



OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AREA

MAYOR EDWARD J. KELLY
U. S. COORDINATOR

23 North Wacker Drive
CHICAGO, ILL.
RANDolph 3760

September 4, 1942.

Col. Thomas R. Gowenlock
Coordinator of all Law Enforcing Agencies
States of Illinois
188 W. Randolph Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Colonel Gowenlock:

This letter is from the Morale Advisory Council of the Chicago Office of Civilian Defense, Sub-committee on Counter-propaganda.

We are initiating a program with reference to your special interests which we deem of great importance to the progress of the war. Our efforts in this connection are directed at rumors which affect the morale of citizens in relation to the army, navy, defense work as well as toward the war effort.


Our technique, in principle, is (1) to collect rumors from all sources, especially as they are current in the population; (2) to obtain from you, factual information on the subject of these rumors, and (3) through the cooperation of newspapers and radio, disseminate this information to the public.

It is essential that, in answering rumors, we have access to accurate facts. We intend to establish a central agency to obtain these facts, and your cooperation is of vital importance.

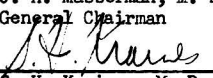
Will you meet with this committee Wednesday, September 9th at 2:00 P.M. sharp at 77 W. Washington Street, Room 1825? A group of radio commentators will meet with us at 3:00 P.M. Please advise Dr. Kraines, 912 S. Wood Street, Monroe 3900, of your acceptance of this invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Green, Director
Civilian Morale Committee
Office of Civilian Defense for the
Chicago Metropolitan Area.



J. H. Masserman, M. D.
General Chairman



S. H. Kraines, M. D.
Chairman-Sub Committee
on Counter-propaganda.

September 3, 1942.

Sample Rumors which have a surprisingly wide acceptance:

1. Two suicides occur every night among the sailors at the Navy Pier.
2. There is so much insanity produced among the nurses in the armed forces over seas that special ships have to be designated to return them to this country.
3. There has been such a shortage of uniforms that many draftees have been rejected.
4. The Japanese, largest manufactures of arsenic in the world, plan to poison all U.S. water sources.
5. The waste paper so carefully saved by the people is being burned up by the Government, especially in the Washington area.