William S. Sessions  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Room 7176  
J. Edgar Hoover Building  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Sessions:

Attached is a copy of an article from the November-December issue of Mother Jones entitled "Uncivil Disobedience," where Michael Petrelis quotes: "If someone took out Jesse Helms or William Dannemeyer of California, I would be the first to stand up and applaud."

Petrelis' comment is of considerable concern to me. Although he does not personally threaten our lives, he certainly does nothing to discourage those who find our position on the issue of homosexuality objectionable from doing what he would not do himself. After reviewing the article, I would request your thoughts on what, if anything, can be done in response to his comments.

I look forward to your timely response to my concerns.

Sincerely,

William E. Dannemeyer  
Member of Congress

WILLIAM E. DANNEMEYER  
39TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
JUDICIARY

November 16, 1990

WASHINGTON OFFICE: 2351 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1235 NORTH HARBOUR BOULEVARD, SUITE 100, FULLERTON, CA 92632, (714) 992-2141.
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**INTERNAL ROUTING/ACTION SLIP**

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**This is an advance copy of the correspondence we talked about.**  
**Letters should be forwarded to who asked a PT who will be opened.**  
**P.S. Dead outgoing responses will be forwarded to you.**

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**Call Me**  
**Sign Here**  
**Approp. Action**  
**Initial**  
**Per Inquiry**  
**For Your Info.**  
**Note & Return**  
**Record & Return**  
**See Reverse Side**

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FROM  
**CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
Room 7240  
TL. # 245  
Phone  
Date  
FBI/DOJ
Uncivil Disobedience

We should have shut down the subway and burned down city hall. I think rioting is a valid tactic and should be tried. That's ACT UP renegade Michael Petrelis, ruing the missed opportunities at last summer's International AIDS Conference in San Francisco. While ACT UP forges an uneasy detente with its adversaries—some ACT UP members now serve on a National Institutes of Health advisory panel—Petrelis wants to step up the war. His inspiration is Stonewall, not Selma: "Civil disobedience has become institutionalized; it's a cliche. We shall not overcome by singing 'We Shall Overcome.'"

Petrelis's brashness makes even ACT UP members squeamish, and leaders emphasize that he does not speak for the organization. But Larry Kramer, the writer and ACT UP founder, who also advocates rioting, defends his noisy Petrelis as an important voice in the group. "He's turned obnoxiousness into an art form."

The Washington, D.C.-based Petrelis, who was diagnosed with Kaposi's sarcoma in 1985, has "outed" allegedly gay closeted politicians who vote against pro-gay legislation. He's started a boycott of Marlboro cigarettes and Miller beer to protest Philip Morris's campaign support of Jesse Helms (R-NC). Now Petrelis is calling for a more final solution: assassination. "If someone took out Jesse Helms or William Dannemeyer of California, I would be the first to stand up and applaud."

Several ACT UP chapters around the country have written nonviolence into their charters, but New York's, the oldest and largest, has not. "We'd rather keep the other side guessing," says New York ACT UP leader Peter Staley. But assassination? Staley: "I think even Michael will say that he's speaking for himself when he says things like that." Kramer: "I wish someone would do that, but I'm sorry I don't have the guts to do it myself."

Petrelis sees his role as ACT UP's own ACT UP. What if he has his way, and people with AIDS riot and torch city hall? What if innocent bystanders are killed? "I know what I advocate is not going to take root and grow," Petrelis hedges. "So many people in ACT UP and the gay movement have been conditioned to think that nonviolence is the only way to go." Then he's back to his old self. "Would I take responsibility? Yes! All people with AIDS are innocent. We're talking about eighty-five thousand Americans dead with AIDS. Where's the comparison?"

—Michael Willrich

Laffer, the Best Medicine

Every pyramid scheme needs an "expert" to make it seem legit, and the biggest one of all, supply-side economics, had Arthur Laffer. But now Ronald Reagan's favorite economist may have shilled for one too many greedheads.

Laffer is named in a class-action suit against FundAmerica Inc., the so-called yuppie pyramid based in Irvine, California. FundAmerica attracted 100,000 members by advertising itself as a discount buying club for upscale consumers. Florida authorities say it is nothing more than an illegal pyramid scheme, and have charged the company and its leader Robert Edwar with organized fraud, securities fraud, and illegal lottery activity. When the clampdown came in August, Laffer resigned his FundAmerica directorship, claiming he'd been out of the loop all along. Members filing the class-action suit are not appeased, even though FundAmerica has filed for bankruptcy. Their attorney told the San Francisco Chronicle that his clients have been bilked out of fifty million dollars—and Laffer is partly to blame, "because he appeared in a FundAmerica video very prominently."

—David Beers

Photographs by Charles Steck and API Wide World (Laffer)
William S. Sessions
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Room 7176
J. Edgar Hoover Building
Washington, D.C. 20535
November 28, 1990

Mr. John Collingswood  
Inspector in Charge  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Mr. Collingswood:

Enclosed is a copy of an article that I feel should be brought to your attention.

As you may know, the pro-homosexual organization, ACT-UP, has become very active in civil disobedience and, in some instances, even criminal activity. Members of this organization have demonstrated that they will carry out their threats on behalf of their particular cause. It is for this reason I am concerned by the statement of one of ACT-UP’s most influential leaders, Michael Petrelis. He is quoted in the article as supporting political assassination of two members of Congress, Representative Bill Dannemeyer of California and Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

While this threat may be hollow, given the history of ACT-UP, I believe it should be taken seriously. Bill Dannemeyer is a close friend and I know that he has received previous threats against his life. Because of these threats he has, at his own expense, provided additional protection for himself and his family. I think this is a matter of particular interest to your office. I would appreciate it if you pass this article on and have someone within the Bureau look into the matter.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of my request.

Best regards,

Robert K. Dornan  
U.S. Congressman
Mr. John Collingswood  
Inspector in Charge  
Office of Congressional Affairs  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535
December 14, 1990

The Honorable Mark O. Hatfield
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatfield:

Thank you for the "Mother Jones" article you recently forwarded to my office. I am of course interested in any information which impacts on the security of the United States Congress as a whole or individual members of the Congress.

The Intelligence Section of the Capitol Police investigates groups such as ACT-UP which at times use criminal acts to further their objectives. The article you sent was forwarded to that unit and they will continue to monitor ACT-UP's activities.

The United States Capitol Police will continue to take all appropriate steps necessary to ensure the safety of all members of Congress and the Congressional community as a whole. Your concern and interest in these matters is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Kerrigan
Chief of Police

FAK:JO:jo:1046
FM FBI WMFO (89A-WF-171115) (C-4) (C)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/Routine/

BT

UNCLASSIFIED

CITE: //3920//

PASS: VCU/CID.

SUBJECT: ACT-UP; SENATOR JESSE HELMS-VICTIM; REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM E. DANNEMEYER-VICTIM; CCSCAKA; 00:WMFO.

RE FBIHQ ROUTING SLIP FROM SSA VCU/CID TO WMFO, DATED 12/21/90.

FOR INFORMATION FBIHQ, CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM DANNEMEYER AND ROBERT DORNAN EACH WROTE LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS (OCA) REGARDING THEIR CONCERN IN REFERENCE TO AN ARTICLE WRITTEN BY MICHAEL A. PETRELIS AND APPEARING IN THE NOVEMBER–DECEMBER ISSUE OF MOTHER–JONES. THE 2-WMFO

JRO: PLJ (2)

Approved: 

Time Received: 

MRI/JULIAN DATE: 1/4/91

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE: 1/4/91 0201
QUOTE WAS "WHEN THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT READ " IF SOMEONE TOOK OUT JESSE HELMS OR WILLIAM DANNEMEYER OF CALIFORNIA, BE THE FIRST TO STAND UP AND APPLAUD." WMFO INVESTIGATION DETERMINED CAPITOL POLICE 7/1/90 FOR REFUSING TO LEAVE THE OFFICES OF SENATOR JESSE HELMS DURING A GAY PROTEST. ACCORDING TO CAPITOL POLICE OF ACT-UP, A PRO-HOMOSEXUAL ORGANIZATION. INSIDE ST. PATRICKS CATHEDRAL IN NEW YORK IN PROTEST OF CARDINAL JOHN O'CONNOR. CAPITOL POLICE RECEIVED THE SAME REQUESTS FROM BOTH DURAN AND DANNEMEYER AND CHIEF FRANK KERRIGAN HAS RESPONDED TO SAME, ADVISING THAT CAPITOL POLICE WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR ACT-UP TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE". IT WAS THE OPINION OF CAPITOL POLICE THAT AN INTERVIEW WOULD DO NOTHING MORE THAN PRECIPITATE FURTHER ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF AND THE ORGANIZATION ACT-UP WHICH MIGHT IMPACT ON THE SECURITY OF MEMBERS OF THE
UNITED STATES CONGRESS. IT IS THE OPINION OF WMFO THAT NO DIRECT THREAT WAS CONTAINED AND THAT NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS WARRANTED REGARDING THIS MATTER.

UACB, WMFO IS CLOSING THIS MATTER ADMINISTRATIVELY.
TO DIRECTOR FB/ROUTINE/
VICTIM: REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAM E. DANNEMEYER-VICTIM: CCSCAKA;

OR: WMER

RE FBIHQ ROUTING SLIP FROM SSA VCU/CID TO

AMEC, DATED 12/2/90.

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QUOTE WHICH THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT READ "IF SOMEONE TOOK

OUT JESSE HELMS OR WILLIAM DANNEMEYER OF CALIFORNIA, I WOULD
Be the first to stand up and applaud." WMFD Investigation

For refusing to leave the offices of Senator Jesse Helms

During a gay protest. According to Capitol Police

Of ACT-UP, a pro-homosexual organization.


Capitol Police received the same requests from both Dornan and
PAGE FOUR DE FBINFO 0005 UNCLAS

DAYMENMEYER AND CHIEF FRANK CERRIGNAN, CAPITOL POLICE, HAS

RESPONDED TO SAME, ADVISING THAT CAPITOL POLICE "WILL CONTINUE

TO MONITOR ACT-UP TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL MEMBERS OF

CONGRESS AND THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE". IT WAS

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AND THE ORGANIZATION ACT-UP WHICH MIGHT IMPACT ON THE

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OPINION OF WMFD THAT, IN FACT, NO DIRECT THREAT WAS CONTAINED
AND THAT NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION IS WARRANTED REGARDING THIS MATTER.

UC3. WMFD IS CLOSING THIS MATTER ADMINISTRATIVELY.

RT

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NAAA