

Each month (for the first few months anyway) members received the *Texans for America News*, an eight-page newspaper similar to the old Ferguson and O' Daniel papers. It was a bizarre and heady mess of racism, paranoia, insider Texas politics and general right-wing kookery. Speculation over mid-level political races and swipes at LBJ shared the page with tirades over the communist infiltration of the NCC and the NAACP. There was lots of sniping at federal agricultural programs and calls for the impeachment of Supreme Court Justices. Harangues over integration accompanied the sorts of biblical endorsements for segregation popular among white supremacists. Serious-looking charts, created from misleading and cherry-picked data from FBI reports, were placed alongside reports of black criminality and violence. New mental health laws were hyped as steps toward left-wing totalitarianism: "You may now be arrested without complaint and without a warrant, and thrown into an insane asylum by any 'heath or peace officer' who simply 'believes' that you're are mentally ill."¹ The *Texas Observer*, which watched Haley more closely than most in those years, ran an entire article on the cacophony of right-wing sputtering one could find in just one issue of the newsletter. "Amuricca for (Texas) Amuriccans" penned by Lyman Jones, captured perfectly the sense of the whole thing. The TFA, Jones concluded, was "way out in right field – so say that everything to the left of Lynn Landrum, or perhaps Bill Blakley, glows with a faint, but unmistakably crimson – that is to say, Red – tinge." He was part right, that year, when Blakley refused to come out four-square against the income tax, the TFA endorsed Pappy O' Daniel.²

¹ Quotes from February 1958 edition. Haley Papers.

² *Texas Observer* 9 May 1958.