

Morris then raised the Nation Magazine editorial about the Ohio situation. I told him frankly of the background of this. I pointed out confidentially, of course, that in 1951 we were confronted with the proposition of either having our files opened up with no controls being imposed, or working out an arrangement with the Governors' Conference and I mentioned that the two Governors who were the spokesmen on this subject, among others, were Governors Lausche of Ohio and Adlai Stevenson of Illinois. Ernst stated in his opinion we should tell the Governors nothing. I asked him what his defense would be should something disastrous occur. He had the perfect defense that we were an agency of quiet dissemination for the benefit of the Executive branch of the government. I told Ernst I was confident, even with all of his persuasive powers, he could not defend this before the American public. Ernst agreed that this was probably the case.

Ernst stated he was hopeful the Bureau could get back to its old days. I told Ernst there had been no change in the Bureau; that our policies and principles were exactly the same as they had always been. Yes, but Ernst pointed out, the Director had been injected into a political controversy. I told him it was not a political controversy to speak the truth and that some of Ernst's own friends had been responsible for bringing on the condition which literally forced the Director to testify against his will. I mentioned to Ernst the planted stories and told him to document the case himself. He was conscious of some of the stories and stated he would try to exercise what influence he could. I told him further the Director did not want to get in the White case and would not have gotten in the White case had there not been a series of planted stories; that the Director was going to say nothing more, unless the Bureau's good name was impugned; that, however, we were getting the ammunition together just in case, since we had been tipped off the National Democratic Committee was going to have a series of questions asked as to what the Bureau was doing prior to Bentley and Chambers and that the answers to these questions, if they were forced, would be far more devastating than the answers to the White case.

Ernst stated he thought he could exert some influence in the National Democratic Committee. I told him his friend, Clayton Fritchey, had been getting into the act. I referred him to the Smaldone case in Denver and what the facts were.