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Last Updated: 04/19/2023

H4003

**WHITE HOUSE
COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING

Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 83112115

Name of Correspondent: Ben E. Thraillbill, Jr.

CN Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Winter lives in the 3RD poorest county in the United States and contends that some people are hungry, but not from lack of available food assistance programs.

ROUTE TO:	ACTION	DISPOSITION			
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CNHAMM</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>83112115</u>	<u>NAN</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>83112115</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>
	Referral Note:				
		<u>1 1</u>			<u>1 1</u>

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- C - Comment/Recommendation
- D - Draft Response
- F - Furnish Fact Sheet to be used as Enclosure

- I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
- R - Direct Reply w/Copy
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- X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

- A - Answered
- B - Non-Special Referral
- C - Completed
- S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:
 Type of Response = Initials of Signer
 Code = "A"
 Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments: _____

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 2200 4630 _____

Prime Subject Code: H9003 - _____ Secondary Subject Codes: W9010 - _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

- CPn - Presidential Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

- CLn - First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

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- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

191951

Ben E. Thraikill, Jr.
District No. 106-Horry County
Box G
Surfside Beach, S.C. 29577

434-D Blatt Building
Columbia, S.C. 29211

Tel. (803) 758-8488

Committee:
Agriculture and Natural Resources

December 10, 1983

The Honorable Ed Meese
Presidential Assistant
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500


Dear Ed:

Having lived in the 3rd poorest county in the nation for 20 years (1954-74) I concur there is no poverty in this country--at least "poverty" by Webster's definition.

Granted there are some people who go to bed hungry, for various and sundry reasons, but not from the ability to have food for consumption.

If you would like to come down to this 'poverty niche', I'll be glad to escort you to areas of "poverty" where food stamps abound and so do 1983 automobiles.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Ben E. Thraikill Jr., DDS
(803) 651-5587

BET/pb

[Copy to EM, Ypm, 12/14]
29

192062
H003
WEDIO
F0006-01
F00
DECEMBER 14, 1983
F0001

OCA WIRES

From: NEWS Posted: Wed 14-Dec-83 15:36 Sys
97 (64) Subject: MEESE :meese on hunger by helen thomas upi
white house reporter wash Reagan defends Meese on hunger

By HELEN THOMAS UPI White House Reporter

WASHINGTON (UPI) President Reagan strongly defended aide Edwin Meese's controversial remarks about soup-kitchen cheaters Wednesday but declared, "If there is one person in this country hungry, that is one too many."

With some emotion, Reagan chided reporters at an impromptu news conference, saying he thinks Meese's remarks were taken "totally out of context" and the reports of them were "distorted."

Reagan volunteered his views at the end of a 10-minute question-and-answer session. He was obviously stung by the criticism following Meese's comments that there is no proof there are hungry children in the America.

"The policy, and my own feeling, in this administration is that if there is one person in this country hungry, that is one too many, and we're going to do what we can to alleviate that situation. And I happen to know that he (Meese) feels the same way," Reagan said.

At the same time, Reagan pointed to the administration's vigorous program to "weed out" ineligible welfare recipients. And he said, "If there are people who will cheat with regard to getting welfare, I think it's possible that some might be cheating in this other."

Meese, counselor to the president, told wire service reporters last week he knew of no "authoritative figures that there are hungry children.

"I've heard a lot of anecdotal stuff, but I haven't heard any authoritative figures. And, as a matter of fact, that's one of the reasons why the president appointed a task force on food assistance, to get to the bottom of some of these allegations, which have been unsubstantiated until now," he said.

Meese also said, "I think some people are going to soup kitchens voluntarily. I know we've had considerable information that people go to soup kitchens because the food is free and that that's easier than paying for it."

Reagan said the administration knows of some "anecdotal incidents" involving those able to pay for food who were taking it free.

The president noted government efforts to supply surplus food to the poor and said, "We're doing more to feed the hungry in this country today than has ever been done by any administration. More money has been spent. More people are getting food stamps."

MEANWHILE, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ITS THIRD AND FINAL DAY OF HEARINGS ON WAYS TO REDUCE THE FEDERAL DEFICIT.

SEVERAL ECONOMISTS, REPRESENTING A WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS, URGED QUICK ACTION WHEN CONGRESS RECONVENES IN JANUARY TO CURB FEDERAL SPENDING AND RAISE TAXES.

"THE PROSPECT OF AN UNPRECEDENTED STRING OF HUGE FEDERAL BUDGET DEFICITS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS CONSTITUTES A MAJOR THREAT TO THE STABILITY AND WELL BEING OF THE U.S. AND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIES," SAID ALLEN SINAI, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF THE LEHMAN BROTHERS KUHN LOEB INVESTMENT FIRM.

"ALREADY, INTEREST RATES ARE RISING, UP 50 TO 150 BASIS POINTS SINCE THE SPRING, WITH THE CONTINUING HIGH DEFICITS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR," SINAI SAID.

UPI 12-14-83 03:38 PES

Disposition: d

End of Mail.

9

WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

HE003

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL

I - INCOMING
 Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 83 12 14

Name of Correspondent: Reuby Richardson

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Hungry people in Oklahoma City, Cleveland City, and the rest of the Nation

ROUTE TO:	ACTION	DISPOSITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CoKell</u>	ORIGINATOR <u>83/12/16</u>	<u>@84/10/21</u> LDL
<u>99 USDA</u>	Referral Note: <u>R</u> <u>83/12/20</u>	<u>A</u> <u>83/12/30</u> LD
	Referral Note: _____	_____
	_____	_____
	Referral Note: _____	_____
	_____	_____
	Referral Note: _____	_____
	_____	_____
	Referral Note: _____	_____

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: L Individual Codes: 4000 _____

Prime Subject Code: HE003 Secondary Subject Codes: WF _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

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- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

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- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

- CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence**
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- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

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- G - Message
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- L - Letter
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- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

T H E W H I T E H O U S E O F F I C E

REFERRAL

DECEMBER 20, 1983

TO: DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 192198

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED DECEMBER 9, 1983

TO: PRESIDENT AND MRS. REAGAN

FROM: MS. RUBY RICHARDSON
1509 LLOYD DRIVE
MIDWEST CITY OK 73130

SUBJECT: HUNGRY PEOPLE IN OKLAHOMA CITY, MIDWEST
CITY AND THE REST OF THE NATION

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22302

04-H62006

Dear Ms. Richardson :

DEC 30 1983

Thank you for your recent letter to President Reagan regarding the distribution of surplus commodities. We have been asked to respond to your letter.

Surplus foods have been donated for many years to schools and charitable institutions such as soup kitchens, orphanages and programs for the elderly. President Reagan authorized the distribution of surplus commodities to households in December 1981 to help reduce inventories and storage costs, while helping to aid the nutritional demands of needy Americans.

Helping to meet the food requirements of those in need is a primary concern of this Administration. This concern has led the Department of Agriculture to increase the amounts of commodities available for distribution.

Beginning January 1984, the following commodities and amounts will be available on a monthly basis to States for household distribution:

Cheese	35 million pounds
Butter	15 million pounds
Nonfat Dry Milk	8 million pounds
Honey	5 million pounds
Corn Meal	3 million pounds

In addition, 5 million pounds of flour per month will be made available for distribution beginning in February.

States are allocated commodities on the basis of a formula combining the number of persons in each State below the poverty level (60 percent) and the number of persons unemployed (40 percent). Once the surplus foods are made available to States, the overall organization and administration of the distribution become the responsibility of State agencies. Each State is responsible for selecting organizations to distribute the commodities and for determining the eligibility of persons to participate. In order to ensure that only those who are truly in need of assistance receive it, the demonstration of economic need is a requirement.

Thank you for your interest in our food assistance programs.

Sincerely,

for *Gay Tibbitts*

JOSEPH E. SHEPHERD
Director
Food Distribution Division

Dr 12/29 04-H62006

Dec 9th - 83 FNS
U.S. DEPT. OF CORR. & REC.

S. Kelley

USA

83 DEC 20

hungeram
49:55
192198

Dear president and
Ragan

I'm writing to you in regards
to the Hungry people here
in Okla City & Midwest City
and all over the nation. the
News media said there
were 30,000 in Okla City alone
Hungry no jobs no clothing
if you are a Christian please
please do take this under
consideration. we are both
Disable to work I'm Crippled
with Arthritis and my husband
is a Diabetic, and our phone
service is being raised on us,
if it gets any higher we cant make
it, and we are not able to get out
and try to find help if we got
bad sick we are both under
Nursing Care. we get the
wobal meals from MUC

2

they salt it so strong some
Elderly people cant have it
so strong.

But Im concerned about all
the other hungry people
the holidays will help some
but they wont last long.

yes we need good roads I
believe that but we need good
food to. the Bible says in
the last days there would
be a famine hit the land
and there never had been
one like it and there never
would be another one like it.
well I suffered through the
Great Depression in the 30s
I went to bed hungry it was
terrible I was 24. then I
married in 39. I became
pregnant and my son is a
retarded child because I
did not have food to eat
Have you people been hungry?
well its terrible to suffer.

Well president F.D.R. was a
long time pulling us out
of the terrible hunger.
It was terrible dry no one
could hardly raise any
thing to eat. Well please
understand our conditions
I am very tender hearted I
cant stand to see little
children hungry and we
see that on TV,

H003
Peter

**WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET**

- O - OUTGOING
- H - INTERNAL
- I - INCOMING
Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) 1/1

NB: Synanon

Name of Correspondent: Chuck Donovan / Judy Dederich

MI Mail Report User Codes: (A) _____ (B) _____ (C) _____

Subject: Draft response from Charles Donovan to Judy Dederich re: hunger in America (Oct 13 83 letter to the President)

ROUTE TO:	ACTION	DISPOSITION
Office/Agency (Staff Name)	Action Code Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response Code Completion Date YY/MM/DD
<u>CW40LL</u>	<u>ORIGINATOR</u> <u>83/12/27</u>	<u>C</u> <u>84/01/19</u> ^{JV}
<u>CW2009</u>	<u>D</u> <u>83/12/27</u>	<u>MAN</u> <u>C</u> <u>84/01/19</u> ^{JV}
<u>CWFIEL</u>	<u>I</u> <u>84/01/19</u>	<u>JV</u> <u>C</u> <u>84/01/19</u> ^{JV}
	<u>1/1</u>	<u>1/1</u>
	<u>1/1</u>	<u>1/1</u>

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CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: 2 Individual Codes: 4800 _____

Prime Subject Code: H4003 - _____ Secondary Subject Codes: WE _____
FG238.21 _____
CM003 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

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- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

Returned for
filing - thanks.


MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 19, 1984

FOR: FRED F. FIELDING

FROM: PETER J. RUSTHOVEN 

SUBJECT: Letter from Cecilia Jason Dederich
of The Synanon Distribution Network
about Problems of Hunger in America

Late last month, Chuck Donovan in the Correspondence Office forwarded for our review a proposed response for the President's signature to an October 13 letter from Mrs. Cecilia Jason Dederich, Chairman of The Synanon Distribution Network, in which she (1) expressed support for legislation to establish a "White House Conference on the Homeless and Hungry," and (2) emphasized Synanon's desire to "work in partnership with the Administration" in helping to distribute to the needy food that would otherwise be wasted. Donovan's note accompanying this aging correspondence suggested that we take a look at this "[i]n view of the history of Synanon."

While I was not previously aware of that "history" and any concerns it might raise, the library was able by the beginning of this month to turn up background information about Synanon more than sufficient to douse any idea that the President should be signing any letters to its Chairman. The attached description from the Encyclopedia of Associations is only moderately disturbing (see, e.g., the references to "the Synanon Game, a forum for conversation and information where people speak their subjective, uninhibited truths to each other in a safe setting"). The additional newspaper check I then asked the library to run, however, revealed more interesting items. Consider, for example, the following paragraphs from an October 25, 1982 UPI feed:

Synanon, founded in 1958 by [Charles] Dederich as an alcoholic-recovery plan, gained attention in the 1970s after Dederich ordered members to get butch haircuts, men to get vasectomies, pregnant women to get abortions and couples to swap mates.

In 1978 two members and Dederich were convicted in the rattlesnake attack of a Los Angeles lawyer who only weeks before had won a \$300,000 suit against the cult on behalf of a former member who said she was held against her will.

As part of his punishment, Dederich was ordered to sever relations with Synanon, which is now led by his daughter, Cecilia Jason Dederich.

The following lead from a Ron Ostrow story for the Los Angeles Times, which appeared October 14, 1983, is no less reassuring:

A District of Columbia judge has ruled that Synanon Foundation officers destroyed tape recordings, computer data and other evidence sought in a multi-million-dollar lawsuit and then engaged in "a fraudulent cover-up" that included perjury.

Superior Court Judge Leonard Barman found that the controversial drug treatment center had committed "a gross fraud upon the court of the most grave and serious proportions" and threw out a suit Synanon had brought against real estate developers alleging that they had provided Synanon with a building for its Washington headquarters that did not meet building code requirements.

These and other stories -- which include accounts of how the Salvation Army and other "mainstream" organizations have refused to be associated with Synanon's charitable efforts -- are attached.

As noted above, it was clear to me after reviewing these materials that the President should send no letters to this outfit. It is only marginally less clear to me that it would be preferable not to have anyone in the White House correspond with this group -- a judgment that is also influenced in part by the fact that we plainly should not be endorsing any "White House Conference on the Homeless and Hungry," as well as the age of the letter by the time it reached our office.

If you disagree, however, we do have a pretext for sending a response (presumably over your signature) at this time -- namely, forwarding the recently released "Summary" of the report on the Task Force on Food Assistance, which could be enclosed with a carefully worded acknowledgement of Dederich's letter. (I have obtained a copy of the "Summary"; the full report of the Task Force is not yet readily available.)

On balance, though, I think there is little to be gained from responding at all, at this point, and would prefer to stay away from this organization. If you agree, I will advise Donovan simply to file Dederich's letter. Thank you.

Attachments

Agree
1/24
advised Chuck Donovan
that no response is
necessary. ph

Source: Encyclopedia of Associations

★9982★ SYNANON CHURCH (Selfhelp) (SC)

P.O. Box 42, 50300 Hwy. 245

Badger, CA 93603

Phone: (415) 663-8111

Cecilia Jason Dederich, Bd.Chm.

Founded: 1958. Resident Members: 600. "Community which provides a lifestyle for former drug abusers, juvenile delinquents, alcoholics, felons and other troubled and character-disordered people, as well as for people who have no history of self-destructive behavior but who seek a drug-free, integrated and nonviolent community. It is "an American religious order committed to personal growth, self-reliance and social change. It provides a process of intellectual, vocational, physical and moral education with the emphasis on playing the Synanon Game, a forum for conversation and information where people speak their subjective, uninhibited truths to each other in a safe setting." The Synanon Distribution Network, supported in part by the church, funnels surplus from American industry and agriculture to those in need nationwide through recognized charitable organizations. Maintains speakers bureau. Communities are located in Tulare County, CA; Houston, TX; and Los Angeles, CA. **Publications:** Synanon Story, bimonthly. **Formerly:** (1981) Synanon Foundation.

4TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1982

October 25, 1982, Monday, AM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: California

LENGTH: 450 words

HEADLINE: Synanon to hand out goods in west Texas

DATELINE: PAMPA, Texas

KEYWORD: Synanon

BODY:

Members of the controversial drug rehabilitation group Synanon have set up a center for the distribution of surplus goods to needy Texas Panhandle residents, a spokesman for the California-based group said.

The **Synanon Distribution Network** gained access to an abandoned bra factory Oct. 18 and plans to have members occupy the facility one weekend of every month, said spokesman Bob Salkins.

'I want the people to know we won't bring in a bunch of dope addicts,' he said. He said some Pampa residents invited the group because 'people here respect people who work hard but are in need.'

Synanon became notorious in the 1970s when its founder and two other men were convicted of a rattlesnake attack on a lawyer. The leader, Charles Dederich, was ordered to leave the group.

The directors of a McAllen-based manufacturer, Form-O-Uth, donated its 70,000-square-foot building as a tax write-off because the network 'is one of the finest organizations in the country,' said Form-O-Uth vice president Harry Woods of McAllen.

The group will draw on its approximately 75 corporate contacts to obtain surplus goods and food and pass them along to local charities, Salkins said. He explained that local groups desiring Synanon goods must keep records of their transactions and promise not to sell the goods.

'It's important for the merchants to know we are not competing with them,' Salkins, 26, a vice president of the network, said Saturday. He said there is a similar distribution center in Houston and Exeter, Calif.

Once the Pampa center gains appropriate shipping and receiving equipment, the network hopes to use it for worldwide distribution of goods and surplus food, he said. Salkins said the network distributed \$16 million in goods last year.

Police Chief J.J. Ryzman said eight of the workers were in the building and that he had spoken with Salkins.

Proprietary to the United Press International, October 25, 1982

'He seems like a real nice guy,' Ryzman said.

Synanon, founded in 1958 by Dederich as an alcoholic-recovery plan, gained attention in the 1970s after Dederich ordered members to get butch haircuts, men to get vasectomies, pregnant women to get abortions and couples to swap mates.

In 1978 two members and Dederich were convicted in the rattlesnake attack of a Los Angeles lawyer who only weeks before had won a \$300,000 suit against the cult on behalf of a former member who said she was held against her will.

As part of his punishment, Dederich was ordered to sever relations with Synanon, which is now led by his daughter, Cecilia Jason Dederich.

At its peak, Synanon claimed 1,800 members and had assets of \$30 million, including 10 planes and numerous vehicles. Today the group claims 650 members.

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright (c) 1983 The Washington Post

October 14, 1983, Friday, Final Edition

SECTION: Metro; B10

LENGTH: 688 words

HEADLINE: D.C. Judge Dismisses Synanon Case, Finds Officials Destroyed Tapes, Files

BYLINE: By Ed Bruske, Washington Post Staff Writer

KEYWORD: SYNANO

BODY:

A D.C. Superior Court judge has found that top legal advisers and corporate officials of Synanon, a California-based drug rehabilitation program, engaged in a two-year effort to destroy tape recordings and computer files pertaining to three court cases involving the group's officials.

Judge Leonard Braman found that Synanon officials destroyed scores of tapes and computer indexes of meetings involving group founder Charles Dederich at a time when Los Angeles police were investigating allegations that group residents had placed a rattlesnake in the mailbox of a California attorney.

According to Braman, who issued his findings Wednesday as he dismissed a Synanon lawsuit against the owner of a District apartment building that the group attempted to turn into an East Coast headquarters five years ago, the destruction of tapes was accomplished "under the aegis" of the director of Synanon archives, Steven Simon.

The tapes involved, which may have numbered 100 or more, plus hundreds of computer references in the group's archives, "not only related to violence, but also to money, to sexual subjects, to guns and to other matters," Braman said.

Braman said Synanon officials "perceived that the tapes and like material might be harmful and that a jury might find that their content was deadly serious, and therefore proceeded to destroy the materials and then cover up the destruction. . . ."

These actions, Braman said, constitute "a gross fraud upon the court of the most grave and serious proportions."

Braman found that the head of Synanon's legal department, Philip Bourdette, had knowledge of some of the deletion of data from computer files.

Synanon had filed suit in Superior Court against the owner of the Boston House apartment building, 1711 Massachusetts Ave. NW, claiming breach of contract and fraud because the owner allegedly failed to tell the group before it moved in that the building would not meet zoning requirements for office use.

Boston House owner Stuart A. Bernstein filed a countersuit of fraud and breach of contract, claiming Synanon failed to make payments on its purchase of the building and misrepresented itself as a nonviolent and nonprofit

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organization.

Braman, citing court testimony by former residents that Dederich had espoused violence in pursuit of corporate goals, dismissed Synanon's suit and ordered the group to pay attorney's fees to the owner of the apartment building.

"I feel that the judicial process has been vindicated," said Warren K. Kaplan, attorney for Bernstein. "This has been a very long, costly and arduous struggle for my client. We've had a number of roadblocks thrown up by Synanon and the truth has finally come to light."

Synanon officials could not be reached for comment yesterday.

Braman ruled that Synanon officials had destroyed tapes and computer records specifically relating to Boston House, to the 1978 rattlesnake incident and to a \$42 million libel suit filed by the group against an ABC-owned television station in San Francisco.

Three years ago, Dederich was placed on probation and fined \$5,000 for inciting Synanon residents to place the poisonous snake in the mailbox of Paul Morantz, an attorney who had won a large judgment against Synanon.

Synanon had filed its suit against the news station claiming coverage of the group's purchase of 138 guns gave the impression that Synanon was a terrorist organization. Synanon dropped its claim after ABC agreed to settle the dispute out of court for an undisclosed sum.

According to court testimony in the Boston House case, meetings involving Dederich and other officials were carefully taped and archived.

In some of the meetings, Dederich advocated the use of violence, according to testimony.

Synanon residents testified that Michele Albano, assistant to Dederich's wife and Synanon chairman, Jady Dederich, knew about the operation to destroy tapes.

Braman found that Synanon treasurer David Binns participated directly in burning tapes.

Simon, Albano, Bourdette and other officials refused to testify on Fifth Amendment grounds. Dederich did not appear in court.

Judge Says Synanon Destroyed Evidence

By RONALD J. OSTROW, *Times Staff Writer*

WASHINGTON—A District of Columbia judge has ruled that Synanon Foundation officers destroyed tape recordings, computer data and other evidence sought in a multimillion-dollar lawsuit and then engaged in "a fraudulent cover-up" that included perjury.

Superior Court Judge Leonard Braman found that the controversial drug treatment center had committed "a gross fraud upon the court of the most grave and serious proportions" and threw out a suit Synanon had brought against real estate developers alleging that they had provided Synanon with a building for its Washington headquarters that did not meet building code requirements.

Braman announced his decision from the bench Wednesday, but copies of his ruling did not become available until Thursday.

He dismissed the suit with prejudice, which means that Synanon may not raise the complaint again, and ruled that Synanon must pay the legal fees and related costs of the defendants: Coldwell Banker & Co, a real estate firm; James Kabler, a former sales agent for the firm, and Stuart A. Bernstein, a real estate investor.

Justice Department Studies Ruling

Although the ruling has direct impact only on Synanon's damage suit against the real estate interests, it could have implications for other of the foundation's pending legal matters, including its drive to have its tax-exempt status restored. That matter is set for trial in Washington in a month, and a spokesman for the Justice Department's tax division said Braman's ruling is under study.

Braman ruled that Synanon had altered and destroyed evidence relating to violence, money, sexual subjects and guns and that this was done "under the aegis" of Steven Simon, Synanon's director of archives.

Synanon perceived that the tapes, which included statements by its founder, Charles Dederich, and related material "might be harmful and that a jury might find that their content was deadly serious," Braman said. Synanon "therefore proceeded to destroy the materials and then cover up the destruction," he added.

Braman's ruling was based largely on testimony by two former Synanon residents, Bette Fleishman and George Farnsworth.

Destruction of Tapes Cited

The judge said the destruction of evidence was set off by the attempted murder of Los Angeles attorney Paul Morantz in 1978. Dederich and two members of Synanon's security force, Lance Kenton and Joseph Musico, pleaded no contest in 1980 to charges that they had conspired to murder Morantz by placing a rattlesnake in his mailbox.

After Kenton and Musico were arrested, Dan Garrett, formerly Synanon's chief counsel, flew to Home Place, a Synanon facility in Badger, Calif. He, Simon and two other Synanon officers, Daniel Sorkin and Chris Haber, then "adjourned to a trailer and, during a period of approximately two weeks, a substantial number of tapes were destroyed," Braman found.

Braman based his perjury finding on Fleishman's testimony that Simon had told her in the summer of 1980 that he had testified falsely in giving a deposition in Synanon's damage suit against the real estate interests.

1ST STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1982

November 11, 1982, Thursday, AM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Texas

LENGTH: 140 words

HEADLINE: Texas News Briefs

DATELINE: PAMPA, Texas

KEYWORD: Texbrfs

BODY:

Three charitable organizations have refused to take free food and other commodities from the controversial, California-based Synanon organization.

Synanon recently set up a distribution network for charity. The Pampa Meals on Wheels program, the Pampa Senior Citizens Center and the Salvation Army are not taking the goods.

'The Salvation Army is in no wise affiliated with, neither does it endorse, the efforts of the Synanon Distribution Network in the city of Pampa,' the charity's board said in a statement released Wednesday.

Synanon, based in Badger, Calif., began in the late 1950's as a drug and alcohol treatment program. It aroused controversy over strict rules of behavior imposed on its members. Its founder, Charles Dederich, was convicted of conspiracy in connection with an attempted killing.

2ND STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Proprietary to the United Press International 1982

November 11, 1982, Thursday, PM cycle

SECTION: Regional News

DISTRIBUTION: Texas

LENGTH: 180 words

HEADLINE: Complete writethru for datanews points

DATELINE: PAMPA, Texas

KEYWORD: Synanon

BODY:

Three charitable organizations, including the Salvation Army, have refused to accept free food and other commodities from the controversial, California-based Synanon organization.

The Pampa Meals on Wheels program, the Pampa Senior Citizens Center and the Salvation Army -- all of which are partially funded by the United Way -- refused donations from the Synanon Distribution Network.

"The Salvation Army is in no wise affiliated with, neither does it endorse, the efforts of the Synanon Distribution Network in the city of Pampa," the charity's board said in a statement released Wednesday.

Salvation Army Capt. Francis Gary said the board took the action "because of the controversial nature of Synanon."

Synanon, based in Badger, Calif., began in the late 1950's as a drug and alcohol treatment program. It currently operates several communes and imposes strict rules for the behavior of its members.

Bob Salkins, vice president of the group's food distribution network in Pampa, was unavailable for comment.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 12-23-83

To: White House Counsel

103202

In view of the history of
Synanon, I believed you would want
to review the proposed draft Presi-
dential response to Mrs. Judy Deberich.

Chuck

CHUCK DONOVAN
Presidential Correspondence
Office
Room 94, x7610

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DRAFT RESPONSE (12/22/83)

Dear Mrs. Dederich:

Thank you for your letter relating to the problem of hunger in America. I too am concerned when even one person goes hungry through no fault of their own.

That is why I established the Presidential Task Force on Food Assistance.

I have been told that Synanon testified before the Task Force during its hearings in Los Angeles. I look forward to receiving the report of the Task Force in mid-January. I am sure your views will be considered by its members.

In the meantime, your work on behalf of needy people is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Mrs. ^aJady Dederich
Chairman
The Synanon Distribution Network
P. O. Box 112
Badger, California 93603

DATE: _____

TO: Judy Johnson

can someone up
there help us
out on this one -

FROM:

THA
Anne Higgins
Special Assistant to the
President and Director
of Correspondence
Room 94
x 7610

at 5:00 pm
1983
CECILIA JASON DEDERICH

SYNANON

October 13, 1983

CAD
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan:

I understand that legislation has been introduced in Congress recommending a White House Conference on the Homeless and Hungry. The Synanon Distribution Network wholeheartedly endorses this legislation, and we would urge you to convene such a conference due to the seriousness of this problem facing so many Americans today. We would also propose that we be included as participants. We would like to work in partnership with the Administration and Congress to further mobilize the private sector and make available to the people who need it, the vast amount of product that we all know is currently going to waste.

I am writing to you as the Chairman of the Board of The Synanon Distribution Network, an organization that has distributed \$70 million worth of donated product (both food and other useable product of all kinds, as well) to needy people since 1977. This product has been contributed by American industry and agriculture. As of September 30th of this year, we have distributed over \$14 million worth (estimated retail value) in 1983. This work has been done entirely through the private sector. We are convinced that your emphasis on rekindling and mobilizing the spirit of philanthropy in our great nation is essential to meeting some of today's most pressing social problems. We not only support your philosophy, but we are participating in making it happen. We too would like to see American industry and agriculture meet your "2% challenge" of yearly corporate giving by 1986.

Although we are pleased with our accomplishments in seven short years, we know it could be much greater. We are convinced that it is possible for our organization alone to distribute \$100 million worth of


The President
October 13, 1983
Page Two

product annually (not to mention the many other organizations also involved in "redistribution" work).

The Synanon Distribution Network operates on the philosophy of self-reliance which built our country. Our purpose is not only to provide the food and other necessities of life to those who can't, at this time, provide for themselves. In addition, we strive to involve those receiving the product in the process of distributing it -- sorting, transporting, loading and unloading, actual distribution, and so on. This involvement is essential to restoring and maintaining a person's dignity and providing a purpose in life to those who are currently unemployed and in need.

We want to share our vision and our methods as well, and we hope you will consider our proposal.

Respectfully,



Jady Dederich
Chairman
The Synanon Distribution Network

P.O. Box 112
Badger, California 93603
(209) 337-2881

CJD/jsa