization of SDS appears in the appendix attached hereto.

Page 3 of the January 30, 1969 issue of the "Western Activist", supra, contains an article titled: "NIXON'S IN-HOGRATION by Chuck Ream." The article described Ream's trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the inauguration of President Richard M. Nixon on January 20, 1969. It stated that on Friday morning, January 17, 1969, he went over to the National Mobilization Committee and met Mobilization Coordinator Rennie Davis and was driven by Davis to the Washington Monument grounds to help put up the huge tent which would house the Anti-Inaugural Ball. The following is a verbatim excerpt from this article:

"The Kalamazoo contingent, consisting of Chuck Ream and Richard Gibson, started out for the Capitol in style late Thursday evening. We had a new Falcon station wagon with a mattress in the back, a helmet for clubs, a gas mask for gas, and vaseline for mace. Chicago had at least taught us something about survival. This time, though, not being content merely to survive, we had our signs tacked to two four-foot long two by twos. They figure significantly in the following story."

Ream told of participating in the march on Sunday, after which he went with "thousands" of others to the New Smithsonian Institute where the reception for Vice President Spiro Agnew was held. The following is a verbatim excerpt relative to activities outside this reception:

"The police did their clearing mainly with horses. We were pushed back into a park. There were lots of trees to climb in and sod under our feet. It started to get dark. Police charged the crowd once or twice and beat a few people and made arrests. A few in the crowd fought back. The

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Kalamazoo contingent made four direct hits, two with clods of sod, one with (get this) a three inch thick 1969 Readers Digest Almanac and one with the pole that had so recently borne a sign. It unerringly found its mark--the back of a cops head. As new cops came through the crowd on their motorcycles I bellowed 'pigs eat s___' into each ones ear. A guy behind me said 'why don't you organize if you're going to go around yelling "Pigs eat s___!"' I was nearly ready to tell him to eat some s___ until I recognized Mark Rudd under a battered brown hat and long wooly scarf. I guess he has earned his right to say what he pleases."

Wow
The above excerpt has been altered to omit the same obscene word in three places.

Ream told of attending the "Anti-Inagural Ball" that Sunday night in the tent and wrote that many persons in attendance were smoking marijuana. He wrote: "Everybody who wanted some dope must have had at least a couple of tokes and some people got pretty high."

The following is another verbatim excerpt from that article:

"Now it was Monday, Nixon's turn for a parade. We got up to another big breakfast and said goodbye to our new friends in Maryland. Our signs had been broken in Sunday's fighting but we still had the sticks. We stopped, bout some cloth and made flags. When we arrived we joined the militants and charged Pennsylvania Avenue but were stopped by cops."

Ream then told of watching the Inaugural Parade and of shouting obscenities at cabinet members and their wives.

On February 1, 1969, [redacted] the SDS Regional Conference convened at about 9:30 p.m., January 31, 1969, in Room 159, Student Center, WMU. Charles Ream was one of the 37 persons in attendance at this conference. [redacted] Charles Ream has not attended any of the weekly meetings of the SDS organization at WMU since November 5, 1968.

[redacted]

[redacted]

D)

[REDACTED]

Re: Charles David Ream

A Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) listened to a broadcast over Radio Station WKZO, Kalamazoo, of the March 17, 1969 meeting of the Kalamazoo City Commission. At that meeting, an individual who identified himself to be Charles Ream, 127 South Berkley, Kalamazoo, read an SDS statement in which SDS supported the Kalamazoo City Firemen in their request for increased wages and a resumption of negotiation of their contract with the City of Kalamazoo.

The March 25, 1969 issue of the "Kalamazoo Gazette," daily newspaper, contained an article on page 27 which stated that a "group of loosely organized students" presented a list of eight "demands" to WMU President James W. Miller during the WMU President's regularly scheduled President's Conference with students on the afternoon of March 24, 1969. Following are excerpts from that article:

"The demands included:

- "1) No action on a tuition hike until a mutually agreed upon fact-finding commission reviews and reports on WMU financial records and the results are made public to the student body.
- "2) Elimination of all disciplinary boards, bodies and rules which seek to regulate the non-academic lives of students.
- "3) Elimination of all parking regulations.
- "4) Equal access to university facilities for all student organizations.
- "5) Abolition of student housing regulations.
- "6) The dropping of all non-academic disciplinary action presently enforced against any student.
- "7) Voluntary participation in general studies and physical education courses.
- "8) Students be given a meaningful voice and be part of the decision-making process in all academic affairs."

(2)



Re: Charles David Ream

"Charles Ream, president of the local SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) chapter, asked: 'Are students going to be treated as people?'

"Miller indicated that such properly designated bodies as residence hall councils should be given 'real authority to move in certain areas.'

"Ream, who told the students at the conference that 'we should do everything that we can do to get these rights,' told Miller: 'You'll be upset when this campus blows, but it'll blow because you're going at your own pace.'"

The above article contained a byline of James Stommen, Gazette Staff Writer.

The March 26, 1969 issue of the "Kalamazoo Gazette" contained an article on page 29 which stated as follows:

"Charles Ream, a WMU senior from Three Rivers, was incorrectly identified as president of the local Students for a Democratic Society chapter in a story in Monday's Gazette.

"Ream, who last week issued a statement regarding the City of Kalamazoo dispute with Fire Fighters Local 394 as a spokesman for SDS; said Tuesday that he isn't connected with that organization."

The April 8, 1969 issue of the "Kalamazoo Gazette" contained an article on page 6 authored by Charles Ream. Following are excerpts from that article:

"I will attempt to reply to the Gazette editorial of April 5 entitled 'Loss of Control Inherent Demonstration Danger.'

"Your initial premise seems to be that: (1) There were 'leaders' and (2) that these leaders 'lost control.' Many people worked very hard to build the struggle for our rights. I authored many thousands of mimeographed leaflets, spoke a few times, gave some press releases, spoke to President Miller when he confronted the students Tuesday night and thus